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Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

North-China Daily News now available on line

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Brill's Asian Newspapers and Magazines collection proposes an extensive variety of English-language East and South East Asian news sources published from the early 1790's to the mid 1950's. Covering more than one and a half century and over a dozen publications, the collection offers rare insights into key historical events, conflicts, wars, revolutions, social, political and economical shifts.

It was a period where Asia was entering the age of modernity. In this light, it is not surprising that a first-rate additional resource was lately published: the North-China Daily News (in Chinese: Zilin Xibao). The English-language North China Daily News was the most read and by far most influential foreign newspaper of its time. It is unquestionably a prime printed source in any language for the history of the foreign presence in Shanghai, the city at the forefront of developments in Chinese politics, culture and the economy, and thus the center of all Euro-American activity, but in China in general.

Published, with a wartime break 1941-45, from 1864 to 1950 it was the most influential foreign daily in East Asia, and the key source for the history of Western interests in China and the transnational history of East Asia. In 1924, the newspaper moved its headquarters to the new North China Daily News Building at Number 17 on the Bund, then the tallest building in Shanghai. Between 1925 and 1949 the paper employed a former officer of the Russian Imperial Army, Georgi Sapojnikov, as its daily cartoonist. Drawing under the signature of "Sapajou" he was noted for his perceptive coverage of the complex politics of contemporary China and the extremes of life and society in Shanghai during this period.

For enthusiasts of "Sapajou", Brill's collection offers a complete run of the topical cartoons published during his tenure as lead cartoonist at the "Old Lady of the Bund", 1923-1941.

On 31 March 1951, the North China Daily News suspended publication at the orders of the ruling Chinese Communist Party and the North China Daily News Building was seized by the Shanghai municipal government of the People's Republic of China. <https://brill.com/subject/HASI>

Together with news and gossip echoing the social, cultural and political life of the foreign settlements, the North-China also offers a wide spectrum of other information, including regional news, essays on Chinese culture and language, stock prices and law and company reports, and tables of

tea, silk and cotton exports. The North China Daily was supplemented with detailed dispatches from the outports, and around 40 per cent more textual content and 70 per cent more pictorial and advertising

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content. The conceptual changes generated by an increased urban and commercial vitality are reflected in the English-language North China Daily News and thanks to Brill, the international scholarly publisher, now it's possible to follow ideas from the minutiae of readers' letters to snapshots of the spirit of the age in cartoons, classified and corporate advertising as well as news reports. It is an essential and indispensable primary source for the History of Euro-American activity and interests in China and in South East Asia.

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