

SPECIAL REPORT NO.

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Shanghai China

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Subject: "DATA FOR FILM YEARBOOK" (Letter request September 21, 1933, Motion Picture Section, Specialties Division.)

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1932. Chinese films increased CHINA 25%, British films to

10% the remaining 5% being occasional French or German films.

Agitation: Growing sensitiveness and much justified criticism by Chinese to grotesque portrayal of Chinese people by American films, less resulted in banning or withdrawal of some pictures. Shanghai

Consulate Relations: U. S. Consular Treaty, October 8, 1903 has also witnessed similar sensitiveness from other nationals notably Russians, Germans, Italians and French, whose protests in several instances held up showing of films until objectionable features were

liberally cut. about 20 are sound or film. Films usually 12 reels in length. Censorship: Two censorship regimes exist in China proper that of the National Board of Film Censors at Nanking and the censorship of the foreign concession areas at Shanghai, the latter being the most important exhibition and distributing center. A tightening up of censorship by the national authorities has been noticeable. The requirement that all films must bear Chinese captions, later abandoned, is indicative of the tenor of the national Censorship board. A Film Inquiry Committee appointed by the Shanghai Municipal Council sat for a number of months considering methods of censorship and kinds of films exhibited. Their requirements have for the time being apparently been tabled.

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Separate censorship exists for the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong and for Manchuria.

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Competition: 60% American pictures. Exhibition of British films has been more aggressively pushed throughout the year. Showing of American films in Hong Kong decreased from 75% in 1930 to 60% in 1932. Chinese films increased from 20 to 25%, British films to 10% the remaining 5% being occasional French or German films.

Russian films have so far not been able to pass Colonial censors in Hong Kong.

Copyright Relations: U. S. Commercial Treaty, October 8, 1903 provides for reciprocal protection.

Production: Production center located at Shanghai and the British Colony, Hongkong. Estimated annual production 60 pictures, of which about 20 are sound on film. Films usually 12 reels in length. Considerable improvement has been noted during the past year in the technique of Chinese film production, but poor.

Taxes: Varies in different parts of the country. Fairly high.

Theatres: 238 including Hong Kong and Manchuria. 118 silent.  
120 Sound.

Imports: The following statistics can best be compiled in Washington from the U. S. Customs figures.

Imports from U. S. A.

	Feet	Volume \$
1932 Negative, sound		
1932 Positive, sound		
1933 (First Nine Months) Negative, sound		
1933 Positive, sound		



Exports to U. S. A.

	Feet	Volume \$
1932 Negative, sound		
1933 (First Nine Months) Negative, sound		
1933 Positive, sound		

Chinese Maritime Customs Returns of Trade do not separately classify negative and positive films. Total gross imports of Cinematographic Films into China in 1932 amounted in value to 2,265,651 Gold Units (One Gold Units approximately U. S. \$0.40) of which re-exports to the total of 992,329 were made abroad. Shanghai and Canton are the two leading import centers. Countries of origin ranked:

U. S. A.	1,365,140	Gold Units
Hong Kong	415,599	" "
Germany	156,204	" "
Great Britain	125,806	" "
Japan	113,405	" "

Imports into China for the first nine months of 1933 as compared with the same period in 1932 were:

	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>
Value in Gold Units	904,903	1,004,824

Figures by country of origin for the nine month period are not available.

Julean Arnold,  
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