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Milton, Massachusetts

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NOTE ON SPELLING

The *pinyin* system of romanization is used throughout the text of this study. However, certain proper names and titles of publications, where they are normally written in other forms of romanization, have not been uniformly changed to the *pinyin* system. Exceptions have also been made in the cases of some historical names of places, such as Peking, Canton, Macao and Amoy.

GLOSSARY

- Canton Guaranty System. The system under which members of the hong merchant guild were made subject to unlimited liability on a collective basis for the debts of failed members of the guild. This collective guaranty was enforced from 1780 until 1842.
- Canton System. The set of rules under which the Chinese government managed the monopolized maritime trade between Canton and the West between 1684 and 1842.
- Chop. An official stamp or permit, and by extension any official document bearing a seal-impression or stamp; a trademark, or mark of quality in East Asia. From Hindi *chhāp*.
- Cohong. The hong merchant guild. While this was an informal organization for much of the period of the Canton System, it enjoyed official recognition and independent powers in 1720-1721 (Cohong of 1720) and again from 1760-1771 (Cohong of 1760).
- Comprador. A Chinese subject employed by European traders to serve as an agent to supply provisions.
- Foreign factories. The business premises and residences of the foreign traders at Canton.
- Hong merchant. A member of the small group of Chinese merchants who were licensed by the Qing government to trade with Western merchants at Canton on a monopoly basis.
- Hoppo. Western term for the Commissioner of the Guangdong Province Maritime Customs. The term is a corruption of part of the Hoppo's Chinese language title: *Duli Guangdongsheng Yanhaidengqu Maoyishuiwu Hubufensi* (Commissioner of the Board of Revenue [*Hu Bu*], in Charge of the Customs Duties on the Trade of the Maritime Area of the Province of Guangdong).
- Security merchant. Those hong merchants who secured foreign vessels and were held responsible by the Chinese government for the conduct of the crew of such vessels and for the customs duties that were owed.
- Shroff. Private Chinese money changer, frequently involved in transactions to confirm the weight and quality of the silver used as currency.

- Singsongs. Pidgin English term used to describe European luxury objects such as musical boxes, mechanical toys, clocks and watches which were purchased from Europeans at Canton and sent as official gifts to the Court in Beijing
- Tael. Chinese unit of account for silver, equivalent to a Chinese ounce (*liang*). On its accounts, the British East India Company treated the Spanish dollar as equal to 0.72 tael.
- Thirteen hongts. Common reference to the group of licensed hong merchants, and to their business premises at Canton.
- Whampoa. The outer port of Canton, in the Pearl River, located approximately 15 kilometers to the southeast of the city.

