China-collections at KADOC-KU Leuven

Roundtable Discussion on Digitization and Curation of Missionary Collections in Europe

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China-collections at KADOC-KU Leuven

• 1. KADOC
  Documentation and Research Center on Religion, Culture and Society since 1750
  Interfacultary Center of KU Leuven (°1976)
  Heritage Institute recognized by the Flemish Community (°1985)
  https://kadoc.kuleuven.be/english/index

• 2. China-collections
  • Archives
  • Library
  • Audio-visual
  • (no museum objects)
KADOC – KU Leuven
KADOC – KU Leuven

Heritage institute : 5 functions

- Collect (de)selection
- Preserve
- Research
- Presentation (public-oriented)
- Participation
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• 2. China-collections
  • Archives
  • Library
  • Audio-visual
  • (no museum objects)
China-collections : archives

• Religious institutes with missionary activities in China
  e.g. Jesuits
  BE/942855 Archieven Jezuïeten (SJ) - Belgische (1832-1935) en Vlaamse (1935-) Provincie, 16. c.-2012 (Archief) (lias.be)

  Franciscans

• Missionary congregations (CICM…) “China”
  BE/942855 Archieven Scheutisten (CICM), 17. c. (c)-30. c. (Archief) (lias.be)
  e.g. CICM
  “collection of geographical maps” (1840-1965)
  (digitized, open access)

• Vatican archives
  e.g. files on China
Geographical maps
China-collections : heritage library

• “Grey literature” (= primary sources)
  publications, brochures, pamphlets, periodicals
  
  e.g. missionary periodicals (Western audience/Chinese audience)
  e.g. schoolbooks (Chinese)
  e.g. liturgical publications (Latin, Chinese)
  e.g. collection of Children’s books (“Uit Verre Landen”)

• Scientific publications
  e.g. missiological weeks of Leuven (1923-1960)
  e.g. scripta-collection CICM fathers
China-collections : audio-visual

• Visual archives connected religious/missionary institutions
  e.g. Pictures
  e.g. Albums
  e.g. *Catechetical wall chart collection (Van Dyck cicm)* (link next slide)
  e.g. Magic Lantern collection
  e.g. *Filmcollection (e.g. Pareltje Wang)*

• Independent collections
  e.g. *Oral History Collection Belgian China missionaries (1986)*
  BE/942855/7 Verzameling interviews met Chinamissionarissen, 1985-1987 (Archief) (lias.be)
  e.g. *Poster collection*
  e.g. *Devotional print collection*
China-collections: KADOC-based class

Selection of the records with links

• **Album Construction railway Hankou-Beijing (China), 1900-1902**
  Description and digital copy in [LIMO KFD2505 D](#)

• **Album Jozef and Albert Segers c.i.c.m., 1918**
  (on the re-enactment of a martyr in 1900)
  Description in LIMO
  Digital copy in [LIAS BE/942855/1489/18.3.4.](#)

• **Album on the missionary activities of the Belgian Friars in South-West Hubei province (ca. 1880-ca. 1920)**
  Description in LIMO
  Digital copy in [LIAS BE/942855/1612/1631](#)
China-collections at KADOC-KU Leuven

• Characteristics
  • Extensiveness
  • Richness (multiperspectivity)
  • Diversity (content, language..)
  • Relevance (masterpiece-collection)
  • Sensitive issues

• Challenges & opportunities
  • Administration
  • Contextualization
  • Digitization
  • Shared heritage
  • Presentation