

香港科技大學華南研究中心
華南研究文獻叢刊（三）

許舒博士所藏土地及商業文書

北海貞泰號

1893-1935年結簿

馬木池編

光緒貳拾九年癸卯存數
一存進支部現銀柒千零五拾五兩
七錢八分六厘

又錢71.078千文78寸銀五
拾八兩五錢六分正

一存棧鋪壹間銀柒佰叁拾兩正

一存洋紗丫片米絲生油W.A.A.兩

九折銀四千柒佰捌拾叁兩四錢正

一存 17370兩五折銀捌千

五兩正

銀貳千

已收訖

拾

光緒貳拾九年
一存 17370兩五折銀捌千
五兩正
銀貳千
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八錢六分正 已收訖

光緒貳拾九年
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五兩正
銀貳千
已收訖
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本書由衛奕信勳爵文物信託資助出版

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Preface

Historians of the present day are generally agreed that there is a need to understand society from the 'grass-roots', whether it be urban or rural, and that this must be done both through direct observation (wherever possible) or by the close scrutiny of documents produced within that society.

In Hong Kong, we have been able to contribute towards this kind of research in two ways. The first is well-known. The New Territories have for many years given scholars an opportunity for fieldwork, and village studies; and varying in availability, documentation of different kinds may also be found, to support and amplify fieldwork.

The second contribution is much less appreciated. Because urban Hong Kong was a city of migrants, most of them from different parts of Guangdong, historical materials relating to the province turn up from time to time in the city's second hand and curio market. These originally belonged to deceased businessmen who made good in Hong Kong but also maintained links to their home areas, using their profits to invest in property or businesses there, on their own or their parent lineage's behalf.

Along with account books, bills of exchange, remittance papers, minute books and other business materials, there can often be found personal and family papers such as horoscopes, marriage documents, books on geomancy, and fortune telling, papers about ancestors' graves, family trusts, and legal problems, and other matters. There are also land deeds of sale, purchase and mortgage showing family

investments and other transactions concerning shops, houses, fields, and other landed property. Genealogies, religious materials, manuals for writing letters and popular and classical literature are also included.

One can say, therefore, with some truth, that the work and interests of businessmen strongly reflected the political and social culture of China of their day.¹ But, as with documents relating to the village, it is rare for a large collection of business papers to be preserved intact. Where one such is preserved – and fortunately this happens from time to time – the papers in question can shed light on practices in the commercial sector, helping us to understand the structure and management practices of the Chinese family firm, and the Chinese business world.

Urban and rural collections may constitute the whole or a portion of the holdings of a village lineage, family, or business firm at a given time, or they may comprise a set of documents that have been bundled together because they have occupied some place of special importance. In regard to land deeds, the value of the collection is enhanced by the inclusion of papers recording successive transactions in the same properties through the customary practice of handing on earlier deeds to the new owners.

As in archaeology, where a find would lose most of its significance were it to be looked at without any knowledge of the context in which it was discovered, a document found within such a collection should be examined in relation to the other documents, and also to whatever else is known about its owners. What we want is not only the information to be obtained from single documents - such as

how land was mortgaged, bought or sold, the complexities of multiple ownership, and sometimes also tenancy arrangements - but the history of the family or the institution that owned them, leading (if we are fortunate in finding related information) to a fuller knowledge of the socio-political and economic situation in and of its home area. In regard to business papers, inter-connections are clearly of crucial importance to comprehension of the range and detail of commercial activities.

Needless to say, collecting is a wholly unpredictable business! One never knows what one may find. Also, it is next to impossible to know what may be hidden inside the bundles of papers, in the limited time available for scanning at the dealer's shop or stall. But takes good fortune to come across the larger collections, and in the way these papers are made available for sale, more often than not, we know nothing about their owners. Indeed, we cannot be sure we have got all the documents that belong to any one collection.²

Despite likely gaps or missing materials, there has yet been enough to encourage Professor Takeshi Hamashita of the University of Tokyo, and more recently Professor Chi-Cheung Choi and his colleagues at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, to promote research into individual collections and to publish and circulate their content. Furthermore, additional documents, resulting from continued collecting in Hong Kong over the past ten years, have now been deposited by me with Professor Choi. These, too, will be made available for research purposes, possibly leading to other publications. It is hoped that when other scholars know of these

collections, they may contribute by conducting detailed enquiries in the localities that they bear on, and perhaps find and make known other, related papers which may come to their attention.

Eventually, we shall be going beyond the deeds, the places and the families concerned to understand local history and commercial enterprise. And when we have more of that, perhaps we shall understand the development of Chinese society a little more, in all its marvellous richness and diversity.

In this ongoing task, I have been no more than a provider, spurred on by the interest and excitement of the chase. It has been immensely gratifying to know that my collecting is being followed up with such dedication and enthusiasm. I wish here to record my appreciation of the work that has been done to date, and to congratulate all those concerned with the research and production of the successive volumes of this ongoing series.

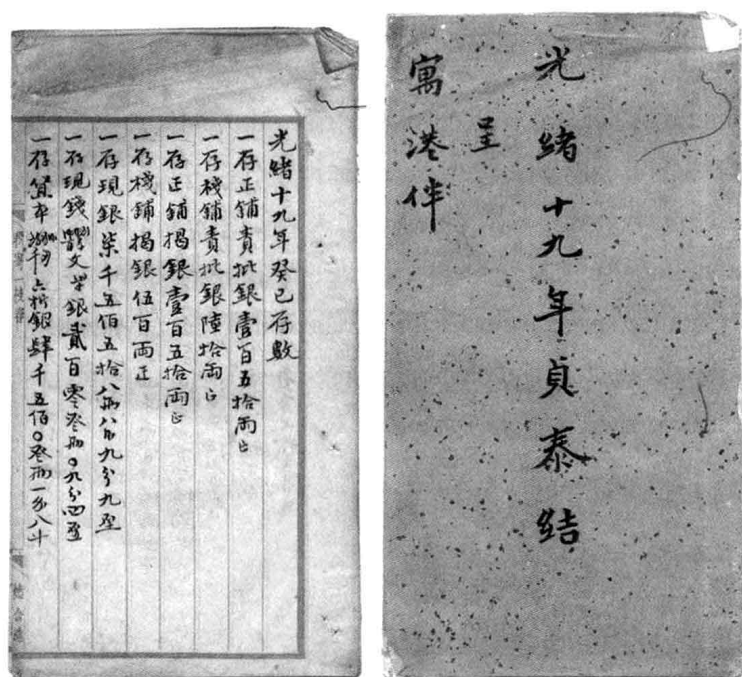
JAMES HAYES

Sydney / Hong Kong, February 2002.

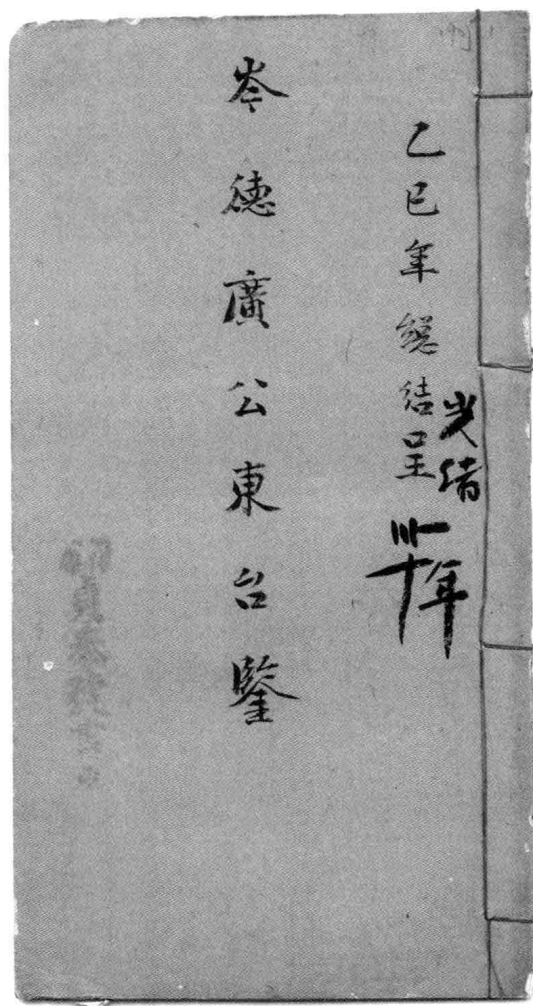
¹ See my article “Collecting Business Papers of Chinese Enterprises in Hong Kong” at Alan Birch, Y.C. Jao and Elizabeth Sinn (eds) *Research Materials for Hong Kong Studies* (Hong Kong, Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong, 1984), pp.51-52.

² Given the methods by which it is recovered from old houses by street collectors and taken to second hand curio dealers, it is rare for large collections to be preserved intact. Scrap collectors and dealers

were part of the business community even in Hong Kong's earlier years. For reasons that are still obscure they were for long known as "Marine hawkers" and "Marine stores". Today's collectors are usually older men and women, poorly educated or even illiterate, who make a meager living by hunting around for saleable material of all kinds... The scrap collectors have their own methods. Where papers are concerned and their commercial value is uncertain, the scrap collectors do not immediately take all the papers available, but take a batch at a time, returning only if they have sold certain items. Sometimes several collectors buy from the same source. In any case they usually distribute saleable items among shops and stalls, knowing that one has a market for this item and the other for something else. These methods of acquisition and disposal, and the very limited space available for storage and holding available to any of these collectors and dealers, ensure muddle and loss (taken from the article cited in Note 1 above).



圖一：光緒十九年（1893）年結。此為本輯文書中最早的一部年結。由光緒十九至三十四年的年結皆為手抄本，為方便電腦排印，年結中的蘇州記數碼皆改作阿拉伯數字。



圖二：光緒三十一年（1905）年結。在 32 本年結中印蓋的圖章共有四種，其一如圖左下角所示，沒有邊框，印文為：「寓港北海貞泰號書柬」。

冬東中各年派利列									
四信堂	黃之順公	開智堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡	
鄭華通堂	潘西美堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡		
黃博昌堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡			
黃博通堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡			
黃博通堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡			
黃博通堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡			
黃博通堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡			
黃博通堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡			
黃博通堂	共股半派利	初	每信派利	銀	謝	胡			
共計拾大股派利銀五十兩正									
光緒貳拾九年翠印									
總結									

圖三：光緒二十九年（1903）年結。圖左頁所示為第二款印章，為方形，印文為「北海貞泰圖章」。

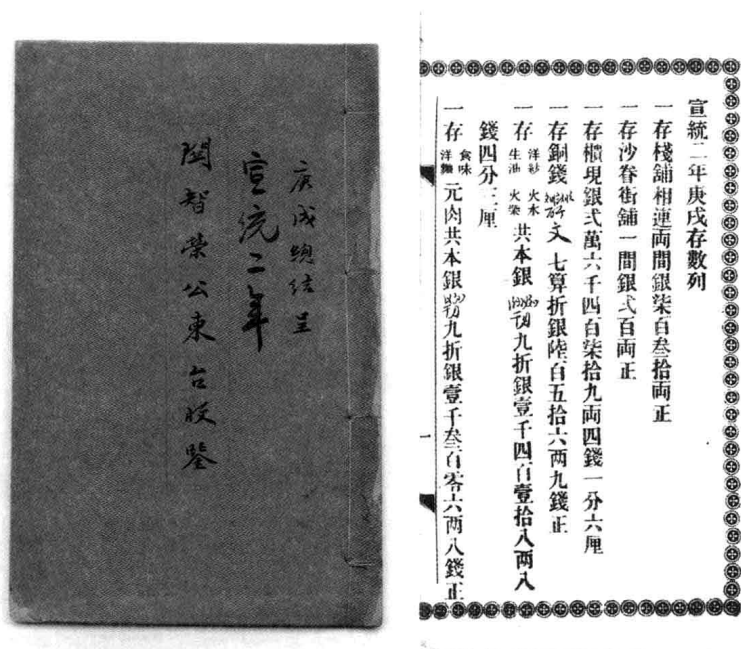
欠黃繼齋銀壹百叁拾伍員壹毫陸仙	欠黃夏氏銀壹百零柒員叁毫肆仙	欠玉記銀壹百陸拾貳員伍毫捌仙	欠黃雨山銀壹百貳拾柒員捌毫貳仙	欠秀記銀壹百貳拾員正	欠吳鑑銀貳仟零壹拾陸員正	欠廣記號銀叁萬柒仟肆百柒拾員零叁毫伍仙	欠仁記銀貳仟柒百柒拾柒員柒毫捌仙	欠廣致裕銀壹仟柒百捌拾貳員貳毫肆仙	欠亨泰號銀壹仟伍百玖拾叁員壹毫捌仙
欠黎彥銀壹拾貳員柒毫叁仙	欠益三堂銀伍百肆拾捌員正	五十八柱共欠銀壹拾貳萬陸仟玖百貳拾柒員零貳仙	倘有錯漏 祈為指示		民國丙寅年	丙寅年結	總結	拾玖	香港北海貞泰號

圖四：民國丙寅年（1926）年結。第三款印章如左頁第三行所示，為橢圓形，印文為「貞泰圖章」。圖左下角為第四款印章，沒有邊框，印文為「寓港北海貞泰號」。

存關益善堂支長銀柒佰柒十元零零叁仙	存永順安裝銀貳仟九百九十元零貳毫	存公益堂來往銀貳百壹十九元叁毫正	存公益堂揭項銀壹千玖百五十叁元正	存利記揭出	存安順欠銀壹仟元正	顧維城欠銀肆佰肆十捌元正	陳子朝欠銀壹百六十六元正	關永昌堂銀伍百元正	存林督辦借銀肆百肆十叁元九毫肆仙八	合共存銀壹拾肆萬柒仟貳百肆拾五元九毫七仙六	欠列數	欠各東上年結存溢利銀柒萬肆仟捌百五十貳元五毫	欠各東上年溢利撥添亨泰股銀壹萬零貳佰貳拾壹元貳毛正	欠各伴工金存銀貳百貳十五元五毫七仙二	欠商團公所銀叁佰五十元正
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香港上環牛欄巷肆號益同人刊

圖五：民國十三年（1924）年結。圖中左頁緣印有「香港上環牛欄巷肆號益同人刊」。又如民國十五年的年結（見圖四）則為「香港福華承印」。這些資料將編入附表，以便讀者查閱。



圖四：宣統二年（1910）年結。自此年開始，貞泰號採用排印方式印發年結。但當中的蘇州記數碼，仍是以手填上。其次，32本年結送呈的對象並不一致。如光緒十九年（1903）年結是「呈寓港伴」（見圖一），宣統二年則為「關智榮公東台」。為方便讀者查閱，編者將有關資料以表列方式，編為附表。

編輯凡例

- 一、本輯所編的「北海貞泰號：1893-1935 年結簿」，為許舒博士收藏的廣東南海九江黃慎遠堂商業文書中的一部份。
- 二、本輯文書包括北海貞泰號年結簿 32 本，分別為 1893，1903-1908，1910-1913，1915-1935 年，依年份先後排列。
- 三、有些年結內夾有記數的紙條，紙條的內容都與該年年結有關，如民國十一年（1922）的年結，內夾紙條為癸年撥壬戌（1922）年各股東溢利銀及積利息。為保持資料的完整性，現將所有夾於年結中的字條，皆附列於該年年結內，以【年結內夾紙條】註明。
- 四、年結原文皆為直排，現改為橫排。
- 五、1893-1908 年的年結是以毛筆抄寫的，其後的年結則為排印本。為存區別，手抄本年結，將以楷體排印；而排印本年結，則以細明體排印。
- 六、在排印本的年結中，亦有部份重要內容以毛筆填上。為存區別，年結內容為手跡者，以楷體排印；為排印字體者，則以細明體排印。
- 七、數字方面，原文大寫的仍用大寫。原文所用的蘇州記數碼，為方便電腦排印，全改用亞拉伯數字。
- 八、年結上所蓋印章，在原蓋印處以【】註出印文。如蓋於文字上，則以【印文字上】註明。
- 九、如電腦排印許可，原文中的錯別字皆保留原字，並在原文後以【】註出正字。同樣，如電腦排印許可，原文中的異體字皆予保留；否則，將以規範字代替，並不作註明。
- 十、年結中有缺字及不能識別的文字，用□代替；無法辨別，

由編者依上下文理推斷者，將註於【 】內。如脫漏文字字數不清者，以……表示。

十一、年結中的記事文字，原文皆沒有斷句。為方便閱讀，現由編者加以斷句。

十二、編者按語全置於【 】內。

附表：歷年年結一覽表

1	光緒 19 年	1893	寓港伴	手抄本
2	光緒 29 年	1903	寓港伴	手抄本
3	光緒 30 年	1904	岑德廣公	手抄本
4	光緒 31 年	1905	岑德廣公	手抄本
5	光緒 32 年	1906	黃文昭公	手抄本
6	光緒 33 年	1907	岑德廣公	手抄本
7	光緒 34 年	1908	曾侶端翁	手抄本
8	宣統 2 年	1910	關智榮公	
9	宣統 3 年 辛亥	1911	朱澤孚公	
10	民 1 年	1912	黃慎遠堂	北海德華印書館 代印
11	民 2 年	1913		
12	民 4 年	1915		奇芝承印
13	民 5 年	1916		
14	民 6 年	1917	關益善堂	
15	民 7 年	1918		
16	民 8 年	1919		
17	民 9 年	1920	吳俊堂公	
18	民 10 年	1921		
19	民 11 年	1922		香港益同人承刊
20	民 12 年	1923	黃擇善堂	香港益同人承印