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NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS

The North China Daily News commenced publication on July 1, 1864 and closed its presses on March 31, 1951, two years after the founding of the People's Republic of China. No other foreign language newspaper published in China can look back on such a long publishing history, spanning the three periods of modern China: the Manchu regime, the Republican period, and the People's Republic. However, since practically none of the twentieth-century issues of this newspaper are existing in the Western world (except for the issues published in the post-World War II years which are in the holdings of the Library of Congress), and since its nineteenth-century issues are also very rare, its name has been less known to scholars who use China Coast newspapers in their research.

The newspaper came into existence as a result of the growth of the North China Herald, which had been founded as a weekly by Henry Shearman, a Briton in Shanghai, on August 3, 1850. In keeping pace with the influx of foreigners and growing commercial activities in Shanghai and China as a whole, the name was changed to North China Herald and Market Report on April 8, 1867. In 1870 it became the North China Herald and Supreme Court and Consular Gazette. With the expansion of commercial activities, the Herald began to publish a supplement entitled Daily Shipping News in 1856, which became the Daily Shipping and Commercial News in 1862. From this supplement developed a regular daily newspaper which began to include reports from Peking, Hankow, Canton and Hong Kong, as well as from Singapore, Tokyo, Paris and San Francisco. This daily newspaper was called the North China Daily News, the name being a combination of the first two title words of the weekly Herald and the first and last title words of the Daily Shipping and Commercial News supplement.

Published by the same company, the North China Daily News soon began to enjoy greater popularity than its parent weekly newspaper, the North China Herald, a fact which the Herald finally acknowledged in its Vol. LXIII, No. 1,796, dated January 8, 1902, when it appeared for the first time with

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the subtitle "The Weekly Edition of the North China Daily News." Although circulation statistics are not available for the most part, it is known that during the month of February 1931 7,817 copies were circulated, while statistics for the early fall of 1946 show a circulation of over 7,000 copies. That the paper was influential can hardly be denied. Its subscribers in the main were business and professional men of exceptionally good education.

Contrary to the popularity which the North China Daily News enjoyed with foreigners in Shanghai, it was more often than not at loggerheads with the Chinese authorities. Articles by Rodney Gilbert, author of What's Wrong with China and the daily's Peking correspondent, and by George E. Sokolsky, its news editor, which appeared in the late 1920s, were largely responsible for the postal ban put on the daily by the National Government in Nanking in 1929.

With the appointment of Edwin Haward to the editorship in 1930 the daily changed its editorial standpoint and ceased to act as a critic of the Chinese government. Its new policy was to look with sympathy on any constructive program formulated by the Nationalist Government, a fact which met with severe criticism from some of its non-Chinese subscribers.

When China became one of the powers at the end of World War II, the daily's editorial attitude developed into one of alertness and cautiousness. Nevertheless, in instances when the Chinese interest was in conflict with that of foreigners, particularly that of the British, the newspaper could not refrain from commenting. Although such articles were held in a rather humorous style, the underlying sarcasm was quite evident. A comment on the newspaper by the editor of the Shang-hai wen-hua (Shanghai Culture) reflects the Chinese feeling: "The attitude of superiority over the Chinese and contempt for the Chinese is written all over its pages." (No. 10, November 1, 1946. p.78) The printed maxim of both the Herald and the Daily News, which read "Impartial - Not Neutral", was strictly adhered to. Matters of no particular concern to foreign interests, especially those of the British, were treated with proper impartiality, while in matters conflicting with foreign and British interests the "not neutral" stand was applied.

The North China Daily News is undoubtedly a vital source for the understanding of the ruling mercantile group in Shanghai, the structure of the treaty port, Western impact on China, and the internal political development of the country. The existence of the treaty ports and the foreign concessions afforded the foreign press in China an excellent opportunity to freely report on political and military events and to adopt an independent and vigorous editorial policy in its discussions of public affairs -- privileges which the native Chinese press did not enjoy. This unique position of the foreign press should always be kept in mind when a foreign newspaper published in China is used to support research.

Included in this offering of 298 reels of microfilm, which is divided into four groupings, are issues of the North China Daily News from July 2, 1866 (issue No. 642) to March 31, 1951 (issue No. 25,957) with some missing issues in between. Some of the issues included have been mutilated, which is reflected in the microfilm

edition. These extensive issues represent the holdings of a number of research libraries in this country and abroad, namely, the British Library in London, the Tokyo University Library, the National Diet Library of Japan, the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., the Hoover Institution, and the Essex Institute in Salem, Mass. The ARL Chinese Center is grateful for the invaluable assistance and cooperation rendered by all these institutions. The ARL Chinese Center also wishes to express its gratitude to Professor Yi C. Wang of Queens College of the City University of New York for his valuable suggestion to undertake this project.

NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS

Ref. No.	Reel No.	C o v e r a g e	Missing or not Published
N16.3	276	January - April 1946	Jan. 2; Feb. 3-4; April 20
	277	May - August 1946	June 13, 20, 22, 24
	278	Sept. - December 1946	Oct. 11; Dec. 26
	279	Jan. - February 1947	Jan. 2, 23
	280	March - April 1947	March 30; April 27-29
	281	May - June 1947	May 1-8
	282	July - August 1947	Aug. 28
	283	Sept. - October 1947	Oct. 11
	284	Nov. - December 1947	Nov. 13; Dec. 26
	285	Jan. - February 1948	Jan. 2; Feb. 6, pp. 3-4; Feb. 7-8, 11
	286	March - April 1948	March 30
	287	May - June 1948	May 2
	288	July - August 1948	July 4-8, 20, 23-24; Aug. 28-29, 31
	289	Sept. - October 1948	Oct. 11
	290	Nov. - December 1948	Nov. 13, 18, 25; Dec. 20
	291	Jan. - February 1949	Jan. 2, 30; Feb. 1-4
	292	March - April 1949	March 30; April 26-28
	293	May - June 1949	May 2
	294	July - August 1949	July 26; Aug. 23
	295	Sept. - December 1949	October 4, 7, 27, 29; Nov. 1, 5, 9, 29-30; Dec. 26
	296	Jan. - June 1950	Jan. 2-3; Feb. 6-8, 18-20; May 2; June 29-30
	297	July - December 1950	July 1; Oct. 2-3
	298	January - March 1951	Jan 2; Feb. 7-9



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NEWSPAPERS

Title 学林西报

Title romanized Tzu-lin hsi-pao

Imprint trans. of title North China Daily News

Title changed to _____

Frequency Daily First & last issues Nos. 1-25,957

Place of publication Shanghai

Publisher _____

Inclusive dates filmed January 1, 1946 - March 31, 1951

Holder of original material Tokyo University Library; National Diet Library
of Japan; Library of Congress; Essex Institute

Editor of microfilm edition ARL Chinese Center

Material added _____

Holder of master negative ARL Chinese Center

Filmed with _____

Reference no. N16.3 Others _____