

Occidental” fantasy of Chinese fans is a strategy for surviving the heteropatriarchal strictures of modern Chinese society.³

A broad range of scholars will find this collection helpful: for undergraduates, it serves as an accessible introduction to the field of queer Asian fan studies; for graduate students, the wide scope of analysis and extensive research will be invigorating and enabling for similar work both within and without East Asia. Fan and audience studies scholars, of course, will find welcome and much-needed explorations of queer East Asian fan culture, while those interested in queer cultural production and East Asian queer studies will benefit from the rigorous transnational analysis and rich ethnographic work of these essays.

References

Puar, Jasbir K. *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*. Second edition. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017. Print.

Preserving Local Documentary Heritage: Conversations with Special Library Managers and Archivists in Hong Kong.

By Patrick Lo. Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2015. 313 pp. Paperback. ISBN: 9789629372378.

Reviewed by Liz Wan Yuen-yuk

Patrick Lo’s *Preserving Local Documentary Heritage: Conversations with Special Library Managers and Archivists in Hong Kong* is a wide-ranging overview of various aspects of archival and librarial work, a salute to the city’s unseen but dedicated defenders of democracy, and an advocacy for the archives law. In the Preface, Lo first makes an important distinction between archivists and librarians: while archivists specialize in handling original documents and are more focused on the research and preservation of these irreplaceable primary sources, librarians concentrate more on managing published materials of multiple formats (xix–xx). This difference notwithstanding, both professions play important roles in the conservation of culture and

³ Martin’s essay, in which she originally developed the notion of “double foreignness,” appears revised and updated as the final chapter in this collection. Martin argues that double foreignness describes Taiwanese BL fans’ relationship to Japan: women who fantasize about male homoerotic relations in Japan are able to displace their identification twice, once geographically and once in terms of gender. This double displacement allows for the creation of a fertile “discursive arena” through which Taiwanese women can negotiate their own locally contextualized gender and sexuality.

history, and face similar challenges such as budget cuts (xxi–xxii). These obstacles are recurring themes in the sixteen chapters of the book, in which Lo interviews archivists or librarians from various organizations in Hong Kong.

Interconnected with each other in theme, the first three chapters form not only a foundation about archives in general, but also a serious caution on Hong Kong's lack of an archives law which is said to form the "basis of democracy" (8). Chapter 1 is an interview with Simon Chu, President of the Hong Kong Archives Society (HKAS). Chu introduces in detail the archives law, which is missing in Hong Kong and which ensures that archival records are created by the government, managed according to professional standards, transferred to the archives, and made available to the public after a stipulated period (6–7). He also retells the twenty-two years he spent in the government doing archival work, alongside the making of a professional archivist and the history of archives in Hong Kong since the 1940s. Finally, he discusses the precarious situations of both archives and archivists due to the government's political agendas (such as to "destroy the records" in order to let its "misdeeds" go into oblivion (13)), and the challenges that archives are currently facing in the digitalized world. Chu's concerns for Hong Kong is echoed in Chapter 2, in which William Waung, Chairman of the Archives Action Group (AAG), urges for the archives law by drawing connections between the lack of said law and the tragedy of the 2012 Lamma Island ferry collision: Since there is no legal requirement for the creation of public records, the responsibility for the disaster became more difficult to trace (37–38). The interview also covers the archival situation during the British Colonial Period, and compares the archives law in China and the situation of Hong Kong as Chu has also done. The discussion of history is extended in Chapter 3, when Lo interviews Don Brech, a consultant archivist and active member of the AAG, who introduces Archives Studies in his time, and his own career and experiences in the colonial government. For instance, he had to buy back some of the microfilm records that were destroyed during WWII through the Colonial Office in London (later the Foreign Commonwealth Office) (58–59), but even so, many records were still yet to be transferred back to Hong Kong. The chapter ends with Brech expressing his concerns on the "massive destruction of government records" in 2011 (62), an incident which Lo brings up in the Afterword of Chapter 1: prior to the relocation of the government headquarters to Tamar, the government destroyed a quantity of official documents that is "equal to three times the height of the two IFC [International Finance Centre] buildings" (27).

After these cornerstone chapters, Chapters 4-16 go on to interview a diverse array of archivists and librarians in different organizations, from more traditional fields to more ground-breaking ones. The more traditional organizations include the University Archives at the

University of Hong Kong (HKU, Chapter 4), Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB, Chapter 5), and the Hong Kong Heritage Project (HKHP, Chapter 6). Stacy Belcher Gould, Director of the HKU archives, seeks to “document the life of HKU and the HKU family by collecting and preserving records of permanent value”, and “mak[ing] them available for the University community as a whole” (69). Such a task is, as one would imagine, full of challenges (70-71): it took six years for the senior management at HKU to approve the HKU Archives policy, and the whole project only started because of HKU’s 100th Anniversary, which is proof that “[a]nniversaries tend to be the ‘trigger’” for serious consideration of archiving (73). Both Gould’s vision and the challenges she faced can be taken analogously as a miniature version of archiving the history of Hong Kong, and perhaps the placing of this chapter in the early part of the book is a hint for a possible archival model for the entire city-state. Roeter Kwok and David Wong, librarian and production manager at TVB respectively, reveal how they hand-picked news footage for permanent retention in the News Library and systematically catalogued them. Collections and repository managers Amelia Allsop and Clement Cheung, of the HKHP, discuss the complex procedures and protocols for handling their archives, and give practical advice to those who are interested in the industry of corporate archiving.

At this point the book turns to librarians and archivists who see their job as more than just filing and cataloguing, but also as sowing the seeds for a culture of conservation. Lo interviews archival professionals working at the Goethe-Institut Hong Kong (Chapter 7) and the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (Chapter 10). The former considers herself a cultural ambassador of her country Germany through organizing workshops and exhibitions in Hong Kong and mainland China, and the latter talk about training their Activities and Resource Centre staff to be non-judgmental in healthcare knowledge. Some of Lo’s interviewees, such as the founder of the weblog Gwulo.com about old Hong Kong (Chapter 8) and the former librarian of the Jewish Community Centre of Hong Kong (Chapter 9), work on community archives, shedding light on different aspects of Hong Kong history. Experiences during the two World Wars are preserved in the form of photos, maps, and diaries collected on 11,000 wiki pages (as of 2013) on Gwulo, and both site traffic and scale have expanded over the years. As a non-Jewish person, the former Jewish Community Centre librarian was helped by her clients and colleagues, and gained a deeper understanding and empathy to this group of Hongkongers. Chapter 11 juxtaposes a librarian alongside a curator, both working for the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. The two need to work closely with each other despite different focuses in their professions: for instance, curators would want to deliver museum content from a specific perspective, while librarians prefer to let visitors explore on their own (216-17).

Ultimately, it is their common vision and passion for the museum's development that allow them to overcome the obstacles.

The remaining chapters feature people working in organizations that are not usually associated with a need for archives. These include the Chinese Opera Information Centre (Chapter 12), the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (Chapter 13), the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences Society (Chapter 14), and the International Guoshu Association (Chapter 15). Together the interviewees recount the toils of searching, handling, and organizing archival materials for their respective fields, such as performance flyers of Chinese opera productions and documents on the 1894 bubonic plague outbreak. They also discuss the challenges of staying up-to-date in the latest archival technologies, attracting public attention with minimal jargon, and preserving a record of the city's history for public interest. For example, Hing Chao, the interviewee in Chapter 15 and CEO of the International Guoshu Association, talks about setting up the Hong Kong Martial Arts Living Archive with a view to create a hub that preserves and presents traditional martial arts knowledge with cutting-edge technology. Admittedly, Chao is not an archivist in the conventional sense (292), but his devotion to Hong Kong's cultural heritage is admirable, and I believe including an interview with him in the book would encourage more people in other fields to participate in preservation movements.

An interview with Wilson Chu, Head Librarian of the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI) follows (Chapter 16). Lo deliberately placed this interview last because, according to him, it is a manifestation of change and continuity in libraries and archives. Indeed, Chu mentions that the institution changed their name from "Library" to "Learning Resources Centre" to revolutionize its management and operation (300). Chu's words give the series of interviews a strong and hopeful closing, and echo the central message of the book which is underscored again in the Conclusion: archives have "undeniable political value" and are "the basic component of a nation's documentary heritage" (306).

As can be seen, the book showcases how archives are needed across a breadth of organizations. In addition, Lo's personal interviewing style and the book's meticulous presentation help introduce archives, libraries and museums in a more approachable manner—in terms of the people involved rather than as lifeless projects. Each chapter opens with a useful profile on the interviewee(s) and institution as well as the main focus of the interview. The dialogue starts with self-introduction, and moves on to the institution's history, the interviewees' job nature, major challenges, source of satisfaction, as well as the prospect of the industry. An afterword follows each interview, in which Lo elaborates with his own ideas and questions, along with quotes from other scholars, as prompts for reflection.

I would have liked to see Lo push further on some topics during the interview. When talking to the TVB archivists (Chapter 5), perhaps he

could have probed into any pressure or struggle of censorship experienced in saving certain sensitive footage, given the delicate relationship between the media and the government. Upon reading that news clips were handed over to reporters in the actual videotapes or blu-ray discs, readers may wonder if the protocols demand backup copies or failsafe mechanisms should the originals get “accidentally” leaked.

Preserving Local Documentary Heritage is a unique and extensive guide to the professions of librarians and archivists in multitudinous fields, and a call to action. Considering the rapid changes in Hong Kong’s political landscape, some of which entail a higher demand for political correctness, the records of certain events that are less flattering of the government or certain political regimes could become at stake. The book is hence an empirically important work for anyone concerned about Hong Kong’s future. The message is loud and clear: if we preserve archives and the archives law, they will serve to preserve our humanity.