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## Meetings and Conferences

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## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

### Association for Asian Studies 46th Annual Meeting Library Panel

Sponsored by the Committee on East Asian Libraries and organized by Bill Wong of the University of California at Irvine Library, a library panel was held at the 46th annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, March 27, 1994.

The panel, "Current Trends in the East Asian Publishing Industry," consisted of five papers covering China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. Hongli Zhou of the Beijing-based China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation gave a paper entitled "On Development of China's Publishing Industry and Prospects of Publication Export." Mr. Zhou provided a quantitative assessment of China's current book publishing and trading conditions and analyzed the problems and concerns expressed by publishers, distributors, vendors, and readers. Taiwan was covered by two papers: "Publishing Trends in Taiwan" by Chi Wang of the Library of Congress and "Recent Developments in Taiwan's Publishing Industry" by Teresa Chang of the National Central Library, Taipei. While Dr. Wang discussed the growth patterns in publishing in Taiwan during the past forty years, Mrs. Chang emphasized the increasing exchange activities between Taiwan and China since martial law was lifted on the island in July 1987. University of California at Los Angeles' Mihoko Miki presented a paper, "Japanese Publishing Industry and Publication Trends," which explained the publishers, retailers, and distributors components, and the special characteristics of the industry. Mrs. Miki also highlighted the major changes in publishing in Japan in the past twenty years and concluded with an evaluation of critical problems and their possible solutions. Chong Nam Yoon of the Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University, spoke on "Current Scholarly Publishing in Korea." Mr. Yoon examined the factors detrimental to scholarly publication, general trends in book production and trade, and possible developments in South Korean publishing, with remarks on the state of the industry in North Korea.

The invited discussants of the session were Antony Marr of Princeton University Gest Oriental Library and Peter Nosco of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures of the University of Southern California. Commenting from a library perspective, Mr. Marr raised the important issues in publishing trends and collection development in East Asian libraries. Dr. Nosco, who presented the faculty viewpoint, indicated that an interesting subtheme that emerged in the panel papers was the issue of state, quasi state, and industry control of publishing activity, including the various advantages and disadvantages of external control over this kind of market.

(William Wong)

### Russian Academy of Sciences Groups to Hold an International Conference on the Computerization of Oriental Manuscripts

The History Department, the Institute of Oriental Studies, and the Orientalists' Society of the Russian Academy of Sciences are planning to convene an international conference on "Monuments of Spiritual, Material and Written Culture of the Ancient and Medieval Orient: Problems of Database Creation". The conference is to be held in Moscow from 7 to 11 February 1995.

The conference will include papers, reports, seminars, and discussion sessions on:

- the problems involved in creating databases of bibliographical citations, historical and other source materials, literary texts, material (physical) monuments and artifacts, etc.; in support of Asian studies for the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods in all fields;
- particular methodologies needed when developing databases for ancient and medieval Asian studies and/or including Asian scripts in such databases,
- problems of identifying and correlating artifacts of material culture in Asia during the relevant periods with other evidence found in folklore or literary/historical works,
- editing and publishing reference books, indexes, directories, and other products of databases in ancient and medieval Asian studies,
- developing software for use in Asian studies, especially in support of studies of the premodern era.

We invite paper proposals dealing with these and related subjects, for periods from the archaic to the eighteenth century A.D. Papers which cover broader themes, such as cultural exchange between Europe/Eastern Europe and Asia during the period, are also eligible for consideration.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference asks you to send them your claim and an abstract of your report not later than 1 July 1994. You can also propose a special topic for a seminar or discussion session. In this case, we ask you to give us the names of other participants for the proposed session.

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(Taken from an eastlib posting dated 26 May 1994 from Maureen Donovan.)