

Humanities Geographical Information Systems:

The Hart Diaries Exemplar Project

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PNC and ECAI 2007 Annual Conference and Joint Meetings

20 October 2007

Hart Diaries Exemplar Project Presentation Outline

- History behind the archive
- Composition of the archive
- Importance of the archive
- Aims of Project
- Obstacles to overcome
- Extensibility



Hart Diaries Exemplar Project

Brief biography



Sir Robert Hart

Curriculum Vitae

Sir Robert Hart 1835-1911

1853 Graduated Queen's, Belfast

1854 British Consular Service

1859 Chinese Imperial **M**aritime **C**ustoms

1863 Inspector **G**eneral **C**IMC

1908 Retired from post of **I**G

QuickTime?and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Hart Collection at Queen's University Belfast

Composition of the Archive

- 77 volumes of diaries
- Correspondence
- Notes
- Articles
- Photographs
- Personalia



Hart Collection at Queen's University Belfast

Diary Sample

Case the evening may pass very pleasantly. How strange it will be to sit round a table with a lady presiding and pouring out the Tea! Such a thing I have seen but twice during the last six months. —

My "teen sang" brought me some Chinese Books today: yesterday he brought me the Books "King" of King - Chu King - & Chu King; also the Four classic "Mong ten" - "Ta hi" - "Sun yeh" - "Tehoung young" &c &c - The Books wh he brought today are "Seon o choo" - I do not know what. What a bore it is I can't read Chinese; but all in good time. For these books I have paid him 34.20 Cash - a little more than two dollars Mexican.

Paid the Carpenter for fixing Cook House \$5. In looking over my accounts for the month I find I have expended all my previous savings! What a bore this is! However, now that I am settled and need not necessarily lay out much more in fixing my rooms I shall get on better. I can say in six months I shall be able to commença putting part a little.

I am thinking of sending home money, so that the following Periodicals may be sent out to me from the St Domingo Nest.

	s. d	Cents
"Athenaeum" — Half-yearly subscription	14. 8	3. 52
"Edinburgh Review" — " — " — " — "	14. 0	3. 36
"North British Review" — " — " — " — "	14. 0	3. 36
"Edinburgh Magazine"	9. 0	2. 16
"Dublin University"	18. 0	4. 32
"London News Illustrated"	—	3. 12
Total	£ 42. 8	19. 84

I might also get the Wesleyan Magazine which I suppose wd be about 9/6 half yearly subscription or \$ 2.16 - thus making a total of £ 4. 11. 8 - allowing the remaining 8/4 for transmission from Hongkong. The subscription put down include Postage &c.

Wednesday 1st November. My conjecture was right. It was W. M. Martin. But what a different person she is to what I had supposed her to be! She is kind - chatty if you chat to her - amiable - and not by any means bad looking. She has two very nice little children - girls. Mr. Quasteman and Mr. W. W. were there also. The evening passed very pleasantly; we had music, both vocal and instrumental. The Tea was excellent; the cakes superb; the jams delicious. Say - the bye if all the missionaries here can give such a "Tea" a missionary's berth is a first rate thing; they can make themselves very comfortable. Came home at 9.0.

Nothing particular occurred during the day. Several Americans occurred this morning - as "I was raised" &c &c. There are five ships in the harbour now: - a strange thing for Misses. I hope it may flourish &c &c &c.

Thursday 2nd Nov: This morning the mail arrived: had a letter from Morgan one from Chapman - but none from England. Received a box of things from Hoffs. Nothing particular occurred today. My Teacher's name is Seu - seen - sang.

Every day's experience teaches me more to let my imaginings or conjectures cease me to form a decided opinion.

Hart Diaries Exemplar Project

Academic & Library imperatives for electronic access

Preservation

- less wear & tear on originals

Reading

- zoom, transcription, thesaurus, name look-up, search term high-lighting

Searching

- full-text searching, page selection, browse facility

Access

- 24/7, remote

Research potential

- improving access to original sources improves research potential of other resources giving a 360 view of activities in a particular period, better contextual information thus leading to more pertinent analysis

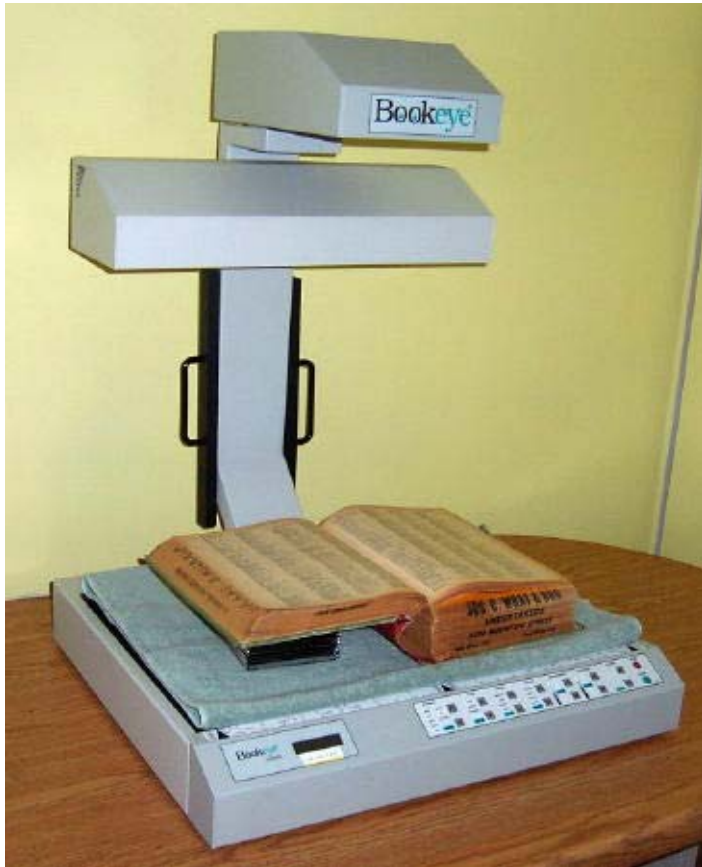
A Humanities GIS exemplar? The Robert Hart diaries

- No scholars of Chinese history based at Queen's University
- Materials are under utilised
- Preservation issues
- Need to link to other Hart and China related materials elsewhere
- Disparate fragmented material
- Virtually all the material can be referenced in time and space

Project challenges

- Vast array of potentially interlinked multimedia material
- Material difficult to scan - diaries are delicate, text is sometimes poor, disbinding not an option
- Analogue material not catalogued

Data capture



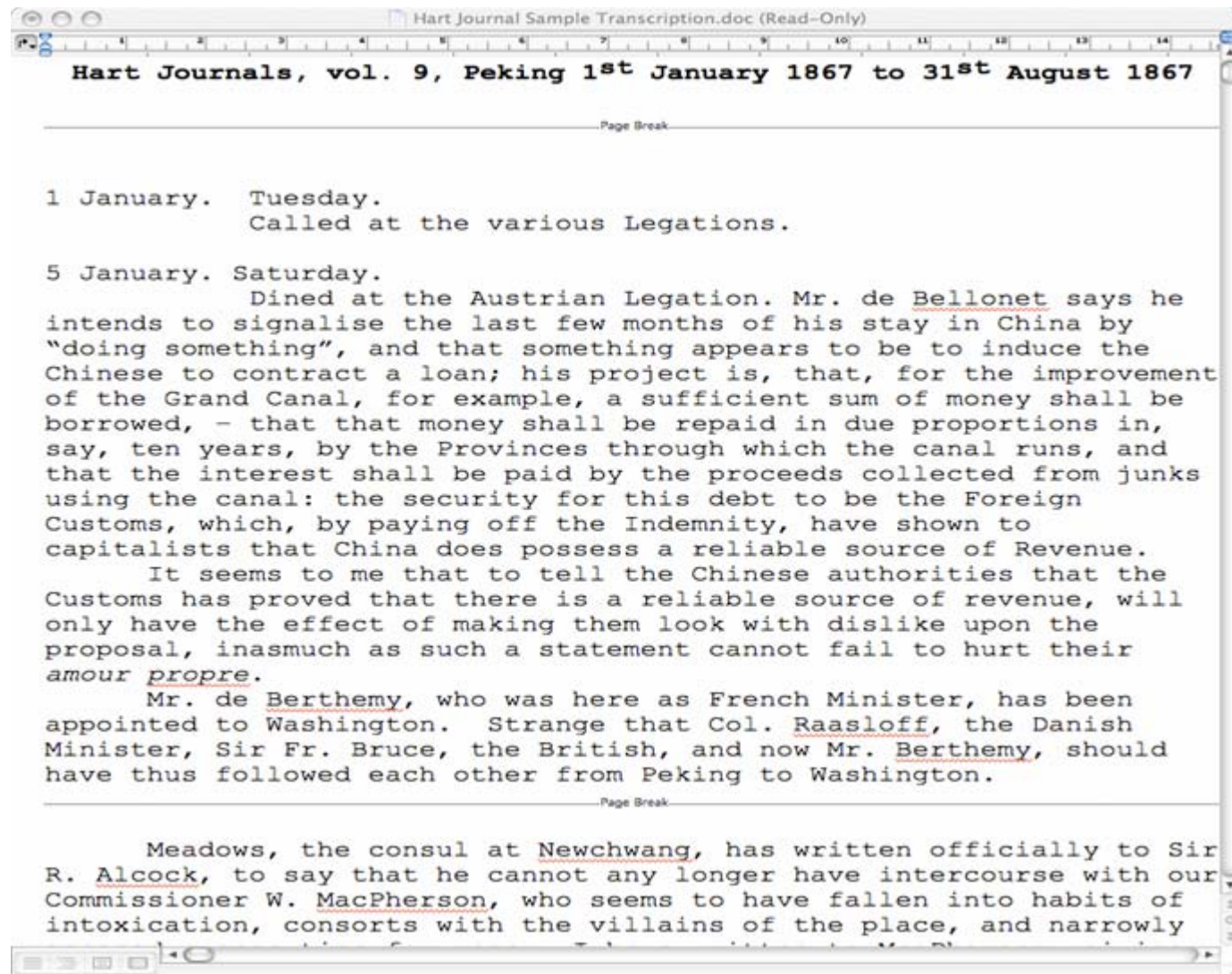
- Images scanned using bookpage scanner
- Archival images created in 24bit colour at 1,200dpi
- Image enhancement
- Creation of an image for dissemination

Transcription

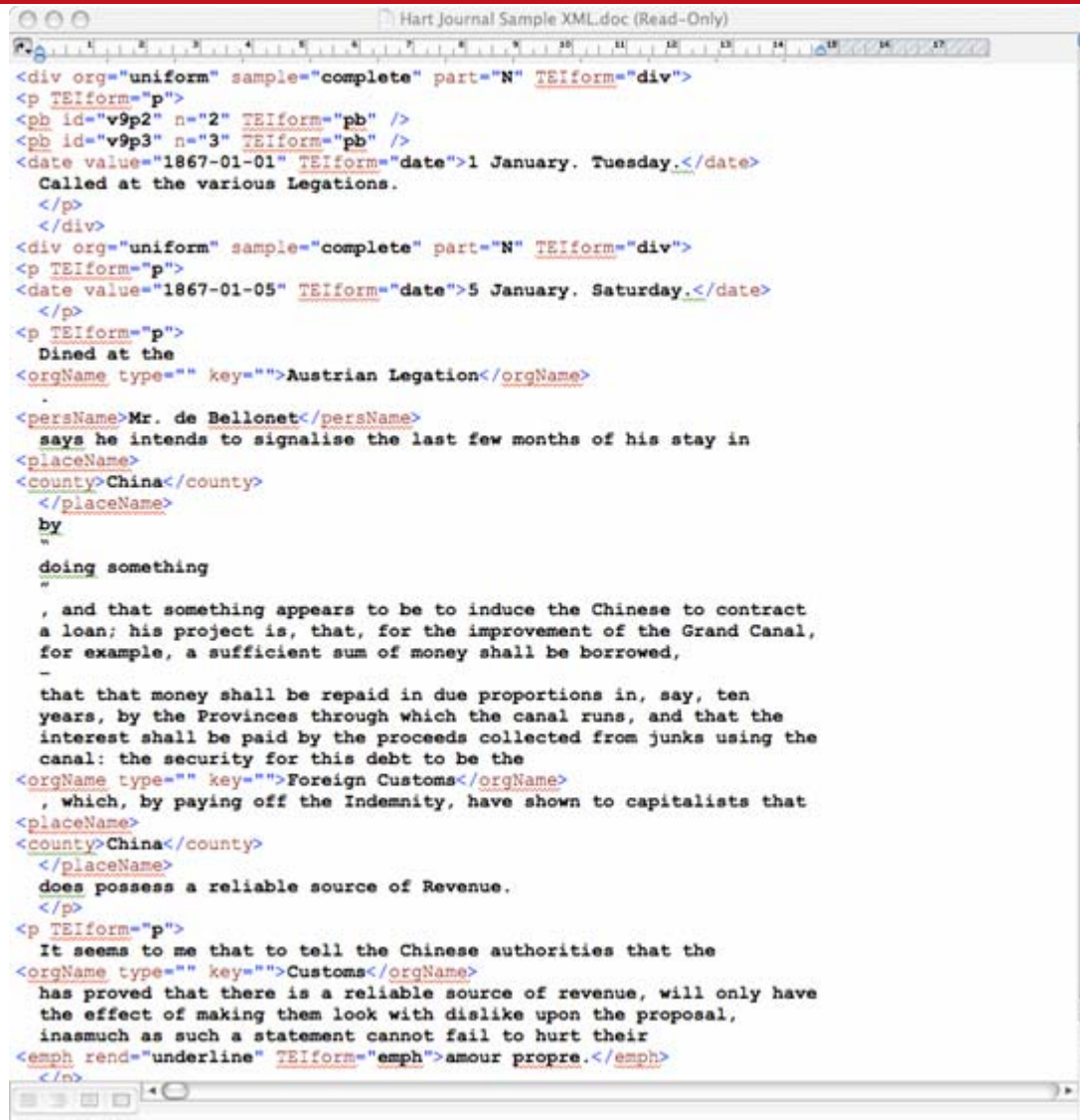
I have seen but twice during
this. —
"teen sung" brought me some Chinese
today he brought me the Books "King" of the
; also the Four classic "Mong tee" - Ta
ang young etc etc — The Books "Whi he
"Season school" — I do not know what
I can't read Chinese: but all in all
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dollars Mexican.
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accounts for the month I find I
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is that I am settled and need not

- Text progressively more difficult to read
- Mix of Chinese and English Characters
- Lack of palaeographic skills
- Need to tag and index text
- Transcription takes longer than expected

Transcribed text



xml text



```
Hart Journal Sample XML.doc (Read-Only)
<div org="uniform" sample="complete" part="N" TEIform="div">
  <p TEIform="p">
    <pb id="v9p2" n="2" TEIform="pb" />
    <pb id="v9p3" n="3" TEIform="pb" />
    <date value="1867-01-01" TEIform="date">1 January. Tuesday.</date>
    Called at the various Legations.
  </p>
</div>

<div org="uniform" sample="complete" part="N" TEIform="div">
  <p TEIform="p">
    <date value="1867-01-05" TEIform="date">5 January. Saturday.</date>
  </p>
  <p TEIform="p">
    Dined at the
    <orgName type="" key="">Austrian Legation</orgName>
    .
    <persName>Mr. de Bellonet</persName>
    says he intends to signalise the last few months of his stay in
    <placeName>
    <country>China</country>
    </placeName>
    by
    "
    doing something
    "
    , and that something appears to be to induce the Chinese to contract
    a loan; his project is, that, for the improvement of the Grand Canal,
    for example, a sufficient sum of money shall be borrowed,
    -
    that that money shall be repaid in due proportions in, say, ten
    years, by the Provinces through which the canal runs, and that the
    interest shall be paid by the proceeds collected from junks using the
    canal: the security for this debt to be the
    <orgName type="" key="">Foreign Customs</orgName>
    , which, by paying off the Indemnity, have shown to capitalists that
    <placeName>
    <country>China</country>
    </placeName>
    does possess a reliable source of Revenue.
  </p>
  <p TEIform="p">
    It seems to me that to tell the Chinese authorities that the
    <orgName type="" key="">Customs</orgName>
    has proved that there is a reliable source of revenue, will only have
    the effect of making them look with dislike upon the proposal,
    inasmuch as such a statement cannot fail to hurt their
    <emph rend="underline" TEIform="emph">amour propre.</emph>
  </p>
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