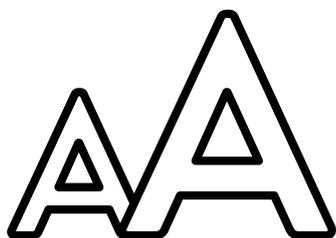


Chinese and British

Supported by

Blick Rothenberg

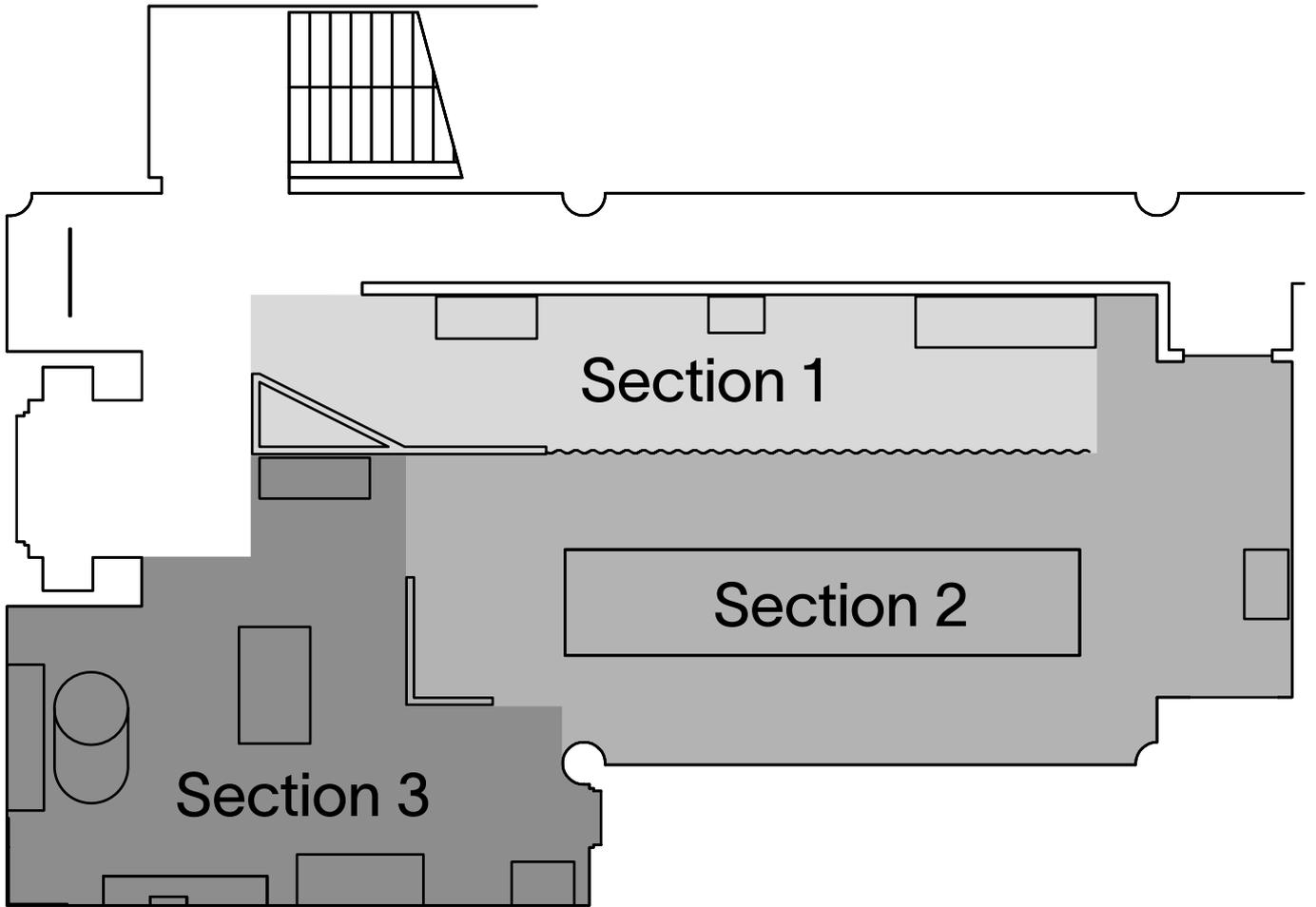


Large print guide and

audio transcripts

Please do not remove from the exhibition

Floorplan



Introduction

共叙英華

共叙英华

Chinese and British

Chinese communities have existed in the UK and played an active part in British society for over 300 years.

People of Chinese heritage can trace their origins to regions across east and southeast Asia. These diverse backgrounds have resulted in a rich and varied culture across the whole of the UK.

British Chinese people have had a lasting impact on the UK's culture. From wartime service and the nation's cuisine, to achievements in literature, sport, music and fashion.

Today, the British Chinese population is larger than ever. This exhibition looks back on its history through personal stories and moments of national significance to ask: what does it mean to be Chinese and British?

People and Places

人物和地點

人物和地点

People and Places

A few key individuals and two cities define the early history of the British Chinese community.

The first recorded individuals arrived from the late 1600s. These early visitors were often scholars, merchants and artisans. They mostly came from southern Chinese port cities such as Canton (Guangzhou) and Macao. Over time, they gave way to larger numbers of Chinese people from across east and southeast Asia who settled in the UK.

As trade grew and travel became easier, communities began to develop in the docklands of Liverpool and London – the country's first Chinatowns.

People and Places

- 1687 Shen Fuzong becomes the first recorded Chinese person to visit the UK.
- 1770s William Macao, the first Chinese Scotsman, arrives in Scotland. He lived and worked in Edinburgh for over 50 years.
- 1805 John Antony becomes the first Chinese person naturalised as British through an Act of Parliament.
- 1839–1842
First Anglo-Chinese War, also known as the Opium War.
- 1896 Sun Yat-sen, a political revolutionary, is detained in London by Chinese officials for his support of uprisings against the Imperial Qing government in China.

People and Places

- 1916 The British and French armies make a deal with the Chinese government to enlist Chinese labourers during the First World War.
- 1946 Following their service in the Second World War, hundreds of Chinese seamen are forcibly repatriated
- 1960s Increased emigration from Malaysia and Singapore following the countries' independence.
- 1978 Vietnamese refugees and migrants, many with Chinese heritage, leave Vietnam following the Vietnam War and begin to arrive in the UK.
- 1997 The transfer of power over Hong Kong from the UK to the People's Republic of China takes place. Many Hong Kong residents take up their right to live in the UK.

People and Places

- 2021 Over 100,000 people from Hong Kong apply for British residency under a new government scheme.
- 2022 The British Chinese population across the UK is the largest it has ever been, with over 400,000 people of Chinese heritage living here.

People and Places

沈福宗

沈福宗

Shen Fuzong

Michael Alphonsus Shen Fuzong, a Catholic convert, was the first documented person from China to visit England, in 1687. He met with King James II, who commissioned this portrait. Shen left England for Portugal where he spent some time before embarking for China. He died in 1691 on the voyage home.

The Picture Art Collection / Alamy Stock Photo

People and Places

與英國學者合作

与英国学者合作

Collaboration with an English scholar

While in England, Shen Fuzong visited the Bodleian Library in Oxford. He helped the librarian Thomas Hyde catalogue and translate Chinese books. This letter from 1687 shows how they collaborated. Hyde had asked about Chinese weights and measures, details of Buddhist beliefs and the fenghuang (鳳凰; 凤凰), a mythical bird mentioned in European accounts of China. In this reply, Shen provides answers alongside a request for optical instruments.

Letter by Shen Fuzong, 1687.

Sloane MS 853a, f.40

People and Places

沈福宗手稿

沈福宗手稿

Shen Fuzong manuscripts

Drawing on his exchanges with Shen Fuzong, Thomas Hyde published a short text on Chinese weights and measures and planned to write a book about Chinese religion, geography and language. Hyde never completed the book, but Shen's contributions of notes and jottings survive, such as these translations of zodiac constellations and a hand-drawn map of China. The map was copied from an original in the Bodleian Library and shows major cities and rivers in China.

Letters by Shen Fuzong, 1687-8.

Sloane MS 853a, f.21, 37

People and Places

譚其奎

譚其奎

Tan-Che-Qua

Tan-Che-Qua was a sculptor from Canton (Guangzhou) who visited London between 1769 and 1772. He set up a business producing highly accurate clay portraits on commission, only two of which are known to survive today. Tan moved in elite circles – he met King George III and had this portrait painted by the artist John Hamilton Mortimer.

A clay sculpture portrait by Tan-Che-Qua of the London merchant Thomas Todd.

© Museum of London

© Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons of England

People and Places

在皇家藝術研究院的中國藝術家

在皇家艺术研究院的中国艺术家

A Chinese Artist at the Royal Academy

In 1770 Tan-Che-Qua exhibited one of his sculpture portraits at the Royal Academy of Arts, an influential artistic institution and gallery. This group portrait featuring Tan alongside the artist members of the Royal Academy reflects his standing in London's creative elite. Tan is fifth from the left, wearing a hat.

Niday Picture Library / Alamy Stock Photo

People and Places

專家鑑識人？

专家鉴识人？

Expert witness?

Early Chinese visitors to Britain were sometimes called upon to provide expert information on Asian subjects, regardless of their background. A handwritten note in this edition of the *Zukai honzō* – a Japanese book on the medicinal qualities of plants – shows that Tan-Che-Qua (written here as Chetqua) examined it on 17 December 1770 at the British Museum. It is likely that Tan understood some of the content because written Japanese includes Chinese characters.

Genchi Shimotsu, *Zukai honzō*, Edo (Tokyo), 1685. 16034.b.22, vol. 1

People and Places

具有音樂天賦的商人

具有音乐天赋的商人

The musical merchant

Loum Kiqua, a Chinese merchant, arrived in Britain from Portugal in 1756, having survived the devastating Lisbon earthquake the previous year. He later returned to Canton (Guangzhou) on an East India Company ship.

Loum Kiqua was apparently a gifted musician and played 'Chinese tunes upon a musical instrument something resembling a guitar'. One of these tunes, the first Chinese music played in Britain, was transcribed and printed in the popular periodical, *The Gentleman's Magazine*.

The Gentleman's Magazine. London, 1756.

250.c.3. (XXVii) ff.32-33

Image © The Trustees of the British Museum
(CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0)

People and Places

成為英國永久居民

成为英国永久居民

Becoming British Chinese

John Hochee was one of the first Chinese immigrants to become a denizen, a status similar to permanent residency. Hochee was born in Canton (Guangzhou) and arrived in England in 1819.

He worked as a property manager for John Fullerton Elphinstone, whom he had probably met while they were both working for the East India Company. Hochee married an English woman, Charlotte Mole, and they had seven children. This letter relates to their son James, who trained as a surgeon.

Letter by John Hochee, 1848. Mss Eur F89/79

People and Places

恆久的遺產

恒久的遗产

A lasting legacy

After many years, John Hochee inherited land and property in the Surrey village of Lingfield, from his business associate John Fullerton Elphinstone. In this letter, Hochee writes to distribute goods including tea and porcelain china to Elphinstone's daughters.

Five years after his death, Hochee's widow Charlotte built and endowed two almshouses in his memory in the village of Lingfield. A marble bust of Hochee is still on display at the almshouses.

Letter by John Hochee, 1852. Mss Eur F88/162/74
Image courtesy of Lingfield United Trust

People and Places

歐洲最早的唐人街

欧洲最早的唐人街

Europe's first Chinatown

Liverpool's Chinatown is the oldest in the UK and in Europe. Liverpool was a globally significant trading port in the 1850s, when Chinese merchant sailors started to settle in the city.

International trade of goods such as silk and tea provided plenty of work. Boarding houses were set up for Chinese seafarers near the docks, in Cleveland Square, Pitt Street and Frederick Street and a flourishing Chinatown soon developed.

Ordnance Survey via National Library of Scotland (CC-BY-NC-SA)

People and Places

1910 年代的利物浦唐人街

1910 年代的利物浦唐人街

Liverpool Chinatown in the 1910s

These photographs of Liverpool's Chinatown date from about 1910. They show the restaurants and shops that developed from the 1890s onwards to cater for the growing Chinese communities, which consisted mainly of merchant seafarers and their families.

By the end of the First World War, businesses owned by Chinese residents around Pitt Street offered Chinese food, ingredients and other products from Asia. Laundry businesses were also established.

People and Places

唐人街的女領袖

唐人街的女领袖

Chinatown's matriarch

Emily Hoare, also known as Emily Chung Ting, was a significant figure in Liverpool's Chinatown in the early 1900s.

Hoare's father was a Singaporean seafarer and her English mother ran a laundry business.

Her second husband was Peter Chung Ting, a ship's cook. Able to speak English and Chinese, she helped Chinese seafarers with medical and legal concerns. In the 1911 census her profession is listed as 'Agent for Chinese interests'.

The London Magazine. London, 1911. P.P.6018.
ta ff.477

People and Places

在倫敦服務華人海員

在伦敦服务华人海员

Serving Chinese sailors in London

The East India Company hired a Chinese man, John Antony, to organise the care and lodgings of Chinese sailors in London. He amassed a significant fortune and influence and became an important figure in the local Chinese community – his obituary was published in this popular magazine.

Antony was the first Chinese person to be naturalised as a British citizen, in 1805. At this time, only a private Act of Parliament – a costly procedure – could confer naturalisation.

The Gentleman's Magazine. London, 1805.
249.e.2 Vol 75 ff.778-779

People and Places

法庭宣誓

法庭宣誓

Swearing an oath in court

The courts of law often called on John Antony to act as a translator for local Chinese speakers. He informed the court at the Old Bailey that the Chinese swore their oaths by cracking a saucer. This later image depicts the oath ceremony, and may well be a reference to Antony.

The Graphic. London, 1913. NEWS8081 NPL, ff.218-219

People and Places

倫敦華人社區

伦敦华人社区

The Chinese community in London

Due to Britain's trade with China, from the 1880s small Chinese communities grew around the docks of Limehouse in the East End of London. Chinese people settled and set up businesses, creating London's first Chinatown.

This map shows the docks and the main street of Limehouse Causeway, where Chinese sailors and traders settled around that time. Nearby streets such as Canton Street and Oriental Street show the influence of Chinese trade on the area.

Ordnance Survey via National Library of Scotland (CC-BY-NC-SA)

People and Places

不斷發展的社區

不断发展的社区

A growing community

These photographs show the Limehouse Chinatown in the 1920s and 1930s. By this time, shops, restaurants, boarding houses, civic associations and a Chinese school served the growing population.

Many of the Chinese seafarers married British women and settled into the local communities. However, fears of cheap Chinese labour displacing British workers caused resentment. Misrepresentation of Chinese people in Limehouse by the local press and popular fiction spread prejudiced views.

On loan from Tower Hamlets Library and Archives

Work

工作

工作

Work

The challenges of finding work as immigrants in the early 20th century led many Chinese arrivals into industries such as merchant shipping and laundries. Later, many moved into catering, with jobs in restaurants and takeaways being a common experience.

As well as a source of income, these small businesses were, and still are, centres of community and an important part of the make-up of many cities, towns and villages.

Many British Chinese people have excelled in careers such as science, medicine, law and politics. Now, British Chinese people make their living across every kind of profession and vocation.

Work

第一次世界大戰的中國勞工旅

第一次世界大战的中国劳工旅

**The Chinese Labour Corps in the
First World War**

Chinese workers played a significant part in the First World War. The Chinese Labour Corps was created in 1916 to provide support for the British Army. The army recruited nearly 100,000 men in China and transported them to France and Belgium to dig trenches, service tanks and bury the dead. Labour Corps workers signed contracts for three years and most returned to China after the war.

The Illustrated War News. London, 1918.

Wq7/4519 Vol.8 ff.18-19

Image © IWM Q 8447

Work

戰時藝術

战时艺术

Wartime art

Chinese Labour Corps workers created these pieces of art to sell as souvenirs during and after the First World War. Popular items included engraved German artillery shell casings, and this one shows a traditional Chinese image of a dragon. The ring, inscribed with the auspicious Chinese characters for riches and wealth (富貴; 富贵), has been made out of a French coin. These items were brought back to Britain by soldiers returning from the war.

On loan from The Meridian Society

Work

身份手環

身份手环

Identity bracelet

This bracelet once identified an individual Chinese Labour Corps worker. It bears his contract number and the name of the departure port of Tsintao (Qingdao), in eastern China. British military commanders were concerned they would not be able to identify individual Chinese workers. Recruits were fingerprinted and wore bracelets bearing their numbers and port of embarkation.

On loan from The Meridian Society

Work

不斷增長的利物浦華人人口

不断增长の利物浦华人人口

Liverpool's growing Chinese population

During the Second World War, Liverpool's Chinese population grew rapidly due to new seafarers arriving to support the war effort. This article explains how there were two categories of Chinese residents in Liverpool – the newly arrived seamen, and the established community, who ran cafes, shops and laundries. The article describes the economic boom such businesses were enjoying, in spite of the Blitz, serving white and Chinese clients alike.

Illustrated. London, 1943. LOU.LD114, pp.4-5

Work

利物浦的航海事業

利物浦的航海事业

Seafaring in Liverpool

Many of Liverpool's Chinese seamen stayed in hostels in the Chinatown area of the city when ashore. As well as accommodation, local associations offered football clubs, language classes and a place for socialising with games such as mahjong (麻將; 麻将).

Colin Wilkinson, *Bert Hardy's Britain*. Liverpool, 2013. LC.31.a.15580, ff.160-161

Work

從航海到餐飲

从航海到餐饮

Seafaring to catering

Cheng Shun Lin's career was typical for many British Chinese men of his era. Cheng served a ship's cook for the Blue Funnel Line during the Second World War. He left seafaring in 1964 and settled in the UK. He used the catering skills he had developed in the merchant navy to run fish and chip shops around Liverpool. The letter displayed here is a work reference from the Chief Steward of the ship SS Talthybius.

On loan from National Museums Liverpool,
Museum of Liverpool

Work

被強制遣返的華人海員

被强制遣返的华人海员

Forced repatriation of Chinese sailors

At the end of the Second World War over 2,000 Chinese seamen who had contributed to the war effort remained in Liverpool. Concerned that they would stay on permanently, the government devised a plan to return them to China.

Police and immigration services rounded up Chinese seamen under false pretences and deported them. The men were not told they would be unable to return to the UK. Many men who had married and had children in Liverpool never saw their families again.

Work

紀念被遣返的海員

纪念被遣返的海员

Memorial for repatriated sailors

The British government did not acknowledge the forced repatriation of seamen for decades. Descendants of deported men have long campaigned for recognition and an official apology.

In 2006, the Dragons of the Pool campaign group installed a memorial plaque in Liverpool's docks to commemorate the contribution of Chinese seafarers. In 2022, the Home Office released an internal report into the affair, acknowledging the coercion and racial element to the repatriation programme.

© Roland Turner via Flickr (CC-BY-SA 2.0)

Work

盧曼華

卢曼华

Anna Lo

Anna Lo was born and grew up in Hong Kong and moved to Belfast at during the Troubles when she married a Northern Irish journalist. Lo was the first non-white elected politician in Northern Ireland. Lo was instrumental in the successful campaign to extend legislation against racial discrimination to Northern Ireland. Before entering politics, she worked in social services and directed the Chinese Welfare Association Northern Ireland.

Anna Lo, *The Place I Call Home*. Belfast, 2016.
YKL.2018.a.10772

Work

魯桂珍

鲁桂珍

Lu Gwei-Djen

Lu Gwei-Djen was a biochemist and expert on the history of science in China. Lu's most important work was her long-standing collaboration with the Cambridge academic Joseph Needham. Lu was the most significant contributor to his influential book series, *Science and Civilisation in China*. Her own book, *Celestial Lancets*, concerns the history of acupuncture in China.

Lu Gwei-Djen: A commemoration. Edinburgh, 1993. YK.1994.a.3339

Lu Gwei-Djen, *Celestial lancets: A history and rationale of acupuncture and moxa*. London, 2002. M05/.20061

Work

“塘尾”雙翼飛機

“塘尾”双翼飞机

The Tong-Mei biplane

Tsoe Kwong Wong was a Chinese-Australian engineer and pilot. His company, based in Sussex, developed a single-seat biplane in 1913, which he named Tong-Mei (dragonfly). Wong hoped to sell the aeroplane in Asia, but the impending First World War and financial difficulties prevented further development.

The “Tong-Mei” 40-H.P. Biplane, *Flight*. London, 1913. (P) VA 00 –E(29), vol. 5, ff. 586–587

Work

高錕的科學創舉

高錕的科学创举

Charles Kao's pioneering science

Charles Kuen Kao was an electrical engineer whose research laid the foundations for today's digital communications. Kao was born in Shanghai and came to study in the UK in 1953. He later joined Standard Telephones and Cables, where he began his groundbreaking research. He was the joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2009. This patent from 1967 relates to his work on fibre optics.

Charles Kao, *An Instrument for Measuring the Light Energy lost by Scattering from an Optical Transmission Device* (1967). Patent no. GB 1092508 A

Work

明明餐廳

明明餐厅

Ming's Restaurant

Polin Law's doll's house model of a Chinese takeaway is based on her own business. Law moved to the UK from Hong Kong when she was seven years old. She and her siblings grew up in her parents' takeaway and Law later started her own takeaway business. Many of the details, from the menu to the fish fryer and cans of pineapple, are miniature copies of items in Law's own shop.

On loan from Polin Law

Work

英國的中餐館

英国的中餐馆

Chinese restaurants in the UK

Restaurants and takeaways became popular businesses for Chinese immigrants after the Second World War, especially for Cantonese families from Hong Kong. Catering businesses were relatively easy to set up and even small towns could sustain a Chinese takeaway. This map in the 1967 *Overseas Chinese in Britain Year Book*, a publication for newly arrived Chinese immigrants, shows the location of towns with existing Chinese shops and restaurants.

Overseas Chinese in Britain Year Book. London, 1967. 15235.cc.71

Work

張氏家族企業

张氏家族企业

The Cheung family business

This photo-essay tells the story of the Cheung family, who ran a catering business in Manchester. While the parents have to deal with racism and vandalism, they have high aspirations for their children, Wai-Hung and Wai-Ling, whom they send to a local Catholic school. The article describes the different views Mr and Mrs Cheung hold of the English compared to their daughter, who feels at home among her white classmates.

Yung Yung Wah, et al. *British soil, Chinese roots: Chinese life in Britain*. Liverpool, 1996.

YK.1996.b.11857

Work

陳氏炸魚薯條

陈氏炸鱼薯条

Chan's Fish and Chips

Pak Hung Chan's father worked as a cook on Blue Funnel Line ships – experience which came in useful when he set up a fish and chip shop and Chinese takeaway in the Liverpool suburb of Anfield in the early 1960s. Pak's mother recalled the busy trade on Saturdays when Liverpool football club were playing at the nearby stadium.

Pak's family fish and chip shop

Pak with his siblings, parents and aunt
in a local park

Images provided by Pak Hung Chan

Work

熨斗

熨斗

Laundry iron

Running laundries was a popular career choice for many Chinese entrepreneurs. This iron belonged to Wong Hing, who owned a laundry in Liverpool from about 1910. Wong and his descendants ran the laundry until the 1950s, when they opened a fish and chip shop.

Running a laundry was difficult work, involving long hours in dangerous conditions: clothes had to be boiled, washed and ironed and laundries often operated out of cramped residential buildings.

On loan from Pam Drury (née Wong)

Work

從洗衣店到餐館

从洗衣店到餐馆

From laundries to restaurants

Chin Nam and his second wife Chan Kin Tai ran a laundry business in Carmarthen, Wales in the 1930s. These documents show Chin's occupation as laundryman. In 1958, as the laundry became less viable, they opened the first Chinese restaurant in Carmarthen.

The document shows how Chin Nam's given name (Nam) was wrongly recorded as his surname. His descendants, still living in the UK, subsequently took Nam as their family name.

On loan from Rev. Mark Nam

Work

甄南的移民故事

甄南的移民故事

Chin Nam's migration story

This studio photo shows Chin Nam, who emigrated from Canton (Guangzhou) in 1918. He intended to travel to Canada but instead disembarked at Birkenhead where he worked as a laundryman. Chin had trained as a tailor in Shanghai, a professional interest reflected in the smart bespoke suit he wears.

On loan from Rev. Mark Nam

Work

成為代罪羔羊的華人洗衣店老闆

成为代罪羔羊的华人洗衣店老板

Scapegoating Chinese laundry owners

In 1911, a strike led by the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union culminated in violence against Chinese businesses in Cardiff.

The union feared that the settlement of Chinese sailors in Britain would undercut wages. Racial conflicts erupted during the strike, with people smashing the windows of local Chinese-owned laundries, despite these businesses having no direct connection with shipping.

Chinese strikers wreck Chinese laundries. *Daily Mirror*. London, 1911.

© Mirrorpix/Daily Mirror

Work

在第二次世界大戰中工作

在第二次世界大战中工作

Work in the Second World War

This 1944 Ministry of Information film tells the story of Chinese immigrants in wartime Britain. Its hopeful representation of integration and multi-ethnicity looks forward to a post-war world in which migration to Britain heralded a new multicultural society. Its values are in marked contrast to more negative representations of Chinese immigrants common in Britain earlier in the twentieth century.

Work

藍煙囪輪船公司行李包

蓝烟囪轮船公司行李包

Blue Funnel Line duffel bag

This company-issue bag belonged to Wong Koh Chou, a cook for the Blue Funnel Line. Originally from Chekiang (Zhejiang), he was one of many Chinese seafarers to settle in Liverpool. The Blue Funnel Line was a shipping company that ran steamships to destinations in Asia, including Hong Kong and Shanghai. The company gave employees bags like this to carry a standard amount of clothes and possessions.

On loan from The Sound Agents

Work

'The duffel bag belonged to my dad. It was always in our house growing up and was put to good use for dirty laundry and, when the Rocky films came out, as a punch bag'.

Anthony Wong

Work

海員培訓

海员培训

Sailors in training

Chinese sailors are taught how to fire defensive weapons during their training for the Merchant Navy, at the Gunnery School in Liverpool. The man operating the gun is Afu Lay Liu.

Work

華人洗衣店的沒落

华人洗衣店的没落

The decline of Chinese laundries

Laundries, once an industry dominated by Chinese business owners, gradually died out in the 1950s and 1960s, replaced by automatic launderettes and home appliances. This photograph by Nick Hedges, taken in the 1970s, shows one of the last Chinese-owned laundries in Manchester. Ran by Mr Chiu, the Ying Fong Chan Hand Laundry closed in the 1980s.

Image © nickhedgesphotography.co.uk

Work

中餐外賣

中餐外卖

The Chinese takeaway

Chinese food grew into a popular treat across the UK from the 1960s, as tastes became more international and eating out was more affordable. This photograph was taken of Mrs Kwok in her takeaway in Wythenshawe, Manchester in the late 1980s. As this image shows, many Chinese takeaways continue to serve British staples such as steak and kidney pie and fish and chips.

Image © Simon Buckley

Culture

文化

文化

Culture

Chinese people have made a long-standing and significant contribution to the arts and culture in the UK.

Once limited to elite literary circles, since the 1930s, the creative output of Chinese writers and artists has grown in popularity and mainstream success.

Many have had a lasting impact of the UK's cultural landscape. Some are inspirational role models, having gained celebrity status and public acknowledgment of their achievements.

Through writing, fashion, music and film, people of Chinese descent in the UK are continuing to explore the intersection between their different cultures – developing a unique perspective that incorporates both Chinese and British identities.

Culture

平行

平行

Parallel

Rosanna Lee made her film with the involvement of the Chinese community in Essex and filmed it at the Pearl Dragon restaurant in Southend-on-Sea. Based on her own experiences, the film follows a family during their weekly ritual of going out for dim sum. A number of the film crew were women of Asian descent, because, according to Lee, 'it was really important to have the story crafted by people who would understand the subtleties of the story.'

Culture

名人主廚

名人主廚

Celebrity chefs

Since the 1970s, Chinese chefs turned TV personalities such as Kenneth Lo, Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang have popularised Chinese home cooking in the UK.

While earlier cookbooks spoke of 'demystifying' Chinese cooking for an uninitiated audience, recent publications more wholeheartedly embrace the varieties of Chinese food culture.

Kenneth Lo, *Kenneth Lo's Chinese Cookery Course*. London, 1982. X.622/14223

Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang, *Exploring China: A culinary adventure*. London, 2012.

YK.2013.b.3180

Culture

觸及更廣泛的受眾

触及更广泛的受众

Reaching a wider audience

M.P. Lee's simple and practical cookery book aimed to make Chinese cooking less intimidating for inexperienced home cooks. The light-hearted illustrations by Chiang Yee give a friendly and approachable tone to Chinese cooking. Lee adapted his recipes for the British public, such as suggesting the substitution of Marmite for soy sauce. Published during the Second World War, garlic and ginger powder are called for, rather than fresh alternatives.

M.P. Lee, *Chinese Cookery: A Hundred Practical Recipes*. London, 1943. W28/7060

Culture

英國的中餐食譜

英国的中餐食谱

Chinese recipe books in the UK

This recipe book, published in 1936, is one of the first Chinese cookbooks written for the British public. Compiled by the London-based Shanghai Restaurant, it includes recipes for dishes such as fried rice with crab and steamed duck with orange peel soup. Many recipes use Chinese ingredients, which had to be bought in the Shanghai Restaurant.

S.K. Cheng, *Shanghai Restaurant Chinese Cookery Book*. London, 1936. 07945.k.61

Culture

凌叔華

凌叔华

Ling Shuhua

Ling Shuhua was a modernist writer and painter who shared a connection with the influential Bloomsbury group of artists and writers.

Ling met Virginia Woolf through a relationship with her nephew, Julian Bell, who was teaching English at Wuhan University in China. In this letter, Woolf encourages Ling's writing, offering advice on drafts of her memoir and to send her English books.

Image © Henry W. and Albert A. Berg
Collection of English and American Literature,
The New York Public Library

Culture

《古韻》

《古韻》

Ancient Melodies

Ling Shuhua published her autobiography, *Ancient Melodies*, in 1953. Based on her experiences in China, the book reflects Ling's feminist outlook and was a best-seller. She dedicated the book to Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West, who wrote the introduction. Ling also translated several English works into Chinese, notably those by Katherine Mansfield, the modernist writer from New Zealand.

Su Hua (Ling Shuhua), *Ancient Melodies*.
London, 1953. W15/7258

Culture

蔣彝：“啞行者”

蒋彝：“哑行者”

Chiang Yee: The Silent Traveller

Chiang Yee was one of the first Chinese writers to write books in English. He came to Britain in 1933 where he wrote and illustrated a series of successful travelogues under the pen name the Silent Traveller. His books, written from an outsider's perspective, provided a fresh angle on the culture and landscapes of England, Scotland and Ireland, including life during the Second World War.

Chiang Yee, *The Silent Traveller in War Time*.
London, 1939. 010358 p.19

Culture

《湖區畫記》

《湖区画记》

A Chinese Artist in Lakeland

Chiang Yee's account of his travels in the Lake District was published in 1937. In it, he wrote of his admiration for English writers and landscape artists. He compared them to Chinese poets and painters, emphasising the similarities between the two cultures. Chiang's own landscape paintings reflect the Lake District through a Chinese aesthetic. He also translated his poems into English.

Chiang Yee, *The Silent Traveller: A Chinese artist in Lakeland*. London, 1937. W54/0397

Culture

徐志摩

徐志摩

Xu Zhimo

Xu Zhimo is considered one of the most important figures of modern Chinese poetry. A part of the New Culture movement in China, Xu's work challenged tradition and promoted progress and modernity. After three years in the US, Xu studied at King's College Cambridge from 1921 to 1922. His poem *Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again* is still recited across schools in China.

Lu Xiaoman, *Zhimo's diary*. Shanghai, 1947.
15328.b.208

Culture

《海外花實》

《海外花实》

Flowering Exile

The writer Dymia Hsiung used her own life experiences to tell an autobiographical story, which challenged contemporary preconceptions of Chinese people. In her book *Flowering Exile*, she details the story of her family's life in Britain from the late 1930s to the early 1950s.

On loan from the London Library

Culture

《幸福的熊氏夫婦》

《幸福的熊氏夫婦》

The Happy Hsiungs

The writer Dymia Hsiung and her husband, playwright Shih-I Hsiung, were well-known public figures. Shih-I Hsiung had achieved great success in the West End and the US with his play *Lady Precious Stream*.

The couple were part of a social circle of Chinese writers and artists in the UK. The Hsiungs regularly hosted this group of friends and fellow artists in their home in Oxford.

Good Housekeeping. London, 1946. P.P.1524.
dac.(vol 45/9)

Culture

戰時足球運動員

战时足球运动员

Wartime footballer

Frank Soo was the first non-white footballer to play for England. During the Second World War, Soo served in the RAF and captained their football team. Soo was a charismatic and well-known player in the 1940s and featured on collectible cigarette cards and other promotional items.

Born in Derbyshire to a Chinese father and an English mother, Soo played professionally for Stoke City, Leicester City, Luton Town and Chelmsford City and later managed the Norwegian national team.

Culture

網球明星

网球明星

Tennis star

In 2021, Emma Raducanu burst from relative obscurity to win the U.S. Open Tennis Championship at 18 years old. Raised in London to a Chinese mother and Romanian father, Raducanu is the British number one women's player and in the top ten worldwide. Popular with the British public, she was voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2021.

American Dream, *Sunday Telegraph*. London, 2021. News.REG250

Culture

將中國傳統戲曲帶到英國

将中国传统戏曲带到英国

Bringing traditional Chinese opera to the UK

This fan and pair of shoes belong to Kathy Hall, a London-based practitioner of traditional Chinese opera. The accessories form part of an elaborate costume, which, along with make-up, music, vocals and dance, create a distinctive art form.

The fan was made at a traditional fan shop in Hangzhou and consists of bamboo slats and paper from mulberry bark. The shoes are hand-embroidered on silk with a leather sole.

On loan from Kathy Hall

Culture

用華語做音樂

用华语做音乐

Making music in Chinese

Emma-Lee Moss (who performs as Emmy the Great) was born in Hong Kong to an English father and a Chinese mother. The family moved from Hong Kong to Sussex when Moss was 11 years old. After a series of albums in English, she began translating her songs into Mandarin and Cantonese in 2014 for her album April / 月音.

Provided by Emma-Lee Moss

Culture

華人時尚偶像

华人时尚偶像

Chinese fashion icon

Oei Hui-Lan was an international socialite and style icon. She was widely acknowledged for popularising the cheongsam, the traditional Chinese dress. The Chinese-Indonesian wife of Wellington Koo, the Chinese ambassador to Britain in the 1920s, Oei Hui-Lan featured several times in fashion and lifestyle magazines such as *Vogue* and *Tatler* throughout the early decades of the 1900s.

Tatler and Bystander. London, 1945. ZC.9.d.561, ff. 206-207

Culture

走秀時尚

走秀时尚

Catwalk fashion

Yuhan Wang created her eponymous fashion brand in 2018. Born in Weihai, Wang's designs are inspired by traditional Chinese landscape paintings and the connection between the cultures of the east and west – 'how they communicate, blend and represent each other'. The grapes on these hand-embroidered shoes are a symbol of abundance in both Chinese and western cultures, while the peach represents a long life.

On loan from Yuhan Wang

Culture

移民故事

移民故事

Migration stories

This child's jacket holds personal memories and a story of a family's migration. Julia Shang emigrated from Beijing to the UK in 2013. The jacket was made by Julia's mother for her granddaughter with cotton grown at their home in China.

On loan from Julia Shang

Culture

跨越邊界

跨越边界

Crossing Borders

These folding books are part of the Crossing the Borders project by the Wai Yin Society in Manchester, an organisation led by Chinese women since 1988. In collaboration with artist Julie Mosley, Wai Yin members Chen Mei Li and Robert Liu created these artworks that depict their stories of migration and express feelings of hope, loss and joy.

Courtesy of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre, the University of Manchester

Culture

當今英國華人寫作

当今英国华人写作

British Chinese writing today

Since the early 1980s, fiction by writers of Chinese descent based in the UK has flourished. Poetry and prose by these writers are now widely read and celebrated as part of the British literary scene.

Many British Chinese writers have explored themes such as hybrid identities, ancestral memories and histories as well as the experience of migrant journeys.

Culture

《鐘丹尼不做數學》

《钟丹尼不做数学》

Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths

Maisie Chan's book for young readers adds to the growing representation of British Chinese characters in children's literature. The story explores cultural differences, language barriers and generational divides within a modern British Chinese family.

Culture

《弗萊切》

《弗萊切》

Flèche

British Chinese writers are achieving success in all literary genres, including poetry. Mary Jean Chan uses experimental language and form to explore queerness and the non-white body in their poems.

Culture

《幸福的家庭》

《幸福的家庭》

Happy Families

Julie Ma is a Welsh Chinese writer. The novel, which uses Cantonese and English, tells a story about family obligations within Chinese culture and the challenge this poses for multi-generational migrant families in the UK.

Culture

《食在格拉斯哥》

《食在格拉斯哥》

Sikfan glaschu

Sean Wai Keung is a Hong Kong-Scottish poet and performer. This collection, focused on food in the city of Glasgow, explores topics such as migration, cultural appropriation and community during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Culture

《玉環》

《玉环》

Loop of Jade

Sarah Howe was born in Hong Kong to an English father and Chinese mother and moved to the UK as a child. This poetry collection is concerned with different forms of cultural heritage, the impact on identity formation, British colonialism and living between the UK and Hong Kong.

Culture

《王冠的巫師》

《王冠的巫师》

Sorcerer to the Crown

Zen Cho is a UK-based Malaysian author of Chinese descent. Cho's fantasy novel, *Sorcerer to the Crown*, shows how a new generation of British Chinese writers are achieving success with stories and genres that go beyond explorations of identity and heritage.

Culture

《酸甜》

《酸甜》

Sour Sweet

Timothy Mo's novel was the first major work to depict the lives of Chinese immigrants to Britain. Sour Sweet marks the beginning of new wave of contemporary British Chinese writers achieving mainstream success.

Culture

《戀人版中英詞典》

《恋人版中英词典》

A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary For Lovers

Xiaolu Guo was born in Zhejiang and moved to the UK in 2002 to study film. This novel, her first in English, explores the challenges and differences between thinking in English and thinking in Chinese.

Culture

《二馬》

《二马》

Mr Ma and Son

Lao She remains one of the best-known authors in modern Chinese literature. He was born in China and lived in the UK between 1924 and 1929. Set in 1920s London and based on his own life, Mr Ma and Son is the only book of its era to directly confront anti-Chinese racism in Britain.

Acknowledgements

Supported by:



The British Library is grateful to the members of our advisory panels and those who have shared stories or personal objects for their contribution to the exhibition.

Pak Hung Chan
Pam Drury
Walter Fung
Kate Gordon
Kathy Hall
Rosa Hui
Polin Law
Mark Nam
William Olphert
Wenlan Peng
The Meridian Society
Julia Shang

Acknowledgements

Circle Steele

Joe Upton

Anthony Wong

Denis Wong

With thanks to all the British Library staff members who have contributed to the planning and delivery of the exhibition.

External Curators

Lucienne Loh, University of Liverpool

Alex Tickell, Open University

British Library Curators

Alex Hailey

Han-Lin Hsieh

Karen Stapley

British Library translation support:

Kai-Chuan Chao

Wanjun Li

Acknowledgements

Project Management
British Library

Exhibition Design
PUP Architects

Graphic Design
Studio Wan

Construction
The Moule Partnership

Graphic Production
Displayways Ltd

Lighting design
DHA Designs

AV Installation
Integrated Circles

Acknowledgements

This exhibition has been made possible as a result of the Government Indemnity Scheme. The British Library would like to thank HM Government for providing indemnity and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Arts Council England for arranging the indemnity.

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Information

Beyond the exhibition

Learn more about the roots of Chinese communities in Britain and celebrate their diversity.

Reflections on History and Community

Join us for events and courses inspired by the exhibition, onsite and online.

Chinese and British: The Conversation

Thursday 24 November

Our lively panel debate on what it means to be Chinese and British.

City within a City:

A Celebration of Chinatown

Monday 28 November

Join us for an evening celebrating Chinatowns across the UK as we explore the history of these famous enclaves.

Attend free exhibition workshops and events for school students and teachers (bl.uk/learning)

Information

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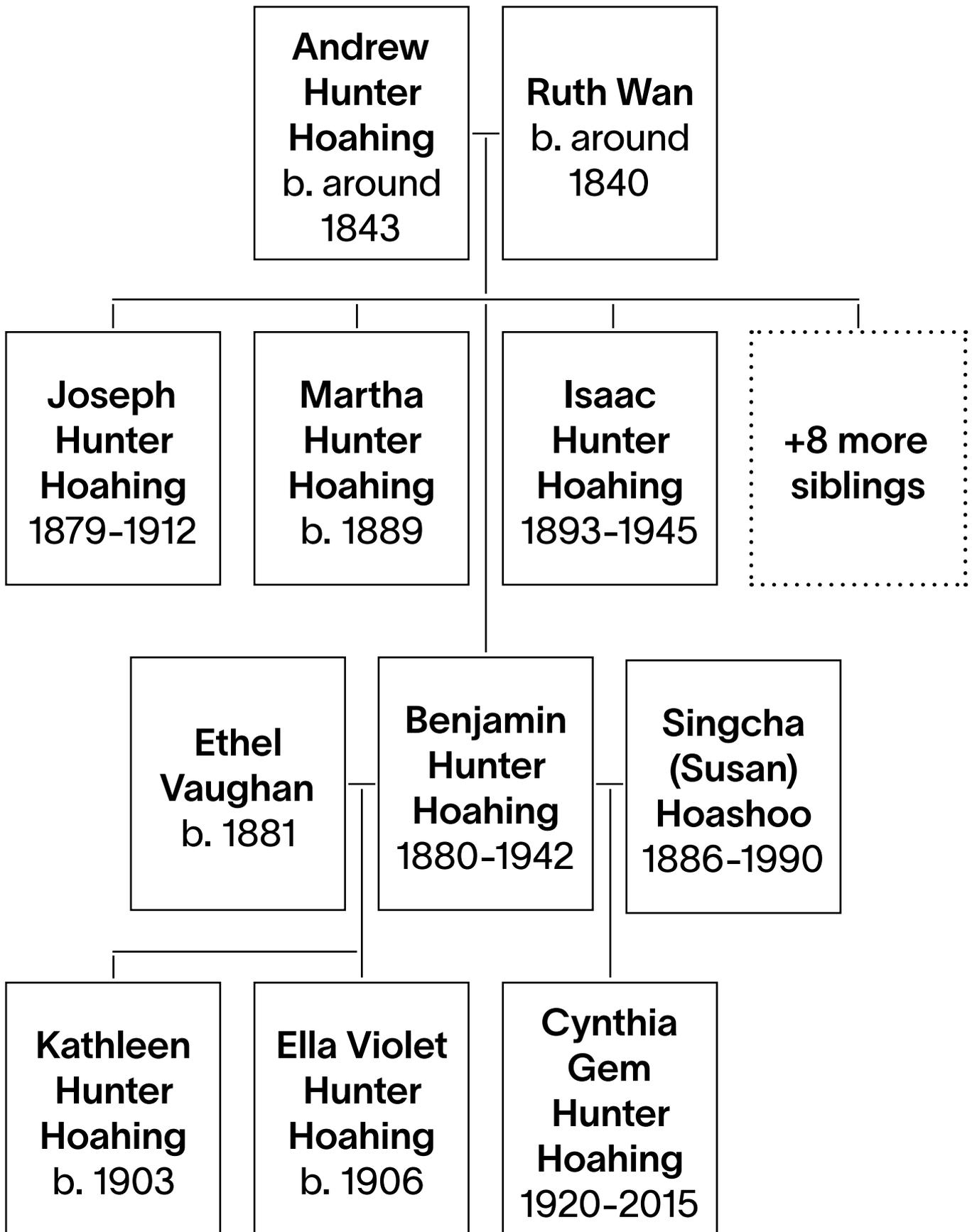


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The Hunter Hoahings

A British Chinese family story

The Hunter Hoahings



The Hunter Hoahings

In about 1862, a young Chinese man named Ho A Hing arrived in the colony of British Guiana (now Guyana) in South America to work on a sugar plantation.

Following the abolition of slavery, landowners relied on indentured labour to keep up production. In British Guiana, many labourers came from China. They worked on plantations for a fixed number of years, after which they received a payment and sometimes land or a return passage to China.

The Hunter Hoahings

This woodcut illustration from 1871 by an uncredited Chinese artist shows the appalling condition of the hospitals serving Chinese labourers in British Guiana. It was published to protest the system of indentured labour.

The Hunter Hoahings

Ho A Hing climbed the ranks and later became a business owner. He changed his name to Andrew Hunter Hoahing, after his former manager, and married a Chinese woman, Ruth Wan.

Together, Andrew and Ruth had 12 children. Many of their children, including Joseph, Martha, Isaac and Benjamin, came to the UK to build their careers, families and lives.

The Hunter Hoahings

New Amsterdam, the town where Ho A Hing owned and ran a successful business.

The Hunter Hoahings

Joseph was Andrew and Ruth's eldest child. He trained in London as a lawyer and was called to the bar in 1910.

Joseph died in 1912 at the age of 33, leaving his inheritance to his brother David, who was training to be a doctor in London.

The Hunter Hoahings

This document from the Middle Temple inn of court records Joseph's membership payments and his death.

The Hunter Hoahings

Martha came to the UK in about 1911 and trained in medicine. She was one of the first Chinese women to qualify as a doctor in the UK. Martha worked at the Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton during the First World War and later practised in Singapore and Hong Kong.

The Hunter Hoahings

A news article covering Martha's appointment as house surgeon.

The Hunter Hoahings

Isaac served for the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War.

After the war, Isaac trained as a lawyer in London, living with his brother Benjamin while he was a student. He later moved to Singapore where he started a family.

The Hunter Hoahings

Isaac's wedding photograph, taken in Singapore in the 1930s. Isaac is fifth from the left, holding a pair of gloves. Martha is second from the left, and their younger sister Rachel is fourth from the right.

The Hunter Hoahings

Benjamin moved to the UK around 1915. Although many of the Hoahing siblings studied in the UK, only Benjamin settled here permanently.

Benjamin was a merchant for a Hong Kong-based trade company and travelled widely throughout his life.

The Hunter Hoahings

Benjamin's passenger record from a journey to the UK in 1915.

The Hunter Hoahings

Benjamin and his family had been living in Asia but by 1921 were living in a middle-class home in west London.

The Hunter Hoahings

In the 1921 census, along with his wife Susan and three daughters, Benjamin's siblings Rachel and Isaac, and a domestic servant from China, lived with them.

The Hunter Hoahings

Benjamin and his family appear in the 1921 census, living in Ealing, west London.

The Hunter Hoahings

Benjamin's wife Susan was born Singcha Hoashoo in British Guiana. The Hoashoos were a wealthy, landowning Chinese family in New Amsterdam.

Susan trained as a doctor in Edinburgh, and went on to qualify in Ireland, becoming the first Chinese woman to do so. She later worked as a doctor in Hong Kong.

The Hunter Hoahings

Des Voeux Road in Hong Kong, where Susan lived in 1913.

The Hunter Hoahings

Susan returned to the UK with Benjamin and their family some time between 1915 and 1921. She worked as a doctor and enjoyed holidays to the south of France.

In 1967, Susan became a British citizen, and died at the age of 103, in 1990.

The Hunter Hoahings

Neville House, Twickenham was the Hunter Hoahing family home for many years.

The Hunter Hoahings

Kathleen was Benjamin's eldest daughter. Her mother was Ethel Vaughan, an English woman who had moved to British Guiana as a child, but she grew up with Susan.

In 1926 Kathleen became the first Chinese woman to pass the British solicitor's exams. She later moved to Singapore to work in her uncle Isaac's law firm.

The Hunter Hoahings

Kathleen's achievement was reported in a number of newspapers.

The Hunter Hoahings

Cynthia 'Gem' was born in Hong Kong in 1920 while her family were visiting.

She grew up in Twickenham and started playing tennis at about ten years old. By the age of 12 she was described as a tennis prodigy by newspapers.

The Hunter Hoahings

Gem played at Wimbledon between 1937 and 1961, reaching the fourth round twice. She died in 2015 at the age of 94.

The Hunter Hoahings

Gem at age 15 after winning a junior tennis championships in 1935.

The Hunter Hoahings

1. *The new slavery: an account of the Indian and Chinese immigrants in British Guiana.* London, 1871. 8156.b.10
2. *Handbook of British Guiana.* Georgetown, 1893. Public domain.
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The Hunter Hoahings

9. Held by the Richmond upon Thames Local Studies Library and Archive. LCF/20456.
10. *The Graphic*. London, 1926 © Illustrated London News Group. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.
11. R. Wesley/Fox Photos/Getty Images

Audio transcripts

Work in the Second World War

Britain is symbolised for us Chinese by the Houses of Parliament, that venerable home of democracy. It was with the aim of studying that democracy that Sun Yat-sen, the father of the Chinese Republic, came to London in 1896.

He was kidnapped by agents of the Imperial Embassy and imprisoned in this room near Oxford Circus. Today, that room is a shrine of remembrance for Chinese in Britain. There are Chinese of all classes and parties in the audience. They are listening to an address by their ambassador, Doctor Wellington Koo.

Since those days, there have always been a number of Chinese living in Britain, many of them permanently. They have their own shops and restaurants for Chinese goods and food. But stocks, of course, are sadly depleted these days.

Audio transcripts

While Chinese Children are learning the 26 letters of the English alphabet, here in the School of Oriental Studies in London are some English students learning Chinese. This is tough war work. They are training to act as interpreters and liaison officers between allied and Chinese forces on the far eastern battlefronts.

With the further development of Anglo-Chinese relations after the war, their knowledge of Chinese will be absolutely invaluable. The Chinese instructors here are doing an extremely important job of work.

So too are the thousands of Chinese seamen now serving with the Allied Merchant Navy, bringing food to Britain, munitions from America, cargoes from Africa and the East and getting the convoys through to Russia, India, Australia.

China fights not only on the land in the East, engaging huge Japanese forces, but in the West, her men fight on the merchant navy front,

Audio transcripts

shoulder to shoulder in the greatest battle of naval history alongside their British seamen comrades.

Chinese in Britain are working in many spheres. In the hospitals, Chinese doctors are working side by side with their British colleagues. Some of the Chinese doctors working here now may stay to help build up health of Britain, but most will return to their own country to tackle the task of creating a modern health service.

Chinese research experts are working in British laboratories on many scientific problems that will help to shorten the war and strengthen peace, pooling their brains and resources in the common war effort.

Doctor Chang is working at Cambridge. He's one of over 20 Chinese students there, most of them are studying the social sciences: history, law, economics.

Audio transcripts

The atmosphere of bustling Manchester is a sharp contrast. This is another centre for Chinese students in training. In the Manchester School of Technology, some of them, who have almost completed their courses in engineering, are acting as instructors to British students. It is characteristic of modern Chinese youth that most of them now arriving in Britain come to study science and engineering.

Chinese radio technicians are making and studying the latest developments in radio technique and now there are regular broadcasts to China, telling China about the war from this side of the globe, telling China about her allies; about Britain.

It is living contact, in the final instance, that makes for real understanding between nations. The Chinese in Britain provide one of those living links that are forging the unity of the new family of nations.

Audio transcripts

Forced repatriation of Chinese seafarers

Yvonne Foley: The shipping companies at the time used to use a lot of overseas staff because they were cheaper. The shipping companies were happy to employ them from China, from Hong Kong, from Singapore, from Malaysia, from India.

Interviewer: So then suddenly one moment they're there and what happened? They just didn't--

Yvonne Foley: Didn't turn up. Some of them thought that their husbands went away to sea and never came back. They were told to report to their ships. Some of the ships were out of dock, so it was difficult for them to get. So it was then oh you overstayed, you haven't done the right thing and got on your ship. It was sort of happened that way as well. So there are different combinations of things that enable them to disappear.

Audio transcripts

It was after the war, you know most cities, and particularly Liverpool, were flattened, so the city had suffered greatly. You also had lots of men coming back from the war. You also had a housing authority that needed houses. So you can kind of partly accept that these things happen. But it wasn't very nice.

In the long term it wasn't particularly nice for the wives and the children of those men that had to leave. None of our mothers have talked about it. Put yourself in that situation. You think you've been deserted. Are you going to be happy or sad? You've got, whatever way you term it, you're raising a half-caste, a half-breed child, you know we're looking at 60 years ago, there was still an awful lot of prejudice.

One of our group, mother went to her grave believing she had been deserted by her husband. Another one of our group, when his mother died, his auntie arrived at his house with a box full of letters that his father had been

Audio transcripts

sending for many years. And this man found out at the age of 43 that he had a father in China.

In my own case, my mother told me at a later stage in my life that she had a communication via Hong Kong to say that there'd been problems on board ship and he tried to be in touch and that was it.

Audio transcripts

Oral histories: Harry Dewar

Interviewer: So, the laundry – can you remember what it looked like, smelt like, felt like?

Harry Dewar: Well, yes, it was always warm, which I noticed, was very good. But it always seemed to smell of, well it always smelled of washing.

On Mondays it smelled of dirty washing because Monday was the day no one used to come in. On Fridays and Saturdays, when the whole thing was finished, it used to smell of lovely, just clean washing, because it was all parcelled up and ready for people to come and collect it. And during the week, there was one room particularly, you didn't have electric irons in those days, that had a big stove with panels all the way round, and irons were put on there and they used to click-clack backwards and forwards.

Audio transcripts

The thing I can remember more than anything else is the click-clack of the slippers because they all had slippers without backs on and they slodged [walked] like that you see.

Audio transcripts

Oral histories: Wing Yip

Interviewer: What supplies were there?

Wing Yip: We buy through company like [unclear] which was owned by British Home Store in those days. We can't get them all. We get some Anglo-Saxon Chinese thing.

Interviewer: Such as?

Wing Yip: Say, they haven't got the dark soy sauce, so we had to buy the brown sauce, mix it up with soy sauce.

Interviewer: Like HP?

Wing Yip: No, no, the brown sauce, brown sauce -- you have to roast the... all the brown colour. We used to mix it up with it [so it] looks darker.

Interviewer: Make it look darker.

Audio transcripts

Wing Yip: That's right.

Interviewer: The vegetables, where were you getting those sort of things?

Wing Yip: Beansprouts. Every restaurant had their own few buckets, they grow their own beansprouts. The kitchen porter always know how to grow beansprouts.

Interviewer: You're just literally sprouting the beans.

Wing Yip: Yeah, the bucket, you drill a few hole[s] in it. The shup [kitchen porter] put in there and water them four times a day.

Interviewer: You see, I remember my dad used to do this. He would have a washing up bowl, he had to have wet tea towels.

Wing Yip: That's right.

Audio transcripts

Interviewer: Put the beans in there and grow [like] this when I was little.

Wing Yip: That's right

Interviewer: But of course, it was with the advent of shops like Wing Yip Stores that meant that one no longer had to resort--

Wing Yip: Now the beansprouts grow in a plant by machine. The electronic control, climate control, moisture control, everything control.

Interviewer: So it's gone high-tech now?

Wing Yip: Oh, yeah, high-tech now.

Audio transcripts

Oral histories: Vanessa Truong

Vanessa Truong: So I remember starting working from quite young age. Yeah.

Interviewer: And did you work sort of within the Chinese community?

Vanessa Truong: Yeah, it was much more easier to look for work then, especially in takeaways, because they were always looking for counter people who can speak English and Chinese.

During the early 90s you know there was a lot more opportunities, takeaways to look for work. So I went off to work for after college. I don't know, I became a bit disillusioned. I didn't know what I wanted to do. After that I felt oh you know maybe I wanted to do something else. And then at the time I had some idea. I thought oh you know, I said oh you know Chinese, everybody is more or less doing the same thing then in the early 90s, that's how the idea of Soya came about.

Audio transcripts

And I thought there might be an opportunity because all the restaurants are just doing the same thing. They're just doing Cantonese Hong Kong style roast, the roast meat and stuff. There wasn't that much opportunity for healthy eating. So I thought, oh, why don't I start a business and introduce more vegetarian food? I can carry on that passion for healthy eating and do something different.

Audio transcripts

Oral histories: Jessica Fan

So I am currently a second year mental health student nurse. Mental health isn't recognised as much in Chinese communities. At the moment it's not really talked about. So when I started this course I think a lot of Chinese people I know reacted quite negatively to it, so people have said things like why do you want to work in mental health? Why do you want to work with crazy people?

I think people just have been shocked that I have chosen this profession and I think it's Chinese people especially that have been quite negative about it. I think a lot of people have a misconception of mental health. They say things like why does your daughter work in mental health when she gets hit, or things like that. And I do get hit sometimes but there's a lot more to mental health than just having patients hit you. I think that you know it's worth it because you're helping people. And I think the

Audio transcripts

reason why I sort of wanted to do this is because I want more Chinese people to know that mental health services isn't you know isn't a bad thing.

There's a lot of Asian hate crime going on especially since Covid but I have been really lucky which I am very grateful for. I think at the start of Covid I was more conscious of it. I was a first year student nurse, so I had less experience and I was less confident than I am now. Cause I was a bit worried about it, I was worried how it would be like on placement. You know elderly people, especially the ones with dementia they probably don't really understand what they're saying so I was a bit worried that there would be some racial discrimination there. But, no I've been really lucky.

Audio transcripts

Sausages by Hannah Lowe

They hang from the washing line
between the tea towels and bleached sheets.
He has pegged them in neat clusters,
dark fingers of blood and gristle
with twisted ends and oily skins.
They flame against the trees.
She smells them from the back door –
ginger, clove and fennel. The house is quiet.
He is hiding from her. Her mother told her
not to marry a foreigner. You always wanted
to be different she hissed. Now this. He's black
and old enough to be your father.

The sausages are Chinese dragon red,
the red of a chilli, or the queen of hearts.
They gather fire, drying on her line.
This is Ilford, Essex, 1965.
The neighbours eat mince and cabbage
and talk about her.

She asked him not to do it

Audio transcripts

but they taste like home to him
and he is like good food to her.
Tonight they will eat sausages together
and she will lick the oil and spice
from his hands.

Audio transcripts

Mountains: The Dreams of Lily Kwok

Man: Once upon a time there was a man, who had his own ideas about things. One day, this man announced to his village that he was going to build a road south to the Han river. The problem was that there were two mountains that stood in the way. The villagers laughed and mocked him and said, "How stupid you are! How can one man move two entire mountains?" The old man replied, "Though I shall die, I shall leave behind my son and my son's son. And since the mountains cannot grow taller, I see no reason why we won't be able to level them." After five generations, the mountains were levelled and the road built. Even though you're a girl, you'll earn a place for yourself in the world through hard work. Do you want to improve the lives of your children and grandchildren?

Captain: Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. We have just been cleared to

Audio transcripts

land at Hong Kong international airport and are starting our descent.

Woman: The further devaluation of the pound is why so many investors here in Hong Kong fear Brexit. Sorry, Britain has an excellent investment opportunity. Your investors are realising the ambition of the northern powerhouse in the UK. We would put in place a liability clause that litigation would be unable to penetrate.

Popo, I'm still jet lagged. I haven't slept in days. drunk far too much black coffee. I've never felt so British. My Cantonese is terrible and my Mandarin is even worse. I thought that here I'd blend in, but I'm enormous. I'm the English girl who grew up in a chippy. The Hong Kong girls are tiny and immaculate. They wear heels and twinsets in this heat. This morning I tried taking a shortcut, got stuck in a shopping mall, just kept going round in circles. Interconnected, never ending shopping malls, the same shops in different places. Gap, Zara, Mango, J Crew,

Audio transcripts

Starbucks. It's not what I... It's too busy here and all I do is work and rush. There are too many people but nobody who matters. And I'm always on my own. I miss you. Oh, and Manchester. I miss your cooking, but cooking for one is depressing.

Isolate

Sleep, eat

Watch anime, all alone, all day, every day

Quarantine, hella strange

Things never change

Just me and my bro

My thoughts and words

I don't miss my friends,

Just miss my birds

Wake up, feel pressure

Lil bro about to get pressured

Jason looking all bookey

Put him on the front page

Face all splattered

Coughing all night, that's madness

But I know he's asthmatic

This dry cough ain't coronavirus

Click-bait on your page

Check your browser

Just average Joe

Typical Scouser

Don't mess with me `cause I'm Chinese

I'll do whatever I please

People so scared about my name

But I don't give a
Because I don't feel pain
It's not my fault that people eat bats
Stop saying it's me and my friends
And that's Black, White, Chinese
Asian, Brown
We're all the same deep down

