

**Public statement on
copyright issue linked
to the exhibition
*China's hidden century***

Recently we realised that permissions and acknowledgement for a translation by Yilin Wang had been inadvertently omitted from our exhibition *China's hidden century*. This was an unintentional human error for which the Museum has apologised to Yilin Wang.

In response to a request from Yilin Wang, we have taken down their translations in the exhibition. We have also offered financial payment for the period the translations appeared in the exhibition as well as for the continued use of quotations from their translations in the exhibition catalogue. The catalogue includes an acknowledgement of their work. We continue to be in discussion with Yilin Wang.

The British Museum takes copyright permissions seriously. Across the range of our work, we make every effort to contact the owners of rights in text, images, print and digital media. This was a particularly complicated project and we recognise we made an inadvertent mistake and fell short of our usual standards.

China's hidden century has been a complex exhibition to stage and we have worked with over 400 people from 20 countries to produce its content and display, including 30 lenders and numerous other contributors.

Over the past few days our colleagues have been subjected to personal attacks on social media. This is unacceptable. They have spent years, together with scholars worldwide, working on the *China's hidden century* research project and the resulting publications, *China's hidden century: 1796-1912* and *Creators of Modern China: 100 lives from Empire to Republic, 1796-1912*.

It is through their scholarship and efforts, and those of their collaborators, that we have been able to present this period of Chinese history, through people-centred stories, to the thousands visiting the *China's hidden century* temporary exhibition at the British Museum. We stand behind our colleagues fully and request those responsible for these personal attacks to desist as we work with Yilin Wang to resolve the issues they have raised concerning the use of their translations within the exhibition.

Further information

Contact the Press Office:

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