

These Words

A Century of Printing, Writing, and
Reading in Boston's Chinese Community

這些文字

波士頓華人社區一個世紀的印
刷、寫作和閱讀



紐英崙華人歷史協會
Chinese Historical Society
of New England



Jonathan M. Tisch
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Cover images:

Reading News in the War Years, mid-1940s; Children's Program at the
Storefront Library, 2010; Henry Wong Setting Type at the Shanghai
Printing Company, 1956.

封面：

在戰爭年代閱讀新聞，20世紀40年代中期；店面圖
書館的兒童項目，2010年；王耀敏在上海印刷公司排
版，1956年

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波士頓華人社區一個世紀的
印刷、寫作和閱讀**



Boston is a city of neighborhoods, each shaped by residents' histories, languages, and traditions. The Chinese community is no exception. In the area of Harrison Avenue around Essex, Beach, and Oxford Streets, merchants established businesses in the late nineteenth century that included a very specific group of patrons: the single men who operated laundries in the Boston area and beyond, living without their families due to the repressive Chinese Exclusion Act. Many came into the neighborhood on Sundays—their one day off from work—to purchase supplies, enjoy familiar food, and socialize. Over time, as families could settle here, and women became influential in commercial and civic life, "Chinatown" grew to become a dynamic community of businesses, restaurants, schools, and local organizations. *These Words* looks at this neighborhood through another of its histories, as it presents examples of the rich traditions of printing, writing, and reading.

波士頓是一個由各個社區組成的城市。每一個社區有它們自己獨特的文化，由居民的歷史、語言和傳統所構成。波士頓的華人社區也不例外。在夏裡臣街、愛惜士街、必珠街和牛津街組成的區域，商人們在19世紀後期建立了自己的企業，包括一群非常特殊的主顧：在波士頓及以外地區經營洗衣房的單身男性，因為排華法案無法與家人一起生活。很多人在周日來到這個社區——他們在這一天不用工作——來購買物品、享受熟悉的食物並且進行社交。隨著時間發展，家庭可以在此定居，女性對商業和公民生活的影響力加強，華埠成長成為由企業、餐館、學校和社區組織構成的活躍社區。這些文字通過另一種歷史來看待這個社區，展現社區印刷、寫作和閱讀豐富傳統的例子。

Oxford Street Community Bulletin Board

In Boston, the practice of using public wall posters—primarily in Chinese and both handwritten and printed—dates to the early 1900s, and centered on a wall at the intersection of Oxford and Beach Streets. Until the early 1970s, this was a primary place for communicating information such as employment possibilities, legal assistance, local and international news, and political advertisements. On this expanse of wall, important information on immigration and residency status was made accessible. Although the original board has long since disappeared, photographs preserve a valuable record of its contents and some of its readers. *Sampan*, the only bilingual Chinese-English newspaper in New England and in its fourth decade of publication, currently offers news coverage of many of the same topics that once populated the wall.

牛津街牆面海報

在波士頓，使用公共海報的做法——主要用中文，既有手寫也有打印——回溯到20世紀早期，主要出現在牛津街和必珠街交叉路口處的社區公告欄以其附近牆面。直到20世紀70年代早期，這裡都是交流僱傭機會、法律幫助、本地和國際新聞以及政治廣告的中心位置。大家在這表達對移民和居住狀況的擔憂，包括廢除臭名昭著的排華法案的公告。雖然最初的公告欄已經消失很久，有關當時海報和一些讀者的照片得到了保存。已經出版30多年的紐英倫地區唯一的中英雙語報紙舢舨報，目前提供曾經出現在牆面上的同樣主題的新聞報導。



Political postings and community announcements, 1956

政治海報和社區公告，1956年



Menu Cover, Moon Villa restaurant, c1950
月宮餐館菜單封面，1950年

Shanghai Printing Company

When Henry You Min Wong (1913-1992) came to Boston in the early 1930s from southern China's Taishan (Toisan) region, he joined a cousin's small printing business. Three years later, Wong bought the press and renamed it the Shanghai Printing Company. For many years, it was the leading source for Chinese-language printing in New England. The press produced civic documents and social announcements, laundry tickets, brochures for Chinese and Chinese-American students at local universities, and menus for Chinese restaurants across New England. In addition to his activities as a printer and publisher, Henry Wong worked for fair housing and improved labor practices in Chinatown and also advised many residents through the immigration process.

上海印刷公司

當王耀敏（1913-1992）在20世紀30年代早期從中國南部的台山地區來到波士頓的時候，他加入了一個表兄弟的小型印刷企業。三年後，王買下了這個印刷公司，重新命名為上海印刷公司。在之後多年，它都是紐英倫地區中文印刷的領導力量。這個印刷公司為華人和本地大學的華裔學生印刷公民文件和社會公告、洗衣票、宣傳冊，為紐英倫地區的華人餐館印刷菜單。除了印刷和出版的活動，王耀敏還致力於華埠的公平住房和改善勞工關係，並且為很多居民提供移民過程的建議。



Laundry tickets, late 1940s



洗衣票，20世紀40年代晚期

Boston Public Library Branches

For sixty years, beginning in 1896, residents of Boston's Chinese community enjoyed access to English-language books from the Boston Public Library. The first location was a reading room at 202 Harrison Avenue, with daily book deliveries from the main library. In 1916, a reading room opened in a municipal building at the corner of Tyler and Oak Streets and became a full branch in the early 1920s. It provided books for adults, storytelling for children, and sponsored cultural and literary activities. When the branch closed in 1938, the neighborhood, including its children, organized protests. Thirteen years later, in 1951, a branch briefly returned to the Tyler Street location, but permanently closed in 1956. The building remained there until 1970, when it was demolished and became part of the site for Tai Tung Village, an affordable housing complex owned by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

波士頓公共圖書館分館

從1896年開始之後的60年，波士頓華人社區內的居民享受了波士頓公共圖書館內的英語書籍。第一個地點是位於夏裡臣街202號的一個閱讀室，每天有書籍從公共圖書館運送過來。在1916年，一個閱讀室設立在泰勒街和屋街拐角處的市政建設大樓內；它在20世紀20年代早期成為一個完成的圖書館。這裡為成人提供虛構類和非虛構類閱讀材料，為兒童提供故事書，並且贊助文化和語言學習活動。當圖書館在1938年關閉時，整個社區，包括這裡的兒童，參加了有組織的抗議活動。13年後，在1951年，一個圖書館短暫地回到了泰勒街的位置，在1956年永久關閉。整棟建築保留至1970年，然後被拆毀，所在的位置成為中華公所擁有的經濟住房大同村的一部分。



Children's story hour at the Tyler Street Branch Library, c1930.

泰勒街圖書館分館的兒童故事時間，1930年



A pop-up library initiative, organized by several neighborhood youth advocacy groups, June, 2016

快閃圖書館行動，由多個社區青年權利爭取團體組織，2016年6月

Civic Engagement and Library Advocacy

For the past six decades the neighborhood has been without this important resource, but that is not to say that the community has not worked to have its branch returned. Since 2001, the community has advocated for a neighborhood library through its “Friends of the Chinatown Library” committee. Through these years, the Chinese Youth Initiative and other community groups have sustained the effort, leading community discussions, focus groups, and events. Volunteers operated a temporary “storefront library” from 2009 to 2010 in a commercial space on Washington Street and a reading room at the Oak Terrace complex. Most recently, the youth group sponsored a series of library service days for different age groups. Today, a neighborhood branch would have many features that extend the resources of the past: collections in Chinese, computer terminals and spaces for meetings and quiet study, and and a broader diversity of programming.

公民參與和圖書館爭取

在過去60年，整個社區沒有圖書館這個重要資源，但這不意味著社區沒有努力讓圖書館重歸。從2001年起，社區一直通過「華埠圖書館的朋友」委員會爭取一個社區圖書館。在這些年裡，華人青年行動會和其他社區團體一直在努力，領導社區討論、焦點討論小組和活動。志願者於2010年在華盛頓街的一個商業空間運營了一個短期的「店面圖書館」，在華信屋運營了一個閱讀室。最近，這個青年團體贊助了一系列針對不同年齡團體的圖書館服務日。如今，一個社區圖書館應該有很多功能來擴展過去的資源：中文書籍、電腦終端、進行會議和安靜學習的空間，以及種類豐富的項目。

These Words is on display at
China Trade Center
2 Boylston Street

**Tufts University Health Sciences
Bookstore**
116 Harrison Avenue

August 13-September 30, 2016

Visit **chsne.org/these-words** for more
information and related events.

這些字句在
中華貿易大樓展示
賓來斯頓街2號

塔芙茨大學健康科學書店
夏裡臣街116號

2016年8月13日至9月30日

前往 **chsne.org/these-words** 了
解更多信息和相關活動。

Related Events

Free and Open to the Public

Reading Oxford Street

Reading Oxford Street returns images of the
community bulletin board (c1900-1970) to
their original site through projections.

Corner of Oxford Street at Beach Street.

Friday, August 26th, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 27th, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 17th, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

These Words and Wen-ti Tsen's Home Town

In tandem with *These Words* is a series
of life-size painted cutout figures by
Cambridge-based artist and Chinese
community activist, Wen-ti Tsen. *Home
Town: Re-presenting Boston's Chinatown
as a Place of People*, on display from
September 10th through 18th at various
locations in Chinatown, is based on
historical photographs of local residents from
the CHSNE archives. During that period,
at certain sites, Tsen will take portraits
of local people and visitors in front of a
historical Chinatown backdrop. The project
seeks to draw attention to the powerful
threats of development and gentrification
displacing this community. *Home Town* is
the among the first projects to be awarded
a Creative City Grant from the New England
Foundation for the Arts.

相關活動

免費向公眾開放

閱讀牛津街

閱讀牛津街通過投影讓社區公告
欄（1900年至1970年）的圖片
回歸到原始地點。

牛津街和必珠街交匯處的轉角。

8月26日，週五，晚上7點30分至9點

8月27日，週六，晚上7點30分至9點

9月17日，週六，晚上8點至9點30分

「這些文字」和曾文棣的「家鄉」

與這些文字串聯在一起的是由居
住在劍橋市的藝術家、華人社區
積極活動分子曾文棣創作的一
系列真人大小的彩繪人物。「
家鄉：重新展現容納各色人士
的波士頓華埠」（Home Town:
Re-presenting Boston's
Chinatown as a Place of
People），將在2016年9月上旬
在華埠多個地點展出，整個系列
是基於華人歷史協會資料庫中本
地居民的歷史照片創作而來。在
這個期間，Tsen將在某些地點描
繪身一個歷史性華埠北京的本地
居民和遊客。這個項目尋求大
家關注讓華埠社區居民失去原本
住所的住房建設和住宅高檔化。
「家鄉」這個項目是獲得紐英倫
藝術基金會創意城市基金獎勵的
首批項目之一。