

# Archives Unbound: Policing the Shanghai International Settlement, 1894-1945



## Archives Unbound

**Archives Unbound** answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

## Policing the Shanghai International Settlement, 1894-1945

This collection provides researchers with the opportunity to explore a unique period in China's struggle toward a modern existence through the International Settlement in Shanghai.

The collection includes:

- Dossier files from the Special Branch of the Shanghai Municipal Police
- Supporting reports
- Handbills
- Translations of Chinese press coverage
- Clippings from the English-language press



These files represent a large portion of the archives of the British-run municipal police force based in Shanghai's former International Settlement. This self-governing area was administered not by the Chinese but by the international group of merchants and bankers who paid the taxes and controlled the municipal council. The Special Branch of the Shanghai Municipal Police was charged with providing an orderly environment for Shanghai's foreign trade and commerce. Carrying out its duties required the timely gathering of information on areas of potential instability that might threaten Shanghai's economic development and political calm.

This branch's prime responsibilities were collecting intelligence on political demonstrations, strikes, labor and social unrest, foreign and domestic subversive activities, and areas of dispute between the International Settlement and the Chinese government. The time period covered by these files extends from 1894 to 1945. The most extensive coverage is provided by the Special Branch dossier files, which date from 1929-1945. Many files are organized around a particular topic and contain different kinds of source material. For example, a report on a major strike includes memoranda regarding that strike, plus supporting reports, handbills, translations of Chinese press coverage and clippings from the English-language press.

### Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection