

Chen, Leslie H.

A collection of historiographic materials for a biography of Chen Chiung-Ming [1878-1933], ca. 1900-1933.

1.5 linear ft. (ca. 1,000 items in 3 boxes).

Biography: Chen Chiung-ming was a Chinese general and governor. Chen was Tuchin and Civil Governor of Kwangtung Province, 1913-1923. He was one of numerous Tuchins and warlords who fought for control over the southern Chinese provinces. Also known as Marshal Chan King-ming, Chen was Chief-of-Staff and Minister of War for southern military affairs under President Sun Yat-sen and was involved in the 1922 coup d'etat of Sun's southern regime that was set up in Canton in opposition to the Northern Government.

Organization: Arranged. Preliminary matter & Chapters 1-8: Box 1; Chapters 9- 13: Box 2; Chapters 14-18: Box 3.

The entire collection is photocopies.

Summary: Typescript edited transcriptions of correspondence, memoirs, diplomatic documents, monographs, newspapers articles from English language sources and English translations from Chinese sources. The three major sources are: United States Department of State diplomatic reports from various American legations and consulates in China, 1909-1927; articles from the HONG KONG TELEGRAPH, a British newspaper, 1900-1933; and HUA TZU PAO, a politically independent Chinese newspaper in Hong Kong, 1909-1933. Other sources include British Foreign Office correspondence, and a number of American, English, and Chinese newspapers. Topics covered include Chen's life in Halfeng and Kwangtung; the Revolution of 1911; the first Republican Administration in Canton, 1911-1913; the second revolution, 1913-1916; the Constitutional Protection Movement, 1917-1918; various political and military activities in Fukien and Kwangtung, 1918-1922; relations with Sun Yat-sen and further military and political events, 1922-1933; a chronological index of Chen's speeches, interviews, and letters; and writings in memory of Chen.

Languages: English and Chinese.

Donor: Gift of Leslie H. Chen, 1988.

Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Librarian for Rare Books and Manuscripts

Finding aids: Description of purpose, method and materials, 6p.

1. Ch'en, Chiung-ming, 1877-1933. 2. Sun, Yat-sen, 1866-1925. 3. Hong Kong Telegraph. 4. Hua Tzu Pao. 5. China--20th century. 6. China--Economic conditions--20th century. 7. China--History--Republic, 1912-1949. 8. China-- History--Revolution, 1911-1912. 9. China--History--Revolution, 1913. 10. China-- -History--Revolution, 1915-1916. 11. China--History--Warlord period, 1916-1928. 12. China--Politics and government--1912-1949. 13. Canton (China). 14. China-- History, Military--20th century. 15. Articles. 16. Indexes. 17. Memoirs. 18. Monographs. 19. Reports. 20. Transcripts. 21. Generals--China. 22. Marshals-- China. 23. Statesmen--China.

ID: NYCR91-A20



A COLLECTION OF HISTORIOGRAPHIC MATERIALS FOR A BIOGRAPHY
OF CHEN CHIUNG-MING [1878 - 1933]

- I. PURPOSE
- II. WHAT HAVE BEEN COLLECTED
- III. WHAT HAVE BEEN EDITED
- IV. SAMPLES

I. PURPOSE -- To provide under one cover a collection of historiographic materials, relating to Chen Chiung-ming's political career, from a third "independent" source, unaltered or unfiltered by latter-day historians, and distinct from those which belong to the "orthodox" or "neo-orthodox" category (i.e. sources which were controlled by or in sympathy with the Kuomintang or the Chinese Communist Party) so that a new account and interpretation of an important page of the modern Chinese history is possible,

Thus, from a systematic study of these collected materials, it is expected that the following may be accomplished :

(1) To set the record straight for Chen Chiung-ming that he was a true patriot of the Chinese nation and a champion of real democracy in the early Chinese Republic. On September 5, 1922, at the zenith of his power, he told the American Consul at Canton :

Yuan Shih-kai, Tuan Chi-jui, Sun Yat-sen and now Wu Pei-fu had all made the mistake of trying to bring about unification [of China] by [use of] forces, that the true method was to bring it about by law - by drawing up a better Constitution and putting it into effect.

And the New York Times of June 27, 1922 reported :

The formation of a United States of China modeled after the American Federation and a national conference at Shanghai to discuss demobilization of superfluous troops and abolition of the the system of Tuchuns, or military governors, are the two principal conditions on which Chen Chiung-ming will negotiate for the reunion of China [with the North], according to an announcement made today at Peking, June 26.

Chen Chiung-ming's dream of seeing the realization of a "United States of China" was shattered by the treachery of Sun Yat-sen,

Russian-equipped

who , in accepting financial and military assistance from the Communist Third International , had derailed the genuine Chinese Nationalism and the aspirations of the Chinese people as indelibly expressed in the Revolution of 1911 and in the Second Revolution of 1913-1916 for a truly democratic state. Chen Chiung-ming , defeated by a Russian-trained and Russian-led so-called "Chinese Nationalist Army " in 1925, became the first victim to the first world venture of the Communist International

(2) To expose the real Sun Yat-sen as an opportunist who sovietized the Kuomintang (i.e. adopted Soviet methods and tactics) , used gangster tactics (i.e. political extortion and assassination) , made secret agreements detrimental to China's interest for selfish gains with Japan, Germany and finally Russia (i.e. selling out his country) , and practiced exactly contrary to what he preached. In a confidential report to President Coolidge on September 8, 1924 , the American Minister, Dr. Jacob Schurman stated :

Sun "is so completely persuaded of the righteousness of any cause he taken up that the end sanctifies any means he may adopt for its realization... Never was there a man ... more ego-centric, more obsessed with the idea of personal importance and greatness."

The real Sun Yat-sen was a complete anti-thesis to the posthumous Sun Yat-sen cannonized for political justification of totalitarian regimes.

II. WHAT HAVE BEEN COLLECTED

Three major sources :

(1) USDS -- U.S. Department of State diplomatic reports from Legations (Peking , Riga) and Consulates (Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Yunnanfu, Shanghai, Nanking ,Hankow, Kalgan, Harbin) , from 1909 to 1927 , Total 2,830 pages

(2) HKT -- HONGKONG TELEGRAPH , a British newspaper in Hong Kong , from 1900 to 1933 , Total 1,450 pages

(3) HTJP -- Hua Tzu Jih Pao , a reputable politically independent Chinese newspaper in Hong Kong , from 1909 to 1933 , Total 1,667 pages

Other supplementary sources :

(4) FO371 -- British Foreign Office correspondence from Legation (Peking) , Consulates(Canton, Swatow) and the Hong Kong Government , from 1911 to 1926 , Total 261 pages

(5) SCMP -- SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST -- An English-language newspaper in Hong Kong , from 1909 to 1922 , Total 139 pages

(6) Other English-language newspapers : NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS (Shanghai) , THE TIMES (London) , THE NEW YORK TIMES (New York)

(7) Other Chinese-language newspapers : SHEN PAO (Shanghai) , SHIH PAO (Shanghai) , TA KUNG PAO (Changsa , Hunan) , SHUN TIEN SHIH PAO (Peking) , SHIH CHIEH JIH PAO (Peking) .

(8) "A Proposal for the Unification of China " Chen Chiung-ming, Hong Kong (1927)

(9) "Nien-pu" -- A Chronological Biograghy of Mr. Chen Chiung-ming , HongKong (1957)

(10) "The Ideas and Ideals of a Warlord : Chen Chiung-ming " Winston Hsieh , Harvard University (1962)

(11) "Sun Yat-sen , Chen Chiung-ming and Coup d'Etat of June 16, 1922" Bonnie Lawrence, Columbia University (1971)

(12) "Preliminary Draft of a record of a Visit with Mr. Mok Chi-peng " Taipei, Taiwan (1950's)

(13) "A Story of Liberation " Liang Ping-hsien , Hong Kong (1951)

(14) "Memoirs of General Huang Keng" Hong Kong (1979)

(15) "In Memorial of My Friend : Mr. Chen Chiung-ming " Pai Yu-huan, Shanghai (1933)

(16) "The Memorial Record of Mr. Chen Chiung-ming" edited by the Committee for the Burial of Mr. Chen which was formed by friends and former-subordinates , Hong Kong (1934)

(17) Other miscellaneous articles and memoirs about 250 averaging 2-3 pages each..

III. WHAT HAVE BEEN EDITED

Excerpts of English materials and translations of excerpts of the Chinese materials were edited into eighteen (18) chapters, totaling 2850 word-processor print-out pages , or about 1,300,000 words at an average of 450 words per page. Each chapter is preceded by a detailed (indexed) table of content. The chapters and their subsections are as follows :

(1) Early Years -[1878-1911]

Haifeng and its people ; Formative years (1878 - 1900) ; Kwangtung Provincial Assembly ; Anti-gambling movement and Ko Po.

(2) The Revolution of 1911

New Army Revolt at Canton; "March 29" Uprising ; Assassination Corps; Battle of Waichow.

(3) First Republican Administration in Canton [1911-1913]

Canton : between declaration of independence and Chen's entry ; Maintenance of peace and order ; Support of the new Republic ; First return (to Canton) of Sun Yat-sen ; Acting Governor-General of Kwangtung; The Pacification Bureau and the Army Protector ; Governor-General prior to declaration of independence (against Yuan Shih-kai).

(4) The Second Revolution - [1913- 1916]

First anti-Yuan campaign ; Exile in Singapore; Second anti-Yuan campaign ; The Northern sojourn.

(5) Constitution Protection Movement - [1917 - 1918]

Political Situation prior to Chen's return ; Return to Canton; Canton Military Government (July 1917 -Dec 1918) ; The Fukien Campaign (Dec 1917 - Dec 1918) ; The Southern Cause.

(6) "Little Model China" in Fukien [1918 -1920]

Political situation (Jan 1919 - Aug 1920) ; Conditions in East Kwangtung (Jan 1919 - Aug 1920) , Conditions in Fukien (Jan 1919 - Aug 1920) ; Administration in Changchow (Aug 1918 - Aug 1920) ; New Culture Movement in Southern Fukien (1918 - 1920) ; Chen's personal activities during the Changchow period ; The Soviet contact ; Special reports from USDS on Bolshevik propaganda and political activities.

(7) The Return to Kwangtung [Aug-Nov 1920]

Political situation in Canton and Peking ; Return of Kwangtung Army to Kwangtung; Aeroplanes and American aviators; Excesses of Kwangsi troops ; Conditions in Fukien ; Condition in East Kwangtung; Second Return (to Canton) of Sun Yat-sen.

(8) EXPERIMENTS IN DEMOCRACY [Nov 1920 - June 1922]

Re-establishment of the Military Government ; Disbandment of troops ; Anti-gambling and anti-opium; Inauguration of municipal governments ; Modernization of education ; Modernization of army

; Finance , Industry and miscellaneous ; District self-governemnt and election of magistrates; Labor relations and communist activities.

(9) The Kwangsi Campaign [June-Sept 1921]

Events leading to Kwangsi Campaign; The Kwangsi Campaign ; Reform of Kwangsi ; Victorious Return to Canton (Nov 7, 1921).

(10) Federalist Movement [Early to 1922]

Aspirations in the early Republic (1911-1913) ; Federalist activities (1916 -1920) ; Chen's political views (1920 - 1922) ; Federalist activites (1920 - 1922) ; Kwangtung Provincial Constitution (Nov 1920 - 1922) ; Kwangtung, China and Foreign Powers (Nov 1920 - 1922)

(11) The Split with Sun Yat-sen -- The June 16 Incident

His relation with Sun , Sun's activities and political views prior to Sun's extraordinary presidency (Nov 1920 - May 1921) ; Sun's extraordinary presidency ; His relation with Sun, Sun's activities and political views after Sun's extraordinary presidency and two months before the June incident (May 1921 - April 1922) ; Sun's assassination tactics ; The June 16 Incident ; Contemporary comments on the Incident; Posterior comments on the Incident .

(12) Federalist Movement - Another Chance [Aug 1922 - Jan 1923]

The Civil Governorship and Canton Municipality ; Finance and Loans; His political views and activities ; Sun's Proposed Triple Alliance Exposed ; Sun's Proposed Japanese agreement.

(13) Retirement in Hong Kong [Jan - May 1923]

Canton prior to invasion from Kwangsi (Aug 1922 - Jan 1923) ; Invasion from Kwangsi ; His followers in Eastern Kwangtung and the Fukien War (Aug 1922 - May 1923) ; Comments and reports relating to his retirement.

(14) The Struggle Resumes [May 1923 - Dec 1924]

Sun's administration in Canton (Jan 1923 - Nov 1924) ; Chen , his followers, Southwest and the North (Feb 1923 - Dec 1924 ; Reconciliation efforts (between Sun and Chen) - (Nov 1922 - Dec 1924) ; The military contest (May 1923 - Nov 1924) ; The Merchants Volunteer Corps Incident- Sun's departure and death.

(15) The End of Military Struggle [Nov 1924 - Dec 1925]

Political and military situations after Sun's departure; First East River battles (Jan-March , 1925) ; Activities between the battles (March-Oct , 1925) ; Second East River battles - Fall of Waichow (Sept- Nov 1925) ; The Soviet Conspiracy (1922 - 1929)

(16) Final Quest for Unification by Political Means [1926 - 1933]

A new political party; other activities ; Excerpts from " A Proposal for the Unification of China" ; Miscellaneous.

(17) His Writings and Speechs

Essays ; Poems ; Vernacular Poems ; Index for speeches and circular telegrams.

(18) Writings in Memory of Him

Excerpts from "The Memorial Record of Mr. Chen Chiung-ming" -- Eulogistic essays, poems, etc.

Leslie H. Chen

May 1988

IV SAMPLES

Sample pages from the 2850-pages edited collection are attached.