

中國圖書館學史料叢刊

國家圖書館出版社

清末民國圖書館史料彙編

王余光 主編 范凡 等編輯

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第三冊

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The Boxer Indemnity and  
The Library Movement in China  
(庚子賠款與中國的圖書館運動)

韋棣華(Mary Elizabeth Wood) 編

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The Boxer Indemnity  
and  
The Library Movement in China.

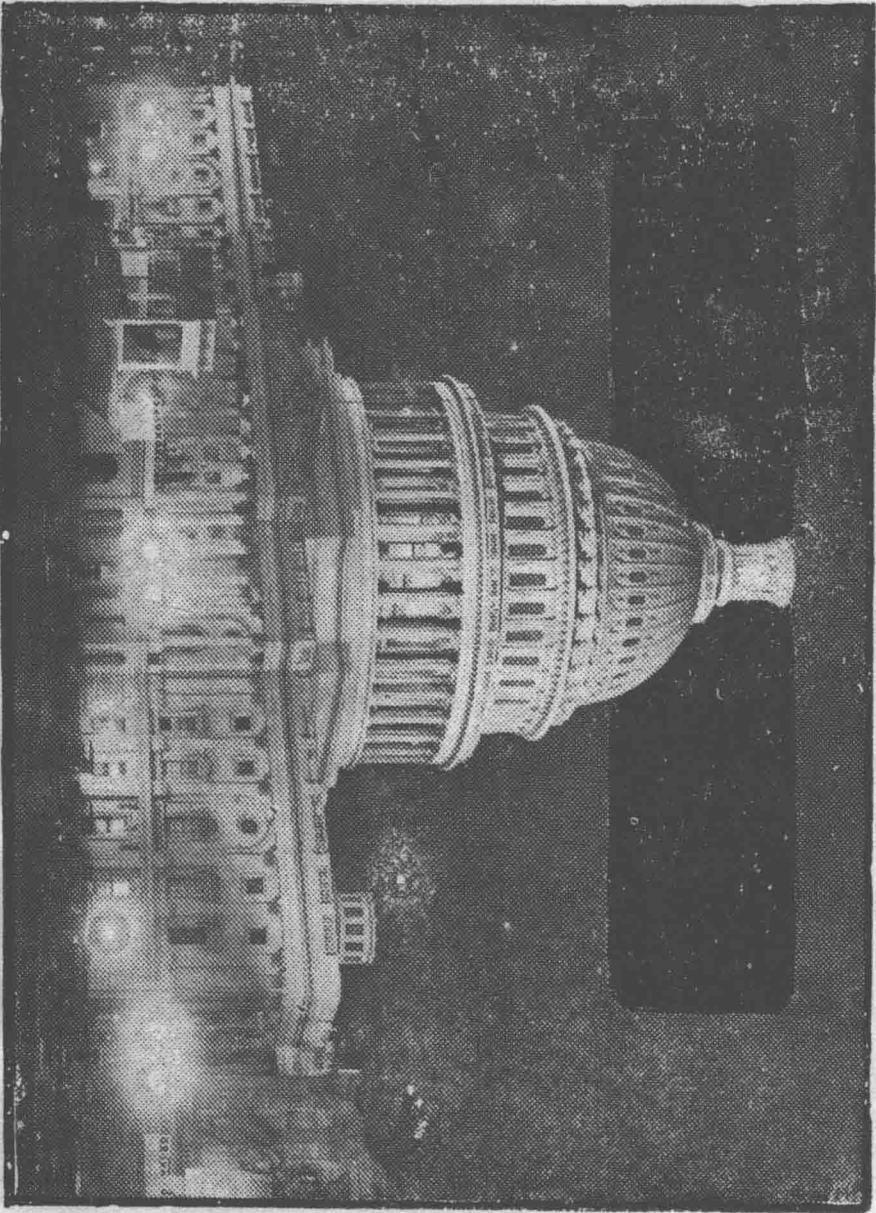
A collection of official documents pertaining to the  
Boxer Indemnity and Public Libraries in China.

COMPILED BY

MARY ELIZABETH WOOD.

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U. S. Capitol.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

## BRIEF SKETCH.

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In February 1923 Miss Wood went to Peking at the suggestion of Dr. Daniel Z. T. Yui to see if a certain portion of the Boxer Indemnity, if remitted by the United States, could not be used to introduce into China, the *Modern Public Library*. The suggestion met with the hearty approval of many of the prominent men in the Capital at that time, among them President Li Yuen Hung, Dr. W. W. Yen, Dr. Wellington Koo, Dr. C. T. Wong and others. A petition was drawn up by the Chinese, setting forth this plan. This Petition had one hundred and fifty signatures of the most prominent men in official, educational and commercial life. It was sent to the President of the United States in September together with a second petition drawn up and signed by sixty-five Representative Americans in China.

The National Association for the Advancement of Education, at its annual meeting in August 1923, voted unanimously in favor of this use for a portion of the Indemnity. At the suggestion of Senator Pepper, Miss Wood went to Washington to give information and to help forward the passage of the Bill. She remained there during the whole six months session, and during that time interviewed, personally, 82 Senators and 420 Congressmen. The result of her work in "Lobbying for China" may be seen from the following published letters.

After the passage of the Bill it was stated that the Sino-American Board, formed to administer this Indemnity Fund, would consider the opinions of experts, as to the best uses of this money coming under the head of "Educational and Culture Purposes," which the Bill stipulates. To bring before this Joint Board the need for libraries a delegate from the American Library Association will come to China and survey the field and make Recommendations that this whole subject may be carefully considered and this great plan for a modern library movement for China may be prosecuted.

( 2 )

TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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That the most generous action of the United States of America in having returned the first portion of the Boxer Indemnity Fund to our country has, for the past decade, been proving itself of the greatest mutual benefit to both the United States of America and the Republic of China is self-evident and amply shown by results. Not only that, it is recognized as one of the most inspiring strokes of international friendship and good-will. We, the undersigned citizens of the Republic of China, do hereby respectfully, and earnestly appeal that the remaining portion of the Boxer Indemnity Fund be remitted to China by the United States of America. The beneficent results will surely follow.

In this connection, we wish to make known our sincere desire that a good portion of the said Fund be used for public libraries in China. The public library in America has, as we understand, gone hand in hand with the public school in the education of the American people, and has been a great power in promoting citizenship and furthering democratic government. During the last quarter of a century, China's advancement in Western Education has been very great, yet we have omitted one of the strongest features in that education—the Public Library.

If, through the generous help and inspiration of the United States of America, the public library becomes a part of the educational system of our country, it will prove a most important factor in the dissemination of democratic ideas and ideals. In what more fitting way could a part of the balance of the Boxer Indemnity Fund be used than by building and maintaining public libraries in a few well chosen centers in China which, in addition to their great educational value, would stand both as inspiring models for other Chinese cities to copy and as permanent tokens of America's friendship for our young and struggling Republic?

It is our earnest purpose to petition our government that after the remaining portion of the Boxer Indemnity Fund is remitted to us, the sum of \$200,000 be released each year with



which to establish and maintain five big and nine medium sized libraries, and from which there would radiate a system of travelling libraries, so as to make their beneficial influence very far-reaching. The control of the funds for these libraries could be vested in a Joint Board of Trustees of Chinese and Americans. A somewhat detailed plan is found in the enclosed memorandum. On behalf of the millions in this country who are struggling for an education to better fit them for democracy, we, the under-signed pray Your Excellency will give our appeal the most careful and sympathetic consideration.

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