Libraries and Institutions

Eugene Wu
William Wong
P. Y. Chang

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1982/iss68/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
University of California (Berkeley). East Asiatic Library

In memory of the late professor emeritus of Oriental Languages Yuen-Ren Chao (1892-1982), who died in Boston on 24 February, 1982, the East Asiatic Library presented an exhibition of materials related to his life and work. Included are his calligraphy, manuscripts, a bibliography of his works in EAL, a list of his books donated to our library, and other materials. This exhibit was on display from March 19 to April 19, 1982.

Born in Tientsin, China, he received a BA in mathematics from Cornell, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard in 1918. He joined the UC faculty in 1947 and extended his teaching by request after officially retiring in 1960. The versatility of his interests and his reputation as a linguist of the first rank are reflected in his long list of his publications. His career was one of great distinction. He helped establish the Science Society of China in 1915 and the Academia Sinica in 1929. His works helped set the foundation for modern linguistics in China. He served as president of the Linguistic Society of America in 1945 and the American Oriental Society in 1960. He received many awards and honors during his career, including two Guggenheim fellowships, a Fulbright research scholarship, and honorary degrees from Princeton, Berkeley, and Ohio State University. In accordance with his wishes no funeral service was held. The family will establish a scholarship for the study of Chinese in Professor Chao's memory in the near future. For further information about the scholarship please contact the Department of Oriental Languages, University of California (Berkeley).

(P. Y. Chang)

CETA (Chinese-English Translation Assistance) Group

I. Scholar Exchange. Professors Xue Shiqi and Lu Gusun, Fudan University, both senior editors to the Ying Han Da Cidian project, completed their six month stay in Washington, D. C. in mid-August 1981. While they were not able (or expected) to review the entire General Dictionary file, the quality of their work over the 500 pages covered was very high. Considering the magnitude of the effort, all parties agreed that this half of the first East-West lexicographic exchange program had been a complete success.

The two CETA Group scholars to participate in the second half of the exchange were chosen after an intensive review of the numerous applications received. Those chosen were Thomas Creamer of the CETA Group Secretariat office, and Ronald Dolan of the Library of Congress. Each of these gentlemen have experience compiling and reviewing Chinese-English dictionaries, skills considered of utmost value by both sides in this exchange.
Messrs. Creamer and Dolan arrived in Shanghai February 20, 1982, and immediately began work on the draft of the *Ying Han Da Cidian*. In addition to their tasks for the English-Chinese dictionary project they have been visiting and lecturing various language groups in China.

Mr. Creamer and Mr. Dolan are also busy gathering information regarding new and forthcoming publications that are expected to be of value to the CETA Group and the community of China scholars. Mr. Creamer reported that he has purchased approximately forty dictionaries and technical glossaries, all having been published within the last few years and none of which is presently in the CETA Group library. The two CETA Group scholars are scheduled to return to the U. S. in mid-August.

(From *CETA Group Bulletin*  
Spring 1982)

II. **Rearrangement of "radicals" in the Chinese Written Language**

For some time your Editor, and undoubtedly other persons as well, have been puzzled by changes in the sequence of radicals used in recent dictionaries published in the People's Republic of China, and by the reassignment of characters under these radicals. Much of this change follows inevitably upon the use of the simplified forms of characters now common in the PRC. For example the "speech" radical, formerly written with seven strokes and assigned number 149, has now been reduced to two strokes, and assigned number 10. Thus the character for *jang* (Mathews' no. 3085) meaning "to yield", "to resign", etc., consisted originally of 24 strokes (seven for the radical, plus 17 additional strokes). This has been simplified to a total of five strokes (two for the simplified speech radical, plus three for the character *shang* (Mathews' no. 5669), meaning "above", "supreme", etc. Likewise radical no. 169 "gate" (eight strokes) has been simplified to three strokes, and, together with the characters which it is used in forming, is assigned no. 46. Your Editor, therefore, asked the representatives of the CETA Group to inquire into this matter while they were in China.

The Chinese colleagues responded generously to this request. They sent us a copy of an unpublished article in Chinese by Mr. Cheng Yangzhi, the title of which might be translated "An Introduction to Finding Characters by Radicals and by the Four-corner Method"; they sent also a comparative table in which the characters are arranged first by the new *Cihai* (Tz'u hai) sequence, followed by the radical under which the character appears in the *Kangxi zidian* and in the *Xinhua cidian*. The following paragraphs are quoted from Thomas Creamer's report to the CETA Exchange Committee, dated May 22, 1982.

"Lu Xiu arranged a meeting for us with Mr. Chen, an editor of *HANYU DA CIDIAN*, to discuss Dr. Beal's question. The meeting took place on May 19. Mr. Chen explained that there are three
radical systems being used in China today. The three are the XINHUA ZIDIAN system, the CIHAI system and the CIYUAN or Kangxi system. According to Mr. Chen, there are only minor differences between the three in that 80-90% are the same. The XINHUA ZIDIAN system is to classify radical strictly by shape, going left to right and top to bottom. For example, is listed under the radical in XINHUA, whereas it is listed under in KANGXI. Mr. Chen noted that the XINHUA and GIHAI systems are more scientific because there is no logical method of arranging characters in KANGXI when they have the same radical and the same number of strokes. In XINHUA and CIHAI, however, characters with the same radical and same number of strokes are arranged according to stroke order. That order being

"In 1961, according to Mr. Chen, the Ministries of Culture and Education and the Language Reform Committee and the Institute of Linguistics held a meeting to discuss the standardization of radicals. A task force was set up to try to integrate the three systems and their final recommendation was to adopt the method used by CIHAI. In any case, each publishing house is free to use what ever method it pleases and usually adopts a method best suited for the user, e.g., student, advanced learner, etc. Some publishing houses have even done away with radicals completely and opted for an arrangement by total strokes.

"Mr. Chen stated that the editors of HANYU DA CIDIAN and HANYU DA ZIDIAN are trying to devise a radical system of their own. Working from the 214 KANGXI radicals, Mr. Chen said that their system will probably contain about 200 radicals by combining radicals such as (sun) and (speak), (moon) and (meat). Their plan should be finalized by the end of the year and then will be distributed for comment."

Center for Research Libraries

CEAL Bulletin no. 67, pp. 42-43 carried a description of the expansion of East Asian holdings by the CRL. Further information on this, listing titles in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and English to be acquired in the next few months appears in the CRL publication Focus, vol II, no. 2 (March-April 1982), pp. 4-5. Since the aim of the program is to supplement the holdings of American East Asian collections by acquiring in reprint or in microform collections of material which these individual institutions could not in most cases afford to purchase for themselves, it is highly desirable that information on the acquisitions of CRL should be widely disseminated. At present this can best be done by securing copies of Focus on a continuing basis. In this way expensive duplicative purchases can be avoided.
I. Visit of Rare Books Specialist

Mr. Li Zhizhong 李致忠, Head of the Chinese Rare Books Department of the National Library of China (formerly National Library of Peking), arrived in Cambridge on April 23, 1982, to spend six months as the Luce Visiting Scholar at the Harvard-Yenching Library. Mr. Li, a graduate of Peking University with a degree in classical Chinese, has been on the staff of the National Library of China since 1965 working under the late Professor Zhao Wanli 趙萬里, the noted scholar on Chinese bibliography and rare editions. He succeeded Professor Zhao as Head of the Chinese Rare Books Department of the National Library of China upon Professor Zhao's death in 1980.

While at the Harvard-Yenching Library Mr. Li will present a series of talks on Chinese bibliography and rare editions. He will also survey the Harvard-Yenching Library's rare books collection and review its cataloging.

Funding for Mr. Li's visit has been made possible by a grant to Harvard University from the Luce Foundation under its Luce Fund for Chinese Scholars program.

(Eugene W. Wu)

II. Renewal of Travel Grant Program

The Harvard-Yenching Library is pleased to announce the renewal of its travel grant program for the fiscal year 1982-1983, made possible through the courtesy of the Japan Institute, Harvard University, to assist visiting scholars from outside the metropolitan Boston area in their use of the Japanese Collection at the Harvard-Yenching Library. There will be ten grants of $200 each to be awarded on a merit basis to scholars and advanced graduate students in Japanese studies; special consideration will be given to those residing in areas where no major Japanese collection is available. Each grantee will also be provided with free xeroxing privileges of up to 100 xerox pages.

Applications for the grant, including a brief description of research topic and estimated budget, should be submitted to:

Eugene W. Wu
Librarian
Harvard-Yenching Library
Harvard University
2 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
The Asian Library has received a collection of books on Japanese drama (56 titles in 108 volumes) from the Japan Foundation Library Support Program. These Japanese language books, worth approximately $5000, include critical editions of classical plays, scripts of modern plays, T. V. drama, and fiction films, as well as works on drama history and criticism, stage craft, costumes, and set design. While the emphasis is on kabuki, other classical forms such as no and kyogen, and modern drama are represented as well. The grant proposal was prepared and the titles selected by Robert Sewell, the Library's former Japanese bibliographer. This grant significantly augments the Library's Japanese drama collection, an area in which the Asian Library plans to continue to develop.

(William S. Wong)

Translators' Association of China

Beijing, June 23, XINHUA. Over 300 translators in Beijing gathered in the Great Hall of the People this morning and officially established the Translators Association of China, the first organization of its kind in the country. Party and state leaders Wang Zhen, Ulanhu, Ngapo Ngawang Jigme and Bo Yibo attended the meeting and extended their congratulations on the founding.

Wang Zhen, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, said "translation is indispensable. It contributes to the prosperity of China's economy, culture and science and is important in introducing China's long history to the world."

Bo Yibo, state councillor, recalled how in the 1920s and 30s communists had great difficulty in finding Marxist-Leninist theoretical books. He said he and other veteran revolutionaries had "benefited greatly from those translators, who were revolutionaries as well. I wish to express my gratitude and compliments to them." He said he hoped present-day translators would be vanguards in international cultural exchange.

Jiang Chunfang, president of the new association, said the founding of the new organization is a "realization of a long-time wish of Chinese translators." The association, he said, will help translators across the country to compare methods of work and improve professionally so as to serve the modernization campaign better.

China has about 220,000 people working in 55 foreign languages including English, Japanese, German, French, Russian, Spanish, and Arabic, according to the Ministry of Labor and Personnel. While most of them are language
teachers in secondary schools and universities, around 50,000 to 60,000 are working as translators in scientific institutions, publishing houses and news services. These language experts, mostly trained in the last three decades, have contributed to the spreading of Marxism–Leninism in China, the advance of science and technology and literature and art and have helped bring understanding of China to the rest of the world, Jiang Chunfang said.

Cultural works of other nations began to be translated about 2,000 years ago, Jiang said. But in socialist China, he said, translation has been upgraded to become a branch of science. He said he believes the translators association will promote the development of national culture.

Cheng Fangwu, one of the first to translate Marx and Engels "The Communist Manifesto" into Chinese was named honorary president of the association. Eleven veteran translators became vice-presidents and eighteen specialists were appointed advisors. Liu Deyou, former XINHUA correspondent in Japan and now deputy director of the bureau of foreign language publishing and distribution administration is general secretary.

The 200-member council of the association includes translators of foreign languages and minority languages, such as Tibetan, Uygur and Kazak.

(From China. PRC. National Affairs, June 24, 1982. Contributed by Tao-tai Hsia)