

## Seminar SAW History of Science, History of Text, 2011-2016

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Perspectives on the constitution of collections containing scientific documents of the past

#### Presentation

This session explores other facets of the working conditions of historians of science: the history of the constitution of the collections in which they find the documents that become the sources of their inquiry.

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*The Making of the Morrison Collection of Chinese Books*

**Abstract** – Between 1807 and 1823, the Protestant missionary Robert Morrison (1782-1834) started to buy the Chinese books which were available to him in order to make a collection that would serve for Chinese studies. Since Morrison was resident in Guangzhou and Macao and had no opportunity to travel elsewhere within the empire, Morrison's book-collecting activities were restricted to Guangzhou's book market. In this talk, I will try to better understand what kinds of items were bought by Morrison and who his providers of books were.