Making sense of the Chinese Special Collections: a community perspective

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Collection themes

• An upside down book
• A celebrity Chinese librarian
• A miracle map
• Yun Shouping 惇壽平
• 孫悟空大鬧艶蠅樓
1602: in the beginning ...
1604: ... was the Word (四書)
Another upside down book 雷公炮製
1687: 中國人和牛津大學圖書館館長
Intellectual friendship

Thomas Hyde:

• ‘My Chinese Michael Shin Fo-cung, (for that was his name) was bred a Scholar in all learning of their country, read all their books readily, and was of great honesty and sincerity, and fit to be relied upon in everything: for indeed he was a very knowing and excellent man, very studious and laborious in all things, and could speak Latin, whereby I conversed with him very freely and easily.’
沈福宗：

• ‘I received your honour’s letter and the adjoined characters, of which the explication of is 車 chariot, 馬 horse. If time will allow it, I shall visit, so that I might profit from the company of such a distinguished man, **whose library is the fountain of enduring teaching**, and who uniquely has this enormous merit, that he **treats his library as the public and common possession of all scholars.’
1659: John Selden’s Map of China
新鐃三藏出身全傳（aka. 西遊記）
（明）陽至和編 （明末刊本）
新鍬三藏出身全傳
Engaging and making sense: Dragon Boat Festival 端午節
你叫什么名字？
Revealing the secrets: ‘Show and Tell’
Monkey King’s magic tour of Bodleian
孫悟空大鬧天宮 (Radcliffe Camera)
How do I draw that?
Nearly as good as the teacher
Short films
Community feedback

• “My child enjoyed the drawing workshop the most - Dr He was fantastic with children. The badge making was fun too. I was thrilled to view the old Chinese publications. The Curator's detailed explanation made the session more enjoyable and memorable.”

• “It was so amazing to hear a type of song from an ancient Chinese period. It was so thrilled that I saw all the ancient collections about acupuncture, herbs, educational books. They are treasure and so important.”
Future plans

• Online exhibition of object (Exhibit software)
• Regular engagement with the community
• Schools visits and learning programme