



6-1-1983

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Tang, Raymond N. (1983) "The Preservation of East Asian Library Materials in the University of California, Berkeley," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 1983 : No. 70 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1983/iss70/5>

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THE PRESERVATION OF EAST ASIAN LIBRARY MATERIALS
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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I. The Collections of the East Asiatic Library

Berkeley started to collect East Asian library materials in 1898. Various kinds of library material have been acquired. The East Asiatic Library has now a collection of over a half million volumes. As of June 1982, the Library's holdings were as follows:

Bound Volumes

Chinese	238,097
Japanese	210,400
Korean	28,064
Other (Manchu, Mongol & Tibetan)	<u>4,881</u>
Total bound volumes	481,442

Current Serial Subscriptions

Chinese	757
Japanese	1,705
Korean	422
Western languages. (The General Library of the University maintains files of hundreds of journals pertaining to East Asia. A small selection of these titles is maintained in the East Asian Library)	<u>41</u>
Total	2,925

Newspapers

Chinese	11
Japanese	13
Korean	<u>7</u>
Total	31

Other Materials (undifferentiated by language)

Microform	8,680
Pamphlets	17,677
Rubbings	2,104
Pictorial materials	<u>5,050</u>

Center for Chinese Studies Library

33,150 volumes 35 newspapers

II. The Problem of Space

The East Asiatic Library is suffering from dire space needs. In the last twelve years, we have carried out eight major moves involving 10,000 to 30,000 volumes per move. Having moved so many times and faced the strenuous stack shiftings, we have developed a "moving phobia" that some day and somewhere the books are going to be accidentally damaged. We do not pack the lugs or boxes too tightly. We are fastidious in moving with precaution. But we do not always have control over the moving staff, who are sometimes outside jobbers. The levels of communication have to be adjusted depending on the situation. The collection is now split among four buildings: Durant Hall, Barrows Hall, the sixth tier of the Life Sciences Building, and the Inter-Campus Library Facilities in Richmond. The first three buildings are on campus whereas the last one is about twenty miles away. Faculty and research needs demand that we keep materials on campus as long as possible. During the first moves, we moved away the less used materials. Now we have cut into the core collections. In fact, we are now implementing the policy of "one book in one book out." Weeding has become a weekly chore. In addition, wherever the shelves turn out to be congested, the bibliographers are called upon to weed those shelves. With so much moving around, it is almost incredible that we have not had to do much repairing of damaged books. When needed, however, the Binding and Repairing Unit of the Conservation Department of the General Library does perform an admirable job. The staff members of that department are well trained and skillful.

III. Differing Approaches for Different Types of Material

The general collection of nearly half a million volumes in the four buildings enjoys relatively low air pollution and the fine San Francisco Bay weather, with rather stable humidity and temperature, except for the sixth tier of the Life Sciences Building, which is directly under the roof, where temperature and humidity fluctuate inordinately during the summer months. As a result, we had to move the 6,000 expensive folio-sized volumes of the Korean Tripitaka to the Richmond storage facility, which was formerly a shipyard warehouse and where the humidity is also less than desirable. The sheer size of the great Korean Tripitaka is a tough nut to crack in terms of space and preservation. We are still looking for a solution.

The 180,000 volumes housed in the general stacks of Durant Hall are all treated with magnetic metal strips that have to be desensitized before anyone can take the books out. Dry pipes that may activate water sprays in case of fire have been installed throughout the general book stacks and the Reading Room.

The special collection of 30,000 items and/or volumes of rare books, stone rubbings, old Japanese sheet maps, the Asami Collection of Korean classical works, first editions of Meiji literature, manuscripts, Tibetan xylographs, mounted Chinese woodcuts, hand-painted art albums, scrolls, prints, photographs, gold or silver illuminated Buddhist scriptures, and other special materials are stored in well-protected rooms in the basement of Durant Hall. The expensive Halon system of using gas to prevent fire hazards has been installed in these

rooms. One accidental discharge of the gas would cost \$6,000; therefore the large rooms have been converted into smaller ones in order to save gas. The Halon system can be set off automatically by fire and smoke; it can also be controlled manually. A person can stay in the gas about one minute. After one minute, one may faint but can be revived without much harm. Movable stacks are installed in one of the rare book rooms to more than double the shelving capacity. These movable stacks can be operated both electronically and manually. Sensitive kick-bars can stop the moving stacks immediately to avoid any accidents. They are quite safe. An electronic pass card system has also been installed at the entrances of the rare book rooms. A selected few people, namely, the Head of the library, the Conservation Coordinator, and the Circulation Supervisor, are issued the specifically programmed magnetic cards to gain access. Each card represents a specific person. The system is connected to the campus Police Department, which monitors the security and keeps the record of who has entered the room at a specific time. If the card is lost, a call to the Police Department will quickly invalidate it. "Water turtles" will also be installed on the floor to monitor water seepage from hairline cracks in the floor and in the walls below the ground level. Trenching around the building was once considered but has never been carried out. Weekly charts of humidity and temperature are kept by a portable thermo-hygrograph imported from London. A handy light-weight humidity and temperature meter for the on-the-spot quick checkings has been imported from Holland. If the humidity is 55 ± 5 and the temperature is 65 ± 5 F. we regard the situation as being satisfactory. Otherwise, we will use dehumidifiers, electric fans, and opened windows to bring the humidity and temperature into line. We have recommended the installation of air conditioning, but funding and building codes pose roadblocks. On a cost-sharing basis, we can also use the fumigator of the Lowie Museum of the university. When necessary, an entomologist of the university can be called upon to inspect and eliminate insect damage. We have used his service twice in the last several years to treat worm-damaged books sent to us as gifts.

For the preservation of rare Tibetan xylographs, we have enlisted a venerable Tibetan lama to make cloth wrappings with protective cardboard. The wrappings are colorful and beautiful; but with our increased knowledge in preservation, we are no longer sure that cloth wrappings and cardboard are adequate materials for the purpose of long-term preservation. We will be studying the matter from both the aesthetic and preservation points of view.

Speaking of aesthetics and authenticity, we have decided to preserve the 9,000 volumes of first editions of Meiji literature in their original form. No re-binding will be attempted; but careful cleaning and wrapping with acid-free paper will be done. Dr. Elizabeth Huff, Head Emeritus of the East Asiatic Library, did a wonderful job in preserving the nearly 4,000 volumes of the Asami Collection of Korean literature, manuscripts, and fine imprints. The original beautiful cinnamon-colored oil paper covers were further protected by cloth-covered cases (chitsu) of the same color, made in Japan. Title strips were pasted on them and Mrs. Ch'ung-ho Frankel wrote all the titles in graceful calligraphy. It is quite a feast to look at the collection. Master negative microfilms for permanent preservation have been made of many of the rare Korean titles.

The East Asian Library holds more than 2,000 rubbings made from stone inscriptions. Most of these represent Chinese inscriptions, but more than one hundred reproduce inscriptions from Korean sources. In some cases the individual rubbings are larger than several office desks put together. The edges of the foldings are vulnerable to wear and tear. Many of them were already mounted when we acquired them. As for the unmounted ones, we will keep them as they are. Mounting can distort the original images in pasting and stretching. Skillful craftsmen are difficult to find nowadays. Even if found, they are quite expensive. At present, unmounted rubbings are protected by acid-free wrappings. Sturdy and acid-free boxes will be ordered for them. We also try to avoid draping the large rubbings over the smaller rubbings when they are shelved one on top of another. We store rubbings of the same size only a few in a box, with acid-free linings between them.

IV. The Organization of Preservations Activities in the East Asiatic Library

There is a conservation group in EAL with the following members: The Head of EAL and the Heads of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Divisions. One member is designated to be the Conservation Coordinator, who performs a number of duties, for example:

1. Organizing the conservation program
2. Recommending policies and guidelines for the circulation and photoreproduction of special materials, the master negative project, the brittle book project, and the security system
3. Setting goals and implementing preservation measures
4. Coping with emergencies
5. Attending workshops and seminars on conservation
6. Drafting grant proposals
7. Representing the EAL in the Conservation Committee of the General Library
8. Keeping in touch with Friends of the EAL and other groups which have supported conservation.