Libraries and Institutions

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Center for Research Libraries

In Volume II, Issue 5 (September–October, 1982) of Focus the Center reports that the Center's catalog has been issued on 229 microfiche. Copies of the microfiche catalog are being sent free of charge to the Center's Members and Associate Members; non-Members may purchase the catalog for $65.00. We are informed that "The September 1982 edition of the CRL microfiche catalog replaces its bound predecessor and includes all materials cataloged by the Center through July 16, 1982."

On pages six through eight of this issue of Focus are listed the titles of East Asian materials recently acquired. Most of the items listed are journals in Chinese or Japanese, though some are in Korean, and some large sets are included. Since one of the main purposes of the CRL program is to help avoid duplicative acquisition of expensive items, East Asian librarians should give careful attention to these reports.

(E. G. B.)

CETA (Chinese-English Translation Assistance Group). Scholar Exchange

Ronald Dolan of the Library of Congress and Thomas Creamer of the CETA Group Secretariat office have recently completed six months with the Yiwen Publishing House dictionary project in Shanghai where they worked with staff of the Ying Han Da Cidian. Their visit completed an exchange begun in 1981 when Professors Lu Gusun and Xue Shiqi came to Washington, D. C. to work on the CETA Group Chinese-English dictionary of general terms. The CETA Group is now considering Chinese proposals for a second round of exchanges.

While in China the CETA Group scholars reviewed approximately one-half of a 150,000 entry file for the Ying Han Da Cidian. They provided comments on 10,000 entries from the letters A through L. They also gave a series of lectures on the English language, lexicography, and life in the United States, met with the editors of the Foreign Languages Institute in Peking, who are supervising the compilation of Han Ying Cidian (A Chinese-English Dictionary), and with senior staff of the Commercial Press. While they were in China they purchased for the CETA Group approximately 100 new dictionaries and glossaries.

The CETA Group sponsored a special public meeting on September 30, 1982, at which Mr. Creamer and Mr. Dolan presented a report on their work and experiences during their recent assignment in Shanghai. The meeting was held at the Foreign Service Institute.

(Based on the CETA Group Bulletin, Fall, 1982)
The Asian Library of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign recently received a donation of nearly 500 volumes of current Chinese publications from the National Central Library in Taiwan, Republic of China. The collection, which consists of a wide range of subject fields including many multi-volume sets of Chinese calligraphy and art works, was on exhibition at the 101st Annual Conference of the American Library Association this summer. The presentation ceremony took place during the ALA conference at the Philadelphia Civic Center on July 11. K. C. Dunn, Director, Office in New York, Coordination Council for North American Affairs, represented the National Central Library at the ceremony. UI University Librarian Hugh Atkinson, who accepted the donation, noted that the faculty and students of the University will long treasure this fine gift collection as a symbol of the universal bonds of scholarship. The gift demonstrates the friendship and good will among academic colleagues at the two institutions.

(William Wong)

Korea (North). Inmin Munhwa Kungjon (People's Cultural Palace)

This house, a great monumental edifice, had been built in the central part of Pyongyang. Built in accordance with the principles of traditional Korean architecture, it has total floor space of nearly 100,000 square metres, a capacity of 30 million volumes, and an average daily accommodation of over 12,000 people. It also has more than 600 rooms for such purposes as reading, lecturing, and recording. It has an auditorium for foreign languages, and up-to-date audio-visual facilities, etc. Its opening ceremony was held on April 4 with a large attendance of over 10,000 people. President Kim Il Sung initiated and suggested the construction of the building and personally chose its site. This house is made available as a center of education of North Korean party members and working people, as well as a center of dissemination of scientific, technological, and cultural knowledge.

(Boksoon Hahn)

The Library of Congress

Two specialists from the National Library of China, who arrived in Washington, D. C., on June 10 for an extended advanced studies program at the Library of Congress and other U. S. libraries, were greeted upon their arrival by Deputy Librarian of Congress William J. Welsh. The two, Liu Guangwei, deputy head of the Western Languages Section, and Sun Peixin, deputy head of the Computer Section, are studying the development and status of automated operations at the Library of Congress during their stay of more than five months.

Ms. Liu is focusing on the Library's general experiences during the transformation of traditional, manual cataloging practices to the current automated system in place. Ms. Sun is concentrating on a detailed and comprehensive study of MARC
and of other computer applications to library processes. The two are therefore spending most of their time in Processing Services and in the Automated Systems Office.

Arrangements for the visit were concluded between the two national libraries in accordance with provisions covering cultural exchanges for 1982 and 1983 signed in September 1981 by the Governments of the United States and China. These arrangements, however, are based on an earlier agreement to exchange library materials and staff arrived at by Mr. Welsh and Liu Jiping, then director of the National Library of China, in 1979. Support from the Council on Library Resources, Inc., made implementation of the agreement possible.

(Based on Library of Congress Information Bulletin, September 17, 1982)

Princeton Theological Seminary

Work has begun at the Robert E. Speer Library of Princeton Theological Seminary, on a guide to resources related to the Christian mission in China, Dr. L. Charles Willard, James Lenox Librarian, announced today. Correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, pamphlets, and mission magazines and journals emanating from the Christian mission in China constitute the largest quantity of primary documentation on China in American libraries and archives. The importance of these documents for scholarly research is increasingly recognized, but their substance and locations are largely unknown to scholars. The guide, when completed, will indicate in detail what documents exist and where they are located. Categories of resource materials described in the guide are: Minutes/Reports; Manuscripts/Pamphlets; Diaries/Notebooks/Scrapbooks/Clippings; Maps/Designs/Drawings; Photos/Slides/Films/Filmstrips; Oral Histories/Tapes/Cassettes/Records; Microforms; Serials; and Books.


Librarians and archivists who would like to have their collections of China mission resources included in this guide are invited to contact: China Mission Resources Project, Speer Library Box 111, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

Writers' Delegation from the People's Republic of China to the United States

This visit, which took place from September 18 to October 18, 1982, was sponsored by the National Committee on United States-China Relations. The group first attended a conference on "The Function of the Writer in Contemporary Society," held at the University of California at Los Angeles. They subsequently visited the International Writing Program of the University of Iowa, the University of Notre Dame, and various institutions in Washington, D. C., New York City, Middletown (Conn.), and Boston. The group visited the Library of Congress on October 8.
The members of the delegation were Feng Mu, leader of the group, vice-chairman of the Chinese Writers' Association and Editor-in-chief of Wen i pao (Literature and Art Gazette); Wu Qiang, deputy leader, whose novel Hung jih (Red Sun) has been translated into English, Japanese, and Russian; Li Ying, a very productive poet, a council member of the Chinese Writers' Union, and director and chief editor of Chieh fang chun wen i (People's Liberation Army Literature and Art); Li Zhun, author of more than 50 novelettes and short stories; Jiang Zilong, author of five collections of short stories and a large number of critical essays and prose pieces; and Zhang Jie, a very active woman novelist and TV script writer. They were accompanied by Fan Baoci, an official of the Chinese Writers' Association; Yuan Henian, novelist and interpreter; and Jay Henderson, Program Associate of the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

(Based on the brochure prepared by the National Committee)