Meeting of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians

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MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ORIENTALIST LIBRARIANS

The Tenth General Meeting of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians (IAOL) was held in conjunction with the 35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS) in Budapest, Hungary, July 7-12, 1997.

His Excellency Arpad Goncz, President of the Hungarian Republic, opened the 35th ICANAS on July 7th and presided over the elegant reception held that evening at the Parliament Building on the banks of the Danube River. His welcoming speech and participation in the congress were evidence of the respect that Oriental Studies commands as a field in Hungary, which has a long tradition in this field going back to the Tibetologist Alexander Csoma Korosi (1784-1842) and continuing with Aurel Stein, Lajos Legetti and others. Also giving a speech at the opening ceremony was His Royal Highness El Hassan bin Talal, Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who stressed the growing importance of transregional and interdisciplinary approaches to scholarship and the need to explore global viewpoints that encompass non-Western readings of world history. The congress provided ample opportunities for just that, with sparse representation from Western Europe and North America, a fact which was noted by many.

William S. Wong convened the IAOL Symposium "Oriental Librarianship at the Crossroads of the Century" (see detailed listings below) and the Tenth General IAOL Meeting and Business Session on July 8 at Vasarely Hall of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Eva Apor, Curator of the Oriental Collection of the Library of the HAS, hosted the meeting and provided wonderful refreshments for breaks and lunch. She also arranged a special open house and rare books exhibit for attendees on July 10 and compiled a new illustrated guidebook to the Oriental Collection in Hungarian and English in honor of the meeting:

An IAOL membership business meeting was held following the symposium program. Two former Presidents, Warren Tsuneishi of the Library of Congress and Lai-bin Kai of the University of Hong Kong sent their greetings. William S. Wong reviewed his term as IAOL President, which began with the previous (1993) Hong Kong IAOL meeting. Highlights included obtaining a two-year grant of $1,500 from the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies to support publication of the IAOL Bulletin, holding a special IAOL panel session on "The Publishing and Collection Development for Oriental Libraries" as a post-IFLA session in Beijing in 1996, and expanding the area representatives of IAOL. Current officers, Kenneth Klein of the University of Southern California and Raymond Lum of Harvard University, submitted their respective financial and editorial reports covering the past four years. At the close of the session, Lynette Wageman of the University of Hawaii, who chaired the Nomination Committee, announced the election results: Thomas H. Hahn of the Sinology Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany, and Benedicte Vaerman of the China-Europe Institute, KU Leuven University, Belgium, have been elected President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively, and Raymond Lum of Harvard University was re-elected as the IAOL Bulletin Editor. In his closing remarks out-going President William Wong said, "This is our very last meeting of the present century. The new team of officers will lead us into continuing growth in the twenty-first century. 1997 is IAOL's thirtieth anniversary. Confucius once said that at age thirty he stood firm. After thirty years, IAOL has reached a degree of maturity and confidence. An old Italian proverb says, 'Eggs of an hour, bread of a day, wine of a year, friends of thirty years.' Let's hope that our Association will last for centuries, and our profession and scholarship will last for millennia." The next IAOL meeting will be held in conjunction with the 36th ICANAS to be held in Montreal in 2000.

In addition to the IAOL meeting, there were other panels and events relevant to East Asian librarianship. A special ICANAS symposium on Computers and Oriental Studies, followed by a business meeting to organize workshops and develop better methods of communication among scholars developing databases of Asian language materials, was held on July 9. Further, a panel on Information Science and Asian Languages was held on July 11. (Details of both are given below.) A two-day symposium on Dunhuang and Turfan was also held. In addition, there were many other interesting papers given at panels throughout the conference.

Details of Programs:


Panel One (Chair: Harold M. Otness)

1. Meri E. Trifonenko (Russian State Library, Moscow) "The Oriental Center of the Russian State Library: History and Collections"
2. Eva Apor (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest) "The Oriental Collection of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences"

3. Harold M Otness (Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon) "Nurturing the Roots for Oriental Studies: The Development of the Libraries of the Royal Asiatic Society Branches and Affiliates in Asia in the Nineteenth Century"

Panel Two (Chair: Roger Tol)

1. Serguei A. Kazantsev (Russian State Library, Moscow) "The Collection of Chinese Block-Books and Manuscripts in the Russian State Library"

2. Roger Tol (Leiden) "The Bugis Manuscripts in the Library of Congress"

Panel Three (Chair: Lynette Wagman)

1. Nikita Sokolov (Russian State Library, Moscow) "New Approach to the Organization of Data on the Classical Literature of South Asia"

2. William S. Wong (University of California, Irvine) "The Development of the Chinese Textual Bibliography in the Twentieth Century"

Panel Four (Chair: William Wong)

1. Raja Abdullah Yaacob and Norma Abu Seman (MARA Institute of Technology, Selangor, Malaysia) "Library and Information Services in a Multilingual and Multicultural Society in Malaysia"

2. Said Oryan (National Library of Iran, Tehran) "Some Words from Frahangi Pahlawa Pazand MS.TD2"

3. Avi Shivtiel (Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK) "Arabisms in Modern Hebrew Languages in Contact and Reciprocal Influences between Oriental Languages"

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Section 1 (Chair: Jost Gippert)

1. John Lehman (Alaska) "An Overview of Standards for Electronic Text Development and
Indexing" ( URL http://somunix.uafsom.alaska.edu/~john/papers/budapest.html )

2. Thomas Hahn (Heidelberg) "Chinese Fulltext Database: Standards and Non-standards"

3. Susan Huntington (Ohio State) "Introduction to the Huntington Archive of Buddhist Art"

4. Janice Glowski (Ohio State) "Overview of the Huntington Archive Electronic Database" (URL http://kaladarshan.arts.ohio-state.edu/ )

Section 2 (Chair: Lewis Lancaster)

1. Alexander A. Stolyarov (Moscow) "Hypertext Database: 'Diplomatica Indica'"

2. Boris A. Ivanov (Moscow) "Hypertext Database: 'Nepalica'"

3. Colette Establet (Provence) "Ottoman History Database"

4. Jost Gippert (Frankfort/Main) "TITUS Project Database"

Section 3 (Chair: John Lehman)

1. Maureen H. Donovan (Ohio State) "Collaboration in the Development of Online Scholarly Resources in Asian Studies"

2. Eugene I. Golovanov (Moscow) "The Structure of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Oriental Institute Internet Server" (URL http://www.orient.ru )

3. Hansje Braam and Marc Vandaamme (Utrecht) "Report on Computer Activity"

Section 4 (Chair: Maureen Donovan)

1. Yuri Khudyakov (Novosibirsk) "Method of Using Computer Technologies to Systematize Dimensional Piercing Weapons of Distance Action"

2. Helen Jarvis (Sydney) "Computerization and Southeast Asian Studies: Cambodia"

3. Christian Wittern (Gottingen) "Beyond Paper and Printing"

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Convenor: Toru Matsui

1. Toru Matsui "An Introduction to the Historical Background of the "Information Science and Asian Languages" panel

2. Tadayuki K. Sato "Filling the Gap Between the Humanities and IT Science"

3. Harumichi Ishizuka "Han-unification Rules"

4. Yoshio Togawa "On the Historical Background of the Proposed Center of Kanji Documents"

5. Eiji Matsuoka "Kanji Database and Coded Character Set"

6. Christian Wittern "On the Computerization of Buddhist Texts"

7. Martin J. Durst "Analyzing Kanji Structures"

(Compiled from reports by Maureen Donovan and William Wong)