

Letters of Lin Yu Lan

Lin Yu Lan (林友蘭) is a Chinese newspaperman based in Hong Kong. In his youth, he studied at the London School of Journalism. This archival and manuscript collection features a series of correspondence dated 1959-60 between Lin Yu Lan and fellow journalists and other acquaintance abroad in the English-speaking world sharing the same humanitarian concern about refugees in Hong Kong. It was a time when Hong Kong is still a small, poverty-stricken town on the southern coast of China under British colonial administration slowly recovering from the war. All letters are in English, some enclosed with newspaper clippings, evidencing spontaneous, non-governmental efforts among more educated civilians to volunteer help and procure humanitarian aid for their less fortunate fellows.

Folder	Series	Item	Title	Remarks / Subject Content	Date range
01	01A	01A	"Refugee economy" in Hong Kong	Lin Yu Lan wrote a series of correspondence explaining the "refugee economy" (term coined by contemporary newspaper editors) in Hong Kong to foreign journalists and corporate leaders and lobbying for international humanitarian aid for Hong Kong refugees. Further, on an economic policy level, Lin Yu Lan and his fellow journalists suggested overseas exports market should not shut down against Hong Kong products, citing such trade sanctions would undermine the refugees' already precarious livelihood, whereas the United Nations embargo against China was implemented at the time.	1959
		01A-001	Envelope	Envelope addressed to Mr. Lin Yu Lan at the Central News Agency of China, affixed with Air Mail label and stamped with postal chops.	1959
		01A-002	Letter to Mrs. Sophie Mayers in California, USA dd. 12 June 1959.	Typewritten draft on paper with some corrected typos.	1959
		01A-003	Letter to Mr Chester H. Yen in Hong Kong dd. 19 June 1959	Typewritten draft on paper with handwritten edits and signature on ink. (Possibly carbon	1959
		01A-004	Letter to Mrs. Sophie Mayers in California, USA dd. 30 Ocotober 1959.	Typewritten draft on paper with typos.	1959
		01A-005	Newspaper clipping in Chinese language	The newspaper clipping is from the <i>Kung Sheung Daily News</i> (《工商日報》) dated 5 December 1959, entitled (translated): "British newspaper recommends the World Refugee Year Programme should not embargo against Hong Kong product exports: The Hong Kong exports market is closely connected to the refugee economy." (英報認為就國際難民年計劃中對香港產品輸出實不應加以限制：香港輸出市場與「難民經濟」有極大關連)	1959
		01A-006	Newspaper clipping in English language.	Source unknown, dated 5 December 1959, entitled "Financial Times on H.K. Industries: Criticism Against Closing Refugees' Export Markets, Growth of Textile Trade".	1959
		01A-007	Letter to the Editor at the Financial Times in London, England dd. 7 December 1959.	Typewritten on paper. (Possibly carbon copy)	1959
		01A-008	Reply from Mr. H.J.P. Arnold, Foreign News Editors of the Financial Times dd. 10 December 1959.	Typewritten on paper with signature on ballpen, stating the Financial Times is unable to use Lin Yu Lan's article.	1959
		01A-009	Letter to Mr. Russell D. Myers in Wisconsin, USA dd. 18 December 1959.	Typewritten draft on paper with handwritten edits, 2 pages total.	1959
		01A-010	Letter to the Secretary at the Fleet Street School Ltd. in London, England dd. 23 December 1959.	Typewritten draft on paper with handwritten edits.	1959
		01A-011	Letter to the Secretary at the National Union of Journalists in London England dd. 23 December 1959.	Typewritten on paper. (Possibly carbon copy)	1959

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		01A-012	Reply from Mr. Russell D. Myers in Wisconsin, USA on Christmas Day 1959.	Typewritten on air mail envelope, stamped with postal chops.	1959
	01B		Report: How Hong Kong Tackles Its Refugee Problem	Lin Yu Lan drafted the captioned report for his international friends' reference, notably those who have actively supported and procured international humanitarian aid for Hong Kong refugees through civilian networks, such as the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada in the Leeds County, Ontario, which sent milk powder to Hong Kong refugee children.	1959
		01B-001	Letter to Mr. Gerald Scott, the Editor at the Gananoque Reporter Weekly in Ontario, Canada dd. 3 December 1959.	Typewritten on paper with handwritten edits and signature. Affixed with a newspaper clipping from unknown source entitled "Canadians Sending Milk Powder to HK	1959
		01B-002	Enclosure to the letter to Mr. Gerald Scott, a report entitled: "How Hongkong Tackles Its Refugee Problem".	Typewritten on paper with handwritten edits on pencil and ink, 3 pages total.	1959
	01C		Correspondence from 1960	All letters in this series are from the year 1960. Through his lobbying efforts for international humanitarian aid for Hong Kong refugees, Lin Yu Lan discovered kindred spirits and made personal friendships with individuals and their families abroad as pen pals. They exchange warm greetings, swap stamps and photos during festive seasons.	1960
		01C-001	Letter to Mr. H.J.P. Arnold, Foreign News Editors of the Financial Times dd. 6 January 1960.	Typewritten on paper.	1960
		01C-002	Letter to Mr. Russell D. Myers in Wisconsin, USA dd. 8 January 1960.	Typewritten draft on paper with handwritten edits.	1960
		01C-003	Letter to Mr. Russell D. Myers in Wisconsin, USA dd. 19 February 1960.	Typewritten draft on paper with handwritten edits.	1960
		01C-004	Greetings card-letter from Mr. Arnold H. Klentz, Mayor of the City of West Allis, Wisconsin, USA dd. 18 August 1960.	Typewritten on letter stationery styling printed letterhead of the Executive Office, City of West Allis, Wisconsin, with handwritten signature on ink.	1960
		01C-005	Letter to Mr. Russell D. Mayers in Wisconsin, USA dd. 17 December 1960.	Typewritten on paper with some corrected typos.	1960
		01C-006	Note from Ms. Marion Ehlert at the Miramar Hotel, Kowloon	Handwritten on paper. Ms. Ehlert is secretary to the mayor of West Allis during his visit to Hong Kong.	1960