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No. 001 Newsletter - Association for Asian Studies. Committee on American Library Resources in the Far East

Edwin G. Beal Jr.

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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT
ORIENTALIA DIVISION

May 22, 1963

Dear Colleagues on CALRFE and Friends:

Herewith my first attempt at a Newsletter. As most of you will recall from my letter dated April 25 (though reproduced and mailed somewhat later), permission for us to have such a Newsletter has been granted by the Association. I fear that my letter of April 25 did not reach several of you; in those cases, copies of it are enclosed herewith.

1. Ta kung pao. Those of you who were in Philadelphia may recall that I mentioned the problem we were encountering with the page-numbering of pre-war issues. It seems that we have found the only feasible solution. This is to use an automatic exposure counter, a device which resembles the mileage counter of an automobile speedometer. It is attached to the camera and is photographed with each exposure, thus numbering each exposure as it is made. Although references to newspapers are usually by date only (rather than by page), this device will make it possible to locate without difficulty any specific reference to the film. This counting device, of course, cannot be applied to film made for us in other laboratories of the issues we cannot film here.

2. Microfilming of Chinese journals. The Carnegie Corporation of New York has recently made a two-year grant (totaling \$30,000) to the Library of Congress for the purpose of producing negative microfilms of as many issues, published in October 1959 and later, as can be located of 166 Chinese periodicals in the social sciences and humanities. The titles were selected chiefly through correspondence conducted by the Joint Committee on Contemporary China in 1961. We are beginning work on this project immediately, and I am now doing the bibliographical work on the first installment. Though no detailed procedures have yet been worked out, we expect that we shall work on the titles in groups of from eight to ten; we shall in each instance first see what is available here in LC; next we shall ascertain what issues we can borrow from other U. S. Government agencies; and then we shall circularize to you lists of the issues still missing. The resulting product is to be made generally available at standard rates, both in positive microfilm or in Xerox reproductions. We shall coordinate this effort with

the work being done (mostly on earlier issues of some of these titles) by University Microfilms.

3. Mainland publications received currently (including those received by university libraries on exchange). This is a rather difficult and puzzling business. I am sure you have all received the lists issued by Yale, Cornell, and Washington. Recently I have urged Warren Tsuneishi to continue to distribute this information, and I have suggested the same to Yukihiisa Suzuki.

We might well give some thought to how we could include information of this type on a regular basis in our Newsletter. Items which are recognized as especially significant may be reported to me at any time, and will be included in the next Newsletter issued. It may well be better to do this rather than to try to obtain comprehensive reporting of, say, Chih shih chiu shih li liang, Chung-kuo fu nü, Hsi chü pao, and K'o hsüeh t'ung pao.

On the other hand, I note on the lists received from Yale a considerable number of 1962 and 1963 issues which have not come to LC through purchase, e. g., Chien chu hsüeh pao, Chung kuo lin yeh, Hua hsüeh t'ung pao, Lao tung, Shu hsüeh hsüeh pao, and Ti li. If we could be reasonably certain that an institution which receives several issues of any of these titles will continue to receive succeeding issues, we could simply announce the title as being "currently received" and leave it at that. Unfortunately, we have no such assurance. Another uncertainty is that I do not know which of you would be willing or able to take on the job of reporting, on a continuing basis, your mainland Chinese periodical receipts. For the time being, therefore, we could adopt some policy such as the following: (1) Institutions which are able to do so should continue to compile and distribute lists of recent mainland periodical acquisitions; (2) Items which merit special notice should be reported to and will be mentioned in the Newsletter; (3) All of us should give thought to what it might be possible for us to accomplish with our necessarily limited resources. It seems to me axiomatic that any comprehensive joint acquisitions list (comparable to the Joint Acquisitions List of Africana) is going to require substantial outside funds.

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An alternative thought occurs to me, however, and I solicit your opinions on it. Ray Nunn's Chinese Periodicals, International Holdings, appeared in April 1961. In general it seems to record issues published before and through 1959, insofar as they were available at the time. The reporting and recording seems much less complete for 1960, since the compilation was done during late 1960 and early 1961.¹ I wonder, therefore, whether it would not be both useful and feasible for each of you to send me a list of the Chinese mainland periodical issues published in 1960, 1961, and 1962 received by your library as of this summer. Any 1963 issues might properly be included also. I would then integrate the holdings under each title, and distribute the result in multilithed form. The product would be a three-year cumulated updating of Ray Nunn's list. Since the total number of titles involved would vary from perhaps 20 in some institutions to probably not more than 100 in others, I believe that the reporting of this information would not place an undue burden on any one institution. I should think it probably would not require more than one man-day of effort from any institution or person (except from me). By limiting it to Chinese mainland periodicals published in 1960 and later we would probably be able to handle this ourselves. Anything more ambitious would require a special grant and the delays and complications which that inevitably involves. Another possibility would be that we should wait for another two years and then produce a five-year cumulation, or perhaps we should wait to see the list being produced by M. I. T. before we consider anything beyond the reporting of individual notable items. I solicit your opinions.

4. Personnel. Warren Tsuneishi writes that Miss Kazue Miyazaki will be joining their staff at Yale in August. He has given me two other names with the suggestion that they be circulated to the Committee:

1/ The Union Card File of Oriental Vernacular Serials has approximately the same cut-off date, since most of the filming on which that file is based was done in 1960 and 1961. The scope of the Union Card File... of course, is vastly wider. Not only does it include all of pre-Communist China, Taiwan, and Hongkong, but also Japan, Korea, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Iran, Turkey, and other countries of South Asia and the Near East.

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Miss Yukiko Kamimura (b. in Japan)
c/o Miss Helen Conard
406 West 12th
Emporia, Kansas

(Waseda MA English lit.; since September 1962 in
Graduate Course in Library Science, Kansas
State Teachers College, Emporia).

Miss Fumie Tateoka (b. Needles, Calif., 1922)
1806 South Cochran Avenue
Los Angeles 19, California

(Japan Womens University Teaching Certificate
1943; UCLA BA 1961; USC MSLS 1963).

Warren has also asked me to inform you that the name of the collection at Yale has been changed from "Far Eastern Collections" to "East Asian Collections." His title remains "Curator."

5. Twenty-four histories. Eugene Wu writes that a recent letter from Miss Lai Chin-hung (i. e., Mrs. Liang Han-chao) who is currently manager of the Rainbow Press (P. O. Box 1456, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China) informs him that a complete set of the Po-na pên Erh shih ssŭ shih is available in Taipei for U. S. \$500. Since this is much less than the price usually asked for it, he suggests that I pass this information along to you.

6. Current National Bibliography. Yukihiisa Suzuki informs me that he has recently received 1963: 4-6 of Ch'üan kuo hsin shu mu. Estimates of the cost of reproduction may be secured from the Photoduplication Department, University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

7. Executive Group meeting. I expect to call a meeting of the CALRFE Executive Group to be held here in Washington in September. I should like to have the Sub-committee on Materials of the Joint Committee on Contemporary China meet with us, since I think we shall have many common problems to discuss.

8. Timing of Newsletter. In general, I shall attempt to issue a Newsletter on or about the 15th of each month, and I

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shall do my best to include items which reach me by the end of the preceding month. Since I shall be away from Washington and shall be fully occupied with family business for three weeks in June, I shall be unable to prepare a separate Newsletter for that month. I expect that the next letter, therefore, will be issued in July.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin G. Beal, Jr.

Edwin G. Beal, Jr.
Head, Chinese Section, and
Chairman, CALRFE

May 24, 1963

P. S. After the above had been typed for reproduction, I received the following additional communication from Mr. Yukihiisa Suzuki, Head, Asia Library, University of Michigan:

"We have been just informed by one of our dealers in Hong Kong that the 'publisher now advises that they cannot accept any overseas subscription for the daily newspaper Wen Hui Pao [Shanghai] for the time being, contrary to their first announcement. It appears that the authorities may have put this item back on the BANNED LIST for reasons unknown.' Is this the beginning of another dark period?

"News from the Asia Library, University of Michigan:

"Some of the most notable acquisitions during 1962-1963 are: Teikoku bungaku [Teikoku Bungaku literary journal; a complete run of one of the most important literary journals published from 1895 to 1920] (In microfilm); Shūkyō kenkyū [Studies of Religion, a complete run from 1916 to 1962]; Kisho fukeseikai sōsho [Reproduction of Rare Books, a complete set of facsimile reproduction of major Edo literary works]; Pai-hai [A 16th century woodblock edition of a collection of essayists noting many anecdotes of the history of China of the 11th and 12th centuries]; Yüeh-ya-t'ang ts'ung-shu [a 19th century woodblock edition of a collection of books, including about 200 titles of rare works composed between the T'ang and Ch'ing periods]; Chao-tai ts'ung-shu [A collection of Ch'ing Dynasty literary works]; Chih pu tsu chai ts'ung shu [A collection of the rarest editions and manuscripts in the library of the Ch'ing Dynasty bibliophile, Pao T'ing-po]; Tzū-yu chan hsien, a complete run; I-pan, a complete run; Chêng-pao, a complete run; Kuo ts'ui hsüeh pao, a complete run."

May 27, 1963

P. P. S. At the end of last week I received the cumulated list of Chinese periodicals received on exchange by the University of Michigan. We are very glad to have this; it will be interesting to compare it with the lists already received from Yale, Cornell, and the University of Washington.