



10-1-1991

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Chin, Elise (1991) "Special Project for Ch'ing Dynasty Materials," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 1991 : No. 94 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1991/iss94/14>

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SPECIAL PROJECT FOR CH'ING DYNASTY MATERIALS

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In October 1990 the University of Washington (UW) received an HEA Title IIC grant of \$143,759 from the Department of Education to fund a project entitled: "Ch'ing dynasty essays and local gazetteers: preservation and bibliographic control." The project includes two tasks:

1. Cataloging and inputting into the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Chinese Japanese Korean system three thousand titles of Ch'ing dynasty (1644-1912) local gazetteers and essays that are in the collection of the University of Washington East Asia Library;
2. Preservation measures that include microfilming, boxing, and repairing approximately one thousand to three thousand volumes of the materials mentioned above.

The project started in October 1990 and will be completed by the end of 1991. We are very fortunate to have Ms. Jane Hwang 汪珏 as the project director/bibliographer. Ms. Hwang, formerly the curator of the Chinese Collection at the Bavarian State Library in Munich (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München), studied under Peter Chang 昌彼得, the renowned Chinese bibliographer and rare book expert. Mr. Chang regards Ms. Hwang as one of his very best students of old Chinese editions and a specialist in blockprints and manuscripts.

Currently being cataloged under the project are 1,500 titles of Ch'ing dynasty local gazetteers. They include about 650 original editions, mostly from the personal library of the prominent sinologist, Dr. Joseph Rock, plus about 850 reprints including some by Ch'eng wen shu chü 成文書局 and Hsüeh sheng shu chü 學生書局. The UW's Rock Collection of local gazetteers is particularly strong in all areas except East China. According to Ms. Hwang, the Collection contains at least ten *tsao Ch'ing k'an pen* 早期刊本 (early Ch'ing printed texts) of the K'ang-hsi 康熙 1661-1722 and Yung-cheng 雍正 1723-1735 periods, with quality printing and fine calligraphy; and about one hundred *shou ch'ao pen* 手抄本, *ch'uan ch'ao pen* 傳抄本, and *yi ng ch'ao pen* 影抄本 (manuscripts, copies of manuscripts, and exact manuscript copies of the original). Among them we have discovered some items bearing the seals of the Nan-ching Chin-ling ta hsüeh t'u shu kuan 南京金陵大學圖書館 and one item with the partially erased seal of K'un-ming shih cheng fu ts'ang t'u shu 昆明市政府圖書. More interesting and unique printings will probably be discovered as the project progresses.

The UW's collection of Ch'ing essays began with the acquisition of the personal library of Professor Helmut Wilhelm and other scholars. In 1987 Mr. Su Ching 蘇精, Head of the Special Collection of the National Central Library, Taipei, spent three months in Seattle surveying this collection. He later compiled a preliminary list of some 1,547 items under the title *Hsi-ya-t'u Hua-sheng-tun ta hsüeh Tung Ya t'u shu kuan Ch'ing tai wen chi mu lu ch'u kao* 西雅圖華盛頓大學東亞圖書館清代文集目錄初稿. The list includes the essays and poetry of authors who lived

during the Ch'ing dynasty as well as a few who lived through the early *min kuo* 民國 era up until 1945. Mr. Su pointed out that a union catalog of Ch'ing essays in Japan has less than 4,000 titles. The exact number of titles existing in Taiwan is not known, but someone on the Chinese mainland has reportedly compiled a bibliography of some 6,000 titles. Mr. Su believes that the UW has a very strong collection. The Ch'ing essays that the UW project is to catalog and input into OCLC are mainly those included in Mr. Su's list, plus other titles, perhaps in the hundreds, that we have retrieved or are going to retrieve from our *Wan yu* 萬有 (Universal) warehouse acquisition. (We are currently in the process of opening the boxes.)

Because of the time constraints of our project and the amount of work that must be accomplished (three thousand titles to be cataloged in approximately ten to twelve months plus the fact that Ms. Hwang is the only expert with rare book cataloging experience), the catalog records produced by our project will provide only the essential information on each title, e.i., author, title, edition, imprint, physical description, and notes. Up to now some problems we have confronted in our cataloging are:

1. Geographical names: Some Chinese city names in the Ch'ing gazetteers were changed several times and the provinces to which they were assigned have also been changed.
2. Field 330 (collation): Generally scripts are not displayed in field 300. It is very confusing when important words such as *ts'e* 冊, *t'ao* 套, *han* 函, and *pen* 本 appear only in romanized form.
3. Field 500 (notes): Rare book notes are unique, usually being long and quite detailed. They make best sense only when the description is in Chinese characters. In order to input these tediously long descriptions into OCLC, one must first type in all the romanization word by word and then add the characters in the parallel field. This is very time consuming.

We are preparing for work on our second task, preservation. We have compared prices concerning the making of bookcases with information received from various bookstores and dealers. So far Chiao Liu's quotations seem to be closer to our budget allowance: \$1.50 per inch of the book. We have also started sorting out volumes to be microfilmed or repaired.

The project also plans to produce magnetic tapes of all the three thousand records cataloged and input into OCLC. Tapes will be made available to research organizations upon request.

The following is a list of sources which we have consulted in the course of our project:

Anglo-American cataloging rules. 2nd edition revised. Chicago: American Library Association, 1988.

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- Nihon shuyō toshokan kenkyūjo shozō Chūgoku chihōshi sōgō mokuroku* 中國地方志、總目録 (A Catalog of official gazetteers of China in major Japanese libraries and research institutions). Tokyo: National Diet Library, 1969.
- Research Libraries Group's Draft cataloging guidelines for the RLG Chinese Rare Books Project*. A merger of the February 1989 International Advisory Com-

mittee guidelines and the recommendations agreed upon at the September 1989 meeting with the pilot participants.

San shih san chung Ch'ing tai chuan chi tsung ho yin te 三十三種清代傳記綜合
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