



国家清史编纂委员会·编译丛刊影印系列

美国政府解密档案（中国关系）

美国驻中国广州领事馆领事报告 (1790—1906)

Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Canton, China,
1790-1906

广西师范大学出版社 组织整理

程焕文 审订

— 11 —



GUANGXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY PRESS

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“十一五”国家重点图书出版规划项目

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· 桂林 ·

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*Atk, &c. For Cont. destroyed
No. 14
See note
DHclair*

United States Consulate, Canton, China.

Jan 25 1883

FROM

Charles Seymour, U. S. Consul,

TO

Hon. A. A. Alce,

*Third Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.*

Subject.

Opinion at Canton Agency.

SYNOPSIS.

*Opinions to their continuance.
Reasons why the State Department
should adopt the plan suggested by
by the Council, & disapproval of the
course recommended by U.S. Cons. in charge.*

N^o 14

United States Consulate, Canton, China.

January 26 - 1883

Wm. H. Wood

Third Asst. Secy. State

Washington D.C.

Sir

Respectfully

referring to my dispatch No 13, dated 9th
inst (vide third page), as to what I regard
summary expenses of the Consular Agency
at Canton, I am in receipt of letters from the
Consular Agent, Mr. Jones, at Canton, &
Mr. Tierce, Consul General Cheshire, at
Shanghai; disapproving of my suggestion
of action; and as I am fully persuaded
that when it is so difficult to obtain
appropriations from Congress to defray
the absolutely necessary expenses of the
various Departments of the Government,

2

the temper of the American people would not tolerate a continuance of such nonsense as expenditures for expenses of \$176.10 per 1/4 yr or rather, fees included, \$179.10, while the entire business of the 1/4 yr amounted to only three dollars, with no public good as the result.

I am informed by Mr. Cheshire U.S. C. G. in Charge, at Shanghai, in a letter dated 18th inst as follows -

"I have written to the Department asking it to disapprove of the course you suggest, as I believe it would not be beneficial to American interests at Swatow."

I may, perhaps, be a mystery to ordinary men that in a port which has so little com-

sular business as Legation, any
 one could be found with sufficient
 patriotism to conduct consular
 correspondence of such magnitude
 as the items for stationery &
 postage would represent,
 for such small pay as half
 of the fees. The solution of that
 mystery is found, as I believe,
 in the fact that the Ex-Consul
 Agent, Mr Williams; and the present
 Consul Agent, Mr Jones; and the
 Interpreter, Mr Shin Kye Pang;
 (and perhaps the Chinese Writer)
 are all in one, & the only one
 American Commercial house at
 Legation; & that the great bulk
 of the Correspondence with the
 Chinese authorities, during some

quarter and years, related
 to the private interests of the
 Consular Officers at Swatow,
 and, furthermore, that the other
 "American interests" at Swatow,
 the Missionaries, do not regard
 my plan with disfavor; but,
 on the contrary, have refused
 to comply with the solicitation
 of the Ex-consular Agent and the
 present Consular Agent as to getting
 up a remonstrance at Swatow
 against the Consul's plan of
 having the greater portion or
 nearly ^{all} of the business of the
 Interpreter & Chinese Writer
 done in the Consulate at Swatow.

I regard such unnecessary
 expenses as have been incurred

by the Government at Swatow,
 & probably many other similar
 places, in China & elsewhere,
 as little short of robbery;
 and with this conviction, I
 propose to carefully overhaul
 the correspondence between
 the Consular Agency at Swatow
 & the Chinese officials; & give
 the Department the result
 of my discoveries.

In the
 meantime I shall not
 be a party to what I believe
 a swindle that would not
 be justified for a moment
 under the light of investigation.

While writing, I have before
 me the Chronicle & Directory for

Persia, in 1882, just brought to
 me from the Library of the Canton
 Club, confirming my suspicion
 that the entire Consular force
 at Canton was in one business
 establishment; while letters read to
 me by several eminent Americans,
 who have called at the Consulate, &
 acquainted me with the feelings
 & desires of their Canton colleagues
 & correspondents, admit of no doubt, that,
 so far as American interests are
 concerned, outside of the Com-
 mercial concern which has so
 long used the Consular Agency
 as an appendage to their or
 its business outfit, I would be
 glad to be emancipated from what
 has been a dreaded source of power
 in unfriendly or indifferent interests.

But there is yet another better reason for having the Chinese correspondence for this Consul District at Canton only. viz: That as this is the residence of the Viceroy, to whom & whose rulings are referred & subjected all important business in his two Provinces, in one of which are both Canton & Swatow, it is desirable that there should be no possibility of any conflict or inconsistency in our correspondence with those very discerning & astute men who are entrusted, by China, with the duty of conducting correspondence with representatives of other countries.

I respectfully suggest that you permit me to reduce the expenses at least \$400. four hundred dollars, by allowing me to expend say \$220. per annum for the interpretation & writing of

of Chinese correspondence connected
with the Agency of Canton, either
here or there, as deemed most equitable
& advisable; instead of \$620,000 at Canton.

I believe that the
expenses of the Canton Consulate
can be kept down or diminished,
while the consular business of the
present fiscal year will be larger
than any three years combined
previous to 1881; & I am very desirous
to shake off all needless expense,
so that this Consulate shall
make a good business exhibit.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Very Respectfully Yours

Charles Seymour

M. Consul.

{ A copy of this
dispatch mailed
to the Vice Consul
Genl. in charge,
as this is mailed
per St. Gallie sailing 27 inst } C.S.