

## **Romanization of China mission place names**

There are a number of systems for rendering Chinese words in Roman characters. The most commonly used in English are Wade-Giles, Yale, and pinyin (or Hanyu pinyin). Wade-Giles was developed around 1850 and was further refined in the early twentieth century. Pinyin, the current standard, was first established in the 1950s, though it took several decades to become widely adopted by governments and institutions outside of China.

For the Romanization of Chinese place names, foreign missionary boards primarily followed the Chinese Postal Map Romanization system, which was loosely based on Wade-Giles. The Chinese Postal Map system was introduced during the late Qing dynasty and remained in use until it was superseded by pinyin in the mid twentieth century. The Chinese Postal Map system and pinyin are the two primary Romanization systems you will find in the catalog records at the Presbyterian Historical Society, though you can also find examples of Wade-Giles Romanization. (For links to a comparison chart of the major Romanization systems and to the Library of Congress Chinese Romanization Table, please see the “Additional information and sources” section at the end of this document.)

Depending on their information sources, researchers may use pinyin, Wade-Giles, Chinese Postal Map spelling, or a combination of these, when they make inquiries about China missions. The following chart is intended to help bridge the various Romanization systems to locate China mission materials among our holdings. Please note that the chart is not comprehensive, but lists the main stations of the China missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., with the major spelling variants found in CALVIN and in the General Assembly minutes.

Beyond the spelling differences among the several Romanization systems, you may also find variations in word formatting. For example, you may see both Kiangsu and Kiang-su (modern name: Jiangsu), and both Yuyao and Yu Yao.

Please let the reference staff know if in the course of your research you encounter other examples of variant spelling or formatting that we could add to this table.

<b>PCUSA China Mission</b>		
	<i>Pinyin place names (current standard)</i>	<i>Chinese Postal Map or other place names</i>
<b>Central China Mission</b>		
	Hangzhou	Hangchow, Hang-chou
	Ningbo	Ningpo
	Shanghai	Shanghai
	Suzhou	Soochow, Suchowfu
	Yuyao	Yuyao; Yu Yao
<b>Hainan Mission</b>		
	Haikou	Hoihow
	Jiaji	Kachek
	Qiongzhou	Kiungchow, Ch'ung-chou
	Nada	Nodoa
<b>Hunan Mission</b>		
	Changsha	Changsha
	Changde	Changteh, Changte
	Chenzhou	Chenchow
	Hengzhou (now called Hengyang)	Hengchow (Hengyang sometimes written as Hengyang)
	Taoyuan	Taoyuen
	Xiangtan	Siangtan
<b>Kiangnan Mission</b>	Jiangan, Jiang'an	Kiangan
	Huaiyuan	Hwaiyuan; Hwaiyuen; Hwai-Yuen
	Nanjing	Nanking
	Nanxuzhou	Nansuchow; Nanhsuchou
	Shouzhou	Showchow
	Suzhou	Soochow, Suchowfu,
<b>North China Mission</b>		
	Baoding, Baodingfu	Paoting, Paotingfu
	Beijing	Peking
	Shunde (now called Xingtai)	Shunte; Shuntehfu
<b>Shantung Mission</b>	Shandong	Shantung
	Zhifu (now called Yantai)	Former name: Chefoo; Cheefoo
	Yizhou (now called Linyi)	Ichoufu, Ichowfu
	Dengzhou	Tengchow; Tengchou
	Tengxian	Tenghsien
	Jinan	Tsinan, Tsinanfu, Tsinan Fu
	Qingdao	Tsingtao, Tsingtau
	Jining	Tsining, Tsiningchou
	Weixian (now called Weifang)	Weihsien
	Yixian	Yihsien or Yi-Hsien
<b>South China Mission</b>		
	Guangzhou (Province: Guangdong)	Canton, Kwangchow (Province: Kwangtung)

	Gaozhou	Kouchou, Kochow
	Lianzhou	Linchow, Lienchow
	Linxian	Linhsien
	Shilong	Shek Lung
	Yangjiang	Yeungkong, Yeung Kong
<b>Yunnan Mission</b>		
	Jiulongjiang	Kiulongkiang
	Yuanjiang	Yuankiang

<b>PCUS China Mission</b>		
	<i>Pinyin</i>	<i>Chinese Postal Map or other spelling</i>
<b>Mid-China Mission</b>		
	Hangzhou	Hangchow
	Jiaxing	Kashing, Chiahsing
	Jiangyin	Kiangyin
	Guling	Kuling, Kuliang
	Nanjing	Nanking
	Shanghai	Shanghai
	Suzhou	Soochow, Suchowfu
<b>North Kiangsu Mission</b>	Jiangsu	Kiangsu, Kiang-su
	Zhenjiang	Chinkiang
	Haizhou	Haichow
	Huai'an	Hwaiian, Hwaiianfu
	Xuzhou	Süchow, Hsuchoufu, Hsu-chou-fu
	Suqian	Sutsien
	Taizhou	Taichow, Tai-Chow
	Tengxian	Tenghsien
	Jinan	Tsinan, Tsinanfu, Tsinan Fu
	Qingjiangpu	Tsingkiangpu, Tsing Kiang Pu (often abbreviated as TKP)
	Yancheng	Yencheng, Yen Cheng, Yenching

### **Additional information and sources**

Library of Congress. "Chinese Romanization table."

<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/romanization/chinese.pdf>

- Scroll down several pages to see a table comparing Wade-Giles to pinyin

Swofford, Mark. "Pinyin Wade-Giles romanization system for Mandarin Chinese, advanced comparison."

<http://www.pinyin.info/romanization/compare/wadegiles.html>

- This chart compares six Romanization systems. The site also offers, for those who may be interested, additional information on the history and use of the various systems.

Aman, Mohammed M., ed. *Cataloging and classification of non-Western material : concerns, issues, and practices*. Phoenix, AZ : Oryx Press, 1980. (Call number: Z 695.1 .A37 C37)

Crouch, Archie R., ed. *Christianity in China : a scholars' guide to resources in the libraries and archives of the United States*. Armonk, N.Y. : M.E. Sharpe, 1989. (Call number: REF BR 1285 .C46 1989)

- Note: this volume contains an extensive list of place names, with their equivalents in Wade-Giles and Pinyin Romanization, arranged alphabetized by the spelling seen in the text, which largely corresponds to the spellings found in our holdings (mostly Chinese Postal Map place names). If you encounter place names not on this list that you cannot decipher, this is a good resource.

Tiedemann, R.G. *Reference guide to Christian missionary societies in China : from the sixteenth to the twentieth century*. Armonk, N.Y. : M.E. Sharpe, c2009. (Call number: BV 2010 .T54 2009)