Cambridge Chinese Rare Book and Manuscript Collections: Discoveries and Rediscoveries of Items Related to Robert Morrison and the Taiping Rebellion.

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The Chinese collections in the Cambridge University Libraries are well known to British and European sinologists. My paper will focus on the discoveries and rediscoveries that I made while doing research in three collections at Cambridge. I will be presenting some of the latest finds that I have helped to bring to light in the University Library Chinese Collection, the Needham Research Institute Library, and St. Catharine's College Library. In the year that I have just spent in Cambridge doing research for my PhD in Chinese Studies, I have explored in depth three collections: The Wade Collection of rare Chinese books and manuscripts in The Aoi Pavilion of the Cambridge University Library; the Chinese collection of the East Asian History of Science Library in the Needham Research Institute; and the Thomas Jarrett Collection in the St. Catharine’s College Library rare books. My presentation will focus on one specific item from each of these collections: a rare Taiping calendar from The Wade Collection; a dramatic text entitled “Who Was Lindley”: A Colloquy for Six Voices” by Charles A. Curwen from the Chinese collection of the East Asian History of Science Library; and one part of Robert Morrison’s very rare Dictionary of the Chinese Language discovered in the Jarrett Collection in the St. Catharine’s College rare books.