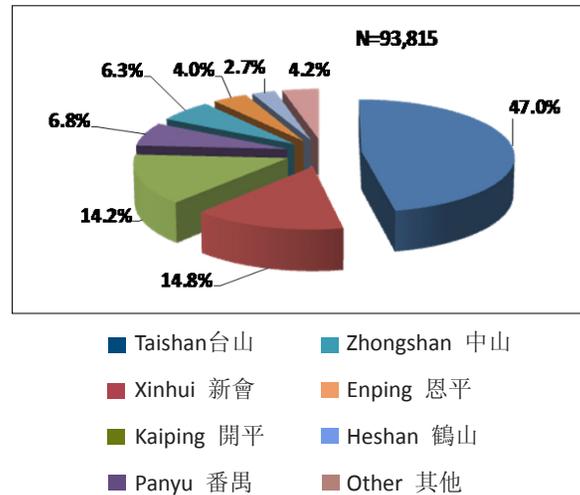


How did it start?

The mapping of geographic names recorded in the head tax database was launched in the fall of 2008 as one of the “Asian Library’s Partnerships with Communities’ Program Series”. It took 20 rounds of community-based meetings with Taishanese / Zhongshanese-speaking participants to match the towns and villages of origin reported by 90% of the immigrants with the original geographical names in Chinese scripts. With the findings, community members interested in their genealogy, UBC students and indeed scholars from all over the world are able to work toward an international research network for reporting the roots of emigrants from Guangdong, China from 1885-1947, during which head tax was levied on incoming ethnic Chinese.

On May 18, 2010, representatives speaking the two streams of Guangdong dialects from Vancouver and the United States worked side by side at the “Workshop on Taishan and Zhongshan Immigrants in North America”, which promised to be an international nexus for creating a global alliance for Chinese overseas from the two counties. Marjorie Lee, Library Coordinator and Archivist of the Asian American Studies Centre, University of California, Los Angeles spoke on “Grounding Heritage Research within Chinese American History”; Wei-chi Poon, Asian American Studies Librarian, Ethnic Studies Library, University of California, Berkeley shared her thoughts on “The Dilemma of Immigration”, and Albert Cheng, Founder of “In Search of Roots” program of San Francisco told his story “In Search of Roots in Guangdong province, China” with images of his journey. Many participants benefited from the cohort study in the Pearl Delta area and networking with the elders.

Chinese Immigrants in Canada 加拿大華人移民來源地 1885-1949



When more resources are available, mapping should also be conducted for Xinhui, Kaiping, Panyu, Enping and Heshan, the remaining major sending counties.

For more information on this project, please contact UBC Asian Library.
如需更多資料, 請與卑詩大學亞洲圖書館聯絡。

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Acknowledgement

The General Register of Chinese Immigration was provided by Professors Henry Yu and Peter Ward, History Department, UBC

INitiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian studies, UBC

Mapping the Villages & Towns Recorded in the Register of Chinese Immigration to Canada from 1885 to 1949

辦證一八八五至一九四九年
加拿大華人移民登記冊內
之鄉鎮名稱



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Why is the mapping important?

The very idiosyncratic dialects of the Chinese immigrants from a myriad of villages and towns of southern Guangdong contributed to a collection of sometimes indecipherable documentation of their roots. The inability of customs personnel to accurately capture and document the details in verbatim form during immigration interviews left behind a myriad of Romanized forms of the reported places of origin. As a result, analysis and research on the regional identities have been rendered fuzzy and inaccurate. (See samples next page)

Of the 97,123 entries in the register, 93,815 contain data on county / town / village of origin, out of which 44,131 recorded to be from Taishan, the largest sending county and 5,898 from Zhongshan, one of the more resourceful counties outside siyi (四邑) and wuyi (五邑). This two-year project orchestrated by Eleanor Yuen and Phoebe Chow demystified about 90% of such places of origins in Taishan and Zhongshan. With the findings, the Register of Chinese Immigrants to Canada, probably the most-detailed records in Canadian immigration history, now makes more sense to the public who intend to find their ancestral roots, as well as to researchers who are interested in the complex patterns of immigration from China to Canada during this major historic phase of population movement.

Variant Forms of Romanization 白沙 (Taishan 台山)

Back Sa	Bak Shor	Pack Shan
Back Saer	Bak Shr	Pack Shar
Back San	Bak Shuk	Packshar
Back Sar	Bak Shut	Pack Shu
Back Ser	Bak Suck	Pah Sha
Back Shar	Bak Sun	Pak Cha
Backshar	Bak Thut	Pak Sah
Bak La	Bark Sar	Pak San
Bak Lai	Bark Sun	Pak Sar
Bak Sa	Bat Shar	Pak Sha
Bak Sack	Bok Sha	Pak Sha Une
Bak Sah	Bok Shar	Pak Shar
Bak Sahr	Buck Sa	Pak Sue
Bak Sai	Buck Sah	Pang Sa
Bak Sam	Buk Sah	Pang Sar Hang
Bak San	Buk Shai	Pang Sha
Bak Sar	Buk Shar	Pang Shar
Bak Sha	Packhar	Par Sar Long
Bak Shai	Pack Sam	Par Shar
Bak Shar	Pack San	Park San
Bak Shat	Packsar	Park Sar
Bak Shen	Pack Sha	
Bak Sheuk		
Bak Sar (or Nam Long)		

Variant Forms of Romanization 渡頭 (Zhongshan 中山)

Boo Tow	Doo Tow
Dao Tow	Doo Tow
Do How	Dootow
Do Tow	Dow Tow
Doe Tow	To Tan
Dok Daw	To Tau
Doo Fow	To Taw
Doo How	To Tow
Doo Low	Totoon

早期由廣東南部移民至加拿大的華人來自不同的鄉鎮，各操不同的方言。他們的鄉音複雜，往往令加拿大移民官員在入境面談時無法準確捕捉並記錄他們的籍貫，結果在華人移民登記冊中所載的鄉鎮名稱變成缺乏系統的英文譯音（見台山白沙及中山渡頭英文拼音表）。雖然留下大量歷史文獻紀錄，卻無法解讀華人移民的根在何處，導致早期華人來源地的研究工作變得混亂及困難。

本項目由卑詩大學亞洲圖書館袁家瑜女士及鄒崇樂女士策劃，在過去兩年從總登記冊的97,123個記錄中，篩出93,815有申報籍貫的條目，成功辨認90%台山與中山移民之來源地。華人移民登記冊為歷來最詳盡之加國移民歷史紀錄之一，研究結果將有助華人尋找先祖根源，同時為有興趣研究這段歷史性華人移民潮的學者提供珍貴的歷史材料。