

Britons' Translation and Introduction of the *Peking Gazette* and the Sino-British Relations (1800s-1860)

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Peking Gazette (京報), the information of which was derived according to *Di Bao* (邸報), or *Di Chao* (邸抄), was a sort of Chinese official papers and a main form to spread court information in Ming and Qing dynasty. Westerners represented by Britons who came to China had paid great attention to the *Peking Gazette* in the 19th Century. And their interests in the *Peking Gazette* endowed these traditional papers a new mission. British missionaries and diplomats coming to China kept a tradition of translating and introducing the *Peking Gazette* in the 19th Century. Thomas Francis Wade is the key man in promoting the formation of the tradition. During the period of the Second Opium War, Wade's interests in the *Peking Gazette* had promoted the role of the *Peking Gazette* to be transformed from the "information source" to the "negotiation method", and also greatly influenced the Sino-British power relationship in "Information Space" in the second part of the 19th Century.

Keywords: *Peking Gazette*, T. F. Wade, Second Opium War, Sino-British relation in the 19th Century

Introduction

Peking Gazette is a foreign general name for Jing Bao (京報). It is a sort of semi-official document that was used to publish everyday court news, imperial decrees, and official memorials in Ming and Qing dynasties. It was the main form to spread court information in China during that period. As Max Weber marked in his notable work *The Religion of China: Confucianism and Taoism* (1951), that "originally intended for internal administrative use, these have interested Englishmen for decades and have been translated under the title of *Peking Gazette*".¹ Westerners represented by Britons who came to China had paid great attention to *Peking Gazette* in the 19th Century. Their activities around *Peking Gazette* even greatly influenced the Sino-British relations in that era.

Roswell Britton made pioneering advances in the study of the *Peking Gazette* in the *Chinese Periodical Press, 1800-1912* (1933). For the first time, he collected a quantity of texts involving in the *Peking Gazette* written by westerners and listed them in the bibliography. His list laid the foundation for studying the *Peking Gazette* in different cultural settings. He also pointed out:

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¹ Weber, Max. Translated from the German and Edited by Hans H. Gerth. (1951). *The Religion of China: Confucianism and Taoism*, Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press, p. 252.

The British had caused the court to release the documents relating to the murder of A. R. Margery in 1876, and it then became common for legations at Peking to demand that decrees be "gazetted".²

He noticed the important role of the *Peking Gazette* played in the Sino-British relations more than a century ago. However, his argument has not been given enough value until recently.

This paper traces Briton's tradition of translating and introducing the *Peking Gazette* in the 19th Century. It explores the role transformation of the *Peking Gazette* during the period of the Second Opium War and discusses what does the transformation mean for the Sino-British relations.

The Translation and Introduction of the *Peking Gazette* in the 19th Century

Recent scholarship by Yin Wenjuan indicates that Jesuit missionaries once translated the *Peking Gazette* and introduced it to the European.³ According to the existing historical materials, Jesuits' activities of translating and introducing of *Peking Gazette* were interrupted because of the Kangxi emperor and his successor officially forbade Christian missions in China in 1720s. As a result, it had almost no effect on Sino-foreign relations.

Robert Morrison, the first British Protestant missionary coming to China, was the pioneer in introducing the *Peking Gazette* in the 19th Century and inaugurated a new tradition of the *Peking Gazette* being known and used by westerners. He continued paying attention to the *Peking Gazette* from 1800s to 1830s. There have been some studies centered on his work about the *Peking Gazette*. Parts of his translations were published by the English East India Company in 1815 and the others could be found in periodicals like the *Indo-Chinese Gleaner* (1817-1822) published in Malacca, the *Chinese Repository* (1832-1851) published in Canton, and his correspondence with Sir George Thomas Staunton. However, except for some texts in the Chinese Repository, most of these historical materials didn't have been made full use of by historians.

In the 19th Century, many China experts wrote articles to introduce the *Peking Gazette* to the westerners. This tradition started from Robert Morrison (1782-1834) and his missionary colleagues in the early 19th Century, to diplomats like Thomas Wade (1818-1895), D. F. Rennie (?-?) in the middle of the 19th Century, and then to William Mayers (1804-1874), Rutherford Alcock (1809-1897) and some other China experts after the Second Opium War.⁴ Yet except for Robert Morrison, the others' articles are seldom to be mentioned in previous studies.

² Roswell S. Britton. *The Chinese Periodical Press*, Shanghai: Kelly&Walsh, Limited, 1933, p. 8.

³ Yin Wenjuan. "Yesu huishi yu xinjiao chuanjiaoshi jingbao de jieyi", *Shijie zongjiao yanjiu*, no.2 (2008).

⁴ William Henry Wilkinson. (1885). *Where Chinese drive. English student-life at Peking*, 東洋文庫, 貴 III-18-J-1; J. P. Donovan, *The Press of China*, *The Asiatic Review*(April, 1919), p. 153, 東洋文庫, 貴 P-III-a.

Table 1

English Introductions and Studies of the Peking Gazette in the 19th Century

Publishing Time	Writer	Title	Article Source
April, 1833	Robert Morrison	"Peking Gazette" *	<i>The Chinese Repository</i> , Vol. I, No. 12, April, 1833, pp. 506-507
October, 1835	Thomas Fisher	"The Peking Gazette"	<i>The Gentleman's Magazine</i> , Vol. IV, October, 1835, p. 384
May, 1836	E. C. Bridgman	"Periodical Literature" *	<i>The Chinese Repository</i> Vol. V, No. 1, May, 1836, pp. 1-12
September, 1836	Robert Inglis	"Notices of Modern China" *	<i>The Chinese Repository</i> Vol. V, No. 5, September, 1836, pp. 202-208
August, 1838	John Morrison	"Analysis of the Peking Gazette, from 10th February to 18th March, 1838" *	<i>The Chinese Repository</i> Vol. VII, No. 4, August, 1838, pp. 226-231
February 12th, 1842	Charles Knight	"The Peking Gazette"	<i>The Penny Magazine</i> , February 12th, 1842, p. 64
December, 1843	Edward Hickson	"Asiatic Journals"	<i>Westminster Review</i> , Vol. 40, No. 2, December, 1843, p. 515
February, 1844	E. C. Bridgman	"Remarks upon the Peking Gazette" *	<i>The Chinese Repository</i> Vol. XII I, No. 2, February, 1844, p. 107
1850	Thomas Wade	<i>Note on the Condition and Government of the Chinese Empire in 1849</i> [Chiefly from the Peking Gazette]*	Hongkong: Printed at the China Mail Office, 1850, pp. 2-6
1861	D. F. Rennie	<i>Peking, and the Pekingese during the First Year of the British Embassy at Peking</i>	Li Guoqing, Ed. "zhongguo yanjiu" waiwen jiuji huikan-zhongguo jilu(di 2 ji 3), Guangxi shifan daxue chubanshe, 2014, pp. 231-234.
February 25th, 1865	James Macauley	"The Peking Gazette"	<i>The Leisure hour: a family journal of instruction and recreation</i> , February 25th, 1865, pp. 119-122
February 17th, 1866	J. Frances, etc.	"The Flying Dragon Reporter for China, Japan, and the East"	<i>The Athenaeum</i> , No. 1999, February 17th, 1866, p. 234
February, 1867	DEAK	"Native Newspapers" *	<i>Notes and Queries on China and Japan</i> , Vol. I, February, 1867, p. 19
September 21st, 1867		"The Peking Gazette"	<i>The North-China Herald and Market Report</i> , September 21st, 1867, p. 259
October 3rd, 1868		"Our Chinese Newspaper"	<i>The North-China Herald and Market Report</i> , October 3rd, 1868, p. 477
November 8th, 1869		"The Emperor of China personally supervises the Peking Gazette"	<i>The Dundee Courier & Argus</i> , November 8th, 1869, Issue 5076
March 29th, 1871		"The China 'Press'"	<i>The North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette</i> , March 29th, 1871, pp. 216-217
February and March, 1873	Rutherford Alcock	"The Peking Gazette" *	<i>Fraser's Magazine</i> , Vol. VII, No. 38, Feb. & Mar., 1873, pp. 245-256, pp. 341-357
July and August, 1874	William Mayers	"The Peking Gazette" *	<i>The China Review</i> , Vol. III, No. 13, July & August, 1874, pp. 13-18
December 27th, 1877	P.	"Peking Gazette"	<i>Liverpool Mercury</i> , December 27th, 1877, Issue 9345
July 25th, 1877		"The Peking Gazette for 1876"	<i>The Pall Mall Gazette</i> , July 25th, 1877, Issue 9345
June, 1890	E.T.C. Werner	"A Curiosity in Journalism"	<i>Time</i> , June, pp. 594-596
1892	J. Dyer Ball	<i>Things Chinese</i> (five versions in total: 1st 1892, 2nd 1893, 3rd 1900, 4th 1903, 5th 1925)*	Kelly & Walsh, Limited, 1892, pp. 407-408
November, 1896	E.H. Parker	"The 'Peking Gazette' and Chinese Posting" *	<i>Longman's magazine</i> , No. 169, 1896, pp. 73-81
October 17th, 1898	Ernest Box	"Native Newspapers" *	<i>The North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette</i> , October 17th, 1898, p. 737

As far as the translation is concerned, Morrison and John Davis (1795-1890) began to translate the *Peking Gazette* into English with the support of the English East India Company in the 1910s. They carried out these activities with their colleagues in Canton, Hongkong and Macao. In the 1950s, the North-China Herald, the prime press of the foreign presence in Shanghai from around 1850 to 1940s, constantly published Medhurst's translations of the *Peking Gazette*, which made Shanghai replace the Pearl River Delta to be the new center of translating the *Peking Gazette*. And then Peking became another center, because members of the British Legation in Peking like William Mayers (1804-1874), Walter Hillier (1849-1927) and the Student Interpreters began to translate the *Peking Gazette* into English. Their translations could be found in the North-China Daily News and the North-China Herald from 1873 to 1899 regularly.

Table 2

English Periodicals Which Published the Translations of the Peking Gazette in the 19th Century

Title of Periodical	Place of Publication	Translator	Publishing Year	Number of pieces of translations
<i>Indo-Chinese Gleaner</i> , 1817-1822	Malacca	Robert Morrison	1817-1820	More than 40
<i>The Times</i> , 1785-	London	Robert Morrison	1824	1
<i>Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland</i> , 1824-1834	London	John Davis	1827, 1829	33
<i>The Chinese Repository</i> , 1832-1851 *	Canton Hong Kong Macao	Robert Morrison, Elijah Bridgman, John Morrison, etc	1832-1851	More than 80
<i>The Canton Register</i> , 1827-1843	Canton	Robert Morrison	1835	2
<i>Chinese Courier and Canton Gazette</i> , 1831-1833	Canton	N/A	1833	1
<i>The Canton Press</i> , 1835-1844	Canton	N/A	1835	1
<i>The China Mail</i> , 1845-1874	Hong Kong	N/A	1845-1871	N/A
<i>The North-China Herald</i> , 1850-1867 * <i>The North-China and Market Report</i> , 1867-1869 *	Shanghai	Walter Medhurst, John Dudgeon, etc	1850-1865 1867	More than 700
<i>Foochow Advertiser</i> , 1866-1867	Fuzhou	N/A	1867	N/A
<i>The Chinese Recorder and Missionary Journal</i> , 1868-1872	Fuzhou	John Dudgeon, etc	1869	2
<i>The Cycle</i> , 1870-1871	Shanghai	N/A	1870-1871	More than 10
<i>The China Review</i> , 1872-1901 *	Shanghai	William Mayers, Edward Parker, etc	1873-1887	6
<i>The North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette</i> , 1870-1941 <i>The North-China Daily News</i> , 1864-1951 *	Shanghai	Thomas Wade, William Mayers, Walter Hillier, etc	1870-1899	More than 20,000

Notes. * Data have been included in the bibliography of *Chinese Periodical Press, 1800-1912*.

N/A: data not available

Davis was one of the translators of the *Peking Gazette*. Yet the fact is seldom to be noticed, because they are not included in the bibliography of *Chinese Periodical Press, 1800-1912*. It was noteworthy that Davis brought Thomas Wade into contacting with and translating the *Peking Gazette*. He introduced Wade into the school of translation in 1845, and appointed Wade as the Supernumerary Chinese Interpreter to the Supreme Court at Hong

Kong in the following year. "The promotion was a turning point in Wade's career."⁵ Davis guided Wade during the 1840s. The latter's pamphlet involving in the *Peking Gazette*, *Note on the Condition and Government of the Chinese Empire in 1849*, was finished during this period. Thus could infer that Wade felt interested in the *Peking Gazette* under the influence of Davis.

Thomas Wade was the key man in promoting the formation of the tradition of translating and introducing the *Peking Gazette*. He influenced most of the British diplomats in their translations and studies of the *Peking Gazette* in China during the second half of the 19th Century. For example, he served as Rutherford Alcock (1809-1897)'s right-hand man during the period of Alcock's post of consul for the Britain from the 1850s to the 1860s. And translating the *Peking Gazette* also was Mayers' task when he serviced as the Chinese Secretary under Wade.⁶ In addition, Wade even added his translations of the *Peking Gazette* in the textbook⁷ to improve the Student Interpreters' writing skills of Chinese. These translations were published in the *Abstract of Peking Gazettes*, a column of the *North-China Daily News*, twice or thrice a week.

T. F. Wade and the *Peking Gazette* in the Second Opium War

The westerner, no matter the missionary or the diplomat, just considered the role of the *Peking Gazette* as an intelligence source of getting news from China before the Second Opium War. Comparing with the information from Chinese books, correspondences, notices and circulars, the news from the *Peking Gazette* was basic the same in essence. In other words, all of these news and information were only "the intelligence and knowledge about China" to the westerner before 1860.

T. F. Wade is the most characteristic one of the translators and introducers of the *Peking Gazette* before the Second Opium War. His most important contribution was to introduce the *Peking Gazette* to foreign affairs, but not to translate it into English. In contrast with his predecessor Davis, Wade studied and introduced the origin, character, circulation and influence of the *Peking Gazette*, and also used it as the main material of studying the economic condition of China. In contrast with the missionaries like Robert Morrison, Wade emphasized on the authority of the *Peking Gazette* and the contact between the *Peking Gazette* and the Empire of the Qing dynasty.

Wade joined the Anglo-French forces as an interpreter in 1856 during the Second Opium War. His experiences from translating and studying the *Peking Gazette* laid the foundation for the change of the role of the *Peking Gazette* during the war. A Chinese historian named Li Yumin remarks "The Qing government began to promulgate the treaty throughout the country. This activity was driven by the Western powers. The Western powers always concerned with making more and more Chinese know the treaty, so also made no exception this time (The Second Opium War)."⁸ Yet his paper didn't describe the process of the activity in detailed, nor did make any further analyses. In fact, Wade had played the key role in this process.

According to records made by the British and French diplomats and generals, leaders of the Anglo-French forces considered the *Peking Gazette* as an indispensable means for getting more information about China. Le Général Blondel, a French diplomat noted:

⁵ Cooley, Janes. (1981). *T. F. Wade in China: Pioneering in Global Diplomacy 1841-1882*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, pp. 9-10.

⁶ Most of Mayers' translations of the *Peking Gazette* are included in *British Parliamentary Papers, China, The North-China Daily News*, and *The North-China Herald*.

⁷ Including *Colloquial Series* and *Documentary Series* edited by Wade.

⁸ See Li Yumin. (2004). *Lun Qingzhengfu de xinshou tiaoyue fangzhou jiqi bianhua, Jindaishi yanjiu*, no. 2.

General James Hope Grant asked Cousin De Montauban to postpone a few days to pull his troops out of Peking James at Eighth Earl of Elgin's urging. This was because the British ambassador hoped to leave Peking until the news of signing the treaty was published on the *Peking Gazette*.⁹

Another member in the Anglo-French forces named Béziat also mentioned:

As soon as the provisions of the peace treaty were published on the capital gazette and announced in Peking, the Anglo-French forces withdrew from Peking.¹⁰

What he called the "capital gazette" is the *Peking Gazette*, for the reason that the Britons viewed the *Peking Gazette* as the only native press in China at that time.¹¹

Eighth Earl of Elgin, the commander-in-chief of the Anglo-French forces, decided to "leave Peking until the news of signing the treaty was published on the *Peking Gazette*". His decision should refer to the advice of Wade for the following three reasons: First of all, Chinese language is a closed book to Elgin, and Elgin had never paid attention to the Chinese publications, let alone the *Peking Gazette*.¹² Secondly, Wade was the one who knew the *Peking Gazette* best in the Anglo-French forces. It was natural that he advised to take advantage of the power of the *Peking Gazette* for "making more and more Chinese know the treaty", and to supervise and speed up the subjects of the Qing dynasty to execute the treaty. Finally, Wade served as Elgin's Chinese interpreter and involved in the negotiations during the Second Opium War. He could give suggestions on related issues to Elgin.

There were two reasons why the generals of the Anglo-French forces required the Qing government to publish the news of signing the treaty on the *Peking Gazette* as a condition for the troop withdrawal:

As for the attitude of the Anglo-French forces' side, the generals treated the Qing government with deep suspicion and repeated to test them. There was a stereotype about the Chinese among the Britons in the 19th Century. That was "the Chinese was good at cheating and easy to break their word". Narratives like this could always be found in the notes or books written by the Britons in the 19th Century. This view was also very popular in the Anglo-French forces. One of the interpreters in the Anglo-French forces named Harry Smith Parkes maintained:

The Chinese officials pretended to be friendly to us, but actually they hated us very much. We shouldn't believe even a word of what they said.¹³

Robert John L. M'Ghee, who had ever worked in the headquarters of the forces, also noted that the Qing government believed that there could never be too much deception in war. He was worried that the Britons would suffer losses in the Britain-China trade on account of Chinese dishonesty.¹⁴

⁹ Le Général Blondel. Translated by Zhao Shanshan. (2011). *Relation de l'Expédition de Chine en 1860*, Shanghai: Zhongxi shuju, p. 124.

¹⁰ Béziat. Translated by Chen Jianwei. (2011). *Campagne de Chine (1859-1861)*, Shanghai: Zhongxi shuju, p. 172.

¹¹ See Knight, Charles. (1842). The 'Peking Gazette', *The Penny Magazine*; Hickson, William Edward. (1843). Asiatic Journals, *Westminster review*; DEKA. (1867). Native Newspapers, *Notes and Queries on China and Japan*; James Macauley. (1865). The *Peking Gazette*, *The Leisure hour: a family journal of instruction and recreation*.

¹² See James. Eighth Earl of Elgin. Translated by Wang Hongzhang and Chen Yikan. (2011). *Letters and Journals of James, Eighth Earl of Elgin*, Shanghai: Zhongxi shuju.

¹³ Varin, Paul. Translated by Sun Yixian and An Kang. (2011) *Expédition de Chine*, Shanghai: Zhongxi shuju, p. 115.

¹⁴ L. M'Ghee, Robert. Translated by Ye Hongwei and Jiang Xianfa. (2011). *How we got into Peking: A Narrative of the campaign in China of 1860*, Shanghai: Zhongxi shuju, p. 71.

As for the attitude of the Chinese side, it was obvious that the Qing dynasty asked the other side to fully meet its obligations, but secretly attempted to cast off their own obligations under the treaty.¹⁵ According to the records, Sir Harry Parkes found an important file and deliver it to the Foreign Office. The file indicated that the Empire's brother of the Qing dynasty decided to break the treaty during the Second Opium War.¹⁶ The Qing government lost all of what little credibility the Britons had with them because of the leaked file during the war.

Considering the negative attitudes and behaviors of the Qing government towards the treaty, the Britons felt the need to take some measure to learn the true intentions of the Qing government and force the Chinese to put the treaty into practice. Therefore, they started focusing on the *Peking Gazette*, which represented the will of the Empire of the Qing dynasty to them. They brought the *Peking Gazette* into the negotiation, demanding the Qing government to publish some information according to their needs. In this way, the westerners could ensure the Chinese Empire know and accept the terms of the treaty, preventing the Chinese officials placing obstacles in the way. In addition, it could also widespread the news of the negotiation among ordinary Chinese throughout China and convince them, relying on the authority and the influence of the *Peking Gazette*. As a result, the role of the *Peking Gazette* had become from "information source" to "negotiation method" to British diplomats at the end of the Second Opium War.

The Qing Government and the *Peking Gazette* During the Two Opium Wars

As early as 1840s, the Qing dynasty had acted to prevent the westerners from reading the *Peking Gazette*. The Commissioner Qi Ying reported there were "British rebels" reading the *Peking Gazette* during the Opium War. In response, the Empire Dao Guang gave a decree to require government officials in provinces to arrest the Chinese who handed the gazette to the Britons. "Report them to the Empire and punish them." In addition, the Empire ordered officials to find and cut off the approach, through which the Britons got the *Peking Gazette*. Chinese people who handed the *Peking Gazette* to Britons were considered to be the traitors, or Han Jian, and would be punished heavily in that period.¹⁷ In sum, although the Qing government had never made any regulations to ban the westerners getting or reading the *Peking Gazette*, they remained resistant to this openly during the Opium War.

Yet that changed during the Second Opium War, in response, Prince Gong had to accept the Britons' requirement, or even threat, to publish the news of signing the treaty on the *Peking Gazette*. According to the French envoy called Baron Gros, in order to ensure the local governments abide by the treaty, Prince Gong dispatched Qi Heng to send a letter and 1,200 copies of the *Peking Gazette* to him and entrusted him to deliver these materials to Guangdong province and other four provinces on November 16th in 1860.¹⁸

¹⁵ See Li Yumin. (2004). Lun Qingzhengfu de xinshou tiaoyue fangzhou jiqi bianhua, *Jindaishi yanjiu*, no. 2.

¹⁶ Stanley Lane-Poole/ Frederick Victor Dickins. Translated by Jin Ying, *Zhongxi shuju*. (2011). *Sir Harry Parkes in China*, p. 248.

¹⁷ Qing xuanzong chenghuangdi shilu juan zhi sanbai qishiliu (chaoben). *Mingqing shilu shuju guji congshu*/ Beijing airusheng, 31168. See dieying youzou yingren meiri yuekan jingbao qingchi micha zhe (daoguang ershiernian liuyue), chouban yiwu shimo daoguangchao, juan wushisi; tingji (daoguang ershiernian liuyueshiliuri, liuyue ershijiuri), chouban yiwu shimo (daoguangchao), juan wushiqi, Beijing: Zhonghua shuju.

¹⁸ Gros, Baron. Translated by Zhao Qinhua. (2011). *Négociations entre la France et la Chine en 1860*, Shanghai: Zhongxi shuju, pp. 146-147.

There were two points worth highlighting in Prince Gong's response. For one, it was Prince Gong who sent the *Peking Gazette* to the high-ranking officials in the Anglo-French forces. Prince Gong was the representative of the Qing court, so his decision could represent the Empire's will during the Second Opium War. And for another, the Qing government had to publish the news of signing the treaty on the *Peking Gazette* because of Elgin's strong requirement. In other words, it is a forced rather than voluntary choice.

These two points meant two existing rules of Qing dynasty were broken. Firstly, Prince Gong personally ordered his man to send the *Peking Gazette* to the high-ranking officials of the Anglo-French forces, indicating that the Qing government had permitted the Britons and Frenchmen to read the *Peking Gazette*. Secondly, the contents of the *Peking Gazette* were totally decided by the cabinet servicing for the Empire before. However, British and French diplomats began to intervene in the decision-making of what should be published in the *Peking Gazette* consciously in the Second Opium War. In the following several decades, the west diplomats kept intervening the contents of the *Peking Gazette* in their negotiations with the Qing government. As a result, the Chinese partly lost his control of the official media. It seriously challenged the information sovereignty of China.

It could be concluded that the power struggle between the Qing government and the great powers like Great Britain had began in the "information space" during the Second Opium War.¹⁹ It was a "forbidden space" for the westerners before the Second Opium War. The rights of selecting, publishing and disseminating the official information were completely in the hands of the Qing government during that period. And the Chinese Empire had the absolute authority in the space. However, with the legalization of the westerners' reading of the *Peking Gazette*, westerners represented by Britons had managed to intrude into the Chinese "information space" and use the authority of the Chinese Empire for their own purposes consciously in the space.

As American historian James Hevia says in *English Lessons: The Pedagogy of Imperialism in Nineteenth-Century China* (2003):

The issue that British strategists faced, therefore, involved a difficult balancing act. On the one hand, they sought to make the Qing government more cooperative and compliant. On the other, they hoped that the dynasty would be capable of strengthening itself sufficiently so that it could retain sovereignty over its territory.²⁰

In order to deal with this issue, Britons created an "imperial pedagogy" with "hard and soft sides" for the Chinese. The "hard side" meant the "gunboat policy", while the "soft side" meant to recode China's sovereignty in the cultural and ideological field.²¹ That was why the British diplomats attempt to influence the publication of the *Peking Gazette*. They were trying to control the Chinese in the soft way. Yet the fact hasn't been mentioned to the present.

Conclusion

The Britons kept a tradition of translating and introducing the *Peking Gazette* in the 19th Century. Their

¹⁹ Philip Schlesinger developed the idea of "communicative space" in his paper entitled *The Nation and Communicative Space* (Tumber, Howard (Ed.), *Media Power, Professionals, and Policies*, New York: Routledge, 2000, pp. 99-114). Referring to his work, this paper puts forward the idea of "information space".

²⁰ Hevia, James. (2003). *English Lessons: The Pedagogy of Imperialism in Nineteenth-Century China*, NC: Duke University Press, p. 24.

²¹ See Hevia, James. (2003). *English Lessons: The Pedagogy of Imperialism in Nineteenth-Century China*, NC: Duke University Press, p. 22.

interests in the *Peking Gazette* promoted the role of the *Peking Gazette* to be transformed from “information source” to “negotiation method” in the Second Opium War. In the following decades, Not only the diplomats and the China experts, but also the ordinary Britons who felt interested in China issue paid attention to the *Peking Gazette*. This change influenced the Sino-British power relationship in “Information Space” in the second part of the 19th Century.

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