

Development of Companies in “the Far East” in the first half of the 20th century: A Case Study of Directory and Chronicle Published in Hong Kong in 1941

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Introduction

- In the first half of the twentieth century, before the World War II, “Intra-Asian” trade continued to develop in spite of the World War I in the 1910s and the Great Depression in the late 1920s. But little attention has been given to the business development from the view point of the companies in “Intra-Asian” trade.

- Certainly it is not easy to investigate the whole activities of the companies in this large business arena of “Intra-Asian” trade including in especially South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia.

But, by using the classified business lists and industrial lists of the companies in “The Far East” reported in the Directory and Chronicle for China, Japan, Straits Settlements, Malaya, Borneo, Siam, the Philippines etc. published by Hongkong Daily Press in Hongkong (hereinafter referred to as Hongkong Directory), it is possible to analyze some aspects of the location and the business activities of the companies in “Intra-Asian” Trade.

Of course, “The Far East” did not mean what “Intra-Asian” Trade was, but should be some part of it.

- Furthermore, “The Far East” seemed to be a kind of the regional trade area, not only which the contemporary business persons there in those days might recognize and could “imagine”, but also in which they conducted their business and strengthened their networks.
- This study is intended as an investigation of “the Classified List of Trades covering China, Japan, Malaya, Borneo, Siam, the Philippines, Korea, Indo-China, Netherlands Indies, etc.” and “List of Industries in The Far East compiled in Hongkong Directory published in 1941, which was the final version before World War II.

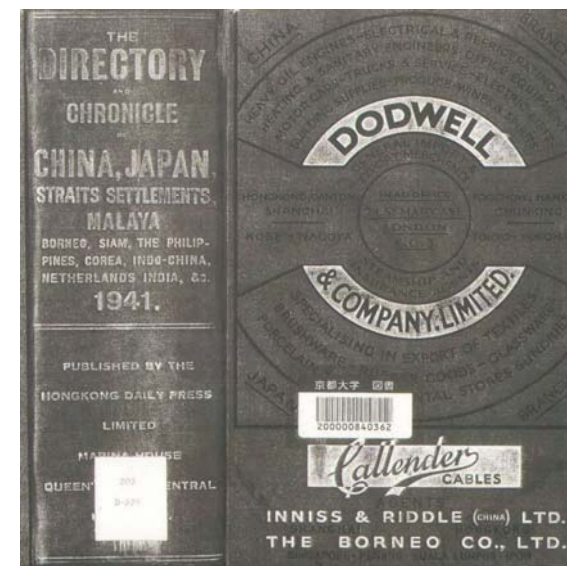
- It is important to note that Hongkong directory published in 1941 included the companies' data in 1940. So the classified list of trade published in 1941 recorded the information in 1940.
- The classified list of trade reported about 6,700 companies in 97 port cities such as Shanghai, Manila, Hongkong, Kobe and the others, and then sorted these companies into 82 business classifications.

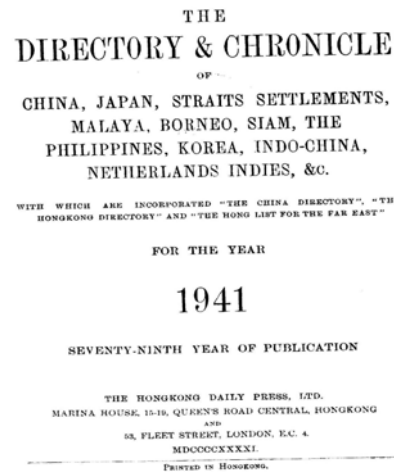
- On the other hand, list of industries in the Far East reported about 1,700 companies in 130 districts or cities such as Kowloon, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Perak, Binondo(Manila), Selangor, Singapore and the others, and then sorted these companies into 115 industrial classifications.
- In this study, there are three main research points as follows, (1) to examine what the classified list of trades in 1940 reported, (2) to examine what the list of industries in the Far East in 1940 reported and (3) to examine how to analyze these kinds of companies data in the Far East compiled in Directory by using the GIS analytical method.

<1> Hongkong Directory

1-1 What is Hongkong Directoy

- Hongkong Daily Press published *The Directory and Chronicle for China, Japan, Straits Settlements, Malaya, Borneo, Siam, the Philippines etc.* since 1860s.

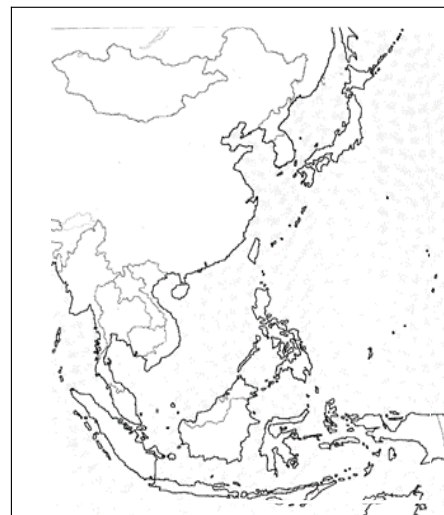




1-2 The Far East

- Hongkong Directory covered the directories of companies and foreign residents on the main cities in the Far East which was recognized as a kind of the regional trade area before World War II.

Map of The Far East (Hongkong Directory 1925)



<2> The Classified List of Trades 2-1 Data base format

- The Classified List of Trades covering China, Japan, Malaya, Borneo, Siam, the Philippines, Korea, Indo-China, Netherlands Indies, etc. (published in 1941)

Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan, Malaya, Borneo, Siam, etc., 1941						
	Business Classification	Company	City	Country	Document	Page
1	Accountants & Aditors	Mackie & Co.F.W.	Kobe	Japan	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
2	Accountants & Aditors	Pearson & Co.	Tokyo	Japan	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
3	Accountants & Aditors	Pearson & Co.	Yokohama	Japan	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
4	Accountants & Aditors	Thomson & Co.	Hankow	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
5	Accountants & Aditors	Linsted & Davis	Hongkong	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
6	Accountants & Aditors	Lowe, Bingham & Mathews	Hongkong	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
7	Accountants & Aditors	Percy Smith, Seth & Fleming	Hongkong	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
8	Accountants & Aditors	Thomson & Co.	Hongkong	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
9	Accountants & Aditors	Thomson & Co.	Peiping	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
10	Accountants & Aditors	Beck & Swann	Shanghai	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
11	Accountants & Aditors	Darre Marcel	Shanghai	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
12	Accountants & Aditors	Haskins & Sells	Shanghai	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
13	Accountants & Aditors	Lowe, Bingham & Mathews	Shanghai	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
14	Accountants & Aditors	Mortimer Reid & Slee	Shanghai	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75
15	Accountants & Aditors	Thomson & Co.	Shanghai	China	Classified List of Trades Covering China, Jpan	E75

CLASSIFIED LIST OF TRADES
COVERING
CHINA, JAPAN, MALAYA, BORNEO, SIAM,
THE PHILIPPINES, KOREA, INDO-CHINA,
NETHERLANDS INDIES, ETC.

ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS	
JAPAN	
Kobe	
MACRIS & Co., F. W.—Crescent Bldg., 7, Kyo-machi	
Tokyo	
FRANSON & Co.—4, Marunouchi, 2-chome, Kojimachi-ku	
Yokohama	
FRANSON & Co.—7, Yamashita-cho	
CHINA	
Hankow	
THOMSON & Co.—Union Buildings	
Hongkong	
LINSTEAD & DAVIS—Exchange Bldg. Lower, BIRCHAM & MATTHEWS—7, Queen's Road Central	
PERCY, EMERY, BIRD & FLEMING—6, Des Voeux Road, Central	
THOMSON & Co.—Hongkong Bank Building	
Peking	
THOMSON & Co.—Grand Hotel 402 Wagon Ldt	
Shanghai	
DEAN & SWANN—17, The Bund	
DARBY, MARSH—1, The Bund	
HARRIS & SELL—350, Nanchow Rd. Lower, BIRCHAM & MATTHEWS—5, Police Road	
MCCORMACK & STEW—18, The Bund	
THOMSON & Co.—50, Canton Road	
Tientsin	
FISCHER, ERH. S—15, ex-Austrian Bond	
LEUNG, BIRCHAM & MATTHEWS—43, Victoria Road	
TAYLOR & Co.—Liddle Building	
MALAYA	
Johore	
M. T. WARRIOR—Sederek	
Penang	
BROWN, PHILLIPS & STEWART—14, Penang Street	
CHUAN IAN KIANG & Co.—18, Bishop Street	
KVATT & Co.—Chartered Bank Chambers	
MURPHY, DAVIS & HOW—Chartered Bank Chambers	

2-2 Overview of the classified list

a) Business Classifications 82

Business Classification in The Far East in 1940		
Rank	Business Classification	Number of Companies
—	Total	10,676
1	General Merchants	1,463
2	Insurance	633
3	Shipping	458
4	Banks	410
5	Machinery & Hardware Merchants	350
6	Electrical Supplies	278
7	Chemicals & Drugs	268
8	Cotton & Textiles	267
9	Motor Car Dealers, etc.	267
10	Newspapers & Publications	251
11	Oil Merchants	247
12	Silk Merchants	238
13	Printers & Publishers	226
14	Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes, Etc.	199
15	Provision Merchants	197
16	Lawyers	188
17	Timber & Lumber Merchants	181
18	Coal Merchants	172
19	Chemists & Druggists	166
20	Iron & Steel Merchants	165
21	Building Contractors & Materials	161
22	Manufacturers' Agents	158
23	Wines & Spirits Merchants	158
24	Produce Merchants	157
25	Paper Merchants	155

b) 97 Cities

Number of Companies in the Cities of the Far East in 1940		
Rank	City	Number of Companies
—	Total	10,676
1	Shanghai	1,589
2	Manila	1,090
3	Hongkong	977
4	Kobe	801
5	Singapore	685
6	Tientsin	583
7	Osaka	518
8	Tokyo	456
9	Yokohama	413
10	Hankow	270
11	Batavia	173
12	Dairen	172
13	Nagoya	161
14	Penang	154
15	Peiping	152
16	Canton	151
17	Selangor	133
18	Harbin	131
19	Korea	129
20	Bangkok	124

c) The number of the real companies were counted about 6,700. But some companies carried on several business. So these companies were listed on several business categories. The number of companies, 10,676, on this table was counted repeatedly. This number is more than the number of the real companies.

2-3 Companies in the main cities of the Far East

a) Shanghai (74 Occupational Categories)

Business Classification in Shanghai		
Rank	Business Classification	Number of Companies
	Total	1,589
1	General Merchants	199
2	Insurance	78
3	Machinery & Hardware Merchants	67
4	Chemicals & Drugs	59
5	Cotton & Textiles	55
6	Banks	52
7	Electrical Supplies	51
8	Silk Merchants	48
9	Shipping	44
10	Architects & Surveyor	42
11	Tobacco Merchants	41
12	Printers & Publishers	40
13	Provision Merchants	35
14	Newspapers & Publications	34
15	Wines & Spirits Merchants	33
16	Chemists & Druggists	32
17	Land & Estate Agents	32
18	Motor Car Dealers, etc.	31
19	Booksellers & Stationers	30
20	Paper Merchants	30

b) Manila (74 Occupational Categories)

Business Classification in Manila		
Rank	Business Classification	Number of Companies
	Total	1,090
1	General Merchants	87
2	Mining	76
3	Insurance	51
4	Timber & Lumber Merchants	41
5	Newspapers & Publications	37
6	Lawyers	34
7	Machinery & Hardware Merchants	34
8	Shipping	34
9	Manufacturers' Agents	32
10	Chemists & Druggists	27
11	Copra, Hemp & Rope	26
12	Provision Merchants	24
13	Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes, Etc.	23
14	Sugar Merchants	21
15	Printers & Publishers	20
16	Building Contractors & Materials	19
17	Chemicals & Drugs	19
18	Electrical Supplies	19
19	Tobacco Merchants	18
20	Booksellers & Stationers	17

c) Kobe (62 Occupational Categories)

Business Classification in Kobe		
Rank	Business Classification	Number of Companies
	Total	801
1	General Merchants	116
2	Silk Merchants	51
3	Cotton & Textiles	47
4	Shipping	34
5	Electrical Supplies	27
6	Chemicals & Drugs	26
7	Banks	25
8	Coal Merchants	22
9	Machinery & Hardware Merchants	22
10	Newspapers & Publications	22
11	Brokers (General)	20
12	Insurance	20
13	Curio Merchants	19
14	Paper Merchants	19
15	Printers & Publishers	18
16	Iron & Steel Merchants	17
17	Oil Merchants	16
18	Wool & Woollen Goods	16
19	Brokers (Customs)	15
20	Building Contractors & Materials	15

2-4 Branch Networks of the Main Companies in the Far East

a) Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (27 Branches)

	Industry	City	Country
1	Banks	Amoy	China
2	Banks	Canton	China
3	Banks	Chefoo	China
4	Banks	Dairen	China
5	Banks	Harbin	China
6	Banks	Harbin	China
7	Banks	Mukden	China
8	Banks	Peiping	China
9	Banks	Shanghai	China
10	Banks	Swatow	China
11	Banks	Tientsin	China
12	Banks	Tsingtao	China
13	Banks	Weihaiwei	China
14	Banks	Haiphong	Indo-china
15	Banks	Hanoi	Indo-china
16	Banks	Saigon	Indo-china
17	Banks	Kobe	Japan
18	Banks	Yokohama	Japan
19	Banks	Johore	Malaya
20	Banks	Malacca	Malaya
21	Banks	Penang	Malaya
22	Banks	Perak	Malaya
23	Banks	Selangor	Malaya
24	Banks	Sourabaya	Netherlands Indies
25	Banks	Bangkok	Siam
26	Banks	Iloilo	The Philippines
27	Banks	Manila	The Philippines

b) Jardine Matheson & Co., Ltd. (53 Branches)

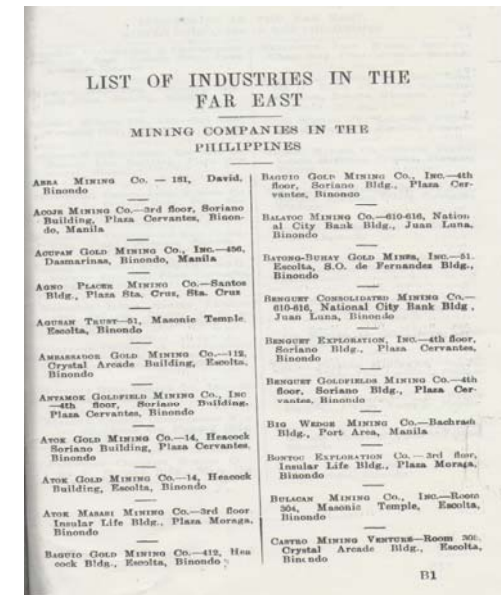
	Industry	Port City	Country
1	General Merchants	Formosa	Formosa
2	Shipping	Formosa	Formosa
3	Insurance	Formosa	Formosa
4	Insurance	Formosa	Formosa
5	General Merchants	Kobe	Japan
6	Shipping	Kobe	Japan
7	Insurance	Kobe	Japan
8	Electrical Supplies	Canton	China
9	General Merchants	Canton	China
10	Shipping	Canton	China
11	General Merchants	Foochow	China
12	Shipping	Foochow	China
13	Insurance	Foochow	China
14	Bristles Exporters	Hankow	China
15	Cement Manufacturers & Dealers	Hankow	China
16	Cotton & Textiles	Hankow	China
17	Tea Merchants	Hankow	China
18	General Merchants	Hankow	China
19	Shipping	Hankow	China
20	Insurance	Hankow	China

c) Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd. (79 Branches)

	Industry	Port City	Country
1	General Merchants	Amoy	China
2	General Merchants	Canton	China
3	Coal Merchants	Canton	China
4	General Merchants	Chefoo	China
5	General Merchants	Dairen	China
6	Coal Merchants	Hankow	China
7	General Merchants	Hankow	China
8	Timber & Lumber Merchants	Hankow	China
9	Cement Manufacturers & Dealers	Hongkong	China
10	Chemicals & Drugs	Hongkong	China
11	Coal Merchants	Hongkong	China
12	Paper Merchants	Hongkong	China
13	Timber & Lumber Merchants	Hongkong	China
14	General Merchants	Hongkong	China
15	Insurance	Hongkong	China
16	General Merchants	Mukden	China
17	General Merchants	Newchwang	China
18	General Merchants	Peiping	China
19	Beans & Bean Products	Shanghai	China
20	Coal Merchants	Shanghai	China

<3> The List of Industries in the Far East 3-1 Data Base Format

List of Industries in the Far East, 1941						
	Industry	Company	City	Country	Document	Page
1	Mining	Abra Mining Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
2	Mining	Acocle Mining Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
3	Mining	Acupan Gold Mining Co., Inc	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
4	Mining	Agno Placer Mining Co.	Sta. Cruz	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
5	Mining	Agusan Trust	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
6	Mining	Ambassador Gold Mining	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
7	Mining	Antamok Goldfield Mining Co., Inc.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
8	Mining	Atok Gold Mining Co. (Plaza Cervantes)	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
9	Mining	Atok Gold Mining Co. (Escolta)	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
10	Mining	Atok Masabi Mining Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
11	Mining	Baguio Gold Mining Co. (Escolta)	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
12	Mining	Baguio Gold Mining Co. (Plaza Cervantes)	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
13	Mining	Balatac Mining Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
14	Mining	Batang-Buhay Gold Mines, Inc.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
15	Mining	Benguet Consolidated Mining Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
16	Mining	Benguet Exporation, Inc.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
17	Mining	Benguet Goldfields Mining Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
18	Mining	Bijz Wedge Mining Co.	Port Area, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
19	Mining	Bontoc Exploration Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1
20	Mining	Bulacan Mining Co.	Binondo, Manila	the Philippines	Mining Companies in the Philippines	B1



3-2 Over View of the list of industries

a) Industries on this list classified into 115 categories.

Industries in "the Far East" in 1940		
Rank	Industry	Number of Companies
	Total	1,879
1	Power Plants	161
2	Tin Mines	147
3	Knitting	144
4	General Engineers	104
5	Electrical Engineers	103
6	Weaving	93
7	Printing	88
8	Civil Engineers	81
9	Mining	74
10	Consulting Engineers	49
11	Sugar Central	49
12	Mechanical Engineers	36
13	Motor Engineers	36
14	Metal Wares	33
15	Sanitary Engineers	31
16	Shirts & Garments	30
17	Confectionery	27
18	Engineering	24
19	Torches	23
20	Preserves	21

b) This list recorded industries in the 130 districts or cities. The main districts or cities are Kowloon, Hongkong, Shanghai, Perak, Binondo(Manila), Selangor, Singapore, Manila, Tokyo, Kobe and the others.

Rank	District or City	Number of Companies
	Total	1,879
1	Kowloon	602
2	Hong Kong	404
3	Shanghai	134
4	Perak	74
5	Binondo, Manila	68
6	Selangor	48
7	Singapore	47
8	Manila	44
9	Tokyo	30
10	the Philippines	27
11	Kobe	26
12	Tientsin	17
13	Bangkok	16
14	Yokohama	15
15	Negri Sembilan	14
16	Negros	11
17	Osaka	10
18	Leyte	9
19	Peiping	9
20	Bulacan	8

•c) Number of Companies on this list was 1,879. But some companies carried on several industries. So these companies were counted at several times. Real number of companies was counted about 1,700.

3-3 Companies in the main district, city or country

a) Kowloon (76 Industries)

Rank	Industry	Number of Companies
	Kowloon Total	602
1	Knitting	140
2	Weaving	91
3	Metal Wares	21
4	Preserves	19
5	Shirts & Garments	18
6	Batteries	16
7	Stockings (Silk)	16
8	Dyeing	15
9	Engineering	15
10	Printing	15
11	Confectionery	11
12	Flour Mills	10
13	Miscellaneous	10
14	Electroplating	9
15	Glass & Mirrors	9
16	Torches	9
17	Joss Sticks	8
18	Rubber Shoes	8
19	Hats	7
20	Leather & Tanneries	7

b) Perak (7 Industries)

Rank	Industry	Number of Companies
	Perak Total	74
1	Tin Mines	56
2	Mining Engineers	6
3	Mechanical Engineers	4
4	Consulting Engineers	3
5	Civil Engineers	2
6	Electrical Engineers	2
7	Sanitary Engineers	1

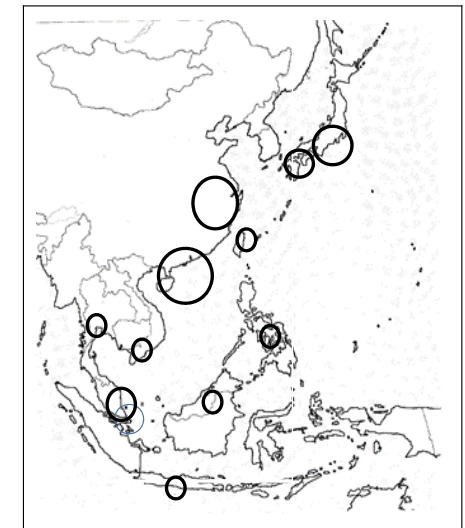
c) Malaya (12 Industries)

Rank	Industry	Number of Companies
	Malaya Total	198
1	Tin Mines	147
2	Mining Engineers	11
3	Civil Engineers	10
4	Mechanical Engineers	7
5	Electrical Engineers	6
6	Consulting Engineers	5
7	Motor Engineers	4
8	Sanitary Engineers	3
9	General Engineers	2
10	Constructional Engineers	1
11	Marine Engineers	1
12	Radio Engineers	1

d) The Philippines (11 Industries)

Rank	Industry	Number of Companies
	The Philippines Total	328
1	Power Plants	161
2	Mining	74
3	Sugar Central	49
4	Contracting Engineers	9
5	Civil Engineers	8
6	Consulting Engineers	8
7	Electrical Engineers	6
8	Mechanical Engineers	5
9	Marine Engineers	3
10	Mining Engineers	3
11	Shipbuilding Engineers	2

Districts, Cities and
Countries
& Companies
& Industries
& Branche
Networks
in the Far East



Conclusion

- The classified list of trade and the industry list were arranged and published only from 1929 to 1941. So this study should be investigated more as follows, (1) the dynamic change of location of the companies in the main districts, cities and countriesports in the 1930s, (2) the dynamic change of the business classification in the 1930s, (3) the change of the companies' branch networks in the 1930s by using the GIS analytical framework.