



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



National Committee of New Zealand
• Te Komiti o Aotearoa mo Nga Mahara o te Ao
• Memory of the World

Section 1: Nominator Details

This section is for information about the source of the nomination and the authority under which it is made. A copy of the Programme's privacy policy appears on the Programme's [website](#).

1.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Full name of the person(s) or organisation(s) making the nomination:

Jane Thomsen
Director
Presbyterian Research Centre
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
Knox College
Arden Street
Dunedin

1.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

This should be an explanation of the nominator's relationship to the documentary heritage. *For example, the nominator may be a responsible officer of the library or archive which owns the documentary heritage in question; or he/she may be a private individual with a research interest in the heritage.*

Director, Presbyterian Research Centre

1.3 Contact person

This should provide the name of the person who is responsible for the nomination process.

Jane Thomsen

1.4 Contact details

This should provide sufficient details to allow easy contact with the contact person.

Email: janemthomsen@prcknox.org.nz

Phone: 03 473 0775 or 021 167 8322

Section 2: Identity and Description of the Documentary Heritage

2.1 Title of the documentary heritage item or collection

This should be the complete name of the documentary heritage as it is usually known. This should include dates if they are usually part of the name.

Ng New Zealand Chinese Heritage Collection

2.2 Title of inscription

If the nomination is successful what do you want it to be titled (e.g. for certificates)? Please use a maximum of 6 words.

Ng New Zealand Chinese Heritage Collection

2.3 Description of the documentary heritage

This should include a full description of what is included in the documentary heritage, the scope of the documentary heritage and its size.

The Ng New Zealand Chinese Heritage Collection is a collection of documents gathered since 1959 by Dr James Ng and his wife Eva Ng which sheds considerable light on two of the three eras of 19th and 20th Century Chinese history in NZ:

1865-1900 – the New Zealand Chinese goldminer's era, a group who were almost all male and worked in the goldfields with the intention of returning to China.

1900-1951 – the New Zealand Chinese who remained as aliens in New Zealand after the goldminer's era, a group who were predominantly male, but were seeking the settlement of their families here and an end to the legal discrimination against them. They were mainly market gardeners, fruit shop owners and laundry operators.

A significant item in the collection is the Roll of Chinese (Notebook) belonging to Alexander Don, a Presbyterian Minister/Missionary, containing the names and details (in Chinese) of more than 3500 New Zealand Chinese. Details in Chinese include their clan and personal names, village and township origin, age and length of time in New Zealand. Details in English note their work, business ownership, whereabouts in the country, dates of arrival and departure, poll-tax requirements, family relationships, their personal health, reported debts, and bequests and remittances for which Don was responsible for sending back to China. Entries date from 1883 to 1929 and reflect the changing nature of the Chinese community.

The collection also includes the four remaining handwritten diaries by Alexander Don (26 others having been destroyed in a flood) documenting the lives of the Chinese gold miners. (1881, 1897-98, 1900, 1922). The first of these documents covers the Chinese camp at Round Hill, Southland, (1881) potentially the first and most detailed description of Chinese goldmining camps in the world.

Supplementing the notebook and diaries, are 30 folders of research notes, papers (including unpublished Chinese community newsletters) and at least 300 letters in Cantonese and English between approximately 100 people gathered by Dr Ng while researching his 4 volume publication *Windows on a Chinese Past*. The collection also includes (copied) approximately 100 photographic negatives from 3 unique albums of Chinese goldminers taken by Alexander Don. The original albums cannot be traced and are presumed to be destroyed and are unpublished (see history and provenance section).

2.4 Catalogue, registration or bibliographic details

This should include any bibliographic, registration, inventory, classification and/or call numbers that uniquely identify the documentary heritage.

This collection has only recently been deposited in the Presbyterian Research Centre, so description is in early stages. Classification is following the existing Presbyterian Archives template, which fits current archival documentation standards and rules.

2.5 Visual documentation

Where available and appropriate, photographs or videos of the documentary heritage should be supplied.



Roll of Chinese – spine, cover & inside



Alexander Don's diaries

Diary No 1, showing map of Chinese Camp at Round Hill, Southland

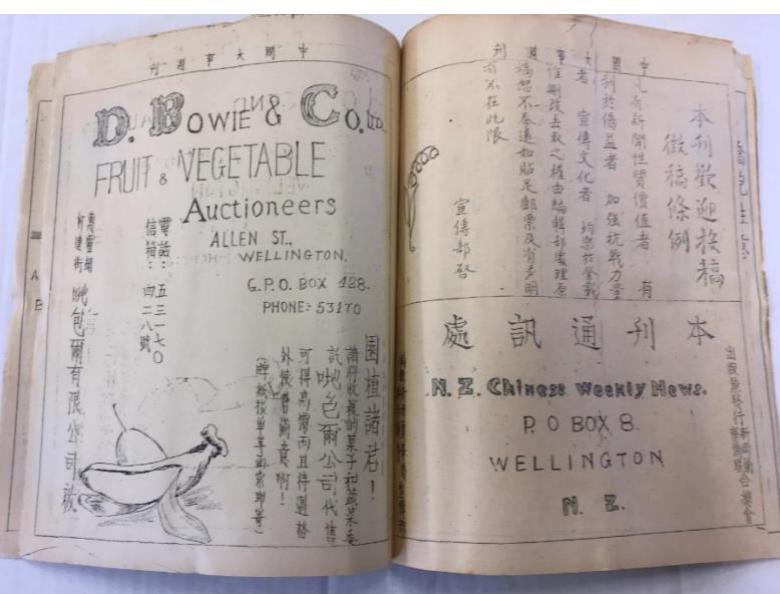
6 - 7.50pm we and I spent a very pleasant time at the break-up for the holidays of the Baptist Japanese Mission School. We left before the close so that we should not miss our dinner. There were 40 boys and 70 girls present. At 6.15pm there all marched in to the sound of an organ; then doubled on themselves and filed into their seats, where they after making time till on a given signal all stopped made a posture bow and these sat down. The Programme was this, as far as we saw it - (1) All recited together in Japanese Psalm 24. (2) Prayer. (3) They all sang in unison "Glory in the Highest". (4) Dialogue. Two girls one with S. scholar Kotohira vest, the former telling the latter what is taught at the school. Then two soft music two other girls marched up and our all 4.6.6 past, two singing. In another room (representing the School) was heard the sound of "Hallelujah, Amen". The girls took 8 to Hymn 9 up. (5) Eleven girls from 7 to 10 recited portions of scripture, first to the prophecies of Christ's coming, the other 5 the history of the Advent. One held up a gilt star to represent the star of Bethlehem, another a gilt box for the gifts of the Magi. (6) All girls sang a Hymn very nicely, several others among them. (7) Boys about 10 recited an introduction to the subject "The Love of God". (8) Then 20 boys from 6 to 8 repeated singly and together verses of scripture on the subject. (9) Some of the older girls (14 to 18) sang in English "Glory to God in the Highest", with communion bells, then many Denominational choirs. (10) A girl of about 4 sitting on a stool had on her left and right another girl about 8. These three spoke a few sentences then all three sang. (11) girls about 15 recited "Christ the Lord Shepherd". (12) Senior girls (16 to 18) recited each a verse of Psalm 23. (13) Ten girls (13 to 15) sang the anthem "Glory to God in the Highest". (14) Two boys of 7 and two girls of 8 and 6 repeated short pieces, holding up flags. Then they bowed down the aisles, put the flags away and returned to sing in unison.

The whole affair was given with such absence of self consciousness that, coming after the afternoon exhibition by English speaking children, particularly struck us. The girls were all ^{beautiful} (but) and the variety of ^{colours} was as great as the number of girls. There were pink and green, cream and red, green and red, tawny, &c &c, in the Chinese colours of especially. (Mrs Bacon says in Japanese girls women) that owing to bone training the Japanese girl is not formed nor making nor ^{especially} beautiful. She has no self consciousness and yet no self importance.)

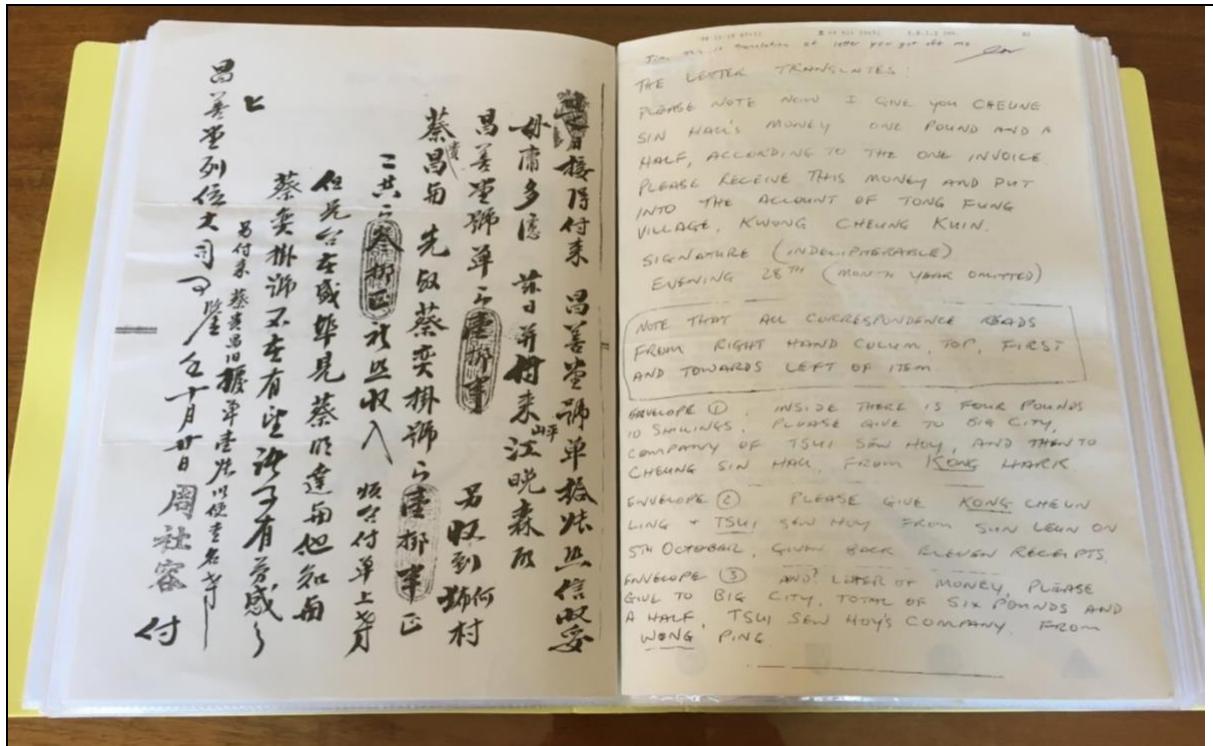
444 Today 22/12/1897.

Having arranged satisfactorily the "business" that mainly brought me to Japan - to get a number of plain photos also colour, to get a selection of colubrines, and to get slides made from photographs collected in our journeys - we and I climbed the trail of the ^{Japanese} ^{hakone} this morning by taking the train from Yokohama to Kamakura - some hours off, to see the Great Buddha and Hachimangu Shrine. We travelled 3rd Class - like the 2nd - and got there for only 16 sen (5d), remarkably cheap travelling. The journey took four 9.55 - 10.50 am. At the railway station we had minicabos to take us to the Japanese inn, where we ordered lunch for two, to be ready at 12.30pm. Then we went for a stroll around. The 3d class railway travelling is 3 sen (1d) per mile Y 2nd Class 2 sen (2d).

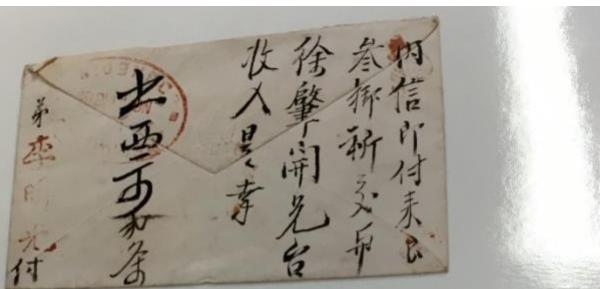
Diary with meticulous indexing

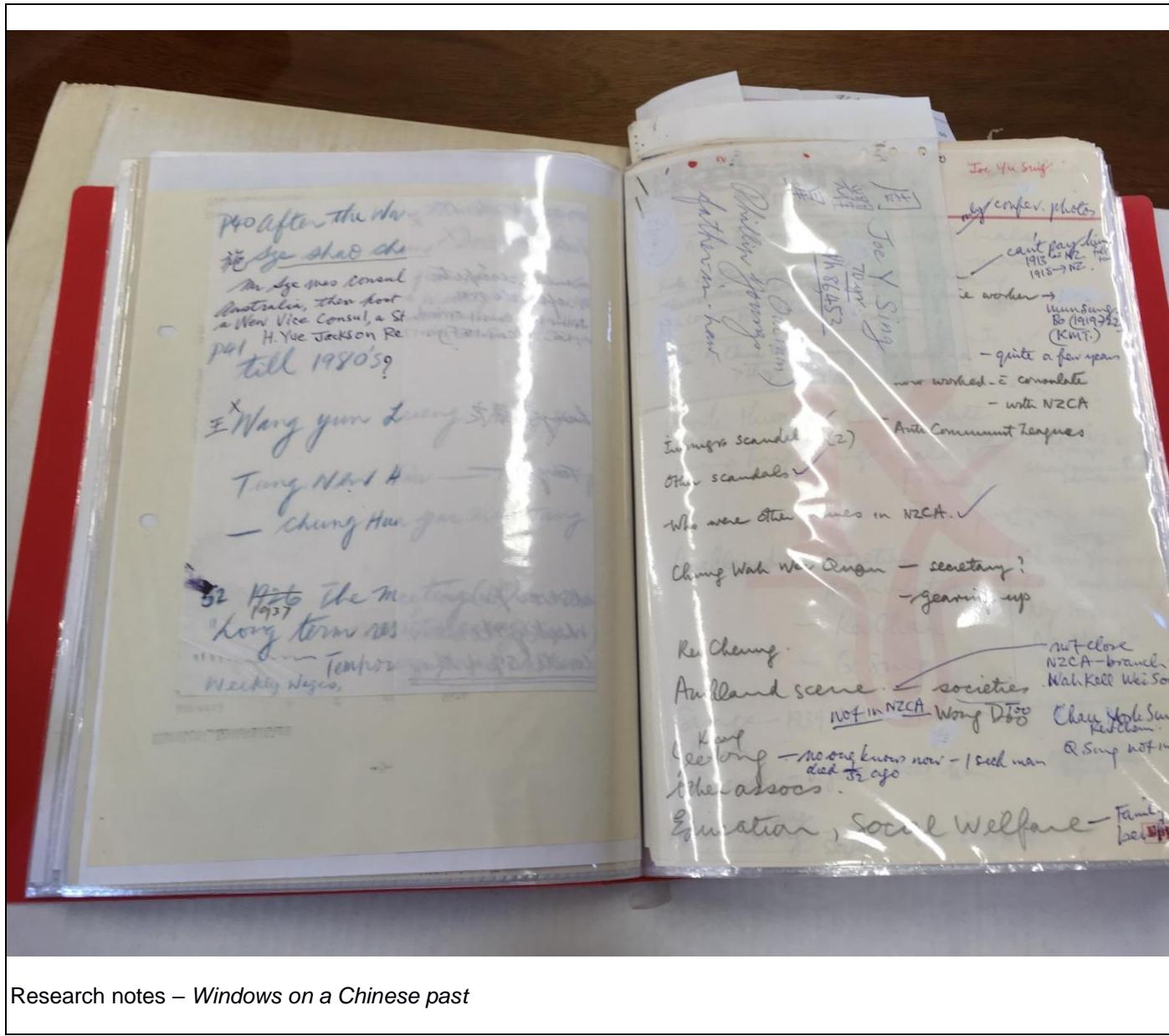


Chinese Weekly News



Letter requesting transfer of funds to China (undated, Chinese goldminer's era) with translation and envelope examples





Research notes – Windows on a Chinese past

2.6 Bibliography

This should be, where possible, a list of 3-6 published sources that have been produced using (i.e. drawing heavily on) the documentary heritage to attest to the item/collection's significance.

- Ng, James. Windows on a Chinese past. Otago Heritage Books, 1993
- Ng, James. How the Cantonese goldseekers and their heirs settled in New Zealand. Otago Heritage Books, 1993
- Don, Alexander & Ng, James Don's 'Roll of Chinese'. Otago Heritage Books, 1993
- Beattie, J. (2015). 'Hungry dragons': Expanding the Horizons of Chinese Environmental History—Cantonese gold-miners in colonial New Zealand, 1860s–1920s. International Review of Environmental History, 1, 103–145.
- Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. Journey to Lan Yuan Film. <https://hail.to/toituosm/a/UyuKLkk> (preview)

Section 3: Assessment Against the Criteria

3.1 History/provenance

This should be a summary of the provenance of the documentary heritage (for example, how and when was the material acquired and integrated into the holdings of the institution?)

Dr James Ng has had a life-long interest in and has been collecting the documentary heritage of Chinese New Zealanders since 1959.

After Alexander Don's death, the *Roll of Chinese* notebook, along with other books and papers, was left to the Presbyterian Church, and was discovered by Dr Ng in "a pile of dusty books" at the Wellington Assembly Office when he was doing further research on Chinese New Zealanders. He arranged to have it photographed and returned to the Assembly office. In the late 1960s it was sent, with the other books, to Knox College where it was misplaced, eventually turning up for sale. Dr Ng was advised, and purchased the notebook.

The three photograph albums and Alexander Don diaries were given to Dr Ng by the Kirkland family (descendants of Alexander Don). A member of the family requested them back on loan, and as insurance, Dr Ng had negatives made of the photo albums before sending them to the family. Unfortunately, the original albums were lost before they could be returned and are presumed destroyed, but will be returned to Dr Ng if they are rediscovered by surviving family members.

The older letters (with envelopes), were purchased by Dr Ng from the Don White Stamp Shop in Dunedin, others from the 1980s and 1990s are letters sent directly to Dr Ng during his book research.

The *Roll of Chinese* has been in the care of the PRC since 2016, with the remainder of the collection transferred in 2017. A Trust, the New Zealand Chinese Heritage Charitable Trust, has been set up to administer the Ng collection and any related collections deposited in the future, and this is currently under the umbrella of the Presbyterian Research Centre, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

3.2. Uniqueness of the documentary heritage

Give a brief explanation of why the documentary heritage is unique and irreplaceable

No other document like the Roll of Chinese notebook exists anywhere else in the world. This collection is also unique in the voice and agency it gives to Chinese on their experiences of life in New Zealand, through their own words (as recorded by missionaries and in later oral histories) or as documented in letters they wrote. Many of Alexander Don's photographs are held by several other cultural institutions, but the negatives made from the three lost albums are unique to this collection.

3.3 Assessment against the significance criteria

This should provide an explanation of what criteria the documentary heritage meets and why it meets those criteria. The documentary heritage must meet at least one of the criteria in this section. An explanation of each criteria is given on the front page of this form

Time:

The collection documents the history and experiences of Chinese New Zealanders from the first arrival of the sojourner Chinese miners in the Nineteenth Century to the eventual reunification of Chinese families in the late 1940s to early 1950s after the Japanese invasion of China, specifically those from the Canton region.

Place:

Most information relates to the Otago region, which was the first and largest gold mining area, but also includes material about families from all over New Zealand.

People:

The collection describes the experiences of working, living and immigrating in and to New Zealand from the perspective of the Chinese (primarily Cantonese) through their own words (as recorded by missionaries and in later oral histories) or as documented in letters they wrote.

Subject and Theme:

This collection gives voice and agency to Chinese in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries on their experiences of everyday life in New Zealand.

3. 4 Testimony of at least two independent experts

The committee requires testimony from at least two independent people or organisations who can give an informed opinion about the significance and provenance of the documentary heritage. The informed opinion should focus on the criteria for inscription provided above and on the front page of this form. Please provide up to one page from each expert in support of your submission.

Expert One

Name	James Beattie, Associate Professor School of Mathematics and Statistics, Victoria University of Wellington
Qualification(s)	PhD, History, University of Otago (2005); BA (Hons), First Class, History, University of Otago (1999)
Contact number	
Email	
Paragraph in support	<p>The James and Eva Ng Collection is a unique and globally significant set of archival material on the overseas Chinese in New Zealand. The collection covers original primary material from the first arrival of Chinese in New Zealand in 1865 to well into the 1900s.</p> <p>The collection comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • original letters and documents in Chinese, written by Chinese. • a unique series of anthropological missionary commentary on Chinese in Otago and Southland provinces, dating from to xxx, in the form of long runs of mission diaries. • an original document (roll) comprising biographies of some 3500 Chinese in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century New Zealand. No similar such like this exists anywhere else in the world. • almost one hundred oral history recordings of Chinese New Zealanders. • hundreds of images of Chinese New Zealanders. • Original letters and documents relating to a Chinese market Garden in New Zealand. <p>The collection's value stems from its breadth and uniqueness, and its association with a significant event in New Zealand history: the migration of significant numbers of Chinese to New Zealand from 1866 and the creation of New Zealand's third major ethnic group (up to a population of 5000 by 1881). This record is all the more valuable because of the relative paucity of sources produced by the Chinese themselves, owing to low literacy rates and the loss of material. This collection is also unique in the voice and agency it gives to Chinese on their experiences of life in New Zealand, through their own words (as recorded by missionaries and in later oral histories) or as documented in letters they wrote.</p> <p>The collection contents presents a remarkable and unique record of the overseas Chinese in New Zealand that touches on all aspects of life for overseas Chinese.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marriage and intermarriage • rites, rituals and belief systems • commerce • engagement with legal system • race and racism • travel and migration • market gardening • political activity • reading, writing and education • health and medicine • living conditions • technology (mining, market gardening, water engineering) • gender relations
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Expert Two

Name	Duncan Campbell Adjunct Teaching Fellow Asian Languages & Cultures School of Languages and Cultures Victoria University of Wellington
Qualification(s)	BA (History & English Literature), Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand 1974 MA with 1st Class Honours (Chinese Studies), University of Auckland, NZ 1981
Contact number	
Email	
Paragraph in support	I am happy to support the application by the Presbyterian Research Centre, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand to have the James and Eva Ng Collection added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. This is a unique and vital archive of print and audio-visual materials relating to (by and about) the diasporic Chinese communities of New Zealand, from the first Chinese arrivals in Otago in the 1860s onwards and related to almost every aspect of the life and livelihoods of the members of these communities. What lends the collection its especial importance is the extent to which the materials it gathers enhance our understandings of the dimensions of agency of peoples and communities who hitherto have been understood largely to have been the objects rather than the subjects of their social, political, economic, and legal engagements with mainstream society. The result of many decades of painstaking collecting, sorting, and documenting on the part of a prominent Dunedin couple, the collection offers a privileged window into an alternative and parallel world inhabited by the early generations of Cantonese men who came to New Zealand in search of better futures for their families back in China and many of whom we never to return to their homeland. In historiographical terms, the collection will serve both to extend our understanding of the global history of the nineteenth century Chinese diaspora, and to augment our

	understanding of aspects of New Zealand economic, social, and religious history.
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The above experts have given their written permission to provide this information to the Memory of the World Committee and they have agreed that the provided information can be published without email and contact details and that they can be contacted by the Nominations Subcommittee if required. Yes

Section 4: Legal Information

4.1 Owner (name and contact details)

This should be the name and full contact details of the owner or owners, whether an institution or an individual.

New Zealand Chinese Heritage Research Charitable Trust
 Presbyterian Research Centre
 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
 Knox College
 Arden Street
 Dunedin 9010

4.2 Custodian (name and contact details if different from the owner)

This should be the name and full contact details of the custodian, whether an institution or an individual. Sometimes the custodian of the documentary heritage may not be the same as the owner. It is essential to establish both before a nomination can be added to the Register.

Presbyterian Research Centre
 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
 Knox College
 Arden Street
 Dunedin 9010

4.3 Legal status

This should state whether the documentary heritage is owned privately, or by a public institution, or by a commercial corporation. Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage should be the name of the Act, or other instrument of administrative power, that gives the owner and/or the custodian the legal power to preserve the documentary heritage.

The collection is owned by the New Zealand Chinese Heritage Research Charitable Trust under the terms of the New Zealand Chinese Heritage Research Charitable Deed of Trust. The Deed of Trust's main objective and purpose is to collect, preserve, promote awareness of and research into, and provide guardianship of heritage collections relating to New Zealand Chinese, principally Cantonese New Zealanders and stipulates that it will provide controlled access to the Trust collection within the Trust offices. The Trust offices are the New Zealand Chinese Research Room, Hewitson Library, Presbyterian Research Centre.

4.4 Accessibility

This should be a brief description of how the documentary heritage may be accessed. All access procedures and restrictions should be clearly stated on the nomination form. There are three levels of access:

- access to verify the significance, integrity and security of the material. This is the minimum condition for listing
- access for reproduction, which is strongly encouraged
- public access in physical, digital, or other form

The documentary heritage has only recently been transferred to the Presbyterian Research Centre and is in the early stages of being accessioned. Once this is complete researchers will be able to consult the collection within the Hewitson Asian reading room after registering as an Asian Collections reader. Access will be by appointment and wherever possible will be by preservation copy rather than the original document, but this will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Archivist in association with the Trust.

The notebook has been digitised and is already available both in published form as Volume 4 of *Windows to a Chinese Past* and online on the website of the University of Otago Department of History & Art History which has also made a digital index available (<http://www.otago.ac.nz/historyarthistory/don/index.php>).

Researchers will be able to request photocopies or high resolution digital copies of individual documents for a charge, or will be able to use their own digital camera to make research copies of documents for no charge.

It is envisioned that there will be a project to digitise a portion of the undigitized collection, including the diaries and provide fully searchable online access to researchers world-wide.

4.5 Copyright Status

This should state whether the documentary heritage is subject to copyright. For items that are copyright, details should be provided on the relevant copyright legislation and copyright owner(s). Any other factors affecting the legal status of the documentary heritage should be noted. For example, is any institution required by law to preserve the documentary heritage in this nomination?

Copyright in the original documents has expired

Section 5: Stakeholders

The nominating institution is accountable for consultation with all relevant stakeholders before submitting the nomination.

5.1 Owner

The owner(s) of the documentary heritage has been consulted: Yes

5.2 Custodian

The custodian(s) of the documentary heritage has been consulted: Yes

5.3 Significant Stakeholders

Stakeholders with a significant interest in the content of the documentary heritage e.g. Iwi, family members, have been consulted, if relevant: Yes

Section 6: Care and Preservation and Risk Assessment

Identify any risks to the survival of the nominated documentary heritage. (Note successful inscription may assist you to obtain funds to preserve and care for the nominated documentary heritage).

If your nomination is successful we may request additional information on the care and preservation of the inscribed documentary heritage.

Fire: Low – the building is protected with smoke detectors, fireproof doors, alarms and sprinklers

Water damage: Low/Medium – the collection will be moved into archival boxes as processed so will be moderately protected from sprinkler damage. Additionally, extra shelving is about to be purchased to house the collection and this will have canopies to further protect boxes. There is a large commercial kitchen onsite with freezers available which would minimize permanent damage if any water damage was to occur.

Theft: Low – access to the collection will be supervised at all times and the space in which it is housed is locked and only accessible to non-voluntary library and archives staff and the building facilities manager. The space is on the top floor of the building, which is also locked between 4.30pm and 8.30am. Additionally there are monitored and recorded CCTV cameras on all floors and entrances.

Reader/staff handling: Low – staff are trained in care and handling and researchers handling original items will be provided with gloves, support cushions and supervision.

Natural deterioration: Material is in the process of being repackaged into acid-free archival boxes and folders from cardboard boxes. Funding is currently being sought for climate control and blinds for the space they are housed in and will be a priority.

Natural disaster: Low – the Hewitson Wing of Knox College is 100% earthquake code compliant and is not situated in a flood-prone area. New shelving purchased for the collection will be designed to minimize impact on collections in the event of an earthquake. Current shelving is braced.

Section 7: Summary

Provide a brief summary describing the documentary heritage and how it meets the criteria for the New Zealand Memory of the World Register. Please keep your summary to no more than 300 words as, if successful, it will be used on the website (www.unescomow.org.nz) to describe why the documentary heritage has been inscribed on the New Zealand Register and given UNESCO recognition.

The Ng New Zealand Chinese Heritage Collection is a collection of documents gathered since 1959 by Dr James Ng and his wife Eva Ng which sheds considerable light on 19th and early 20th Century Chinese history in NZ:

Significant items include the Roll of Chinese (Notebook) belonging to Alexander Don, a Presbyterian Minister/Missionary, containing the names and biographical details (in Chinese) of more than 3500 New Zealand Chinese. Entries date from 1883 to 1929 and reflect the changing nature of the Chinese community.

The collection also includes the four remaining handwritten diaries by Alexander Don documenting the lives of the Chinese gold miners. (1881, 1897-98, 1900, 1922).

Supplementing the notebook and diaries are 30 folders of research notes, papers (including unpublished Chinese community newsletters) and at least 300 letters in Cantonese and English between approximately 100 people gathered by Dr Ng while researching his 4 volume publication *Windows on a Chinese Past*. The collection also includes (copied) approximately 100 photographic negatives from 3 unique albums of Chinese goldminers taken by Alexander Don.

Section 8: Permission to use visual documentation

The Aotearoa / New Zealand Memory of the World Committee will work to obtain publicity for the Programme and for the successful inscriptions.

Do you give permission for the Committee to use the visual documentation you have provided for Aotearoa/New Zealand Memory of the World publicity purposes (e.g. brochures/website)?

Yes

Section 9: Declaration of Authority

I am authorized to nominate the above documentary heritage to the New Zealand register

Name: Jane Thomsen

Date: 31/08/2017