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SOME RARE TITLES IN THE CHINESE RARE BOOK COLLECTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Upon the invitation of Mrs. Linda Joe, Head of the Asian Library, University of British Columbia, I had the opportunity to study the seven “questionable” editions listed in Prof. Tsuen-hsuin Tsien’s report which was written in June 1992 and based on Dr. M. S. Poon’s examination of the whole P’u-pan Collection (over 3,000 titles in about 45,000 volumes) of Chinese rare books housed in the Asian Library of UBC. The following three titles deserve special attention.

1. I shan (易閏, Interpretation of I-ching) by Ku Yin 顧胤, a Ch’ung-chen 崇禎 9 (1636) edition, is the only copy in existence in all libraries of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States.

2. Shang-shu k’uei i ( 尙書揆一, the Book of History Considered As a Unity), edited by Tsou Ch’i-cheng 鄧期楨 and Tsou Ch’i-hsiang 鄧期相, a Wan-li 萬曆 4 (1576) imprint, is held by only two libraries, UBC and the University of Chicago among all the libraries in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the United States.

3. Chu Kuang-hsi shih chi ( 储光義詩集, Collected Poems of a Mid-T’ang Poet), a Chia-ching 34 (1555) imprint, is the unique original edition. A number of libraries in China and Taiwan have the re-engraved editions.

To verify the above works, I checked the following types of catalogs:

(i) union catalogs of Chinese rare books of China, Taiwan, RLIN database, online catalog of the university libraries in Hong Kong;
(ii) Chinese rare book catalogues of the National Libraries of China, Taiwan, National Palace Museums of Taiwan, Library of Congress, Princeton University, University of Washington (Seattle), and the Harvard-Yenching Library Chinese Rare Book Catalog compiled by Shen Chin 沈津.

Titles No. 1 and 2 are not found in many traditional bibliographies, such as the Ssu k’u ch’üan shu ts’ang mu t’i yao 四庫全書總目提要 and the Supplement 續修四庫全書總目提要 (稿本) published by 齊魯出版社 in 1996.

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