



Preparing for the Challenge Ahead:

A History of the *Canton Register*, c. 1827 to 1838

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts at the University of Macau

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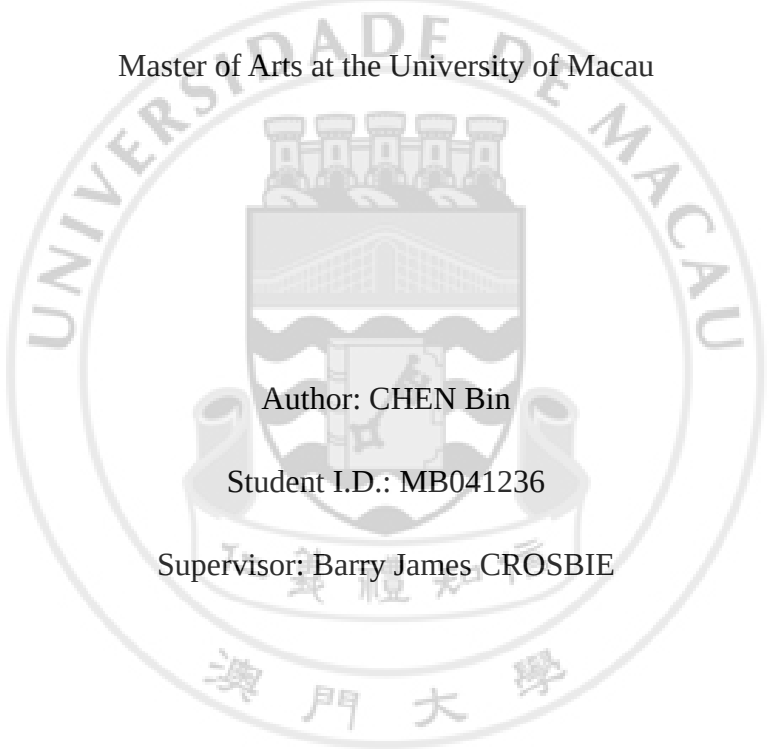
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis represents my own work, except where the acknowledgement is made, and it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.



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CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	VIII
INTRODUCTION	1
Reviews of Academic History	9
The Basics of the <i>Canton Register</i>	10
CHAPTER ONE: The Birth of the <i>Canton Register</i>	16
The Emergence of the Foreign Community in Canton	16
The Arrival of British Private Merchants in Canton and the Establishment of the <i>Canton Register</i>	22
CHAPTER TWO: Key Individuals and Their General Philosophies of Publishing the <i>Canton Register</i>	33
Editors and Publishers of the <i>Canton Register</i>	33
William Wood: A Free Commercial Press	38
James Matheson: A <i>Register</i> of Facts and Occurrences.....	44
John Slade: An Advocate of Free Trade	50
CHAPTER THREE: The Historical Role of the <i>Canton Register</i> : Preparing the Foreign Community in China for the Challenge Ahead.	55
The Beginning of the Discussion.....	61
The Raising of Solutions.....	65
Challenging the Canton Trade System.....	68
CONCLUSIONS.....	76
BIBLIOGRAPHY	80

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: English-language Newspapers in China before the Opium War.....	7
Table 2: Publishers and Editors of the <i>Canton Register</i> from 1827 to 1838.....	34



ABSTRACT

This study has dual purposes of studying the history of the *Canton Register*. First, as the first English newspaper in China and an important source material, the background of the *Canton Register* should be known. Therefore, this study examines the birth and key individuals of the *Canton Register*. The great demand of commercial information of the foreign community in China was the fundamental catalyst for the establishment of the *Canton Register*. The content and the general philosophy of the *Canton Register* depended greatly on its key individuals, such as editors or publishers. The understanding of the birth and key individuals of the *Canton Register* can help researchers to use it properly. The second purpose is to comprehend the historical role of the *Canton Register*. The *Canton Register* is no doubt a useful source, but its emergence in Canton in the pre-Opium War period is also a significant historical phenomenon. Thus, the *Canton Register* has its own historical role. Through the perspective of the foreign community in China, this study understands the historical role of the *Canton Register* as preparing the foreign community for the challenge ahead.

Key Words: the *Canton Register*, Background, Foreign community, Key individuals, Historical role.