Meetings and Conferences

James K. M. Cheng
Mid-Atlantic Region AAS Meeting

On 26 October 1985 at George Washington University the Mid-Atlantic Region/Association for Asian Studies annual meeting will include a panel entitled "Archival and Library Resources in the Metropolitan Washington Area for the Study of China, Japan, and Korea." Participants will include:

Panel Chairman: Frank Joseph Shulman
University of Maryland, College Park

Sarah Newmeyer-Hill, Freer Gallery of Art
"The Carl Whiting Bishop Photographic Archives in the Freer Gallery of Art: A Resource for the Study of Chinese Architecture, Archaeology, Geology, Topography, Flora, Fauna, Customs and Culture"

Shojo Honda, Library of Congress
"An Overview of Pre-Meiji Literary Imprints in the Japanese Section, Asian Division, Library of Congress"

William Shaw, Library of Congress
"Researching Materials for the Study of Korea at the Library of Congress Using On-Line Resources"

Frank Joseph Shulman, University of Maryland, College Park
"Treasures and Trivia: The Universe of Microfilmed Dissertations on East Asia at the Library of Congress"

Lauren R. Brown, University of Maryland, College Park
"Off the Beaten Track: Discovering Sources for East Asian History in the Historical Manuscripts and Archives Department of the University of Maryland Libraries, College Park"

Travel Funds Available for East Asian Librarians

CEAL is pleased to announce that there is a small amount of money from the American Council of Learned Societies to fund travel expenses for CEAL members to attend the ALA meetings pertinent to East Asia. Interested individuals must be bona fide members of both CEAL and ALA to qualify. Please make your application to the CEAL Chair, Karl Lo.

Second Midwest Asian Library Conference

With the generous financial support of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the second Midwest Asian Library Conference was held at the University of Chicago on 23-24 May 1985. This two-day conference was a sequel to the first conference, also sponsored by the Commission, which was held at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1982. Representatives from the Center for Research Libraries, the
ten Asian libraries in the Midwest region (Chicago, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio State, Washington at St. Louis, and Wisconsin) and Texas at Austin plus the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials of the Committee on East Asian Libraries from the University of Washington were invited to the conference. To facilitate discussion, the conference was organized into six sessions, each lasting an hour and a half and chaired by one of the participants. The Asia Library of the University of Michigan and the Far Eastern Library of the University of Chicago served as co-hosts of the conference.

Mr. Martin Runkle, Director of the University of Chicago Library, greeted the participants and welcomed them to the University of Chicago. Mr. Howard Dillon, Associate Director for Public Services, also welcomed the participants to Chicago and offered his best wishes for the success of the conference.

James Cheng offered the opening remarks. He stated that the conference would focus on the improvement of regional library coordination and services, an evaluation of the programs adopted as a result of the 1982 conference, an attempt to identify future needs, and other cooperative and resource-sharing programs. He also remarked that the conference will investigate the potential for improved services through the use of recently developed technological capabilities.

The first session, chaired by Yasuko Makino of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, included a survey of the Asian Studies programs at Midwest institutions. Reports about the programs at several major institutions in the region presented an overview of the present status of Asian studies in the Midwest. While most of the programs continue to emphasize the traditional areas of the social sciences and the humanities, a new development was identified—a joint degree program in Asian studies and business administration is being offered on many Midwest campuses. This new program puts more pressure on the library collections to acquire materials covering the social sciences, especially business and industry.

The second session, covering a survey of the present status of Japanese collections among Midwest institutions, was chaired by Sachiko Morrell of Washington University in St. Louis. Mrs. Morrell reported that her survey of the ten Asian collections in the Midwest indicated that there are more than 560,000 volumes of Japanese materials now in the region, with an annual increase of about 25,000 volumes. Among the various kinds of materials, monographs and newspapers have increased most. The humanities and social sciences have gained more attention than the pure sciences, medicine or business. In the discussions that followed, the increases in publication prices and in postage and handling charges were touched upon. The need for business-related materials continues and, as usual, demand far exceeds supply at almost all institutions. Thus, sharing resources is very important for the Asian collections in the region. When large and expensive sets are purchased by major libraries, it is necessary to make this known to all other libraries. The circulation of a list of new acquisitions among various libraries in the region was suggested. The Center for Research Libraries was called upon again to acquire infrequently-used and expensive materials, especially in the areas of science and technology.

"Bibliographic Control and Services" was the theme of the third session, which was chaired by Eizaburo Okuizumi of the University of Chicago. It is still difficult to obtain book selection tools quickly enough to order from Japan before desired items go out of print. The various bibliographies published by Nichigai Associates were discussed. Also discussed were approval plans, book
selection tools, special order plans, and bibliographic control of dissertations on Japan published in the United States, Europe, and Japan. It was agreed that there is a real need for a union list of periodical holdings in the Midwest region. There is also a need to prepare various subject bibliographies to publicize the holdings of the collections in the region.

The present programs for cooperative acquisitions, the avoidance of duplicate purchasing, free photocopying and interlibrary loan services, travel grant programs being offered by the consortium libraries (Chicago and Michigan), and special programs such as the "on-demand purchase" program for reference materials on business and industry and the social sciences, were the focal points for discussion in the fourth session, chaired by Masaei Saito of the University of Michigan. The participants were quite satisfied with these services and expressed their thanks to the Universities of Chicago and Michigan for their willingness to make their resources available to outside users. They also expressed their desire that the present programs be continued. However, it is still not widely known in the region that free photocopying of up to 100 sheets is available for Japanese materials requested from Chicago and Michigan. There is a need to publicize this service.

Richard Wang of the University of Minnesota chaired the fifth session on the "Impact of Technologies and Networking." He observed that the computer has brought Asian collections into the mainstream of the library world. While this is still a new phenomenon, Asian collections have already taken full advantage of the computer technologies developed exclusively for their use. Ensuing discussions focused mainly on the two automated systems, OCLC (On-line Computer Library Center) and RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network). It was pointed out that of the ten Asian collections in the Midwest, six are participating in the RLIN East Asian Program (Chicago, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) while many others are also members of the OCLC system. Experiences in using these two systems were exchanged and new developments in the OCLC system were detailed. The participants did feel that the computer systems will indeed bring various collections even closer and will greatly contribute to their efforts in bibliographic control, resource sharing, and interlibrary loan services.

The sixth and last session was chaired by Weiying Wan of the University of Michigan. After a summary report by the chairpersons of the previous five sessions, followed by some discussion, the participants agreed upon the following points. (1) The programs established since the 1982 conference, notably in the areas of business and industry, will continue to require new acquisitions and services. (2) There is a real need to exchange information on expensive materials. Chicago and Michigan will coordinate the preparation and distribution of a quarterly list to the Midwest libraries of new orders of materials costing over ¥50,000 apiece. (3) The Center for Research Libraries should be encouraged to collect more materials on East Asian science and technology. (4) All current programs carried out by the consortium libraries should continue, including the "on-demand purchase" program and the program for acquiring reference materials covering the social sciences. (5) A union list of Japanese serial holdings for the Midwest region will be compiled by Yasuko Makino of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (6) The Midwest Asian Library Conference should be reconvened on a regular basis. The consortium libraries were asked to represent the Midwest libraries to report this sentiment to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.
The 1985 Midwest Asian Library Conference provided a very valuable opportunity for Asian librarians from Midwest institutions to get together to exchange information, opinions and ideas, to evaluate present programs, and to identify new needs and programs. The value of the programs being offered by the consortium libraries who receive financial support from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission was reconfirmed by all the participants. A number of new recommendations have emerged from this conference. All these will undoubtedly enhance present efforts to improve our collections and services.

(James K.M. Cheng)