

BUILDING THE CHINESE DANCE COLLECTION: RESOURCES, COLLABORATION, AND OUTREACH

**CEAL Committee on Chinese Studies, Special Session
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傅良瑜**

**Chinese Studies
Librarian
University of
Michigan**



WHY CHINESE DANCE?

- Support emerging field of research
- Faculty collaborator
 - Professor Emily Wilcox (U-M Asian Languages and Cultures)
- Rich resources at U-M

BUILDING THE COLLECTION



Photo credit: Eric Bronson

OVER 2,500 ITEMS SO FAR

- Rare print collection
- “Pioneers of Chinese Dance” digital archive
- Audrey Moo Hing Jung collection
- Secondary source materials

• RARE PRINTS

■ A small sample

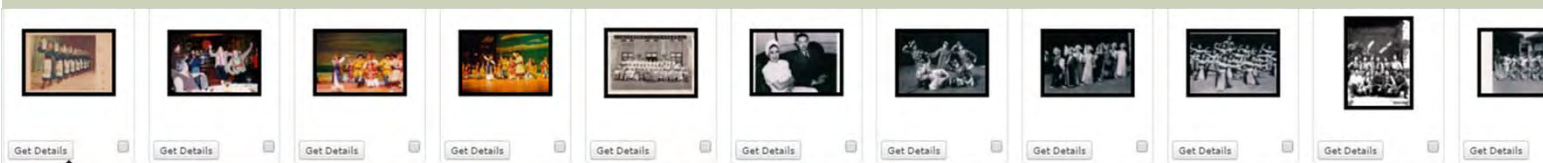


Photo credit: Eric Bronson

- **DIGITAL ARCHIVE:
“PIONEERS OF CHINESE DANCE”**



1,512 IMAGES SO FAR



[→ VIEW FULL RECORD](#)

Title (English)
"Milk Station Dance"

Description
This is a publicity postcard for the Mongol female group dance "Milk Station Dance," a popular Mongol-style national folk dance work in China during the 1950s. It was originally choreographed by Gao Tai and later adapted by Jia Zuoguang. A video of one version of this work appears in the dance film *Hundred Phoenixes Face the Sun* (百凤朝阳) released by the Beijing Dance Studio in 1959. The film can be viewed at the link below ("Milkmaids Dance" appears at 20 minutes). Typical features of Mongol dance that appear in this work include wrist bouncing actions and upright posture. The dance also demonstrates the use of gestures derived from everyday life, in this case actions imitating squeezing the udders of animals to gather milk.

Related
Pioneers of Chinese Dance
<http://w>

"Khalkha Dance"

Share/Cite Problems/comments?

Title (English)
"Khalkha Dance"

Title (Chinese)
哈克舞

Title (Romanization)
hākewǔ

Description
This image shows members of the Inner Mongolia Song and Dance Ensemble performing a dance they learned from a visiting artist from the Republic of Mongolia. It is in the style of Khalkha (哈巴哈), one of the major Mongol tribes in the Republic of Mongolia. The name of the visiting artist who taught them this dance is pronounced in Chinese as Daoliqiansurong (达力坚素荣). She worked with the ensemble for approximately two years during the mid-1950s, and this photograph is likely from that time.

Location
Hohhot (China)

Date
1956

Performers (English)
Daoliqiansu

Performers (Chinese)
达力坚素荣

Performers (Other Transliterations)
Daoliqiansu

Choreographer (Romanization)
Daoliqiansurong

Choreographer (Chinese)
达力坚素荣

Company/School (English)
Inner Mongolia Cultural Work Troupe

Company/School (Chinese)
内蒙古艺术团

• AUDREY MOO HING JUNG COLLECTION

- 97 items of Super 8 mm film reels
- 24 boxes of color slides
- 1 diary

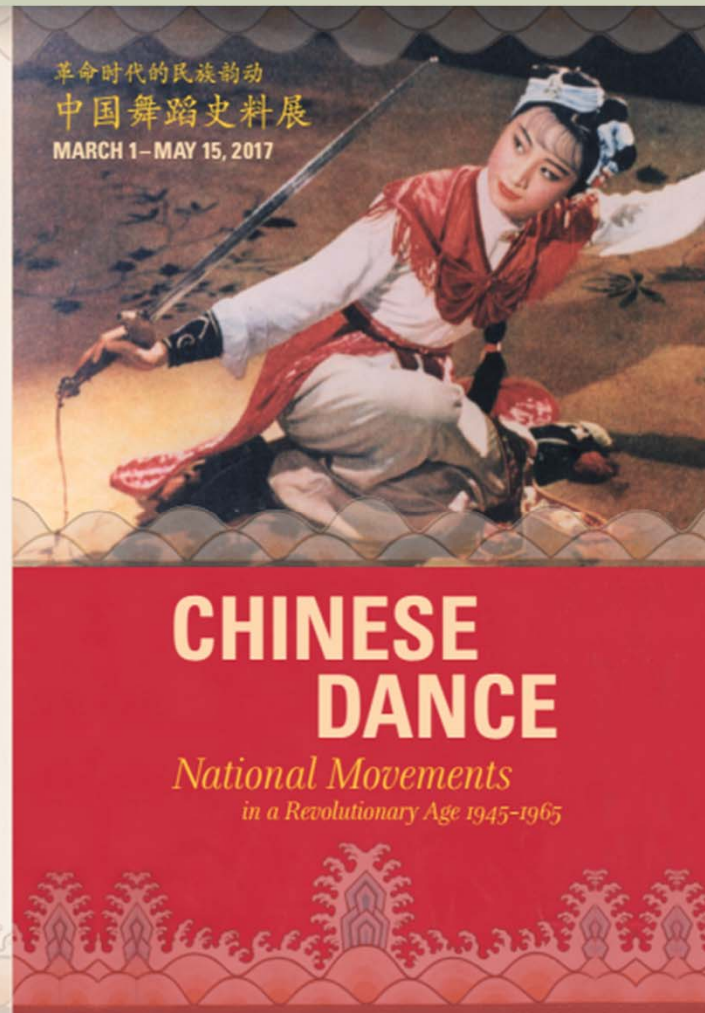
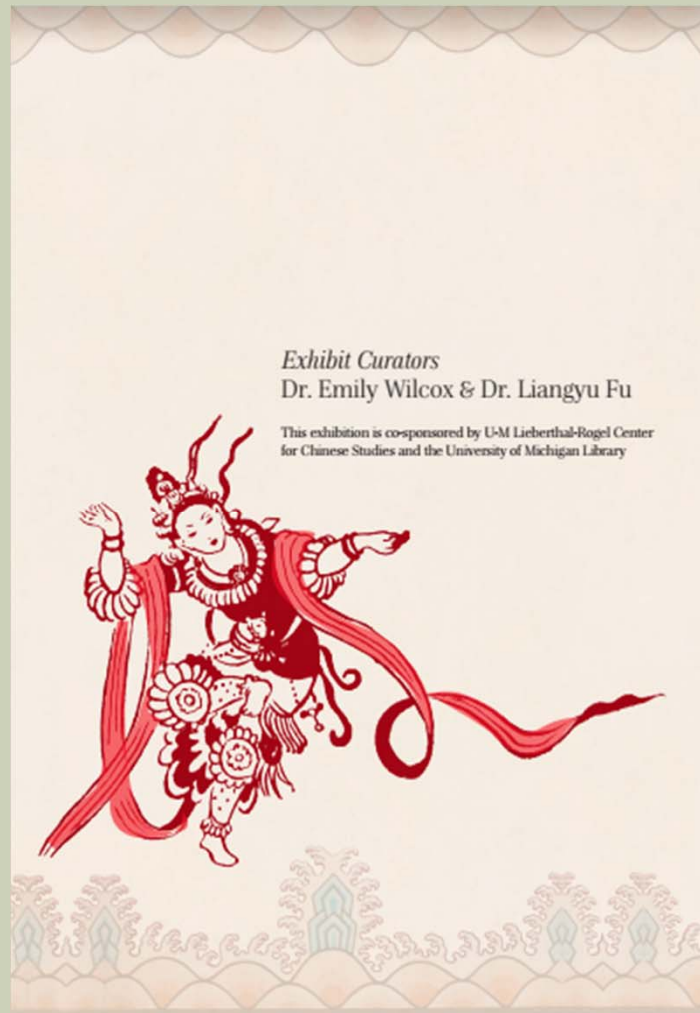


• SECONDARY SOURCE MATERIALS

■ A small sample:



LIBRARY EXHIBITION






What is CHINESE DANCE?

This article explores the history of Chinese dance, from ancient times to the present. It discusses the influence of Confucianism and Daoism on dance, and the role of dance in Chinese culture. It also mentions the influence of Chinese dance on other cultures, such as ballet and modern dance.



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
Foreign Dance Tours in China

This section discusses the international exchange of Chinese dance, including foreign dance tours in China and Chinese dance tours abroad. It mentions the influence of Chinese dance on other cultures, such as ballet and modern dance.

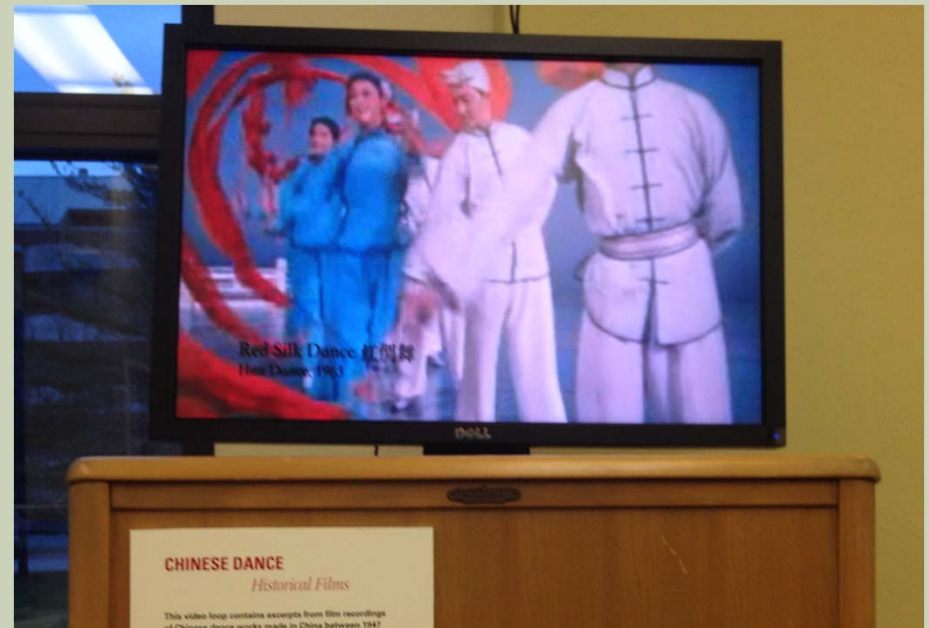
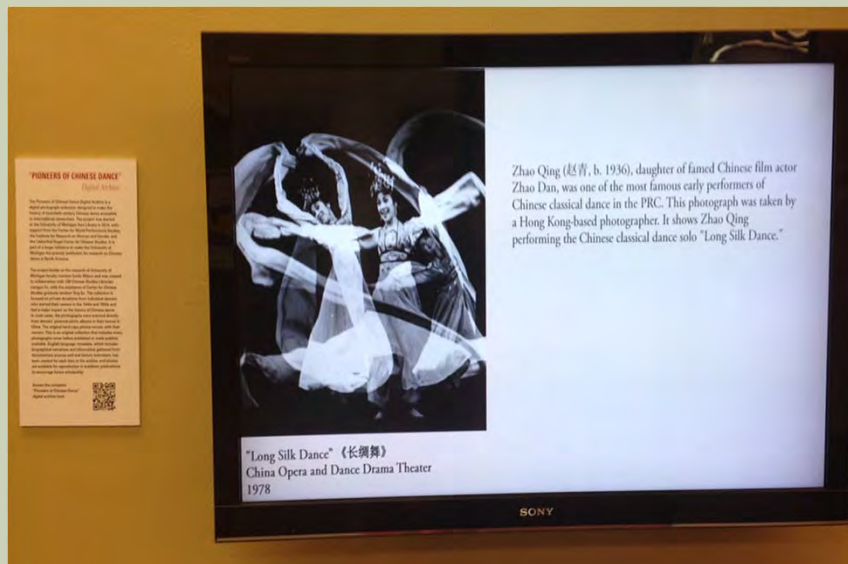


PERFORMING THE WORLD
Chinese Dancers and Foreign Dance

This section discusses the performance of Chinese dance in the world, including Chinese dancers performing in foreign countries and foreign dancers performing in China. It mentions the influence of Chinese dance on other cultures, such as ballet and modern dance.



■ Multimedia components



WORKING WITH MEDIA



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CHINESE DANCE COLLECTION

The new U-M Asia Library's Chinese Dance Collection is the largest in North America. The collection features a wealth of rare materials—books, periodicals, photo albums, performance programs, postcards, mimeographs and manuscripts.

A selection of this collection is on view at Hatcher Graduate Library. [Learn more](#)

Chinese dance collection



A collaboration between Emily Wilcox, assistant professor of Chinese studies, and Liangyu Fu, associate librarian at U-M's Asia Library, has produced North America's largest collection of materials related to Chinese dance. Items from that collection are the basis for an exhibition now on view at the Hatcher Graduate Library through May 15. [In this video](#), Wilcox and Fu discuss Chinese dance and how the collection came about.

密大中國舞蹈文庫 揭密另類外交史

記者黃惠玲／綜合報導

由密西根大學亞洲語言與文化助理教授魏美玲(Emily Wilcox)、密大東亞圖書館中國研究館員傅良瑜，共同建立的北美最大中國舞蹈收藏庫(Chinese Dance Collection)，即日起正式推出，大量珍貴的數位化照片與資料，展現中國豐富文化同時，更窺視這來鮮為人知的中國「舞蹈外交」輝煌史。

籌備進行三年才完成的這座收藏庫，美國研究中國舞蹈的先驅學者魏美玲非常激動，她說，終於可以把自己收藏達十年的文件、照片集結保存，並讓更多人使用。而資料庫最初發想者傅良瑜，也對原本可能失傳的珍貴資料有專屬的「家」，感到興奮。

這座北美地區最大的中國舞蹈館藏庫，包括「中國舞蹈先驅者」數位圖片庫，以及大量研究中國舞蹈史的珍貴資料，如書籍、期刊、相冊、演出節目單、明信片、油印資料、手稿等。還有美籍華人Audrey Moo Hing Jung把她於1975年訪問中國時所拍攝的舞

相關彩色膠片和影片全數捐贈。

魏美玲介紹，「中國舞蹈先驅者」部分，主要內容為1940到1960年間的中國頂尖的舞蹈藝術家私人相冊，這是她來回美中11次，親自拜訪藝術家並共掃描1500多張圖片組成，她說，曾經採訪過中國最年長的舞蹈家盛健，當時採訪盛健時，她已90多歲，但仍能記得抗日時期在重慶表演情形。

傅良瑜說，她已為此資料庫，收集超過1000項物品，她認為，資料庫裡而最有趣的部分為那些1950到1960年代紀錄中國與世界文化交流的節目單，「直到我看到這些節目單時，才知道中國與世界的交流當時已經十分頻繁。」

密大舞蹈研究助理教授柯洛芙(Clare Croft)相信，這項館藏，很有可能改變研究者對舞蹈國際傳播的看法，她解釋，許多國家都將舞蹈作為一種外交利器，包括20世紀中期的美國、蘇聯以及中國。其中美國與蘇聯



魏美玲(右)、傅良瑜(左)共同建立北美最大中國舞蹈館正式推出。小圖為館藏早期中國舞蹈文獻。(密西根大學提供)

的舞蹈交流文獻與紀錄齊全，但對於中國怎麼利用舞蹈進行外交，不論研究或是現存紀錄都很缺乏。密大現代中國研究教授唐小兵說，這個資料庫將會在中國引起矚目，因為中國大眾可能並不知道，20世紀中期，中國已經擁有豐富、創新的文化生活。

館藏資料顯示，1949年和1965年之間，由

中國國家支持的中國舞蹈訪團到了53個國家，足跡從匈牙利到亞洲到加納，哥倫比亞到巴西，到訪哥倫比亞、委內瑞拉及古

可以查出不同的舞蹈表演方式：<http://global.umich.edu/news/world-class-chinese-dance-collect>

Chinese dance history on show in Chicago, tells different collection story

The ongoing exhibition on Chinese dance history at the University of Michigan (UM) in the midwest US city of Chicago not only illustrates postwar Chinese dancing, but also tells a different collection story.

The show, held at the UM Hatcher Graduate Library, draws from a wealth in the UM Chinese dance collection, which grew from a Chinese dance researcher and a librarian who is meanwhile a performing arts fan.

While the show Chinese Dance: National Movements in a Revolutionary Age, 1945-1965 presents China's dance culture and history in that specific time frame, five editions - photos, periodicals, books, performance programs, postcards and mimeographs, among others, start an intensive and joint effort over more than three years by Emily Wilcox and Liangyu Fu.

Wilcox, a UM assistant professor, is one of the researchers in the field of Chinese dance studies based in the United States. Over the past decade, she traveled to China for 11 times, visiting Chinese artists'

As a native Chinese, I didn't even know there were so many international exchanges in the field of performing arts

Liangyu Fu, Librarian for China Studies at the University of Michigan Asia Library

homes, scanning 1,500 rare photos and recording 300-hour-long interviews with Chinese dancers and choreographers.

It was a hunch that in the fall of 2013 that gave the origin of the UM Chinese dance collection.

By proposed that they work together to create a Chinese dance collection in the library during the final year of Wilcox's life.

Being that a lively and somewhat eccentric for China studies, Fu was keen to add a distinction to the collections at the UM Asia Library. As a performing arts fan and someone associated with preserving ephemeral materials, Fu was thrilled to learn that Chinese dance is an emerging area for studies.

What's more, the area combines her personal interest with Wilcox's research.

At the same time, being a dancer herself, Wilcox was overjoyed with the idea of having a permanent home for the research materials she had collected for years.

Thanks to their joint efforts, the UM Chinese dance collection now archives more than 1,000 photos

scanned from personal collections of leading Chinese dancers in the 1940s, the 1950s and the 1960s, as well as more than 1,000 books, periodicals, photo albums, performance programs, postcards, mimeographs and manuscripts related to Chinese dance during those times.

None of the individual dancers and choreographers Wilcox has selected for the archive team had an impact on the history of Chinese dance. Prior to the creation of the UM collection, there was no well-documented history of their practitioners in English.

"We had a really fun time talking all the afternoon in her apartment," she said.

On her part, Fu has amassed more than 1,000 items for the UM Chinese dance collection.

The oldest Chinese dancer Wilcox interviewed for the archive is Sheng Jie. Wilcox said that although Sheng was over 80 of age, she could still recall vividly her dancing performances during World War II, which would often be disrupted by Japanese bombings.

Shu Qiao, who played the role of

the female heroine in famous dance drama Dagger Society in 1960, impressed Wilcox most.

She is also one of the first prominent female choreographers of the Chinese classical and contemporary dance drama.

"I really enjoyed meeting Shu Qiao in person. I went to her apartment in Shanghai couple (of) years ago. I was just so shocked because she was always in her righties, she just looked like a young person. She smiled all the time. She lived alone. She cracked jokes. She has a great personality," Wilcox told Xinhua.

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Shu Qiao, who played the role of

know there were so many international exchanges in the field of performing arts (during that period) until I started collecting the performance programs" Fu told Xinhua. "They challenged a stereotypical view on that period."

The performance program display at the current UM show traces that between 1940 and 1960, state-sponsored Chinese dance delegations visited 53 countries, ranging from Hungary, Poland and Syria to Ghana, Colombia and Brazil. And vintage postcards in the 1950s and 1960s show trips of dance troupes from such countries as Yugoslavia and Britain to China.

Xiaoping Tang, a UM professor of modern Chinese studies, deemed the UM Chinese dance collection as valuable resources for those who are interested in Chinese cultures of dance and performance arts, or academic purposes or not.

Whatever, it is how the dream of both Wilcox and Fu to make the collection a world-class one.

As a native Chinese, I didn't even

新聞標題：深探中國舞蹈
新聞內容：美國學者眼中的中國舞蹈... 魏美玲和傅良瑜... 舞蹈外交... 魏美玲說，她已為此資料庫，收集超過1000項物品...

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FUTURE PLANS

- Keep expanding the collection
- Digitization and access
- More collaboration opportunities with scholars
- Teaching with the collection materials

■ For more information:

- [Research guide](#) on Chinese Dance
- [“Creating a World-Class Chinese Dance Collection”](#) (multimedia story)
- [“Pioneers of Chinese Dance Digital Archive”](#) digital archive
- [“Everybody’s Talking about Our Chinese Dance Collection”](#) (blog post)
- [Exhibition review](#) by Professor Tarryn Chun (Notre Dame) in *Asian Theatre Journal*

THANK YOU!

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Questions?

