

Archives in the History of the Geological Sciences

In this new series short overviews of Archives from around the world that are relevant for research on the History of the Geological Sciences will be given occasionally in order to highlight their existence and help foster scholarly interest in their content. We hope to thus encourage the use of these fundamental resources by INHIGEO members worldwide and underline the key importance of this historical-scientific heritage for studies of the global development of the geological sciences. In this issue of the INHIGEO circular we present an archive from China.

Archive: National Geological Library of China

Host Institution: China Geological Survey, Beijing, China

Brief Overview:

National Geological Library of China currently holds a collection of 890,000 volumes and over 10,000 sets of various geological maps, as well as 22 self-developed and purchased Chinese- and foreign-language databases, ranking it as the largest professional geoscience library in Asia. It also holds a range of archival material of interest to the history of the geological sciences.

The Geological Society of China (GSC) is the leading national academic society for geosciences in China. Founded in Beijing on 3 February 1922 by 26 pioneering geologists including Zhang Hongzhao, Ding Wenjiang, Weng Wenhao and Li Siguang, it ranks among China's earliest-established scientific societies. "List of Members of the Geological Society of China" was issued intermittently by the Geological Society of China during the Republican period. Documents and full sets of the publications of the society constitute a fundamental biographical source for studying the community of Chinese geologists in early-modern China.

Complete sets of the "Collected Essays on the History of Geology", a series of collected volumes published by the Commission on History of Geology, Geological Society of China, from 1986 to 2011 by Geological Publishing House, Beijing includes research papers and historical documents concerning the history of Chinese geology. Its contents cover disciplinary history, institutional history of geological undertakings, biographies of geoscientists, geological-education history, and traditional Chinese geoscientific heritage. It serves as a core Chinese-language reference source for scholars studying the history of geology in China.

Availability/Accessibility: The catalogue of the National Geological Library of China is available online. Relevant materials can be borrowed on-site and the loan period is one month (although researchers should present valid personal identification and other required documents). If more time is needed, renewals are permitted. Digital versions of some materials are obtainable and purchased from the library. Some reproductions are also offered at a charge of RMB 0.5 per sheet. Please note that rare books and precious publications in the collection are generally ineligible for reproduction.

Travel Awards: None available.

Website: <https://www.cgl.org.cn> (Chinese-language);

<https://www.cgl.org.cn/en/Background.html> (English-language)

Online catalogue: Search the holdings using the online catalogue or advanced search, limited to special collections: [<https://www.cgl.org.cn/en/Background.html>]

Contact: National Geological Library of China (Geoscience Documentation Center, China Geological Survey)

No.29 Xueyuan Road, Haidian District, Beijing, 100083, P. R. China

(within the campus of China University of Geosciences, Beijing)

Phone: 0086-10-66554700

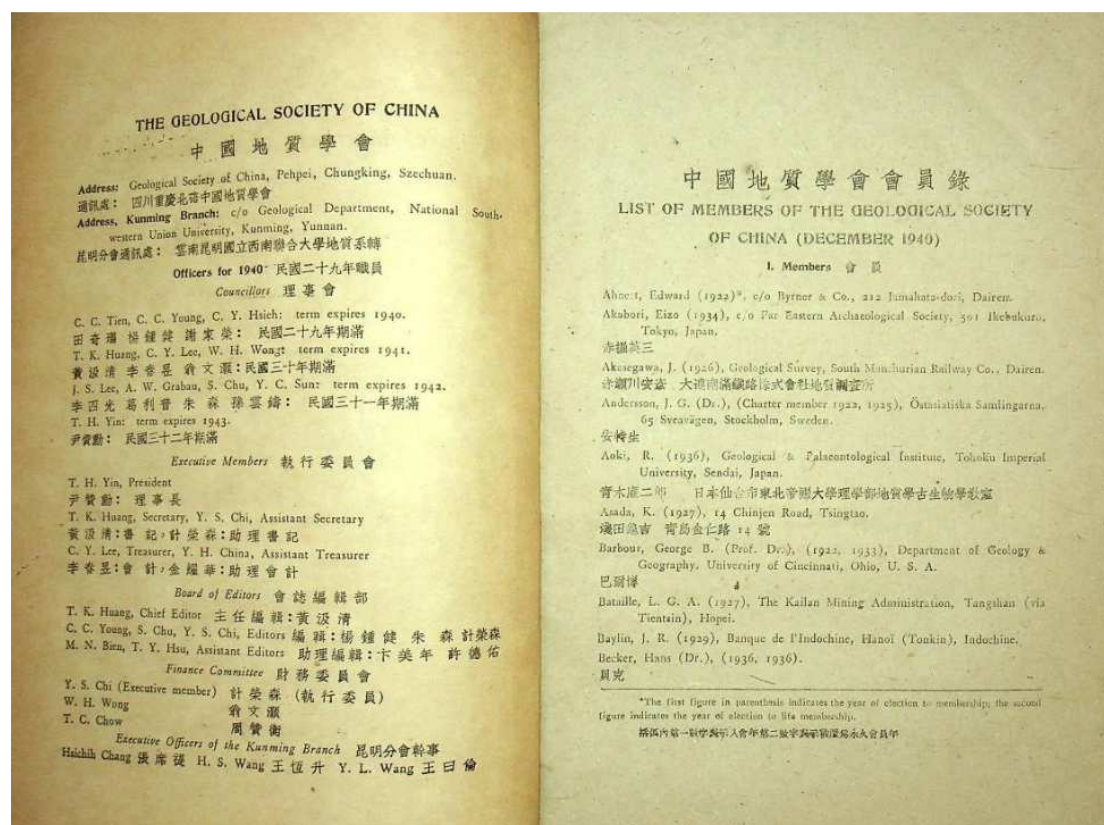


Image: List of Members of the Geological Society of China (December 1940) from the National Geological Library of China