We cannot understand the contemporary world unless we understand China, and we cannot understand contemporary China unless we understand its past.

Professor Robert Bickers
This project answers a need for clear, intelligible and informative English-language sources relating to China and the West, 1793-1980, which can be accessed online and used in the classroom or in course packs.

It is also ideal for independent projects on almost any aspect of Chinese history during the two centuries of monumental social and political upheaval that ultimately recreated China into a modern power.

With manuscripts encompassing events from the earliest English embassy to the birth and early years of the People’s Republic, students are given an incredible insight into the changes wrought upon China during this period.

Key documents relating to the Chinese Maritime Customs service, from Robert Hart to Frederick Maze, are accessible and searchable alongside original reports of the Amherst and Macartney embassies.

There are letters relating to the first Opium War, survivors’ descriptions of the Boxer War, and tantalising glimpses of life in China from the collected diaries and personal photographs of the Bowra family.

There are also significant sources describing the lives and work of missionaries in China from 1869-1970, including extensive and fully searchable runs of missionary periodicals: *The Chinese Recorder*, *Light and Life Magazine* and *The Land of Sinim: the North China Mission Quarterly Paper*.

In addition, this project offers over 400 colour paintings, maps and drawings by English and Chinese artists, as well as countless photographs, sketches and ephemeral items, depicting Chinese people, places, customs and events, and provides a striking visual accompaniment to the documentary images.
Consultant Editors

- **Professor Robert Bickers**
  Department of History and Deputy Head (Research), Bristol University
- **Professor Richard Horowitz**
  Department of History, California State University, Northridge
- **Dr Wong Man Kong**
  Department of History, Hong Kong Baptist University
- **Dr Catherine Ladds**
  Department of History, Bristol University

Source Libraries

- The School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- The British Library, London

**With additional material from:**

Cambridge University Library, Church Missionary Society, Council for World Missions Library, Duke University, National Archives at Kew, National Library of New Zealand and Yale Divinity Library.

Scope of the collection

This project provides a wide variety of original source material detailing China’s interaction with the West from Macartney’s first Embassy to China in 1793, through to the Nixon/Heath visits to China in 1972-74.

It provides multiple perspectives - from politicians, diplomats, missionaries, business people and tourists, and documents many of the key events that happened in this period, including:

- the Republican and Nationalist governments of Sun Yatsen and Jiang Jieshi
- the Sino-French and territorial struggles with Germany, Britain, America and Japan
- Rolls-Royce’s negotiations regarding the delivery of jet engines to China, 1973-1975
- the 1816 Amherst Embassy
- the Opium Wars
- the Taiping Rebellion
- the 1792-1794 Macartney Embassy
- the Boxer War
- the 1911 Revolution
- the Sino-Japanese War
- the Communist Revolution led by Mao
- the 1972 Nixon visit to China
- the Douglas-Home and Heath visits to China, 1973-74

“It will be a wonderful opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to have access to a substantial body of English language primary source material relating to Modern China. This project will be a very valuable teaching tool for those of us teaching upper level courses and seminars on China and World History. It will make a rich array of sources accessible to students and enable them to do real research using original documents.”

Professor Richard Horowitz, California State University, Northridge
Highlights

• A large body of maps, colour paintings, photographs and drawings depicting people, places, customs and events that will enliven any study of China.

• Substantial papers of Bowra, Hart, Maze and others in the Chinese Maritime Customs service, which will be enough to facilitate major research projects in this field.

• Records of major diplomatic envoys to China ranging from the late 18th and early 19th century missions of Macartney and Amherst to those of Nixon and Heath in the 20th century.

• Papers of missionaries active in all regions of China from Canton and Macau to Shanghai and Peking and an extensive, fully searchable run of the *Chinese Recorder*, 1867-1941 - both of which will be welcomed by misiologists and cultural historians.

• Recently opened files from the National Archives at Kew relating to the thawing of relations with China in the 1970s.

• Full text search for printed and typescript documents, and detailed indexing of manuscripts.

• An attractive and easy to use interface allows access to essays, a chronology and further resources.

• Interactive mapping enables searches by region and place.

• Searchable interactive slideshow facilitates topic-lead use of colour paintings maps, drawings and photographs.

For further information on this collection visit our website at:

www.amdigital.co.uk