

**100 Years of the Swiss Consulate's
Presence in Guangzhou
瑞士领事馆的广州百年**

Produced by
The Consulate General of Switzerland in Guangzhou
瑞士驻广州总领事馆制作

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Preface 序言

2022 marks 100 years of Swiss presence in China and Guangzhou where Switzerland opened its first Consulate in 1922.

In 1950—as one of the first western countries—Switzerland established diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China. These relations have ever since provided a sturdy foundation for economic and trade cooperation between our two Nations. For example, in 1982 the Swiss company Schindler pioneered the first Sino-Foreign industrial joint venture in China.

For many years, the Swiss community in Southern China relied on the services of the Swiss Consulates in Hong Kong and Shanghai. When the Swiss Consulate General in Guangzhou opened in 2006, just a few people remembered the previous Honorary Consulate from 1922 to 1957.

The first Swiss to set foot on the Chinese soil, back in the 17th century, were mostly merchants and missionaries. Contacts became more frequent in the early 19th century, with the intensification of trade between East and West. At this time, Swiss watches and music boxes began to be highly appreciated among members of the high Chinese society. At the same time, Swiss trading companies came to China and started to ship tea, silk, porcelain or furniture with Chinese motives back to Europe.



2022年适逢瑞士于1922年首次在广州设立领事馆后第100周年。

瑞士是最早与中华人民共和国建立外交关系的西方国家之一，1950年与中国建交。自此，双边关系为两国之间的经贸合作提供了坚实的基础。例如，1982年，瑞士迅达电梯公司率先在中国成立了第一家中外合资企业。

多年来，瑞士主要依托驻香港和上海的领事馆向华南地区的瑞士群体提供服务。因此，当瑞士驻广州总领事馆于2006年开馆时，鲜有人记得1922年至1957年间的荣誉领事馆。

早在17世纪，瑞士商人和传教士就开始来到了中国。19世纪初，随着东西方贸易的加深，相互交流也变得更加频繁。瑞士手表和音乐盒也逐渐受到中国上流社会的青睐。同时，瑞士贸易公司来到中国，采购茶叶、丝绸、瓷器和中式家具运回欧洲。

In December 1858, over thirty companies from the watch industry, mainly located in the French speaking part of Switzerland, petitioned the Federal Council to open a Swiss Consulate in Southern China. This request was endorsed by the Councils of Vaud, Geneva, Neuchâtel and Basel, among others. But it was only on May 12, 1922, that the Federal Council agreed to the opening of the Honorary Consulate in Guangzhou.

In recent years, relations between China and Switzerland have intensified considerably. The 2014 Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China boosted economic exchanges and encouraged Swiss companies to make major investments in China. This positive trend is reflected in Southern China, where more than 150 Swiss companies currently operate and maintain the good tradition of cooperation between our two countries. Overall, we are proud to say that there are about 1000 Swiss companies active in China.

Jürg Burri,
Ambassador of Switzerland in China

1858年12月，主要位于瑞士法语区的30多家钟表业公司向瑞士联邦委员会提出申请，请求在中国南部设立瑞士领事馆。这一请求也得到了沃州、日内瓦、纳沙泰尔和巴塞尔等地议会的支持。直到1922年5月12日，联邦委员会才同意在广州开设名誉领事馆。

近年来，中国和瑞士之间的关系进一步加强。2014年瑞士和中国签署的自由贸易协定促进了经济往来，鼓励瑞士企业在中国进行重大投资。这一积极的趋势也在华南地区得到了体现，目前有150多家瑞士企业延续两国间良好的合作传统，在华南地区开展业务。一共约有1000家瑞士公司活跃在中国，我们对此感到自豪。

白瑞谊
瑞士驻中华人民共和国大使

Acknowledgments 致敬

This book is written by PD Dr. Ariane Knüsel, Histoire Contemporaine, University of Fribourg; Associate Researcher, Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland.

These findings are based on the historical documents from Swiss Federal Archives, and correspondences between Honorary Consuls and the Ministry.

To view the electronic version of this book, please scan the QR code below and enter the official website of Swiss Consulate General in Guangzhou
(<https://www.eda.admin.ch/guangzhou>):

本书内容由瑞士弗里堡大学当代史系教授兼瑞士外交文件副研究员Ariane Knüsel博士著。

本书内容基于瑞士联邦档案馆内的历史资料以及时任荣誉领事与瑞士外交部之间的往来函件。

可扫描下方二维码，进入瑞士驻广州总领事馆官网，查看本书电子版
(<https://www.eda.admin.ch/guangzhou>):



A History of the Swiss Consulate in Guangzhou until 1956

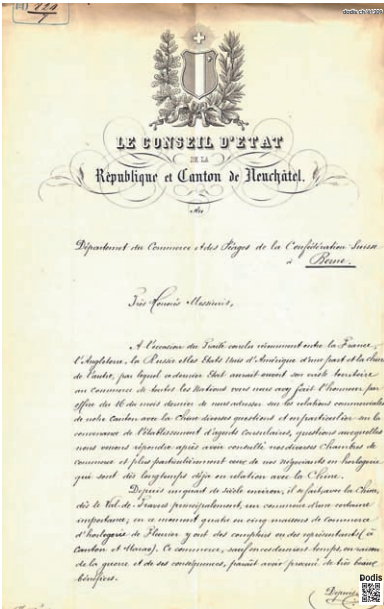
The arrival of Swiss merchants in Guangzhou

The Swiss consulate general in Guangzhou is connected to the city's long history as a commercial hub during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912, 清朝). From 1757 to 1842 foreigners who wanted to trade in China could only do so in Guangzhou. In the so-called Canton System (一口通商), foreign merchants' business interactions were limited to a Chinese merchant guild, the cohong (公行). British merchants, in particular, were unhappy with this situation and demanded that the British government resort to gunboat diplomacy in order to force the Qing Dynasty to lift trade restrictions. As the Qing showed little interest in foreign goods and insisted on getting paid in silver, foreign merchants began smuggling enormous amounts of opium to China to even out the trade balance. China's efforts to suppress Western opium smuggling caused British and French forces to start the First Opium War (1840-1842, 鸦片战争). On 29 August 1842 the Treaty of Nanjing was signed. The Qing Dynasty agreed to cede Hong Kong to Britain and open the ports in Guangzhou, Ningbo, Xiamen, Shanghai, and Fuzhou to foreign trade and residence. In 1843, China was forced to introduce fixed import and export duties, and grant Britain the most-favoured nation clause and extraterritoriality. In the following years and decades, similar unequal treaties between China and other nations followed. Even the Swiss government discussed opening a consulate in Guangzhou.

What interest did Switzerland have in Guangzhou? Switzerland is a small, landlocked country in the heart of Europe. As it is not a seafaring nation, most of the few Swiss who travelled to China in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were not explorers or captains of merchant ships but rather Jesuit missionaries. While the Qing court was not interested in foreign commerce or religions, the Swiss missionaries did have some-

thing to offer which the Chinese have loved ever since: Swiss watches. The Qing loved watches, and the Swiss missionaries who knew how to make and repair watches, machines, and instruments were in high demand. Aside from these missionaries, however, there was little contact between Switzerland and China until the early nineteenth century when Swiss companies specialising in watches and music boxes began exporting their products to China, and Swiss trading houses began arriving in China in greater numbers. They also catered to the Swiss fascination with Chinese tea, china, and silk, as well as household items and furniture with Chinese motives, known as chinoiserie. Swiss society was gripped by a veritable chinoiserie craze in the nineteenth century, and Chinese products were in high demand.

The Swiss government's discussion of a possible consulate in Guangzhou in the late 1850s was caused by commercial interests in China, the Treaty of Tianjin (1858, 天津条约), and Switzerland's expansion of the consular system abroad. Swiss trade with China in the nineteenth century consisted primarily of Swiss exports of watches and imports of Chinese silk but did not increase a great deal, mainly because there were no official relations between Switzerland and the Qing Dynasty. The Treaty of Tianjin further opened China to foreign diplomats and merchants. Foreigners were allowed to trade in ten additional treaty ports and to travel beyond them. For Swiss business representatives who were interested in increasing their trade with China, these were very promising changes. In 1859, the Union Horlogère, the organisation of Swiss watchmakers, sent a delegation to several East Asian countries to gauge how Swiss commercial interests could be developed there. The delegation also visited China and concluded that it was a market which could be lucrative for the Swiss.



Discussions about a Swiss consulate in Guangzhou

The Swiss federal system meant that many Swiss businesses had been focusing on trade abroad and not on the Swiss domestic market. In fact, the degree to which Swiss economy depended on the export of manufactured goods like watches and clocks, instruments and machines, and textiles, was unique in Europe. In the nineteenth century, Swiss regions specialised in different skills and products. Watches, clocks and music boxes, for example, were primarily produced in the French-speaking cantons. Since these products had seen rising exports to China, the demand to establish a consulate in Guangzhou in the late 1850s was also primarily driven by business representatives from these areas. Yet, their demands did not come out of the blue. The Swiss government had been opening numerous consulates in the 1850s. East Asia received attention in this regard because gunboat diplomacy and imperialism had forced several East Asian countries to open their trade to Western merchants, creating promising new markets for Swiss products as well.

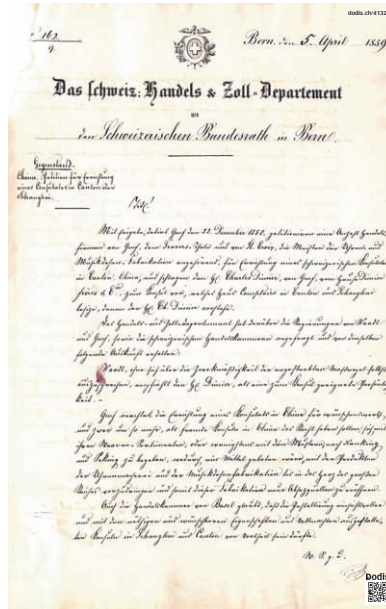


Illustration 1:
Le Conseil d'Etat de Neuchâtel au Département fédéral du Commerce et des Péages (1858), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv E13#1000/38#20*, dodis.ch/41309.

Illustration 2: Schweizerisches Handels- und Zoll-Departement (1859), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv E2#1000/44#1271*, dodis.ch/41326.

On 22 December 1858, over thirty companies from Geneva, Fleurier, and Sainte-Croix petitioned the Federal Council to open a Swiss consulate in China. Their primary choice for its location was Guangzhou. Most of the companies petitioning the government belonged to the watchmaking and music box manufacturing industries. Their efforts were supported by the councils of Vaud, Geneva, Basel, and others. The council of Neuchâtel, for example, pointed out that Le Locle and La Chaux-de-Fonds, the cities with Neuchâtel's largest watchmaking companies, were particularly interested in the Chinese market and were expecting their exports to China to rise. They argued that consulates should be established in China as soon as possible. Geneva, in turn, noted that a Swiss consul would be able to personally bring Swiss product samples to Nanjing and Beijing. Moreover, several watchmaking companies already had representatives in China, and they would have had welcomed the establishment of a Swiss consulate in Guangzhou.

Not all Swiss regions were keen on a consulate in Guangzhou, however. The Chambers of Commerce in Zurich, St. Gallen, and Glarus, for example, were against opening a Swiss consulate in Guangzhou. These areas did not specialise in watchmaking or music boxes, and had no products that were selling well in China. As a result, they suggested that Swiss companies and merchants in China should be placed under the protection of the French, British or Americans because they had powerful navies at their disposal – something which Switzerland did not have. The privileges gained after the two Opium Wars had clearly raised the expectation that more wars could be used to force China to make even greater concessions. The Federal Department of Trade and Customs agreed with these views to a certain extent. While it wanted Swiss consulates in China to be preceded by a bilateral treaty with China, it also felt that it was not yet clear how smoothly the newly acquired privileges of the maritime powers would be implemented, stating: “one must not think of entering official relations with that country. Under these [current] circumstances, it is not at all foreseeable how a Swiss consul in China could effectively protect and represent his compatriots there and the not unimportant Swiss interests.” As a result, the Federal Council decided on 25 July 1859 that it was not yet possible to judge how the situation in China would develop. It was not deemed an opportune time to conclude a bilateral treaty with Qing China, but such a treaty was felt to be necessary for the establishment of consulates in China.

One year later, the issue of a Swiss consulate in Guangzhou was debated again. In 1860, Swiss Federal Councillor Josef Martin Knüsel (1813-1889), head of the Department of Commerce and Customs, held a meeting with members of Parliament and business representatives on the feasibility of opening consulates in East Asia and the Middle East. Most of the meeting’s discussion focused on the issue of whether or not consulates should be opened in Guangzhou and Shanghai. Once again, the views were clear: Representatives of the watchmaking industry felt that a consulate should be opened as soon as possible. Several Swiss trading houses were already operating in China but these were primarily dealing with other countries’ trade with China, for example that of France. Vaucher Frères, one of these trading houses, was even in charge of the French consulate in Shanghai. While there were some voices claiming that these trading houses would benefit from a Swiss consulate in Guangzhou, the majority felt that Swiss trade in China would profit more from having a strong protecting power like the USA. Gunboat diplomacy still seemed more effective than bilateral relations according to this view. As a result, in the early 1860s, Switzerland opened consulates in Manila (1862), Batavia (1863), Yokohama and Nagasaki (both in 1864) but not in Guangzhou. For the rest of the nineteenth century, Swiss nationals in Guangzhou – and other parts of China – were under the protection of the USA, later Germany, France, and the UK.

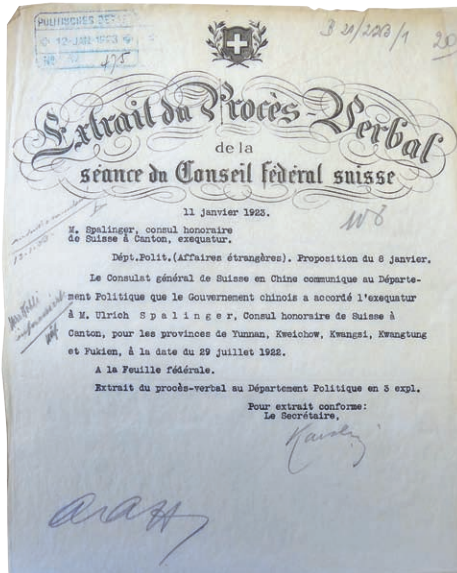
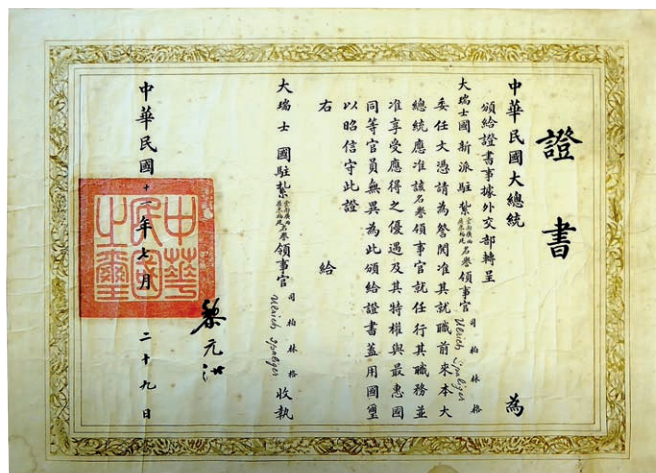


Illustration 3:
Ulrich Spalinger's hunting
gun license, Schweizer-
isches Bundesarchiv,
J1.382#2022/211#3

Illustration 4:
The Federal Council's
decision to make
Spalinger honorary
consul in Guangzhou
(1923), Schweizer-
isches Bundesarchiv,
E2500#1000/719#491*.

Illustration 5:
The Chinese accreditation
of Spalinger as honorary
consul (1922), Schweizer-
isches Bundesarchiv,
E2500#1000/719#491*.



The opening of the Swiss honorary consulate

In the 1890s, various Western powers and Japan scrambled to control parts of Chinese economy by setting up spheres of interest. Switzerland was not among them but this does not mean that Switzerland did not share some of the privileges of the imperial powers. In fact, in 1918, Switzerland was the last country to be granted extraterritoriality by the Republic of China when the Sino-Swiss Friendship Treaty was signed in Tokyo. In 1921, a Chinese diplomatic mission opened in Bern, and a Swiss consulate general in Shanghai. In 1922, Swiss honorary consulates were established

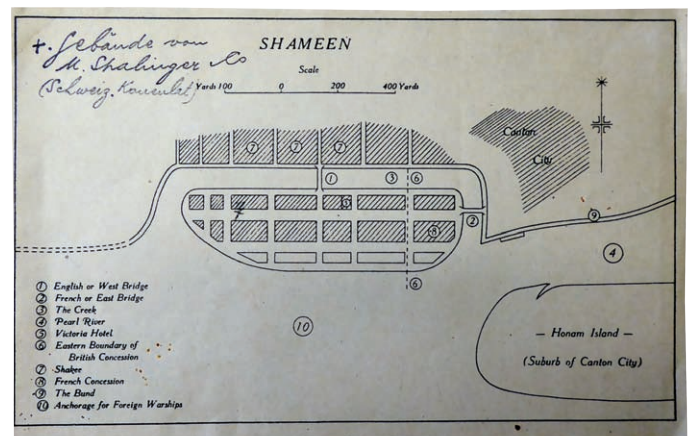
in Tianjin and in Guangzhou. The honorary consulate in Guangzhou was originally only responsible for the provinces Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong, and Fujian. The Chinese government at first refused the consulate's accreditation for Guizhou because it is in the interior of China, and consulates were supposed to be only in charge of port cities. However, for the Swiss government, Guizhou was important because Swiss missionaries were there, and eventually the Chinese agreed to add Guizhou as an area covered by the Swiss consulate in Guangzhou. Ulrich Spalinger (1869-1945) was appointed as Honorary Consul in Guangzhou.

The consulate's office was in Spalinger's own company's building, U. Spalinger & Co. S.A. With Spalinger, the Swiss government selected a Swiss national who had extensive commercial experience in China. Spalinger began working in the silk industry when he was sixteen years old, eventually becoming a silk inspector for the British company Jardine Matheson & Co. in Guangzhou in 1897. In 1901, he married Martha Bebić (1874-1841). The newly wedded couple almost immediately left for China, arriving in Guangzhou in February 1902. Until 1905, the Spalingers rented rooms in the German consulate in Guangzhou. In 1906, they moved to their own building, which doubled as Ulrich Spalinger's company headquarters. In 1906, Spalinger

founded his own trading house in Guangzhou, U. Spalinger, which eventually became U. Spalinger & Co. S.A. The company did most of its business in southern China. It specialised in silk, greige, and tea exports, but it also imported and exported various other products, including Swiss watches, pharmaceuticals, and machinery, and eventually opened a branch in Hong Kong. The building with the company's offices would eventually also house the consulate. It would remain the Swiss consul's residence for the next decades. The Consulate, like most of the others foreign representations, was located on the main street in Shamian Island. The building still exists today in its original structure.

Illustration 6:
The Swiss consulate
in the building of U.
Spalinger & Co. S.A.
(undated), Schweize-
risches Bundesarchiv,
J1.382#2022/211#46*.

Illustration 7:
The location of U.
Spalinger & Co. and
the Swiss Consulate
(undated), Schweize-
risches Bundesarchiv,
J1.382#2022/211#38*.



In the official letter informing Spalinger about his appointment as Honorary Consul, the Swiss government advised Spalinger that he was to “safeguard Swiss interests, insofar as they are compatible with the laws and treaties of [China], to the best of your ability and opportunity, and do everything that might be of benefit to the economic and general prosperity of the Confederation.” Spalinger’s tasks as Consul were fairly standard: He was the official Swiss government contact for the (local) Chinese authorities and he had sporadic meetings with local and regional government officials, such as the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs or the Superintendent of Customs. Whenever there was information that had to be shared with Swiss nationals in southern China, Spalinger was the one to receive it and he was responsible for passing it on. This included information about plague outbreaks, health measures, and so on.



Illustration 8: Chinese official communication with the Swiss consulate (1939), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, E2200.290A#1000/447#14*.

The Swiss consulate in Guangzhou also functioned as a civil registry office for Swiss nationals in Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Guangdong, and Fujian. Between 1923 and 1947, the number of Swiss nationals living in the consulate’s jurisdiction ranged from 33 to 62. In 1924, there were 33 Swiss missionaries, 9 business representatives, and 19 women and children registered with the consulate. The consulate also issued birth and death certificates and marriage licences, it issued and renewed passports as well as laissez-pas-

ser identification for journeys to the interior, made notarizations, and issued visas for Chinese nationals wanting to travel to Switzerland. The consulate also stored copies of wills and diplomas, and helped to sort out financial issues connected to liquidations, wills, private property or the investments of Swiss nationals who had since returned to Switzerland or had died. Sometimes the consulate also received money transfers from Switzerland, which it then forwarded to specific Swiss citizens living in its jurisdiction.

The consulate's other main function was to foster trade between Switzerland and the Republic of China. In the interwar period, Swiss exports to China were dominated by pocket and wrist watches, indigo, textiles, and machines. Imports from China were primarily silk products, food-stuffs, and animal products. Swiss companies sent advertisements and other publications for potential Chinese customers to the consulate. In return, the consulate provided information to interested Swiss businesses about the economic situation in southern China, changes in trade regulations, and specific industry sectors or factories in Guangzhou and surrounding areas. It also compiled information for Swiss businesses that wanted to open branches in China. Sometimes the consulate was asked to identify suitable Chinese companies for planned business deals or even get specific offers from Chinese companies. It also issued certificates for agreements between companies for monopolies of companies as sole agents in Guangdong and Guangxi for specific products.

Of course, whenever Swiss companies in southern China needed assistance, the consulate became involved. Nestlé's Milk Products (China) Limited, for example, experienced numerous cases of illegal Chinese copies of their products. Whenever Ulrich Spalinger was informed about such products, he intervened on behalf of Nestlé with the Chinese authorities, who then prohibited the sale of the copies. In addition, the consulate assisted companies and organizations that were owed money by Chinese companies (and, in one case, even the local government in Guangzhou), although it was not always successful.

The Swiss consulate in Guangzhou also functioned as a cultural bridgehead between Switzerland and southern China. For instance, it distributed advertisements and tourism brochures about Switzerland. Even the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule), Switzerland's leading scientific university, sent the consulate leaflets for potential Chinese students. The consulate also organised parties on August 1 to celebrate the Swiss national holiday although this did not happen every year due to civil war or the small number of Swiss nationals. Visiting Swiss nationals, as well as Swiss expats who lived in Guangzhou like Arnold Heim, who taught at the National Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou (國立中山大學, today the university is known as Sun Yat-sen University 中山大学) for a while, were often invited to dinners at the Spalinger's house. The Spalingers also hosted lavish Christmas dinners, which were greatly appreciated by their guests. Spalinger did not do all the consular work himself but was assisted by several employees from his own company. Translations were made by N.Y. Yeung (杨又依) and other Chinese employees of U. Spalinger & Co. S.A. In the 1920s and 1930s, most chancellery work was carried out by August Hoffmeister (1883-1969), who was also Spalinger's replacement as consul whenever Spalinger was out of town, or Max Gavin. Hoffmeister and Gavin were sometimes also assisted by Adolf Giovanoli and Spalinger's nephew Oscar Friessner in the 1920s, and later by Erich Zulauf. Although the consulate did not write regular reports to Bern in the 1920s and 1930s, it often sent and received more than 600 letters a year.



Consular life in Guangzhou

Like the rest of the colonial elite in Guangzhou, the Spalingers lived on Shamian Island (Shameen, 沙面島), a sandbank island on which the British and the French concessions were located. In this foreign enclave, consuls and other government officials rubbed shoulders with representatives of trading houses and other companies, bankers, journalists, clergy,

and their families. Buildings (including the consulate) were in typical colonial style, and even the layout of the roads and public spaces were according to Western custom. Interestingly enough, however, the Spalingers' private residence was decorated in an eclectic mixture of Chinese and European furniture and knick-knacks.

*Illustration 9:
Shamian (undated),
Schweizerisches
Bundesarchiv,
J1.382#2022/211#31*.*

The Spalingers had several Chinese servants, which was typical for the (Western and Chinese) elite. Yet, Ulrich Spalinger also had a Chinese teacher, which would have been quite unusual, at least for a Swiss (honorary) government official. After all, until the 1970s, hardly any Swiss diplomats were able to read or write Chinese, so Spalinger's language skills were quite special, even though his language skills were probably at least partly the result of his position as a foreign merchant in China who benefitted from being able to read and write (some) Chinese. In any case, like all Swiss officials in China during this period, Spalinger relied on Chinese interpreters. Since he had his own trading house, he used Chinese employees from his own company to translate any communication to and from Chinese.

*Illustrations 10 and 11:
The Spalingers' residence in Guangzhou (1903), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, J1.382#2022/211#46*.*

Apart from Switzerland, several other nations had consulates in Guangzhou. These included Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and the USA (in the 1930s there were also Finland and Czechoslovakia). As a result, consular life in Guangzhou during the interwar period was punctuated by grand dinners, some hosted by Westerners, others by the local Chinese authorities. The Spalingers also attended wedding ceremonies and funerals of the Chinese elite, lavish garden parties in Shamian, and even picnic parties in the White Cloud Mountains organized by the Chinese authorities.



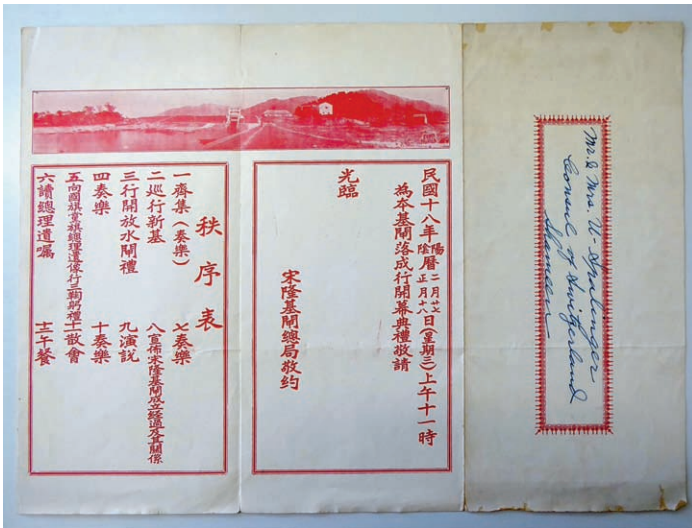


Illustration 12: Invitation to sluice gate inauguration ceremony (1929), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, J1.382#2022/211#40*.



Illustration 13: Garden party in Shamian (undated), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, J1.382#2022/211#46*.



Illustration 14: Invitation to a picnic party in the White Cloud Mountains (1931), J1.382#2022/211#40*.

The Spalingers enjoyed these parties very much and took many photos of events hosted by fellow Westerners or Chinese authorities. They often depict extravagantly decorated dining rooms that would put event planners today to shame. While some of the official events with Chinese (local)

authorities looked quite stuffy with the Chinese wearing traditional outfits and everyone looking sombre and important, other events were clearly more informal, with grinning (Asian and Western) guests and women showing off their exquisitely tailored dresses and ornamental hats.



Illustration 15: Chinese authorities hosting a banquet for consuls in Guangzhou (1931), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, J1.382#2022/211#47.*



Illustration 16: A banquet hosted by Mayor Liu and his wife for consuls in Guangzhou (1934), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, J1.382#2022/211#51.*



Illustration 17: Chinese authorities hosting a banquet for consuls in Guangzhou (1930), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, J1.382#2022/211#47.*

The foreign consular staff also undertook various outings together. Numerous photographs kept by the Spalingers depict the consuls posing – sometimes they are proud and serious, sometimes smiling and relaxed – during hunting trips and river cruises. In photographs of the consuls and their families, the absence of children is noticeable. Indeed, Spalinger himself felt that children should be not brought up in such an exclusive location as Shamian. Communication with family members who remained in Switzerland was difficult – letters could take months to reach their

destination, and telegrams were very expensive and had to be kept as short as possible. Nevertheless, Martha Spalinger sent a constant flow of postcards and letters to Switzerland and other countries. After all, it was the only way to keep in touch with friends and family, since it was only possible for the Spalingers to travel back to Europe once every few years, and even then, they often only managed to stay in Switzerland for a few weeks because the trips were usually work-related.

Dealing with Swiss missionaries

A large part of the consulate's dealings were not with Swiss merchants in southern China, but with Swiss missionaries who lived in remote areas in one of the five southern provinces.

In fact, missionaries made up the majority of Swiss nationals registered with the consulate. In the nineteenth century, the unequal treaties forced upon China led to a wave of Western missionaries in China. In 1858 and 1860 France forced China to allow the proselytising of Christianity by foreigners and the practice of it by Chinese. Foreign missionaries also received the right to travel beyond the treaty ports and even to rent or buy land. By 1900, there were about 2,000 Western missionaries in China. This number rose to over 3,000 by 1910. Among them were Swiss nationals belonging to various missions, the largest of which was the Evangelische Missionsgesellschaft in Basel, commonly known as the Basel Mission. It was founded in 1815 and from 1847 sent missionaries in southern China. In the interwar period, the Basel Mission's Chinese presence was still primarily in Guangdong province. Yet, the Basel Mission was actually not completely Swiss: most of its missionaries and financial support came from Germany.

Ulrich Spalinger had to intervene quite frequently in issues between the missionaries and local authorities. In 1923, for example, the Chinese Commissioner of Foreign Affairs refused to grant some Swiss missionaries the right to travel, forcing Spalinger to remind him that Swiss missionaries enjoyed the same rights as other subjects of countries with most favoured nation status. Missionaries also faced numerous enemies who

were roaming the countryside. In 1927, when civil strife was ripe in southern China, Spalinger sent letters to missionaries, warning them of the "daily increasing insecurity" that missionaries were exposed to. He left it up to them to decide whether or not they wanted to remain at their mission stations but cautioned them: "In Foochow [Fuzhou, the capital city of Fujian province] and Amoy [Xiamen], and elsewhere, serious outrages have occurred against missionaries", and suggested they immediately seek protection in Shanghai, which was defended by Western forces.

In the interwar period, several missionaries were kidnapped, and the Swiss consulate tried to assist the missionary organisations in the negotiations with the missionaries' captors. It also tried to ensure that no other missionaries were harmed. However, due to the civil war various warring parties were moving around southern China, and several of them saw kidnapping missionaries as an easy way to make money, forcing the consulate to intervene again and again. The missionary organisations usually notified the Swiss consul in Guangzhou whenever missionaries were harmed or kidnapped in southern China, rather than the Swiss consulate general in Shanghai. The consul would then contact the local Chinese authorities and the involved parties, update the missionary organisations about any developments, and try to negotiate the missionaries' release. These could be quite long processes – in 1934, the Swiss consulate in Guangzhou was involved in negotiations of the release of missionaries from the Basel Mission who had been kidnapped and held for eighteen months before they were finally released.

Not all interaction with missionaries was quite so tense and demanding. Most communication evolved around civil registry affairs. Thus, the consulate registered marriages between missionaries (the consul even sometimes conducted wedding ceremonies) and issued birth certificates when missionaries had children (and, in some cases, death certificates when their children died). The consulate also assisted missionaries in accessing funds from their bank accounts or forwarded them money that was sent to the consulate for them. The consulate even sometimes acted as a letter box for the missionaries. Swiss food (cheese and chocolate seem to have been a missionary favourite), plant seeds, and other items were sent from Europe and the USA to the consulate in Guangzhou, which then forwarded them onto the missionaries or informed them to pick it up. Since the missionaries often lived in remote areas, this was sometimes easier said than done. In 1943, the consul August Hoffmeister was in contact with a missionary from the Salvator Mission, Sancta Infantia, in Fujian province. A letter from the missionary took over two months to reach Hoffmeister, by which time the cheese and chocolate that had been sent to her from Switzerland had gone off.

Civil strife in Guangzhou

The civil strife that gripped southern China in the 1920s and 1930s affected the Swiss consulate in Guangzhou in various ways. The local authorities' official responsible for foreign relations constantly changed. In 1927, Spalinger reported that there was a period of three months, where three different people were in charge. In addition, warlords and the Communists tried to challenge the Nationalists' (Guomindang 国民党) rule, often forcing the consulate to deal with both Beijing's Nationalist Government and a local government in Guangzhou. There were also several times when the civil war reached the streets of Guangzhou. In 1924, fighting in Shamian resulted in some of the foreign properties being looted and destroyed by fire, and foreign companies suffered from strikes and boycotts. Although the foreign consuls intervened with the local government in an attempt to restore order, there was little else they could do other than protest.

Two years later, Ulrich Spalinger witnessed an even bloodier episode of civil strife in Guangzhou. Although the city was officially under Guomindang control, at times different factions were in charge, and the Communists also had a large following among workers. The Communists decided to take advantage of this infighting by staging their own uprising. In the "Guangzhou Uprising"

(广州起义), military units and workers under Communist leadership took control of the city on 11 December 1927 and announced the establishment of a Guangzhou Soviet. However, on December 13, they were defeated by the Guomindang armies. Approximately 6,000 Communists and workers were massacred in five days. Spalinger took dozens of photographs of Guangzhou's destroyed infrastructure, damaged buildings, and countless bodies of the Communists. The sheer number of pictures of the violence and executions shows how much he was affected by this experience.

*Illustration 18:
The destruction caused by the
Guangzhou Uprising (1927),
Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv,
J1.382#2022/211#46*.*



The civil war also had the effect that it was difficult for Swiss companies to establish themselves in southern China or find business partners there. As a result, the number of Swiss nationals who were registered with the consulate dwindled from 56 in 1927 to 33 in 1932. Although Swiss nationals and companies in Guangzhou were protected by British troops on Shamian, Spalinger informed Bern after the Guangzhou Rising that the city's economy had suffered tremendously and would take a long time to recover. The consulate tried its best to assist Swiss companies wanting to establish themselves in China, but it was very difficult. Ulrich Spalinger wrote: "As a result of the endless civil wars, the purchasing power of the [Chinese] hinterland has been greatly diminished, and there is no great spirit of enterprise among Chinese merchants in the port areas. The nationalist government has not been able to put a stop to piracy, and the waterways into the interior of the country remain unsafe." Spalinger was adamant that Swiss companies should never do direct business with Chinese companies and encouraged them to ask the consulate for assistance.

The bleak outlook on business did not improve quickly. In 1934, Spalinger wrote in a letter how Guangzhou's economy was in tatters, that wages could not be paid, and that there was no coal delivery. To make matters worse, cheap silk exports from Japan had led to a closure of 150 spinning mills, with the remaining ten spinning mills operating at a loss. For Swiss textile companies and trading houses specialising in silk exports, this was terrible news, and Spalinger hoped that once Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) had established control of southern China, things would look up again for Swiss business in Guangzhou.



The consulate during the Second World War

The Second World War and the Japanese invasion of Guangzhou affected the Swiss Consulate in numerous ways. Spalinger reported to the Political Department in Bern that from 18 May to 16 June 1938, 525 bombs had been detonated in the Guangzhou's residential and business areas, causing 1,800 deaths and injuring 6,500 civilians. The Japanese onslaught caused shipping to become difficult, and the trains were bombed as well, particularly the Guangzhou-Hankou (Canton-Hankow) railway, which was the only direct railway line between China's north and south. Spalinger wrote to Bern about bombs detonating as close as 400 meters from the consulate, and shrapnel only thirty meters away. Several typists who had been working for the consulate left Guangzhou for Hong Kong.

In October 1938, Japan began to invade Canton to stop China from importing weapons and other goods for the Chinese war effort, and from communication with other powers. Before leaving the city, the Chinese army and Guangzhou municipal authority destroyed important water and electricity plants to prevent these facilities from falling into the hands of the Japanese. Spalinger felt that Guangzhou was gripped by anarchy although Shamian was protected by British and French warships as well as the Shamian police and volunteers.

*Illustration 19:
Shamian during the
Second World War
(undated), Schweizerisches
Bundesarchiv,
J1.382#2022/211#47*.*

Illustration 20: The consulate's destroyed windows after the explosion (1938), Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, J1.382#2022/211#46.*



The Japanese bombed Guangzhou with incendiary munition, killing thousands, although no Swiss civilians were among the casualties. On 23 October 1938, during invasion of Guangzhou, two train carriages loaded with ammunition exploded. The destruction was immense, and the Swiss consulate was so damaged that the Spalingers had to seek shelter with the manager of what Martha Spalinger described as the “Hong-kong Bank”, probably the local HSBC branch.

Spalinger took several photographs to document destroyed windows and walls in the consular office as well as a damaged ceiling and parts of the living room, office, and bedroom in the residential part of the building. Japanese invasion of Guangzhou also resulted in the destruction of Swiss goods, such as dyes and chemicals by the company Sandoz worth \$7,000, which had been stored in a warehouse in Guangzhou.



*Illustration 21:
Mayor Liu and
his wife hosting a
banquet for Martha
and Ulrich Spalinger
(1936), Schweizer-
isches Bundesarchiv,
J1.382#2022/211#48*.*

Soon after the Japanese had taken control of Guangzhou, Spalinger gloomily wrote to Bern about the detrimental effects of the Japanese occupation on the city's foreign trade. At first, some British steamers were allowed to continue but most cargo destined for Hong Kong was stuck in Guangzhou. Over time, the Japanese did not even allow foreign merchant vessels to pass anymore and insisted instead that Japanese products had to be imported. Likewise, traveling became dangerous, as trains continued to be

attacked by the Japanese. Business suffered so much that in 1939, Ulrich and Martha Spalinger left Guangzhou and returned to Switzerland, where Spalinger became a founding member of the Gesellschaft der Freunde ostasiatischer Kulturen (the predecessor of the Schweizerische Asiengesellschaft). By the time the Spalingers left, they had been in Guangzhou for over thirty years, a fact which was honored by the Chinese authorities with a banquet.

Spalinger was replaced by August Hoffmeister, who assumed charge of the consulate on 20 April 1939 and was officially appointed Honorary Swiss Consul in Guangzhou on 11 November 1939. Until 1941 Max Gavin was honorary chancellor. He was then replaced by Erich Zulauf, who was also employed by U. Spalinger & Co. S.A. in Guangzhou. Hoffmeister had previously been vice-consul.

August Hoffmeister was consul in Guangzhou from 1939 to 1948. He spent his youth in France and Switzerland and had arrived in China in 1907 as a silk expert. In 1910, he joined U. Spalinger & Co., and in 1920 he became Spalinger's associate in Guangzhou. After the company became Spalinger & Co. S. A. (Société Anonyme) in 1930, Hoffmeister first joined the board of directors, before becoming its chairman in 1939. By the time he was appointed honorary consul, Hoffmeister had been living in China for twenty years. From 1923 on, Hoffmeister was also involved with the consulate in Guangzhou. At first, he was honorary chancellor, but he also managed the consulate whenever Ulrich Spalinger was away, and in 1938 he was appointed vice-consul before replacing Spalinger as consul in 1939.

Diplomatic life in Guangzhou during the Second World War was not without its problems. Hoffmeister reported to Bern that interactions with the local Japanese authorities were satisfactory but not without difficulties. British, American, and other diplomats had left Guangzhou; only those from Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, and Portugal remained. Although the German consul general was officially head of the foreign consuls, he refused to represent all of them because of the war.

Files stored at the Federal Archives in Bern show that Hoffmeister tried to help Chinese nationals during the Japanese occupation of Guangzhou. In February 1940, for example, Shamian residents were informed that “only two Chinese employees and or servants [are allowed] to remain in the premises whilst the owner is absent from Shameen”. However, Hoffmeister applied for more than the allowed number of passes for his Chinese staff. This was clearly an effort to protect Chinese staff as much as possible by allowing them to reside in the relative safety of Shamian. In his official request, Hoffmeister claimed that while he resided in Shamian as consul, he also had to stay in Hong Kong every month for some time:

“In my official status I am obliged to keep up my private establishment with full complement of servants which have to live on my premises and look after all my private belongings, and [more servants are required because] I may at any time during my absence have visitors stay in my house which in fact happened recently for a period of 10 days. [...] I am also Managing Director of Mr. U. Spalinger & Co. S.A., and in that capacity I require a skeleton staff [...] having during my temporary absences to look after the building in general, warehouse and offices which contain all the firm's files, safes, etc. as well as the official consular files and safe containing important documents.”

Hoffmeister was clearly using any excuse he could find to allow as many Chinese as he could to reside in Shamian. Although he was admonished for such a request by the local authorities, he was at least partly successful and was notified:

“in view of your position as Consul, you may exceptionally be allowed the five (5) passes for you domestic servants, while two (2) resident ‘caretaker’ passes will be issued to your office staff. The remainder may have non-resident passes.”

During the Second World War, Switzerland’s good offices in China included representing American, British, and Dutch interests in areas under Japanese occupation. Hoffmeister’s extensive knowledge of Chinese culture and politics, and his vast connections in Guangzhou became evident in his actions, as he tirelessly assisted Westerners in southern China. In February 1943, the USA’s minister in Switzerland thanked the Federal Council in Bern for the work of Swiss officials in East Asia, who had been acting in Switzerland’s role as a protecting power for American citizens and property. He especially mentioned Hoffmeister in Guangzhou, noting that “Mr. Hoffmeister’s representation of American interests was fraught with numerous difficulties”, but that Hoffmeister helped as much as he possibly could. The letter stressed that Hoffmeister assisted Americans “in every way”, helping to evacuate Americans from Guangzhou and sometimes even advancing money. While some other Swiss officials were mentioned in the letter by name, nobody received such accolades as Hoffmeister. His assistance to Americans in Shamian was lauded, and his “unlimited efforts made for their benefit” were described as so extensive that the US government and people in question were truly thankful.

The Japanese occupation of (eastern and southern) China had the effect that the Swiss consulate and Swiss nationals in southern China were affected by Japanese censorship during the Second World War. Postal communications with

Shanghai as well as the telegraph service were controlled by the Japanese. As a result, the Swiss consulate in Guangzhou spent months without being able to communicate with the outside world. Even communicating with the Swiss consulate general in Shanghai was impossible. On 18 December 1942, the Japanese also imposed a ban on radio receiving sets, officially as a measure against anti-Japanese propaganda. Since this applied to all foreigners, including any Swiss still in occupied territories, the Swiss consulate had to ensure that they were informed. The inability to communicate with Bern and Shanghai must have placed the consulate under an enormous amount of strain.

The war also had the effect that the consulate in Guangzhou had to deal with cases where Swiss companies’ goods had been confiscated or stolen by the Japanese. From December 1941 to September 1945, Hong Kong had been occupied by the Japanese. The city had been a crucial commercial hub for Western trade with China, but the Japanese stopped this. Since about 80 per cent of Swiss exports to China went via Hong Kong, Swiss companies trading with southern China suffered from this embargo. The Swiss company Ciba (today part of BASF), for example, exported products like pharmaceuticals and dyes to China. When the Pacific War officially broke out in December 1941, the Swiss representative of Ciba in southern China stored the remaining Ciba products in the company’s warehouse in Kowloon and in a wharf in Hong Kong. However, after the Japanese took over control of Hong Kong, they stole the goods and moved them to Guangzhou, where they eventually sold a large part of them at very low prices. In 1946, 100 parcels of Ciba products were still believed to be in Guang-

zhou in the possession of the Chinese authorities, but they refused to hand them over. Erich Zulauf, who was acting consul for Switzerland in Guangzhou during Hoffmeister's absence, tried to assist Ciba in locating the parcels, but it is unclear whether or not he was successful.

While missionaries in southern China were not specifically targeted by the Japanese soldiers, some of them became casualties of the war, despite the Swiss consulate's efforts to ensure their safety. In 1938, Spalinger wrote to the Basel Mission suggesting it put Swiss flags on all its hospitals and buildings in Guangdong province to protect them from Japanese air raids. He also informed the Japanese authorities of the exact location of the missionary hospitals and buildings. Most missionaries refused to leave their posts, and in 1940, a missionary couple was killed by bombs dropped by Japanese planes.

After the war

The outlook for Swiss commerce in southern China looked bleak after the Japanese surrender in 1945. Most Swiss business representatives had left the Swiss consulate's jurisdiction. In 1946, 51 Swiss nationals lived in the consulate's administrative radius. Only two were business representatives. U. Spalinger & Co., S.A. was the only remaining Swiss company in Guangzhou, but the difficult and confusing legal situation did not fill Hoffmeister with hope that more Swiss companies would come to southern China any time soon. Hoffmeister even suggested that U. Spalinger & Co. should leave China and get registered in Hong Kong instead, which happened in 1948 (the company then changed its name to U. Spalinger & Co., LTD).

Of the 51 Swiss nationals registered with the consulate in 1946, 39 were missionaries. In 1947 and 1948, more Swiss missionaries returned to southern China, most of them members of the China Inland Mission and the Basel Mission. Since many Swiss had left China for Switzerland at the outbreak of the war or during the war, the consulate in Guangzhou not only dealt with cases involving missionaries but also Swiss nationals who wanted to let out their houses in China or had financial issues tied up in China.

After acting as honorary consul for sixteen years, August Hoffmeister requested to be retired in November 1948. His successor, Werner Thomann (1907- 2001), was an engineer who had been living in China since 1946 as a representative of S.A. Brown Boveri & Cie., a Swiss electrical engineering company. When Hoffmeister returned to Switzerland, he was inundated with messages celebrating his exemplary behaviour as consul, his competence, his inexhaustible devotion to his job, his assistance of Swiss citizens and citizens of other countries during the war, and for his excellent support with the Chinese authorities. An official speech by the Swiss Minister in China, Henry de Torrenté (1893-1962), at August Hoffmeister's retirement ceremony included details about Hoffmeister's stellar career with Spalinger & Co. and his extraordinarily dutiful and professional behaviour as consul. Minister de Torrenté went on to state:

"I have wished to dwell on the career of Mr. Hoffmeister not only as a token of the gratitude we owe to our consul in Canton, but also because this career can be offered as an example to our young people who are seeking a career abroad. The basis is a solid technical training, knowledge of

languages, character, courage, confidence, and dynamism. Then the traditional qualities of the Swiss businessman: honesty, perseverance, practical business skills, a sense of proportion, and possibility. These are the basic conditions for success, these are the elements that enabled Mr. Hoffmeister to succeed in his profession and at the same time render the greatest service to his country. [...] It is certainly not always easy to reconcile personal interests with general interests. This requires a mind open to generalities, a solid balance and a certain generosity of character. Mr. Hoffmeister had these qualities to the highest degree. His departure from Canton leaves a gap in the ranks of our consular representation that will be very difficult to fill.”

Indeed, the government had problems finding a

successor for Hoffmeister. From November 1948 to May 1949, Werner Thomann was honorary consul in Guangzhou. However, Thomann returned to Switzerland, and the Federal Council could not find a suitable successor, so the consulate’s files were eventually handed over to the French consulate in Guangzhou.

After the Chinese Communists announced the People’s Republic of China and the Nationalists fled to Taiwan, the Federal Council decided to recognize the People’s Republic of China and to stop all diplomatic relations with the Nationalists. On 17 January 1950, Switzerland officially recognized the People’s Republic of China. Diplomatic relations between the two countries began in September 1950. Although the textile industry continued to develop in Guangzhou, Swiss companies struggled in China, and the Federal Council decided to close the consulate in Guangzhou on 4 January 1957.

Opening of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Guangzhou

South China, especially Guangdong and the Greater Pearl River Delta Economic zone has been the most economically dynamic region of the Chinese mainland since the launch of China's reform program in 1979. At the beginning of the 21st century, the trends indicate that this region will be one of the world's most dynamic economic areas. In 2005, the region holds about 1/9 of the national GDP, 20% of the foreign direct investments, 1/3 of the foreign trade, 1/3 of the out-bound Chinese tourists to Europe and 14% of the savings in China.

Swiss Companies also wanted to be part of the positive development and up to year 2000, already 100 Swiss SMEs had been established in the province of Guangdong and this trend was growing. These close ties with Switzerland were also reflected in the bilateral trade, where the province of Guangdong ranks among the first most important trade partners for our country. Since the economic opening, a lot of personal contacts brought the two countries together and revealed a great mutual interest in such fields as culture, tourism, science, research and education. In 2003, the Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation (SSSTC) program was established, with the signing of a memo-

randum of understanding (MoU) between the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), paving the way for further cooperation's projects between institutes in both countries.

In order to support these encouraging trends in the most effective way, the Swiss government has decided to open a Consulate General in Guangzhou. The opening ceremony was celebrated on October 29th, 2006 in presence of Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey.

The jurisdiction of the Consulate General in Guangzhou includes the provinces of Guangdong, Fujian, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangxi and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The Consulate General provides the full range of consular services for the Swiss community throughout our jurisdiction. At the moment of the opening of the Consulate General around 70 Swiss citizens had settled down in the region and on 31.12.2021, this number has increased up to 180. Switzerland being one of the favourite destinations for Chinese tourists, the issuance of Schengen visa to Switzerland is another important task of this representation. In 2019, this Consulate General issued 23'000 Schengen visas. Since 2020, due to the pandemic and the travel restrictions, this number has drastically fallen down.

List of Consuls General in Guangzhou since the opening in 2006:

Mr. Werner Nievergelt	October 2006 to May 2010
Mr. Ulrich Hunn	June 2010 to July 2014
Mr. Didier Boschung	July 2014 to July 2018
Mr. Martin Bienz	July 2018 to July 2021
Mr. Philippe Praz	August 2021



*Illustration 22: former premises of Swiss Consulate,
No. 64 Shamian Street, Shamian, Guangzhou*

A long heritage in China, a growing future in the Greater Bay Area

UBS launches digital wealth management platform “WE.UBS” in China



Switzerland’s banking sector is made up of more than 250 banks, 200 insurance companies, 350 fintech and blockchain companies, contributing about 10% of the national GDP and enjoying a great reputation worldwide. UBS is the largest bank in Switzerland.

A world-leading wealth manager

Founded after the merger of some 370 financial institutions in 1862, UBS is today a leading global financial institution with a history of 160 years, operating in all the major financial centers around the globe, and has offices in more than 50 regions and locations.

UBS convenes the global ecosystem for investing, where people and ideas are connected and opportunities brought to life, and provides financial advice and solutions to wealthy, institutional and corporate clients worldwide, as well as to private clients in Switzerland. UBS offers investment solutions, products and impactful thought leadership, is the leading global wealth manager, provides large-scale and diversified

asset management, focused investment banking capabilities, and personal and corporate banking services in Switzerland.

A major player in the Chinese market

China is a key market for UBS. In 1964, UBS was the first Switzerland-based bank to establish a presence in the Asia Pacific region, primarily through its wealth management business. UBS has provided corporate finance advice to Chinese enterprises since 1985.

UBS invested early in mainland China. Since 1989, its operations have expanded and now include a multi-entity domestic platform with a broad range of licenses. Its China strategy is to broaden the leadership position held by its investment bank and expand the wealth and asset management businesses by taking advantage of the opportunities that emerge from China’s opening-up of the financial sector, and the focus on sustainability and new economy.

UBS is always staying at the forefront of investment in China, and has witnessed the country’s tremendous achievements in economic growth and wealth creation, as well as the rapid development of the domestic financial markets.

Digital transformation targeting affluent Chinese clients

UBS Fund Distribution (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. (UBS Fund Distribution), a wholly-owned subsidiary of UBS, rolled out an innovative digital wealth management platform “WE.UBS” on 26 October 2022, with the aim of providing affluent Chinese with professional services. It is the first digital wealth management platform in Asia Pacific under UBS, and the first digital-led wealth management platform launched by a

global wealth manager in China. By making Shenzhen the home of WE.UBS, it is strategically positioned to support and benefit from the development of the Greater Bay Area (GBA), and matching into the rest of China digitally.

The mobile APP “WE.UBS” combines UBS’s 160 years of wealth management services with cutting-edge digital technology. It offers clients an innovative, digital service model with proactive financial planning based on big data and UBS Chief Investment Office (CIO) views. It is highly interactive where clients can complete on-boarding in a few minutes and enjoy a one-stop service. The platform provides both local

and global investment solutions through a robust selection process aligning to the CIO, dedicated investor education as well as 24-hour tracking based on market developments.

WE.UBS will also build an ecosystem with selected local and global partners offering both financial and lifestyle products and services to meet the needs of clients at different stages of their life.

WE.UBS strives to establish itself as the preferred digital wealth advisor for its targeted clients in China.

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瑞士驻广州领事馆的历史 (至1956年)

瑞士商人抵达广州

瑞士在广州设立总领事馆与广州在清朝时期作为商业中心的悠久历史有关。从1757年到1842年，外国人在中国做生意只能在广州进行交易。在当时“一口通商”的制度下，外商仅限于与中国的商人公会——“公行”（*cohong*）进行商业往来。英国商人对这种情况尤为不满，要求英国政府采取炮舰外交，以迫使清朝解除贸易限制。由于清朝对外国商品兴趣不大，坚持用白银支付，外国商人开始向中国走私大量的鸦片，以平衡贸易逆差。中国打击西方鸦片走私的行动导致英法联军发动了第一次鸦片战争（1840-1842）。1842年8月29日，《南京条约》正式签署。清朝同意将香港割让给英国，并开放广州、宁波、厦门、上海和福州五个港口给外国商人贸易和居住（五口通商）。1843年，中国被迫实行固定的进出口关税，并给予英国最惠国待遇和治外法权。在接下来的几十年里，中国和其他国家之间类似的不平等条约接踵而来。甚至瑞士政府也讨论在广州开设领事馆。

瑞士对广州产生了哪些兴趣呢？瑞士是一个位于欧洲中心的内陆小国。由于它不是航海国家，早在十七和十八世纪，在中国为数不多的瑞士人中，大多数既不是探险家也不是商船的船长，而是耶稣会传教士。虽然清廷对外国商业或宗教不感兴趣，但瑞士传教士确实提供了一些中国人至今都喜欢的东西：瑞士手表。清朝时期，人们喜爱手表，对精通制造和维修手表、机器和仪器的瑞士传教士的需求量很大。然而，除了这些传教士之外，瑞士和中国之间的往来很少，直到19世纪初，专门生产手表和音乐盒的瑞士公司才开始向中国出口他们的产品，瑞士贸易

公司也开始越来越多地来到中国做生意。他们还迎合了瑞士人对中国产品的青睐，进口茶叶、瓷器、丝绸以及颇具中国风的家居用品和中式家具。十九世纪，瑞士社会流行中国风，对中国产品有很大的需求。

1850年代末，由于对中国的商业兴趣，《天津条约》（1858年）的签订和瑞士海外领事机构的扩展，瑞士政府开始讨论在广州设立领事馆的可行性。十九世纪，瑞士和中国的贸易商品主要包括瑞士手表和中国丝绸。由于瑞士和清朝之间未建立官方关系，两国的贸易额并没有大幅增长。《天津条约》的签订使中国进一步向外国商人和外交官开放。外国人可以在条约新增加的10个港口进行贸易，并在这些港口外旅行。对于那些有意增强与中国贸易往来的瑞士商人来说，这些变化是非常令人鼓舞的。1859年，瑞士钟表制造商的组织——瑞士钟表联合会（*Union Horlogère*），派出代表团前往几个东亚国家进行考察，以衡量瑞士商业如何在当地发展。该代表团还访问了中国，并得出结论，中国对瑞士来说是一个利润丰厚的市场。

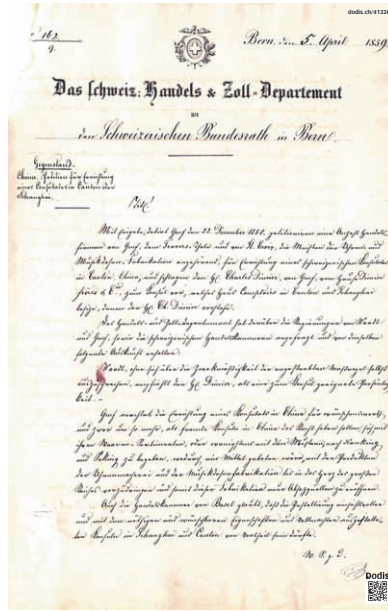
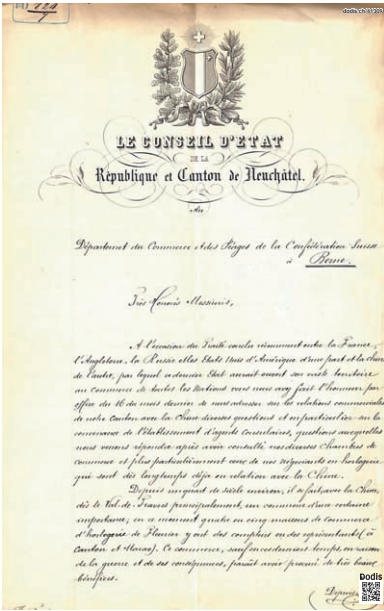


插图 1:
纳沙泰尔州议会致联邦贸易和海关部的公函 (1858), 瑞士联邦档案馆 E13#1000/38#20*, dodis.ch/41309.

插图 2:
瑞士贸易和海关部信函 (1859), 瑞士联邦档案馆 E2#1000/44#1271*, dodis.ch/41326.

关于在广州设立瑞士领事馆的讨论

瑞士联邦体系意味着许多瑞士企业一向聚焦于国际贸易，而非瑞士国内市场。事实上，瑞士经济对钟表、仪器和机器以及纺织品等成品出口的依赖程度，在欧洲是独一无二的。十九世纪，瑞士各地区专攻不同的技能和产品。例如，手表、钟表和音乐盒主要在讲法语的州生产。由于这些产品对中国的出口不断增加，1850年代末在广州设立领事馆的请求也主要由这些地区的商业代表推动。然而，他们的请求并非突如其来。瑞士政府在1850年代开设了多间领事馆。东亚国家在此方面受到关注。炮舰外交和帝国主义迫使几个东亚国家向西方商人开放贸易，为瑞士产品创造了颇有前途的新市场。

1858年12月22日，来自日内瓦、弗勒里耶 (Fleurier) 和圣十字城 (Sainte-Croix) 的三十多家公司向联邦委员会申请在中国开设瑞士领事馆。他们的首选地点是广州。大多数向政府请愿的公司属于钟表和音乐盒制造行业。他们的努力得到了沃州、日内瓦、巴塞尔等地议会的支持。例如，纳沙泰尔 (Neuchâtel) 议会指出，纳沙泰尔最大的钟表公司坐落在勒洛克勒 (Le Locle) 和拉绍德封 (La Chaux-de-Fonds)，他们对中国市场特别感兴趣，并期望扩大对中国的出口。他们认为应尽快在中国设立领事馆。日内瓦也指出，瑞士领事将能够亲自将瑞士产品的样品带到南京和北京。此外，一些钟表公司已经在中国有代表，他们会欢迎在广州设立瑞士领事馆。

然而，并非所有瑞士地区都热衷于在广州设立领事馆。例如，苏黎世、圣加仑和格拉鲁斯的商会反对在广州设立瑞士领事馆。这些地区并不擅长制表或音乐盒，也没有在中国畅销的产品。因此，他们建议应当请法国、英国或美国领事馆保护在中国的瑞士公司，因为这些国家有强大的海军势力——这是瑞士所不具备的。两次鸦片战争带来了特权，人们期望发动更多的战争来迫使中国做出更大的让步。联邦贸易和海关部在某种程度上同意这些观点。虽然它希望瑞士在中国设立领事馆之前先与中国签订双边条约，但还不清楚如何顺利取得海事力量新带来的特权，并指出：“我们不能考虑与该国建立正式关系。在‘目前的’这种情况下，根本无法预见瑞士驻中国领事如何有效地保护和代表他在那里的同胞以及重要的瑞士利益。”因此，1859年7月25日，联邦委员会作出决定，认为当时还无法判断中国的局势将如何发展。当时并不是与中国清朝缔结双边条约的合适时机，但若在中国建立领事馆，这个条约是必要的。

一年后，瑞士联邦就设立瑞士驻广州领事馆的问题再次进行辩论。1860年，瑞士联邦委员约瑟夫·马丁·克努塞尔（Josef Martin Knüsel, 1813-1889）——商业和海关处的负责人与议员和商业代表举行会议，讨论在东亚和中东地区开设领事馆的可行性。会议的大部分讨论集中在是否应该在广州和上海开设领事馆的问题上。观点再次明确：制表业的代表认为应该尽快开设领事馆。一些瑞士贸易公司已经在中国开展业务，但这些公司主要处理其他国家例如法国与中国的贸易。其中一家贸易公司Vaucher Frères甚至负责法国驻上海领事馆。尽管有些人认为这些贸易公司会受益于瑞士驻广州领事馆，但大多数人认为，瑞士在中国的贸易会因为美国这样一个强大的保护国而受益更多。根据这种观点，炮舰外交似乎比双边关系更有效。因此，19世纪60年代初，瑞士在马尼拉（1862年）、巴达维亚（1863年）、横滨和长崎（均为1864年）设立了领事馆，但没有在广州设立。在十九世纪后半叶，在广州以及中国其它地区的瑞士国民都受到美国的保护，继而是受德国、法国和英国的保护。

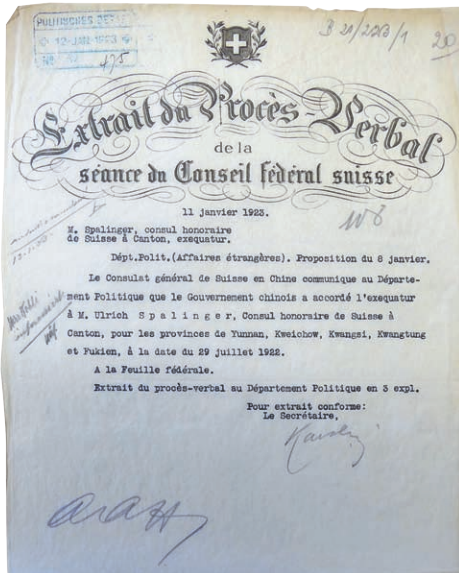


插图 3:
乌尔里希·司柏林格的持枪证 (拍摄日期不详), 瑞士联邦档案馆, J1.382#2022/211#38*.

插图 4:
联邦委员会决定任命司柏林格为驻广州名誉领事(1923), 瑞士联邦档案馆, E2500#1000/719#491*.

插图 5:
中国认可司柏林格为名誉领事的证书 (1922), 瑞士联邦档案馆, E2500#1000/719#491*.



瑞士名誉领事馆的开设

1890年代, 各西方列强和日本争先恐后地通过建立势力范围来控制中国的部分经济。瑞士不在其中, 但这并不意味着瑞士没有分享帝国主义列强的一些特权。事实上, 1918年, 在东京签署的《中瑞友好条约》中, 瑞士是最后一个被中华民国授予治外法权的国家。1921年, 中国外交使团在伯尔尼成立, 瑞士也在上海设立了总领事馆。1922年, 瑞士在天津和广州设立了名誉

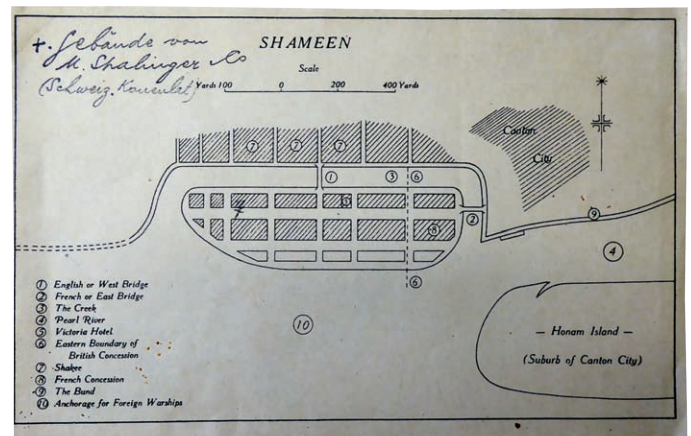
领事馆。广州的名誉领事馆最初只负责云南、广西、广东和福建四省。中国政府起初拒绝了该领事馆管辖贵州的要求, 因为贵州位于中国内陆, 而领事馆应该只负责港口城市的事务。然而, 对瑞士政府来说, 贵州很重要, 因为那里有瑞士的传教士。最终中国方面同意将贵州纳入瑞士驻广州领事馆的领区范围。乌尔里希·司柏林格 (1869-1945) 被任命为首任驻广州名誉领事。

领事馆的办公室设在司柏林格自己公司的大楼里，即司柏林格有限公司（U. Spalinger & Co. S.A.），瑞士政府选择了司柏林格这样一位在中国有丰富商业经验的瑞士人（作为领事）。司柏林格16岁时开始在丝绸行业工作，后来在1897年成为英国怡和洋行在广州的丝绸检验员。1901年，他与玛莎·贝比埃（1874-1941）结婚。这对新婚夫妇几乎在婚后立即前往中国，于1902年2月抵达广州。直至1905年，司柏林格夫妇一直租住在德国驻广州领事馆。1906年，他们搬到了自己的大楼，这里同时也是乌尔里

希·司柏林格的公司总部。1906年，司柏林格在广州成立了自己的贸易公司柏林格公司（U. Spalinger，后来名为U. Spalinger & Co. S.A.公司），该公司主要在华南地区开展业务，专门从事丝绸、坯布和茶叶的出口，同时也经营其它各类产品的进出口，包括瑞士手表、药品和机械，并在香港设立了分公司。公司办公大楼最终也成为领事馆的办公场所。在接下来的几十年里，瑞士领事的官邸也在这栋大楼内。如同当年大多数外交机构一样，瑞士领事馆也坐落于沙面岛的大街上。这栋大楼至今还维持着原有结构。

插图 6:
设在司柏林格公司大楼里面的瑞士领事馆
(拍摄日期不详),
瑞士联邦档案馆,
J1.382#2022/211#46*.

插图 7:
司柏林格公司和瑞士领事馆位置图(日期不详),
瑞士联邦档案馆,
J1.382#2022/211#38*.



在授予司柏林格名誉领事职衔的公函中，瑞士政府建议司柏林格“在符合（中国）法律和条约的情况下，尽你最大的能力维护瑞士利益，并做一切可能有利于联邦经济和总体繁荣的事情。”司柏林格的领事职责是相当规范的：他代表瑞士政府与（当地）中国官方联系，他与当地和地区政府官员如外事专员或海关专员，有不定期会面。每当有信息需要与华南地区的瑞士国民分享时，司柏林格负责接收此类信息并将其传递给在当地的瑞士国民。这包括有关鼠疫爆发的信息、卫生措施等等。



插图 8: 中国官方致瑞士驻华代表的信函 (1939),
瑞士联邦档案馆, E2200.290A#10

瑞士驻广州领事馆也是云南、贵州、广西、广东和福建的瑞士国民的民事登记处。1923年至1947年期间，居住在领事馆领区范围内的瑞士国民数量维持在33人到62人不等。1924年，领事馆共登记了33名瑞士传教士、9名商业代表以及19名妇女和儿童。领事馆还签发出生证、死亡证和结婚证，签

发和更新护照以及前往内地的通行证，办理公证，并为希望前往瑞士的中国国民签发签证。领事馆还储存遗嘱和文凭的副本，并帮助解决相关财务问题，如清算、遗嘱、私人财产或已返回瑞士或已死亡的瑞士国民的投资。领事馆有时还接收到来自瑞士的汇款，然后将其转交给指定的瑞士国民。

领事馆的另一个主要职能是促进瑞士与中华民国之间的贸易。在内战时，瑞士对中国的出口主要是怀表和手表、染料、纺织品和机器，从中国进口的产品主要是丝绸制品、食品和动物产品。瑞士公司向领事馆寄送广告和其他针对中国潜在客户的出版物。另一方面，领事馆向感兴趣的瑞士企业提供有关华南地区经济形势、贸易法规的变化以及广州和周边地区的具体行业或工厂的信息。它还为有意在中国开设分支机构的瑞士企业提供信息。有时瑞士公司会请求领事馆协助，比如确认合适的中国公司进行商业合作，或从中国公司取得报价。它还为公司之间的协议签发证书，证明公司是广东和广西地区的产品独家代理。

每当华南地区的瑞士公司需要帮助时，领事馆就会介入。例如，当时在中国有许多假冒的雀巢牛奶。每当乌尔里希·司柏林格了解到有此类假冒产品时，他都会代表雀巢公司与中国当局交涉，当局随后禁止销售这些产品。此外，有些中国公司（有一次甚至是广州地方政府机构）拖欠瑞士公司和机构款项，领事馆也会出面交涉，尽管并不是每次都能成功要回欠款。

瑞士驻广州领事馆还成为了瑞士和华南地区文化交流的桥头堡。例如，它分发关于

瑞士的广告和旅游手册。甚至瑞士联邦理工学院——瑞士最重要的科技大学，也通过领事馆向中国学生派发留学宣传资料。领事馆还在8月1日组织瑞士国庆节的庆祝活动。由于中国战乱以及当地瑞士国民人数较少，国庆活动并不会每年都举行。到访中国的瑞士人，以及住在广州的瑞士侨民，比如曾在广州国立中山大学任教的阿诺德·海姆（Arnold Heim），经常被邀请到司柏林格家参加晚宴。司柏林格夫妇还举办豪华的圣诞晚宴，获得客人的极大赞赏。

司柏林格并不是一个人处理所有的领事事务，他公司的几位雇员也会协助他工作。司柏林格公司的杨又侬和其他几位中国雇员负责翻译工作。在1920和1930年代，领事馆的大部分行政工作是由奥古斯特·霍夫迈斯特（August Hoffmeister, 1883-1969）或马克斯·加文（Max Gavin）完成的。司柏林格外出时，由霍夫迈斯特担任代领事。1920年代，阿道夫·乔瓦诺利（Adolf Giovanoli）和司柏林格的侄子奥斯卡·弗里斯纳（Oscar Friessner）有时会协助霍夫迈斯特和加文，后来埃里希·朱劳夫（Erich Zulauf）会协助他们。尽管在1920和1930年代，领事馆没有定期向伯尔尼写报告，但它每年收发600多封信件。



在广州的领事生活

和其他在广州的租界精英一样，司柏林格夫妇住在沙面岛上。英租界和法租界也在这座沙堤岛上。在这块外国飞地上，生活着各国领事和其他政府官员、贸易公司和其他公司的代表、银行家、记者、神职人员和

他们的家人。岛上的建筑物（包括瑞士领事馆）是典型的殖民主义风格，道路和公共空间的布局也延用了西方传统。然而，有趣的是，司柏林格的私人府邸内，中式和欧式的家具兼容并蓄。

插图 9:
沙面 (日期不详),
瑞士联邦档案馆,
J1.382#2022/211#31*.

司柏林格的府邸雇有几个中国佣人，当时的（西方和中国）精英阶层也都如此。此外，乌尔里希·司柏林格还有一位中文老师。至少对瑞士的政府官员而言，这是很不寻常的。毕竟直到1970年代，几乎没有瑞士外交官能够阅读或书写中文，所以司柏林格的语言技能显得与众不同。这可能得益于他作为一位外国商人，常年生活在中文环境中，因而具备一定的中文读写能力。无论如何，像这一时期在中国的所有瑞士官员一样，司柏林格要依靠中国的翻译。由于有自己的贸易公司，他与中国人交流时会请自己的中国雇员来协助翻译。

插图 10和11：
司柏林格府邸的
内部摆设 (1903)，
瑞士联邦档案馆，
J1.382#2022/211#46*。

除瑞士外，其它国家也在广州设立了领事馆。这些国家包括丹麦、法国、德国、英国、意大利、日本、荷兰、挪威、葡萄牙、苏联、瑞典和美国（在1930年代还有芬兰和捷克斯洛伐克）。因此，在两次世界大战之间的时期，各种盛大的晚宴点缀了广州的领事生活，有些是由西方人举办的，有些则是由中国地方当局举办的。司柏林格夫妇参加过中国上流阶层的婚礼和葬礼、沙面的豪华花园聚会以及由中国当局组织的白云山野餐聚会。



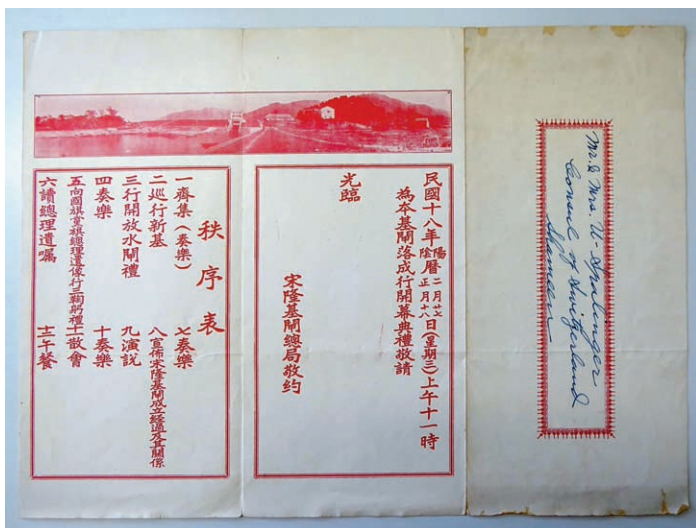


插图 12: 基甸落成典礼邀请函 (1929),
瑞士联邦档案馆, J1.382#2022/211#40*.



插图 13: 沙面花园聚会合影 (日期不详),
瑞士联邦档案馆, J1.382#2022/211#46*.



插图 14: 白云山野餐聚会邀请函 (1931),
J1.382#2022/211#40*.

司柏林格夫妇非常喜欢这些聚会，并在活动中拍摄了许多照片。这些照片中，装饰豪华的宴会厅，甚至可以令今天的活动策划者自叹不如。中国（地方）当局举行的官方

活动中，中国人穿着传统服装，所有人都神情严肃。而其它非正式的活动中，（亚洲和西方的）客人们笑容灿烂，女士们展示着精致的礼服和礼帽。



插图 15: 当时的省市军政当局宴请各国驻广州领事官员 (1931),
瑞士联邦档案馆, J1.382#2022/211#47*.



插图 16: 时任广州市长刘纪文宴请各国驻广州领事 (1934),
瑞士联邦档案馆, J1.382#2022/211#51*.



插图 17: 当时的省市军政当局宴请各国驻广州领事团 (1930),
瑞士联邦档案馆, J1.382#2022/211#47*.

外国领事们还一起举行各种外出游玩活动。司柏林格夫妇保存的许多照片反映了领事们在狩猎和坐船巡游的情景——他们的神情有时自豪而严肃,有时微笑而放松。不难发现,这些照片中基本上没有儿童。事实上,司柏林格认为,孩子们不应该在沙面这样一个比较特殊的环境中长大。联络在瑞士的家人是比较困难的,因为信件可能需要几

个月才能收到,而电报则非常昂贵,并且内容必须尽量简短。尽管如此,玛莎·司柏林格仍然不间断地向瑞士和其它国家的亲友寄送明信片 and 信件,这毕竟是与朋友和家人保持联系的唯一途径,因为司柏林格夫妇每隔几年才可能回欧洲一次,每次也只能在瑞士停留几周,因为通常是公务出行。

与瑞士传教士打交道

领事馆交往最多的瑞士国民，不是在中国南方的商人，而是居住在南方五省偏远地区的传教士。事实上，在领事馆登记的瑞士国民中，传教士占了一大半。十九世纪，强加给中国的不平等条约推进了西方传教士前往中国宣教的浪潮。1858年和1860年，法国强迫中国允许外国人传教和中国人信奉基督教。外国传教士也获得了在通商口岸以外旅行的权利，甚至可以租用或购买土地。到1900年，中国有大约两千名西方传教士。到1910年，这一数字上升到三千多。这些传教士中不乏瑞士人，他们分属于不同的宣教机构，其中最大的差会是位于巴塞尔的福音传教士协会，通常被称为巴色差会（又名崇真会）。它成立于1815年，从1847年开始向中国南方派遣传教士。在两次世界大战之间的时期，巴色差会在中国的活动领域主要还是在广东省。然而，巴色差会实际上并不完全属于瑞士，因为其大部分传教士和财政支持来自德国。

乌尔里希·司柏林格不得不经常干预传教士和地方当局之间的问题。例如，在1923年，中国外事官员拒绝给予一些瑞士传教士旅行的权利，这迫使司柏林格提醒当

局，瑞士传教士享有与其它最惠国国民一样的权利。传教士还要应对众多来自乡间的威胁。1927年，当中国南方战乱日盛，司柏林格给传教士们写信，提醒他们“社会治安日益恶化”，让他们自行决定是否继续留在当地的传教地，但也提出警告：“在福州、厦门以及其它一些地方出现了反对传教士的强烈愤恨情绪”，建议他们立即到上海寻求保护，因为那里有西方军队的防卫。

在两次世界大战之间的时期，有几位传教士被绑架，瑞士领事馆试图协助差会与绑匪谈判。它还试图确保其他传教士不受到伤害。然而由于内战，各交战方在中国南部地区活动，其中一些人认为绑架传教士是一种容易来钱的方式，迫使领事馆一次又一次进行干预。每当传教士在华南地区受到伤害或被绑架时，差会通常会通知广州的瑞士领事，而不是上海的瑞士总领馆。然后，领事会与中国当地政府和有关各方联系，向差会通报进展，并试图通过谈判解救传教士。这可能是一个相当漫长的过程——1934年，瑞士驻广州领事馆参与了释放巴色差会传教士的谈判，他们被绑架关押了18个月，最终获释。

并非所有与传教士的互动都如此紧张和充满挑战。大多数的交流以民事登记事务为主。比如，领事馆为传教士的婚姻进行登记（领事有时甚至主持婚礼仪式），为传教士的孩子签发出生证（在某些情况下，在他们的孩子去世时签发死亡证）。领事馆还协助传教士从他们的银行账户中获取资金，或转交指定汇款。领事馆有时甚至充当传教士的信箱。从欧洲和美国寄到广州领事馆的瑞士食品（奶酪和巧克力似乎是传教士的最爱）、植物种子和其他物品，会由领事馆转交给传教士或通知他们前来领取。因为传教士通常居住在偏远地区，这些操作有时并不容易。1943年，领事奥古斯特·霍夫迈斯特（August Hoffmeister）联系上了在福建省救世主会圣婴堂的一名传教士。这位传教士的一封信寄到霍夫迈斯特手中耗时两个多月，这时从瑞士寄给她的奶酪和巧克力已经融化变质了。

广州内战

二十世纪二三十年代，一场内战席卷了中国南方，在各个方面影响着瑞士驻广州领事馆。当地负责外事的政府官员像走马灯似地更换。1927年司柏林格报告称，曾在三个月里换了三个人。此外，各路军阀和共产党都在试图推翻国民党的统治，这常常迫使领事馆不得不与北平的国民政府和广州的地方政府同时打交道。还有几次，内战直接打到了广州的街头。1924年，在沙面发生了交战，有部分外国物业被抢劫和烧毁，外国公司也遇到了罢工和抵制。虽然外国领事们与当地政府交涉试图恢复秩序，但除了抗议他们几乎束手无策。

两年后，乌尔里希·司柏林格目睹了广州一场更加血腥的内战。此时尽管这个城市还处于国民党的控制之下，但党内不同的派别各掌一方，而共产党在工人群体中也有大批追随者。1927年，共产党利用国民党不同派系之间的矛盾斗争发动了起义。在“广州起义”中，共产党领导的军队和工人于1927年12月11日取得了广州的控制权，并宣布建立广州苏维埃政权。但在同年12月13日他们遭遇了国民党军队的反扑，起义最终失败。约有六千名共产党员和工人在五天内被屠杀。司柏林格拍摄了几十张照片，记录下广州损坏的基础设施、被破坏的建筑物和无数共产党员的遗体。这些记录了血腥暴力和行刑处决的照片是如此之多，可见他受到了多大的震撼。

插图 18:
广州起义中损坏的建筑物 (1927),
瑞士联邦档案馆,
J1.382#2022/211#46*



这场内战也使瑞士公司无论是在华南地区立足还是在当地寻找商业伙伴都变得愈发艰难。因此，在领事馆登记的瑞士国民数量从1927年的56人缩减到1932年的33人。尽管在广州的瑞士国民和公司均受到驻扎沙面的英国军队的保护，但司柏林格在广州起义后上报瑞士联邦政府称，广州的经济受到了严重的冲击，需要很长时间才能恢复。领事馆已尽力帮助想在中国立足的瑞士公司，但这实在太困难了。乌尔里希·司柏林格写道：“由于无休止的内战，（中国）内地的购买力被大大削弱，港口地区的中国商人也心灰意冷。国民政府无力阻挡海盗来袭，进入内地的水路仍然不太安全。”司柏林格坚称，瑞士公司不应与中国公司直接交易，并鼓励他们向领事馆求助。

惨淡的商业前景并未得到迅速改善。1934年，司柏林格在一封信中写道，广州的经济已经惨淡不堪，无力发放工资，也无法运输煤炭。更糟糕的是，日本的廉价丝绸导致150家纺纱厂倒闭，仅剩的10家纺纱厂在亏损中勉强经营。对于专门从事丝绸出口的瑞士纺织公司和贸易公司来说，这是一个可怕的消息。司柏林格希望，蒋介石政府若能重夺华南地区，广州的瑞士公司应可东山再起。



二战时期的领事馆

第二次世界大战和日军侵占广州以多种方式影响了瑞士领事馆。司柏林格在向联邦政府政治部的报告中写道，从1938年5月18日至6月16日，日军在广州的居民区和商业区共引爆了525枚炸弹，造成约1800人死亡，6500名平民受伤。日军的袭击导致航运受阻，火车被炸，特别是粤汉铁路（广州——汉口），这是连通华南和华中唯一的直达铁路。司柏林格在给联邦政府的信中称，炸弹在离领事馆400米的地方爆炸，弹片离领事馆只有30米远。几位在领事馆工作的打字员都离开广州前往香港避难。

1938年10月，日军开始入侵广州，使中国不能进口武器和其它战争物资，也无法与其他国家进行交流。中国守军与市政府在撤离广州前摧毁了重要的水厂与电厂，以防它们落入日军之手。尽管沙面有英法军舰以及沙面警察、志愿者的保护，司柏林格认为，广州已然处于无政府状态之中。

插图 19:
二战期间的沙面
(日期不详),
瑞士联邦档案馆
J1.382#2022/211#47*.

插图 20: 爆炸后被损坏的领事馆
窗户 (1938), 瑞士联邦档案馆,
J1.382#2022/211#46*.



日本人用燃烧弹轰炸广州，造成数以千计的死亡，但伤亡者中并无瑞士国民。1938年10月23日，在日军入侵广州期间，两节装满弹药的火车车厢发生爆炸。巨大的爆炸威力使瑞士领事馆严重受损，司柏林格夫妇不得不向玛莎·司柏林格所说的“香港银行”经理寻求庇护，此银行大概就是当地的汇丰银行支行。司柏林格

拍摄了好些照片，记录了领馆办公室被毁坏的窗户和墙壁，以及大楼住宅部分受损的天花板和部分客厅、办公室和卧室。日军入侵广州还造成了瑞士货物被毁，例如价值7000美元的山德士公司的染料和化学品，当时这些货物被存放在广州的一个仓库里。



插图 21: 时任广州市长刘纪文宴请司柏林格夫妇等居住广州三十年以上的外宾 (1936), 瑞士联邦档案馆, J1.382#2022/211#48*.

在日本占据广州后不久，司柏林格写信给联邦政府，忧虑地表示日军入侵已对本地的对外贸易产生不利影响。起初，部分英国汽船被允许继续航行，但大部分运往香港的货物被滞留在广州。随着时间的推移，日军甚至不允许外国商船通过，只允许进口日本产品。同样，出行也变得危险，因为日军仍

在袭击火车。生意受到如此大的影响，以至于在1939年，司柏林格夫妇不得不离开广州回到瑞士，之后司柏林格成为了东亚文化之友协会（瑞士亚洲协会的前身）的创始人之一。当司柏林格夫妇离开时，他们已经在广州旅居了三十多年，因此广州政府举办了一场宴会来表彰他们。

奥古斯特·霍夫迈斯特 (August Hoffmeister) 曾担任副领事一职。他接替了司柏林格，于1939年4月20日开始负责领事馆的工作，并于1939年11月11日被正式任命为瑞士驻广州名誉领事。马克斯·加文 (Max Garvin) 任行政官员直至1941年。之后，他被艾里希·朱劳夫 (Erich Zulauf) 接替，后者也受雇于司柏林格公司。

奥古斯特·霍夫迈斯特于1939年至1948年担任驻广州领事。他的青年时代是在法国和瑞士度过的，1907年作为一名丝绸专家来到中国。1910年，他加入了司柏林格公司；1920年，他成为司柏林格在广州的合伙人。在该公司转制为股份公司后，霍夫迈斯特加入了董事会，然后在1939年成为董事会主席。当他被任命为名誉领事时，霍夫迈斯特已经在中国生活了二十年。从1923年开始，霍夫迈斯特就参与了广州领事馆的工作。起初，他担任行政官员，但当乌尔里希·司柏林格不在时，他代行领事职务，管理领事馆。1938年他被任命为副领事，并于1939年接替司柏林格成为领事。

广州的外交官们在二战期间遇到了许多问题。霍夫迈斯特向联邦政府报告称，跟当地日军打交道的情况差强人意，但并非毫无困难。英国、美国和其他国家的外交官已经离开了广州；只有瑞士、丹麦、德国、芬兰、法国、意大利、日本和葡萄牙的外交官留了下来。虽然德国总领事是外国领团的官方团长，但由于战争的原因，他拒绝代表所有的外国领事。

保存在伯尔尼联邦档案馆的文件显示，霍夫迈斯特在日军入侵广州期间曾尽力帮助中国民众。例如在1940年2月，沙面居民被告知，“当业主不在沙面时，只有两名中国雇员和/或佣人（被允许）留在房屋内。”

然而，霍夫迈斯特却为他的中国雇员申请了超出允许数量的通行证。这显然是为了尽可能地保护中国雇员，使他们能居住在相对安全的沙面。霍夫迈斯特在他的官方申请中声称，虽然他作为领事居住在沙面，但他也必须每个月在香港停留一段时间。“以我的官方身份，我有义务维持我的私人机构运转，并需要配备足够的的佣人，他们必须住在我的房屋里，看管我所有的私人物品，（我需要更多的佣人，因为）在我不在的时候，可能随时会有访客住在我的房屋里，事实上这种情况在最近发生了10天。……我也是司柏林格公司的总经理，因此我需要一个骨干员工……在我暂时离开的时候看守大楼、仓库和存放公司所有文件、保险箱等的办公室，以及官方领事档案和存放重要文件的保险箱。”

霍夫迈斯特显然在利用任何他能找到的借口，让尽可能多的中国人居住在沙面。虽然他的这种要求受到了地方当局的告诫，但他至少获得了部分成功，并得到了通知：“鉴于你的领事身份，可以破例为你的家庭佣人发放五张通行证，同时为你的办公室工作人员发放两张居民‘看守人’通行证。其余的人可以拥有非居民通行证。”

二战期间瑞士在中国的斡旋包括代表美国、英国和荷兰在日占区的利益。霍夫迈斯特不辞劳苦地帮助了华南地区的西方人，可见他对中国文化政治的深入了解，以及在广州的庞大关系。1943年2月，美国驻瑞士公使向伯尔尼的联邦委员会致谢，瑞士是美国公民和财产在东亚的保护国，他感谢瑞士派驻当地官员所做的工作。他特别提到了霍夫迈斯特在广州的工作，指出“霍夫迈斯特先生代表美国利益，其工作困难重重”，但他仍尽量地提供了帮助。信中强调，霍夫迈斯

特“以各种方式”协助美国人，使其得以撤离广州，有时甚至替其垫付资金。虽然信中也提到一些其他瑞士官员的名字，但没有人获得像霍夫迈斯特这样的赞誉。美国政府和人民大力赞扬霍夫迈斯特为沙面的美国人提供的援助，并衷心感谢其“为他们利益所作的不懈努力”。

二战期间日军对中国（东部和南部）的入侵，令瑞士领事馆和华南地区的瑞士国民都受到了日军的审查。与上海的邮政通信以及电报服务都被日军控制。这导致瑞士驻广州领事馆有几个月与外界失联，甚至无法联系瑞士驻上海总领事馆。1942年12月18日，作为镇压抗日宣传的官方措施，日军还对无线电接收器实施了禁令。由于这项禁令适用于所有在华外国人，包括仍在日占区里的瑞士人，因此瑞士领事馆必须确保他们收到通知。因为不能联系伯尔尼和上海，领馆肯定承受着巨大的压力。

战争的影响还在于，驻广州领事馆不得不处理瑞士公司的货物被日军没收或偷窃的案件。从1941年12月到1945年9月，香港一直被日军占领。这个城市曾是西方与中国进行贸易的重要商务中心，现已被日军所禁止。由于瑞士对中国的出口有80%是通过香港进行的，因此与华南地区进行贸易的瑞士公司遭受到禁运的影响。例如，瑞士公司汽巴（Ciba，如今是巴斯夫公司的一部分）向中国出口药品和染料等产品。1941年12月，太平洋战争正式爆发，瑞士汽巴公司驻华南的代表将剩余的汽巴产品存放在九龙的公司货仓和香港的一个码头上。然而，在占据香港后日军偷走了这些货物并将其转移到广州，最终以极低的价格出售了其中一大部分。1946年，据信有100包汽巴产品仍在广州，由当地政府

掌握，但他们拒绝交出这些产品。在霍夫迈斯特离开期间，担任瑞士驻广州代理领事的埃里希·朱劳夫（Erich Zulauf）尝试协助汽巴公司找到这些包裹，但不明确他是否成功。

虽然日军没有特别针对华南地区的传教士，然而，即便瑞士领事馆已努力确保传教士的安全，但还是有一部分人成为了战争的牺牲品。1938年，司柏林格写信给巴色差会，建议在其属下的所有在粤医院和建筑物上插上瑞士国旗，以免遭到日军的空袭。他还向日本当局通报了传教士医院和建筑物的确切位置。大多数传教士拒绝离开他们的岗位，1940年，一对传教士夫妇死于日军飞机投掷的炸弹之下。

战后时光

1945年日本投降后，瑞士在华南的商业前景十分黯淡。大多数瑞士商业代表已经离开了瑞士领事馆的领区范围。1946年，仅剩51名瑞士人居住在领事馆的领区内。只有两名是商业代表，司柏林格公司是唯一留在广州的瑞士公司。艰难和混乱的法律形势使霍夫迈斯特觉得，短期内不会有更多的瑞士公司来到华南地区。霍夫迈斯特甚至建议司柏林格公司离开中国内地，迁往香港。1948年，此事成真，该公司随后改名为司柏林格有限公司（U. Spalinger & Co., LTD）。

1946年在领事馆登记的51名瑞士人中，有39名是传教士。1947年和1948年，更多的瑞士传教士回到了华南，其中大部分是中国内地会和巴色差会的成员。由于许多瑞士人在战争爆发后离开中国返回瑞士，驻广州领事馆不仅要处理涉及传教士的事务，还要帮助那些想在中国出租房屋或在中国有财务问题的瑞士国民。

在担任了16年的名誉领事之后，奥古斯特·霍夫迈斯特于1948年11月申请退休。他的继任者维尔纳·托曼（Werner Thomann）（1907-2001）是一名工程师，自1946年以来一直作为瑞士电气工程公司（S.A. Brown Boveri & Cie.）的代表居住在中国。当霍夫迈斯特回到瑞士时收到了大量的信息，褒扬其作为领事的模范行为、出众的能力、对工作的竭诚奉献、在战争期间对瑞士公民和其他国家公民的帮助以及他对中国当局的大力支持。瑞士驻华公使亨利·德·托伦特（Henry de Torrenté, 1893-1962）在奥古斯特·霍夫迈斯特的退休仪式上发表的官方致辞中，详细介绍了霍夫迈斯特在司柏林格公司的辉煌事业以及他作为领事的恪尽职守和专业风范。德·托伦特公使说：“我希望详细介绍霍夫迈斯特先生的职业生涯，这不仅是为了表达我们对这位驻广州领事的感激之情，而且还因为他足以作为我国年轻人到国外寻求发展的榜样。基础是其过硬的技术、语言能力、性格、勇气、信心和活力，还有瑞士商人的传统品质：诚信、坚毅、实用的商业技能、分寸感和潜能。这些都是成功的基本条件，是使霍夫迈斯特先生能够在其专业领域取得成功，同时为其祖国作出巨大贡献的原因。……当然，要调和个人利益与整体利益并非易事。这需要开明包容、平衡取舍和慷慨大度。霍夫迈斯特先生具有最高水准的这些品质。他离开广州给我们的领事代表队伍留下了一个很难填补的空白。”

事实上，联邦政府在寻找霍夫迈斯特的继任者方面的确遇到了困难。1948年11月至1949年5月，维尔纳·托曼（Werner Thomann）担任驻广州名誉领事。然而，托曼回到瑞士之后，联邦委员会找不到合适的继任者，所以领事馆的档案最终被移交给了法国驻广州领事馆。

在中国共产党宣布成立中华人民共和国，国民党逃往台湾后，联邦委员会决定承认中华人民共和国，并停止与国民党的一切外交关系。1950年1月17日，瑞士正式承认中华人民共和国。1950年9月两国正式建交。尽管纺织业在广州继续发展，但瑞士公司在中国却举步维艰，联邦委员会决定于1957年1月4日关闭驻广州领事馆。

瑞士驻广州总领事馆开馆

自1979年中国改革开放以来，华南地区尤其广东珠三角经济区一直是中国大陆经济最活跃的地区。在21世纪初，各种趋势表明，该地区将成为世界上最具经济活力的地区之一。2005年，全国GDP的1/9、外商直接投资的20%、对外贸易额的1/3、中国赴欧洲的出境游客数量的1/3以及居民储蓄额的14%都来自该地区。

瑞士公司也希望加入这一积极的发展进程中。截至2000年，广东已有100家瑞士中小企业，而且这一趋势还在增长。双边贸易关系也反映了华南地区与瑞士的紧密联系，广东省是瑞士最重要的贸易伙伴之一。自改革开放以来，双边的频繁交流促进了两国在文化、旅游、科研和教育等领域的合作互利。2003年，随着瑞士联邦教育科研秘书处（SER）与中国国家科技部（MoST）之间谅解备忘录的签署，中瑞科技合作（SSSTC）计划得以展开，为两国机构间的进一步合作铺平了道路。

为了以最有效的方式支持这些令人鼓舞的发展趋势，瑞士联邦政府决定在广州设立总领事馆。2006年10月29日，瑞士联邦委员米什琳·卡尔米·雷伊（Micheline Calmy-Rey）见证了瑞士驻广州总领事馆的开馆。

瑞士驻广州总领事馆的领区范围包括广东、福建、海南、湖南、江西各省及广西壮族自治区。总领事馆在相应的领区范围内为瑞士国民提供全方位的领事服务。在总领事馆成立之初，约有70名瑞士国民在领区内定居，到2021年12月31日，这一数字已增至180人。瑞士是中国游客最喜爱的旅游目的地之一，签发瑞士申根签证是总领事馆的另一项重要职责。2019年，总领事馆共签发了23000份申根签证。由于疫情和旅行限制，自2020年以来这一数量急剧下降。

自2006年开馆以来，历任总领事名单：

Mr. Werner Nievergelt (聂伟)	2006年10月至2010年5月
Mr. Ulrich Hunn (洪立焜)	2010年6月至2014年7月
Mr. Didier Boschung (博智东)	2014年7月至2018年7月
Mr. Martin Bienz (毕扬)	2018年7月至2021年7月
Mr. Philippe Praz (彭逸凡)	2021年8月起



插图 22: 瑞士领事馆旧址, 广州市沙面大街64号, 拍摄于2022年

百年财富管理机构重磅发力大湾区

瑞银旗下数字化财富管理平台“瑞富众”正式上线



源远流长的瑞士银行业如今坐拥250多家银行、200家保险公司、350家金融科技和区块链公司，不仅贡献了瑞士GDP约10%，同时也在全球享有盛誉。而瑞银集团(UBS)是瑞士最大的银行。

全球领先的财富管理机构

自1862年以来，370多家金融机构共同组成了今天的瑞银集团。160年的历史，让瑞银成为了一家名副其实的百年老店，业务遍及全球所有主要的金融中心，在50个地区设有分支机构。

如今的瑞银致力于打造全球投资生态系统，建立人与人、及思想的联结，为投资机遇赋予活力；为遍布全球的富裕人士、机构和公司客户以及瑞士的私人客户提供金融咨询服务和解决方案。它不仅是全球领先的财富管理机构，同时拥有规模庞大、多元化的全球资产管理业务，专注的投资银行业务以及位于瑞士的个人及企业银行业务。

深耕中国市场

中国是瑞银的重要市场。早在1964年，瑞银成为第一家在亚太地区开设分支机构的瑞士银行，主要开展财富管理业务。1985年，瑞银开始为中国企业提供融资服务。

瑞银很早就开始投资于中国内地市场。自1989年以来，瑞银不断发展，至今已建立起一个拥有多种牌照和多个业务实体的国内平台。瑞银的中国战略，是在巩固投资银行领域的领先地位的同时，把握中国持续深化金融开放、重点推进可持续发展和新经济所带来的机会，拓展财富管理和资产管理业务。

可以说，瑞银一直站在外商投资中国的前沿，见证了中国经济、财富创造的巨大成就，以及中国金融市场的飞速发展。

数字化转型瞄准中高收入群

为了更好地服务中国的中高收入人群，瑞银集团全资子公司瑞银基金销售（深圳）有限公司（瑞银基金销售）于2022年10月26日推出了创新的数字化财富管理平台——“瑞富众”，提供国际化、专业的财富管理服务。“瑞富众”是瑞银旗下在亚太地区推出的首个数字化财富管理平台，也是由全球性财富管理机构在中国设立的首家数字化主导的财富管理平台。之所以选择落户深圳，因为深圳是大湾区的重要“引擎”，而大湾区又是中国发展最快的地区之一。瑞银基金销售希望借此推动大湾区的建设，同时利用数字化的手段辐射其它地区。

“瑞富众”是融合了瑞银160年丰富的财富管理经验和最新金融科技的一款移动App。

基于大数据分析并借鉴瑞银投资总监办公室（CIO）的投资观点，“瑞富众”以创新的数字化模式协助客户进行主动的财务规划。通过这一高度互动的平台，客户可在短短数分钟内完成开户，并享受一站式服务。平台秉承投教先行的原则，拥有严谨科学的产品筛选流程，致力为投资者提供安心、专业、便捷的数字化财富管理体验，在提升金融素养的同时，帮助他们实现个人和家庭资产的长期保值和增值。

除了专业的财富管理服务以外，“瑞富众”也会和精选的本地和全球商业伙伴一起搭建一个生态圈，一方面借助产品分层来满足客户人生阶段的不同需求，另一方面满足客户人生不同阶段非金融场景的需求，让客户不只会投资，也懂生活。瑞富众的目标是成为中国目标客户首选的数字化财富顾问。

瑞富众
WE.UBS

来自瑞士的掌上财富管理

- 160年瑞银基因
- 200余位投研专家
- 严选基金多元资产配置

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给您更好的未来

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