

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Tiananmen Square photograph collection (RBSC-ARC-1812)

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University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

1961 East Mall

Vancouver

British Columbia

V6T 1Z1

Telephone: 604-822-2521

Fax: 604-822-9587

Email: rare.books@ubc.ca

<http://rbsc.library.ubc.ca/>

<http://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca//index.php/tiananmen-square-photographs-collection>

Tiananmen Square photograph collection

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Tiananmen Square photograph collection
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1812
Date:	1989 (date of creation)
Physical description:	112 photographs, col. ; and other materials.
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid created by Ashlynn Prasad in August 2019.
Note [generalNote]:	Include the following photographs: RBSC-ARC-1812-PH-01 to RBSC-ARC-1812-PH-25-88.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

This donor was a citizen of China and a student who participated in the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989. The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

Scope and content

The Tiananmen Square incident, also called June Fourth incident or 6/4, was a culmination of a series of protests and demonstrations in China in the spring of 1989 that culminated on the night of June 3–4 with a government crackdown on the demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Although the demonstrations and their subsequent repression occurred in cities throughout the country, the events in Beijing—and especially in Tiananmen Square, historically linked to such other protests as the May Fourth Movement (1919)—came to symbolize the entire incident.

Writing on the inside front cover of the photo album reads as follows:

"##### #### 4/27-5/18"

(Translation: Great 1989, historical pieces: April 27 to May 18)

Labels on the album pages indicate that the first 23 photographs in the album were taken on April 27, 1989, and the following 19 photographs were taken on May 4th, 1989.

Writing on the inside of the back cover reads as follows:

"#####"

#####.## - #.#####.#####.#####“#
 #’##.#####.#####.# - #.##,####.#####.#####.#####
 #####17#18#19#####.###0:30#####.#####.###”#

(Translation: A brief history from April to June

On April 15, 1989, Yaobang Hu passed away. From April 15 to April 25, students and citizens of Beijing spontaneously mourned. On April 22, the memorial service held for Yaobang Hu, three students knelt in protest outside the Great Hall of the People. On April 26, the People’s Daily editorial described the student effort as “turmoil”. On April 27, near one million people held demonstrations. The demonstrations continued on May 4. From May 5 to May 12, the streets are calm. On May 13th, hundreds of students from Peking University, Renmin University of China and Tsinghua University conducted a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square. On May 15, Gorbachev visited China. On May 17, millions of people took to the streets to hold a solidarity parade. The solidarity continued until May 19th. On May 17 through 19, Media continually made the real reports. At 12:30 am on May 20, Peng Li announced the implementation of martial law in parts of Beijing. After half a month, on June 3rd, a massacre occurred — the 6/3 tragedy.)

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

There are 112 photographs in this collection. The first 24 photographs (RBSC-ARC-1812-PH-01 to 24) were originally stored loosely or in envelopes. The last 88 photographs (RBSC-ARC-1812-PH-25-01 to 25-88) were originally stored in a photo album and have been removed due to preservation concerns. The original album has been retained alongside the photographs and photocopies of the album pages have been made so that the original layout of the album can be recreated if necessary.

Accruals

The collection was received in two accruals. The first accrual consisted of the first 12 photographs in the collection and was received in April 2019. The second accrual consisted of one photo album containing 88 photographs as well as 12 loose photographs in an envelope and was received in August 2019.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Physical description:** 112 photographs : col. ; 9 x 12 cm 1 album 10 photocopies