



10-1-1983

Meetings and Conferences

Nelson Chou

Ai-Hwa Wu

John T. Ma

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Chou, Nelson; Wu, Ai-Hwa; and Ma, John T. (1983) "Meetings and Conferences," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 1983 : No. 72 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1983/iss72/7>

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MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

First Asian-Pacific Conference on Library Science

The First Asian-Pacific Conference on Library Science was held at the National Normal University campus, Taipei, Taiwan, from March 14 to March 19, 1983. The Conference was jointly sponsored by the National Central Library of the Republic of China and the Cultural and Social Center for the Asian and Pacific Region. Revolving around the main theme "Library Automation and Resources Sharing", the Conference was divided into 5 sessions:

- 1) Library Service and Resources - Country Reports: chaired by Harris B. H. Seng of the ROC and co-chaired by Lee Jai Chul of Korea, P. B. Mangla of India, and Calvin Bover of the U. S. A.

Six reports were read about Korea, New Zealand, the U. S. A., Singapore, and the ROC (2).

- 2) Library Automation and Network: chaired by C. C. Hsieh of the ROC and co-chaired by Esther W. Williams of Fiji, Marc Chauveinc of France, and Yoshinari Tsuda of Japan.

Fourteen papers were presented about the situation of library automation and network development in Australia, France, Hong Kong (2), Korea (2), the U. S. A. (4), and ROC (4).

- 3) Technical Processing in Native Languages: chaired by C. C. Yang of the ROC and co-chaired by H. Anthony Rydings of Hong Kong, and M. L. Joy Nandhivajrin of Thailand.

Seven papers, dealing with language processing and data bases of material in East Asian languages, including one with information retrieval of the Chinese language materials by voice command, were presented.

- 4) Library Education: chaired by Lan Chien-chang of the ROC and co-chaired by James K. K. Ho and Lawrence Chen of the ROC, Peter Durey of New Zealand, and Li Tze-chung of the U. S. A.

There were eight papers, discussing issues of library education by scholars from India, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, the ROC, and the U. S. A.

- 5) Library Cooperation and Information Sharing: chaired by Margaret Fung of the ROC and co-chaired by John Haeger of the RLG, Stanford, California, and Angelica A. Cabanero of Philippines.

A total of nine papers were given, four by librarians from the U. S. A., two by librarians from the ROC, and one each by librarians from Fiji, Japan and Korea.

Most of the papers of sessions 1, 2, and 5 were informative. Some of the papers of sessions 3 and 4 did include problematic as well as controversial issues which need serious and further attention. The Proceedings of the Conference will be published in spring of 1984.

There were 118 participants from 16 different areas: Australia (1), Egypt (1), Fiji (1), France (1), Hong Kong (3), India (1), Japan (2), Korea (10), Macau (1), Malaysia (1), New Zealand (1), Philippines (10), Singapore (1), Thailand (3), the USA (18), and the ROC (66). Familiar faces (to the CEAL members) were Lawrence Chen (Director of the National Taiwan University Library), Margaret Fung, John Haeger, Chi Wang, and Nelson Chou.

(Nelson Chou)

United States -- Republic of China Relations: From the White Paper to the Taiwan Relations Act

This Conference, sponsored by the Institute of Asian Studies, St. John's University, was held on the Queens Campus of the University on September 23 and 24, with Dr. Cecilia Chang as Coordinator. The Conference was addressed by three members of the Congress of the United States: Representative Joseph P. Addabbo, Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense; Senator Frank H. Murkowski, Chairman, East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and Representative Stephen J. Solarz, Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

The main work of the Conference consisted of three sessions: (1) "United States -- Republic of China Cultural Relations, 1950-1979," chaired by Professor C. Martin Wilbur; (2) "The International Environment and Security Issues," chaired by Professor Harold Hinton; and (3) "The Republic of China in the World Economy--Economic Relations between the United States and the Republic of China," chaired by Professor Jan S. Prybyla.

Of the ten formal papers presented to the Conference, two would be of special interest to the members of the Committee on East Asian Libraries. These are the paper by Professor Chang Peng-yuan of the Academia Sinica, entitled "Sino-American Scholarly Relations as Seen from Taiwan," and that by Professor C. Martin Wilbur, a former President of the Association for Asian Studies, entitled "Sino-American Relations in Scholarship as Seen from the United States." Each of these papers contains a vast amount of detail which cannot be summarized briefly. Nonetheless, I do present brief outlines of both, in order to bring them to the attention of the readers of the CEAL Bulletin. I am informed by the Institute of Asian Studies that both of these papers will be published in the American-Asian Review, and I urge all Bulletin readers to read them when they appear.

Professor Chang traces the development of scholarly activities in Taiwan from the period after 1949, which has sometimes been referred to as a "cultural desert," through the extensive developments of the years following. Members of the Academia Sinica began meeting in 1956, and their discussions with the Agency for International Development led to the establishment in 1959 of the National Council

on Science Development. Further assistance came from the Rockefeller Foundation; the Harvard-Yenching Institute, which made it possible to establish the China Council for East Asian Studies; the Ford Foundation, which helped the establishment of the Institute for Modern History; the Asia Foundation, which helped establish many programs and assisted existing Chinese institutions; and the Fulbright Foundation, which brought about an extensive and fruitful exchange of personnel. The paper concluded with an evaluation of American influence in the fields of economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, linguistics, and history. The developments described in the paper are illustrated by 16 detailed statistical tables.

Professor Wilbur's paper deals with many of the same programs and activities, but from the point of view of the United States. Among other matters, he discusses cooperation in medicine, the promotion of scientific research, the opportunities for language study ("The Republic of China is the best place in the world to study Chinese. There are now ten formal Chinese language programs for foreigners"); educational exchanges; cooperation in the humanities and social sciences; the founding and development of the Institute for Modern History, Academia Sinica; the National Palace Museum and the National Central Library, and the assistance they have given to visiting scholars; field studies in a Chinese setting; studies of economic development; studies in Chinese history--dealing with research in sources for the Imperial period, the period of Japanese rule, the Republican period, and the period of Chinese communism. Professor Wilbur also describes difficulties that have arisen at various times in Sino-American cooperation, sometimes from misunderstandings and incorrect expectations on both sides. He also reports on a survey he has conducted by correspondence with 28 scholars who had engaged in research in Taiwan. Though some scholars encountered difficulties at various periods, their recollections were overwhelmingly positive. Professor Wilbur, both in his text and in his extensive footnotes, gives many bibliographic references to documents pertaining to scholarly relations with Taiwan and to the published works which have resulted from the efforts of scholars over the past 30 years.

(E. G. B.)

Library Panel on East Asian Libraries

The 1983 Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies will be held on the Arizona State University campus, November 11-12. A library panel on current issues and concerns of East Asian libraries and collections has been planned and included in the program. There will be 6 presentations from 5 different institutions in the panel.

(Ai-Hwa Wu)

European Association of Sinological Libraries

The 3rd meeting of the European Association of Sinological Libraries took place in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris from July 4th to 8th, 1983. Seventeen sinological librarians from eight European countries participated in the meeting which was organized by Monique Cohen of the Bibliothèque Nationale and discussed

a variety of library matters. Among the topics discussed were (1) the re-printing of the Ssu k'u ch'üan shu (Si-ku quan-shu) by the Taiwan Commercial Press, (2) problems related to the establishment of documentation centers for contemporary China studies, (3) Howard Nelson's revised proposal for updating the union list of Chinese serials in European libraries, (4) John Ma's proposal for a central research library for Chinese studies in Europe, (5) library automation and Nelson's report on the Canberra conference last year. Informational materials from Transtech Co., which provides Oriental language computer terminals for American libraries, were distributed during the meeting.

A number of publishers, book companies, academic institutions, and libraries sent their catalogues and sample publications for display or distribution among the participants. Among the sample publications was the first issue of the Journal of the Association of Chinese scholars in Europe, probably the first Chinese-language sinological journal ever published in Europe. David Helliwell of Oxford University announced the publication of the catalogue of old Chinese books in the Bodleian Library, vol. 1, books in Backhouse Collection, which is compiled by him and is available from Han Shan Tang in London.

Dr. J. Michael Streffer of the State Library in West Berlin was elected to succeed Mrs. Elisabeth Eide as Secretary of the Association and John Ma was re-elected Chairman. The Association decided to publish a newsletter with David Helliwell as its editor.

The next meeting of the Association will be held in Tübingen in the Federal Republic of Germany at the same time as the conference of the European Association of Chinese studies.

(John T. Ma, Sinological Institute,
Leiden, The Netherlands)