2-1-1984

Chinese Collections in Japan

Chau Mun Lau

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

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.
In March 1982, I took a ten-day trip to Japan where I spent most of the time visiting libraries in Tokyo and Kyoto. The dual purposes of my visit were to make personal contacts with library staffs and to get acquainted with their Chinese collections. I am greatly indebted to Mrs. Minako Ito Song, a former colleague of the University of Hawaii for her help in Japan; Mr. Haruo Suzuki, a publisher in Japan; and Dr. Masato Matsui, Head of the University of Hawaii East Asia Collection, for letters of introduction to various libraries. With their assistance, I was able to gain smooth access to the National Diet Library, Waseda University Library, Tōyō Bunko, Kyoto University Library, and Keio University Library. Through Mr. Suzuki’s contact, I visited the Meiji Newspapers and Periodicals Library of Tokyo University.

KOKURITSU KOKKAI TOSHOKAN (NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY)

At the National Diet Library, accompanied by Mrs. Song and Mr. Suzuki, I met Mr. Kunimitsu Suyama, Deputy Librarian, Mr. Azusa Tanaka, Library Counselor, Mr. Hiroshi Ueno, Chief of International Cooperation Section, Division for Interlibrary Services, and Mr. Tsutomu Satō, Assistant Chief of Division for Interlibrary Services.

This library, which mainly serves Diet members in conducting research on State affairs, has a staff of more than 800 persons. As of March 1979, the holdings of Japanese and Chinese materials were 2.4 million volumes. The Chinese collection is part of the Asian and African Department, which is headed by Mr. Kazuhiko Tatara. Based on the collections of the former Imperial Library, the Fujiyama Collection, and the Chinese materials of the Tōa Kenkyūjo Bunko (East Asian Institute Library), the Chinese collection was established in 1948. There are large holdings of Chinese classics, local histories, genealogical records, and materials of the Ch'ing Dynasty. Titles of the local histories are listed in the Nihon shūyō toshokan kenkyūjo shōzō Chūgoku chibōshi sōgō mokuroku (Union Catalogue of Chinese Local Gazetteers in 14 Major Libraries and Research Institutes in Japan.) One of their large impressive Ch'ing holdings is the Ta Ch'ing lü li hsin an hui tsuan chi ch'eng (A Collection of Laws and Criminal Cases of the Ch'ing Dynasty, 1844-1907).

The Library has used the National Diet Library Classification since 1969 for books in Japanese and foreign languages. Before that time, the Nippon Decimal Classification was used for Japanese and Chinese books, and the Dewey Decimal Classification for books in European languages. As for cataloging rules, the Nippon Cataloging Rules (Preliminary New Edition, 1977) are in use for the Japanese and Chinese vernaculars and the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR1, 1967) for Western books. The National Diet Library List of Subject Headings (Second Edition) is applied to all books, regardless of language.
In Japan, library computer technology was first in operation at the National Diet Library. In 1971, the Library began to use a kanji (Chinese characters) printer system. A number of catalog and bibliographic publications have been produced on a computer basis since 1972. JAPAN MARC tapes are distributed among users since 1981. Efforts are being made towards the goal of establishing the library as the bibliographic center of a library network in Japan.

TŌYŌ BUNKO (The Oriental Library)

The Tōyō Bunko is a library specializing in Asian studies. The Library was founded in 1917 by Hisaya Iwasaki (1865-1955), based on the collection of George Ernest Morrison (1862-1920), who was adviser to the office of the President of the Republic of China. His collection contains excellent Western materials on China. Iwasaki enlarged the scope of the library by adding materials on other Asian countries written in various Asian languages. In 1924, he created a research department, which marked the first library and research institution in Japan devoted to studies pertaining to all of Asia, emphasizing Eastern Asia, but also including other Asian areas as well.

Since 1948, the Tōyō Bunko has been incorporated into the National Diet Library and receiving ninety-five percent of its financial support from the government. With the urging and support of UNESCO, the Centre for East Asian Cultural Studies (Higashi Ajia Bunka Kenkyū Sentā), was added to the institution in 1961.

The Tōyō Bunko, which holds more than 600,000 volumes, is believed to be one of the most complete collections devoted to Asian studies in the world. Its holdings include materials on China, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Siberia, Central Asia, Tibet, Western Asia, Egypt, India and Southeast Asia.

The Chinese collection is especially strong in local gazetteers, clan genealogies, anthologies, and documents published in the Ch'ing Dynasty. Sources on modern Chinese history are systematically and exhaustively collected by the Modern China Research Committee, including microfilm for out-of-print materials. A bibliography has been recently published in this field. "Kindai Chugoku kankei bunken mokuroku, 1945-1978 近代中国關係文献目録 1945-1978." (Bibliography of Works on Modern China in Japan, 1945-1978). Compiled by the Committee of this publication. Tokyo: Chūō Kōron Bijutsu Shuppansha, 1980] which covers books and articles on modern China (from the Opium War in 1839 till the present), which are written in Japanese and published between 1945 and 1978.

The Centre has a considerable number of Ming editions in addition to some volumes of the Yung-lo ta tien 永樂大典 (Yung-lo Encyclopedia), and many Ch'ing editions. There are two sets of local gazetteers of Kwangtung Province: one is the Ch'eng-wen Publishing Company reprint of a Ch'ing publication, the other set is a Ch'ing edition in the original. According to Mr. Ikuta, the contents of the two sets are different.
The Research Institute for Humanistic Studies was established in 1939, and in 1965, the Documentation Centre for Oriental Studies was added to the Institute. A new building was erected at Higashi-Ichijo in Kyoto for the Institute in 1975, while the old building at Kitashirakawa is mainly used for the Documentation Centre which has an office and a reading room with twenty-six seats. The old building was being repaired when I was there.

As of March 1980, the holdings of the Institute consisted of 232,000 volumes in Chinese, 77,000 in Japanese, 39,000 in Western languages. The serials collection includes 1,800 titles in Japanese, 700 in Chinese and 630 in Western languages.

Kyoto University is one of the foremost institutions in Chinese studies with many research projects and teaching programs being actively carried out. For the convenience of the researchers, two catalogs on Chinese materials have been issued:

   京都大学人文科学研究所漢籍目録 Kyoto, 1979. 2v.

2. Kyoto Daigaku Jimbun Kagaku Kenkyūjo kanseki bunrui mokuroku.  
   京都大学人文科学研究所漢籍分類目録 Kyoto, 1965. 2v.

The Chinese collection emphasizes certain areas such as history of Buddhist sutras, Chinese classics, philosophy, literature, fine arts, archaeology, Manchuria, Mongolia, and history of the late Ch'ing Dynasty and the Republican period. After 1949, the collection was strengthened by adding resources on the Ming Dynasty, the modern period, and local history.

The large book collection is further enriched by Buddhist statues, manuscripts, bronze objects, engravings, paintings, information on excavations, maps and photographs of the various Chinese ethnic races, and some 3,000 oracle bones. This rich, valuable resource has attracted quite a few international scholars.

WASEDA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Waseda is planning a new building to alleviate the crowdedness of the stack areas and the staff offices. Each university department and institute has its own collection, totaling up to 700,000 volumes. The card catalogs are separated into Eastern and Western catalogs; Eastern is further divided by title and classified catalogs, and Western by author and subject catalogs. Special materials including archives and manuscripts in Japanese, Chinese,
Korean and other languages, published before 1850, are shelved in closed-stack areas. Undergraduate students do not have access to the special materials without permission. These books cannot be taken out of the Library, and photocopies have to be approved by the director. However, 25,000 volumes in general use at the undergraduate level are part of an open-stack system at seven different reading rooms. Chinese studies are mainly represented by both Chinese and Japanese publications. Mr. Nakazawa showed me their rare books on the Miao race of China. All three of them were hand-drawn in color and are believed to be products of the 15th century.

Waseda published a catalog on Chinese and Japanese materials up to the 1940s: *Waseda Daigaku Toshokan Wa-Kan tosho bunrui mokuroku*, Tokyo, 1925-42.

**MEIJI SHIMBUN ZASSHI BUNKO (MEIJI NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS LIBRARY). LAW DEPARTMENT. TOKYO UNIVERSITY.**

The Meiji Newspapers and Periodicals Library, founded in 1927, holds approximately 1,800 newspapers, 5,700 periodicals and many related materials published in the Meiji (1867-1912) and Taisho (1912-1926) periods. Most of the publications are in Japanese while a small number are in Chinese, Korean, English and Western languages. Newspapers and periodicals published in Japan, from the municipal to the prefectural levels, are extensively collected. Japanese serials published in Manchuria, Taiwan, and Korea during the occupied periods were well represented. Even the newspapers *The Hawaii Shim bun* and *The Hawaii Mainichi* published in Honolulu are kept in the Library.

The Meiji Library is a unique collection in Japan and is one of the important resources for research in law, politics and the modernization of the Japanese society. The Library serves not only the faculty and students of the Tokyo University, but also writers and scholars from all over the world. The collection is also very useful for research on local history and on the history of various journals and newspapers. The following three catalogs have been issued in the Library:

1. *Meiji Shim bun Zasshi Bunko shozol zasshi mokuroku* 明治新聞雑誌文学所蔵雑誌目録 (昭和50年3月現在)  
2. *Meiji Shim bun Zasshi Bunko shozol shim bun mokuroku* 明治新聞雑誌文学所蔵新聞目録  

The Meiji Library is kept in old quarters and operated with a meager budget by a small staff. Since the newspapers are still bound in hard copy, many older titles are in need of microfilming. Reading rooms and offices are also badly needed. Newspapers and periodicals of the Meiji and Taisho periods continue to be added to the Library.
KEIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Keio University Library does not have a large Chinese collection, but a new, modern library building has been constructed adjacent to the old one. The move of the collection was just completed when I got there. One of the special features is the "compact shelving". Since each range is controlled electrically, they can be opened and closed easily as needed.

CONCLUSION

Materials on Chinese studies held by libraries in Japan are of superior quality, especially those at Kyoto University and Tōyō Bunko. In general, books are well preserved and organized in a systematic manner, and most of the libraries have a closed-stack policy. A letter of introduction is usually required for the use of each library. On the catalog cards authors and titles are romanized in accordance with the Japanese readings of the Chinese characters. This is inevitably inconvenient for Chinese researchers who are not familiar with the Japanese readings of Chinese characters. The higher positions in libraries are dominated by male staff members, and females are chiefly at the clerical level. The experience I gained from the trip was educational and meaningful.