

MUSEUM of  
Anthropology

at the University of  
British Columbia



February 15, 2005

Ms. Lynn Copeland  
University Librarian  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, B.C., Canada, V5A 1S6

Dear Ms. Copeland,

At the recent Chinese Canadian History Research Fair I learned about your project to digitize and index important historical materials that are in languages other than French and English. I am particularly familiar with The Chinese Times, the entire run of which is held in the Asian Library at UBC.

The Museum of Anthropology has a very large collection of Cantonese opera costumes and related materials brought to Canada before World War II. I was responsible for a major traveling exhibit of these materials that opened in 1993 and was shown at six venues. In researching the history of Cantonese opera in Canada we relied on The Chinese Times, which at that time was available only on microfilm. Searching it for relevant information was laborious and exhausting.

I understand that you now have digitized and indexed this newspaper until 1950 and are seeking funds to complete this project. I strongly support this initiative, as it will make this important newspaper infinitely more accessible than it has been to date. In order for Canadians to gain a realistic understanding of our complex history, it is essential that materials produced by ethnic minorities be made as widely available as possible.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Elizabeth L. Johnson".

Elizabeth L. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Curator of Ethnology and  
Associate of the Department of Anthropology

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