

From Nanking Gazette (Nanking Kung Pao) Mar. 2, 1938.

Third issue of the first newspaper attempted in Nanking under Japanese occupation. On the following day no paper was published, and thereafter it was resumed under a new name. It is known that Chairman Tao had much difficulty with the Japanese Special Service Organ over various matters, and that he persisted in his resignation.

SELF-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN TAO HSI-SAN SEEKS FOR LOST PROPERTY

Almost complete loss of his Buddhist images and scriptures

To which he had devoted his heart and soul for 16 years

If the original articles can be restored, his heart
and spirit can be reestablished in peace

The Chairman of the Self-Government Committee of this city, Tao Hsi-san well along in years and eminent in learning, is extremely devoted to the scriptures. Recently because of the outbreak of the Incident, his family property was laid waste. Besides other things in particular the collections of many years, Buddhist images for divination(?) and all classes of scriptures were entirely looted. Indeed this was so distressing as to bring worsening of actual physical illness from which recovery is difficult. He wrote a special letter to the Self-Government, requesting them to act for him in cooperative aid to inquiries and investigations. We have secured his original letter, which is printed below:

Report of January 29. According to information from persons of my household, my residence at No. 27 Municipal Government Road was formerly occupied by soldiers who have now gone. When entered the house for inspecting, all the blackwood furniture, and the clothing, trunks, porcelain, and metalware, with all utensils, amounting to about four or five thousand dollars, had been looted clean. I still should not have been completely sorrowful but for the fact that there were included a Buddhist shrine, revered images of the Buddhist faith, and pictures of my sainted paternal and maternal ancestors, and various Buddhist scriptures to which I have devoted my heart and soul in sixteen years of ethical cultivation, offering a fragrant sacrifice each day. Now the whole lot have been stolen. Upon hearing it, I was wounded in heart, and wept a weeping of miserable tears; as in mourning for my deceased parents, grieved to the point of not desiring life. Just at the time of resigning my duties for quite recuperation, again I encountered this extraordinary grief, and my illness became increasingly serious.

A few days ago I tearfully begged Chairman Swen and Commissioner Wang (of police) to act for me in combined aid for searching. Thereupon Commissioner Wang deigned to despatch policeman to go with members of the household to every place and searched in the district, searching and investigating. Nothing was secured. In the past few days we again sent people to every place where books and scrolls were spread out, looking for several days time, but still got nothing. Formerly there was observed in the house a Japanese post-card left behind by a military occupant, on which was written: Lieutenant Amano of the Noda Unit of the Headquarters of the Nakajima Detachment (given name added). This Amano was one of the military men who occupied the house. Isn't it possible to pass on a request to the officers of the Japanese military administration, for them to inquire from Mr. Amano whether he has seen these scriptures, images, and treasures of Buddha? Might it be that on the basis of relationship through identity of language and common faith in the sacred Buddha, that he acted on my behalf to preserve them? If it is possible by this connection to restore the original articles, then my heart might be reestablished in calm, and my sick body again complete recovery...(formal conclusion with list of Buddhist treasures)

M. S. B.