

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.



MOWCAP
UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form

Asia/Pacific Memory of the World

Register

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries
Assessed by: (Rujaya Abhakorn) (date) / / (xxxxxx) (date) / / (xxxxxx) (date) / / (xxxxxx) (date) / /	Decision: (circle as appropriate) 1. Recommended 2. Not recommended 3. Recommended subject to the following (attach additional comments if required):

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current *International Memory of the World* Register

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

and the [Australian Memory of the World Register](#) to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Please submit two complete document sets on paper (one original and one photocopied versions) and one electronically.

Completed nominations should be posted by mail and submitted electronically to reach the following address:

Ms Helen Swinnerton
 Secretary General of MOWCAP,
 1/F Tower 2 & 3, HSBC Centre, 1 Sham Mong Road, Kowloon
 Hong Kong
helen.swinnerton@gmail.com

The nomination form and any accompanying material will not be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at <http://www.unesco.mowcap.org>. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee (rujaya2000@yahoo.com). Please keep a copy of this form for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please also keep an electronic version of the completed form as we will need this for successful nominations to speed up entries onto the MOWCAP website.

Ray Edmondson
 Chair, MOWCAP

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

Nomination form

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register* nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

The Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times boasts of 302,814 silk sample archives in 28,650 volumes, including samples, processing techniques and real objects gradually accumulated by silk enterprises during the silk design, test weaving sample and exchange of silk fabrics from the end of 19th century to the end of 20th century.

China is the home of silk. It sold its silk, via the Silk Road, to Europe, bridging the East the West in economic and cultural exchange and making great contributions to the diversity of human's clothing culture. The rise of silk trade promoted technological advances worldwide in texture weaving and made necessary preparations for the later cotton revolution and industrial revolution.

Suzhou occupies an important role in China's history of silk-weaving technology. Since ancient times, it's been known as one of the "four silk capitals" for its highly developed silk-weaving industry, and enjoyed the reputation of "the city of silk". Its silk, as one of the most representative industrial products in China, has been famous around the world since modern times. Among them are Song Brocade, Zhangzhou-style Satin, Four-and-complex gauze and Taffeta, which represent the highest processing silks at that time in China and even the whole world.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center is the owner and preserver of the nominating archives.

2.3 Contact person(s)

Bu Jianmin

Director of Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
Bu Jianmin	No. 166, Qimen Road, Gusu District, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, The People's Republic of China. Postcode: 215001

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
86-512-67530177	86-512-67530177	szbujm@163.com

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

The Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Currently the total number of the samples in store is 302,841 pieces in 28,650 volumes, covering almost all of the varieties of the 14 major categories of silk fabrics.

1 If defined by the production category, 54,337 samples are produced through weaving, 18% of all samples, and 248,504 samples are produced through printing and dyeing, 82% of all samples.

2 About 6,000 samples have technological requirements in production, accounting for 2% of all samples.

3 About 4,000 samples were not produced locally, of which approx. 3,000 were from others regions of China and approx. 1,000 were from abroad, accounting for 1% and 0.33%, respectively.

4 Time span: 19th century to this day.

5 Sales territory: the background information of the samples shows that Suzhou's silk products were sold to most regions of China, and their export sales mainly targeted to Southeast Asia, Europe and America.

Details are shown in the following table:

No.	Catalog No. in General Archive	No. of Archives (Volumes)	No. of Samples(Pcs)
1	B009-06	644	3605
2	B009-18	49	1001
3	B00B-18	54	2041
4	B013-04	7	77
5	B014-11	2	38
6	B014-10	7	202
7	B015-04	1270	3908
8	B015-22	98	939
9	B018-04	147	71
10	B018-22	3	81
11	B019-04	265	84
12	B024-14	3	16
13	B025-08	21	3400
14	B026-07	159	31568
15	B026-08	37	4967

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

16	B026-09	40	17783
17	B026-10	1326	14372
18	B026-11	1720	16491
19	B026-12	1132	11963
20	B026-13	1358	15164
21	B026-14	1241	12683
22	B026-15	799	8639
23	B026-16	745	5523
24	B026-17	886	6132
25	B026-18	1222	7654
26	B026-19	1408	7296
27	B026-20	1952	10651
28	B026-21	1605	10636
29	B026-22	1674	11252
30	B026-23	1383	9869
31	B026-24	1152	6229
32	B026-25	1041	5934
33	B026-26	1255	7471
34	B026-27	760	4276
35	B026-28	503	5683
36	B026-38	295	1170
37	B026-39	280	1395
38	B027-06	1	13
39	B027-12	23	183
40	B028-03	23	170
41	B029-03	356	9423
42	B029-08	1	4
43	B035-03	677	1679
44	B035-08	318	7717
45	B035-09	210	4502
46	B035-10	249	27136

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

47	B035-11	2	17
48	D001-03	27	83
49	T003-08	178	1602
50	T004-03	42	48
Total		28650	302841

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

See attachment

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

The Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times come from 41 silk enterprises and organizations from the end of the 19th century to the end of the 20th century, represented by the time-honored Suzhou Zhenya Silk Weaving Factory, Suzhou Dongwu Silk Weaving Factory, Suzhou Guangming Silk Weaving Factory, Suzhou Silk Printing Factory, Suzhou Silk Painting and Dyeing Factory and Suzhou Silk Research Institute etc.

It took Suzhou 2 years, from 2003, to collect and manage these 177,568 volumes of textual, technical, scientific and accounting archives as well as more than 20,000 silk samples from these enterprises and organizations, together with more than 10,000 pieces (volumes) of historical materials and books related to silk production and silk samples. And experts were invited to initially sort out, classify and count these collections. What drew most attention among all the collections, were more than 300,000 silk sample archives in over 20000. Thanks to the timely salvage and centralized preservation, nowadays these priceless resources are preserved in Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center as “the most valuable treasure”.

3.5 Bibliography

Works:

[1] Suzhou Archives. *'Collection of Suzhou's Silk Archives'*. Jiangsu Classic Books Publishing House, 1995.

[2] Wu Genrong. *'Collection of Archives on Wujiang's Silk Industry'*, Hehai University Press, 1989

[3] Suzhou Bureau of Culture, Broadcasting, Television and Publication, Suzhou Silk Museum. *Suzhou' Silk Patterns in 100 Years*. Shandong Pictorial Press, 2010

Articles:

[1]Wu Yannan. The Role of Science Archives in the Development of Silk Production, *Archives Science Bulletin*, 1984

[2] Chen Shengfu. The Function of Pattern Archives and Their Development and Use, *Silk*, 1994(4)

[3] Ye Wanzhong. Suzhou Silk and Silk Archives, *Archives and Construction*, 1995(2)

[4]Qiu Huaigeng. Archives on Wujiang's Mulberry Silk, *Archives and Construction*, 1999(12)

[5] Luo Yongping. *Silk and Archives*, *Jiangsu Silk*, 2013(2)

[6] Chen Xin, Gan Ge, Wu Fang, Bu Jianmin. *The Memories of Suzhou's Silk Industry—Suzhou Silk Sample Archives*, *Jiangsu Silk*, 2013(6)

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

[7] Chen Xin, Wu Fang. Primary Exploration of the Development of Industrial Legacy Archives—With Suzhou’s Silk Sample Archives as An Example., Archives and Construction, 2013(10)

[8] Xiao Peng, Xie Jing, Chen Xin, Bu Jianmin: Study on the Position and Function of China Silk Archives, Archives and Construction, 2014(10)

[9] Peng Juying, Chen Xin, Bu Jianmin. The Development of Song Brocade Sample Archives Finds its Shining Use at APEC., China Archives, 2015(1)

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Name	Qualifications	Address
Qian Xiaoping	Chinese Silk Expert, Honorary Chairman of France Vienna Silk Museum, National-level inheritor and disseminator of Song Brocade Weaving Techniques, Winner of Lifelong Achievement Award in China’s Cocoon Silk Industry.	Suzhou Silk Museum No. 2001, Renmin Road, Gusu District, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, The People’s Republic of China. Postcode: 215001

Name	Qualifications	Address
Huang Nengfu	Professor in Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University, Scholar Authority in Chinese Dress Culture Research Area	Tsinghua University No.1, Tsinghua Garden, Haidian District, Beijing, The People’s Republic of China Postcode: 10084

Name	Qualifications	Address
Chen Guoqiang	Head of Silk Research Institute and College of Textile and Clothing Engineering of Soochow University, Professor and Doctoral Supervisor. Also Executive Director of National Engineering Laboratory for Modern Silk, and Member of Textile Science Appraisal Group under the State Council	Soochow University No.178, Eastern Ganjiang Road, Gusu District, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, The People’s Republic of China

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature

Full name (Please PRINT)

Date

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address
Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center.	No. 166, Qimen Road, Gusu District, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, The People's Republic of China. Postcode: 215001

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
86-512-67530177	86-512-67530177	szbujm@163.com

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address

Telephone	Facsimile	Email

4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage

- a) Ownership Type : Public-owned
- b) available Scope: Viewing or Reading of Original Objects/Texts are limited. Pictures, Publications, Digitalized Discs are open to the Public.
- c) Copyright Owner: Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center.
- d) Competent Administrative Authority: Suzhou Archives Administration, P.R.C

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center provides the documentary catalogue database of modern and contemporary silk sample archives so as to facilitate search and reference.

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

Viewing or Reading of Original Objects/Texts Limited. Pictures, Publications, Digitalized Discs Open to the Public.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

Copyright is owned by Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center.

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: **authenticity**. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

The Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times come from the silk enterprises and organizations represented by the time-honored Suzhou Zhenya Silk Weaving Factory, Suzhou Dongwu Silk Weaving Factory, Suzhou Guangming Silk Weaving Factory, Suzhou Silk Printing Factory, Suzhou Silk Painting and Dyeing Factory and Suzhou Silk Research Institute etc. The inheritance origin of the archives is clear, and its authenticity is unquestionable.

In 2011, the archives were included into the 3rd batch of “Suzhou’s Precious Archives and Documentations”, upon the approval of Suzhou Precious Archives and Documentations Selection Committee. In 2012, they were included into the 4th batch of “Jiangsu’s Precious Archives and Documentations”, as approved by Jiangsu Precious Archives and Documentations Selection Committee. The archives then were included into the Register of Chinese Documentary Heritage in 2015 as approved by National Advisory Committee of Chinese Memory of the World Program.

5.2 Second criterion: **world significance**. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

These archives are rare and irreplaceable. Their diminishing or damage will lead to hazardous deletion to the inheritance of the culture and the history of China’s silk of modern and contemporary times

Silk is one of the treasures of humans. It’s praised as “Queen of Fiber”. China, home to silk, is called as “Seres” (the country of silk) by the world. The Old Testament of the Bible mentions Silk twice and honors it as “the most beautiful fabric”. Chinese silk, via the Silk Road, is closely linked to Greek and Persian Cultures, and has vigorously promoted the development of global civilizations and science. It is not only an important link to the inheritance of China’s history, but also a token of human civilization and the common wealth of all people in the world.

Silk’s today, and its tomorrow can never be broken from the records of its past. Collecting, classifying and protecting silk archives forms the base on which today’s silk industry develops vigorously into tomorrow. In this sense, these archives preserved in Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center are too rare to estimate their value.

The archives completely collect 14 main categories of silk fabrics including habotal, crepe, satin, twill, chiffon, faille, velvet, gauze, tapestry satin, brocade, silk poplin, spun silk, taffeta, etc. and printing pattern samples. Among them, there are the silk pattern collections used by the most renowned official weaving organ-Suzhou Weaving Administration-during Late Qing Period (1840-1911), and mixed view Soochow brocade, flowers tapestry satin and others that were widely-known in the period of R.O.C

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

(1912-1949). They also include such sample archives as Song brocade which has been listed as one of China's intangible cultural heritages and into the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Zhangzhou Style Satin which has been listed into the Provincial Intangible Heritage List and its original edition, Four-and-complex gauze that was originated from the Period of Warring States (475.BC-221.BC) and has been listed into the municipal intangible cultural heritages programme, and the tapestry satin, Soochow brocade, broche satin, brocade gauze, printing silk brocade Ceng Yun, printed pure silk twill, and other patterns that represented the most sophisticated crafts then in China and have won the National Gold Prize, woven photograph fabrics using classical gardens of Suzhou as the themes, as well as Taffeta, which has outshined in the international arena and is popular with the British Royal Family.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

Time: Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the "first of its kind")

These archives were formed between the 19th and 20 centuries, a more-or-less 100-year time span, which has witnessed the most important historic stages in China's modern and contemporary times. Looking back on these 100 years, as for the silk industry, it developed from the days of hand-workshop mill into industrialization period. For this, we can say, these archives are a good proof to manifest that the Chinese People have been learning from the West, their systems and techniques to update the modernization course of traditional industries. They provide powerful clues for people to study the breeding period of China's national industries.

There are also a number of samples archives of silk products sold to the Soviet Union, East Asia, Western Europe, US, Japan, South Korea etc. Their categories and patterns were specially designed according to their needs with many international factors incorporated. They, to a certain extent, mirror the changes over the 100 years in the social culture of these countries and areas.

Place: Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

Suzhou is the core origin of these archives where most of them come, but other major origins are also covered, including Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Sichuan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Shandong, Liaoning etc, especially Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. Most archives are from these 3 places, having typical significance and high value in the development history of silk industry.

People: Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development..It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

Silk is a language that spreads its culture. It is not randomly made, it is made with the beauty of art. Its shape, its colors, and its structures unfold before us its beauty in form, and its patterns, express out their rich cultural meanings such as happiness, richness, blessings and peace in way all of us understand. These archives, with their beauty are passing the rich cultural connotation and historical foundation of China's silk while demonstrating their aesthetic value.

The Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times have fully and faithfully recorded the development and changes of the categories and patterns of China's silk over the 100 years, and reflected in their own way the close relations of the culture of silk with social politics and economy and the people's daily life of each phrase in modern China. While the product process sheets attached to some of the archives have further displayed clearly the process features, structural techniques, product specifications, patterns and colors of China traditional silks from a technical perspective. These materials, rare and unrecyclable, will offer great reference and application values in the future for duplicating these samples or developing like ones and will provide inspirations for creating new products.

Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

These archives are mainly about silk products. Silk is known in itself all over the world for its excellent quality and super-high art value which is fully demonstrated by these archives. Their typical significance in aesthetics and traditional culture is highlighted.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

Archives on silk products are uncommon. Because in essence, silk is a kind of animal protein fiber. This has limited its life within a certain period of time, left it vulnerable to damage caused by contamination, and made it hard to be preserved long and sound. And it is hard to have a full collection of these silk products, due to that silks products in different periods of time, whichever countries they were in, were produced by different enterprises and under the administration of different authorities. Therefore, it's rare to see a collection of archives on silk this large in number, this comprehensive in content and this high in quality in China or even around the world.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

The major part of the archives are well preserved while a small portion of them yellowed, or were damaged by worms or had some parts missing as a result of very long time.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

Due to the fact that silk cloth is made of cocoon silk, which is a kind of animal fiber in essence, it is very vulnerable to damage caused by contamination. Even if protected under thermostatic environment, it is hard to avoid the occurrence of fading of color, yellowing, fracturing or aging etc as time goes by. What is more, these archives have been there for quite a long time, part of them are already damaged by worms, overuse, or yellowed water logging or yellowed in the air. They need immediate protective measures. Although we have established a special preservation room for the silk archives and used new techniques to make sure the temperature and humidity stay friendly to the archives, we have no root measures to make it better as a result of lack of talents and funds.

Detailed Types and Scope of Threats:

Worm damage, damp, color fading, yellowing, aging, fracturing etc.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

Management Planning Abstract:

1 Invite renowned professors and experts to carry out specialized studies on the archives, gather them in due time in discussions and symposiums so as to make a reasonable comprehensive plan to protect these archives.

2 Establish special rooms or houses with necessary equipments to preserve the archives. Friendly and stable humidity and temperature must be ensured.

3 Clarify the production time of these archives into early, middle and late periods. Repair, classify, categorize and duplicate the archives according to the protective plan.

4 Establish the catalogue database at the item-level for easier access..

5 Edit and publish collections of related archives and other materials so as to facilitate the studies of experts and scholars.

6 Establish China Silk Archives for well-planned work of collecting, protecting and developing historic materials on China's silk so as to promote the newest development of China's silk industry.

8 Any other information

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

The Application Work of the Archives of Suzhou Silk Samples of Modern and Contemporary Times for the MOWCAP Register is carried out under the guidance of Chinese National Committee of the Memory of the World Program. And Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center, as the owner of these archives, submits the application.

Year	Name of documentary heritage	Page no.

9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MOWCAP website reviewed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required) |