Institutional and Member News

William Wong
INSTITUTIONAL AND MEMBER NEWS

Tsuneharu Gonnami, Japanese Librarian of the Asian Library, University of British Columbia (UBC), at the invitation of Kwansei Gakuin University and other Japanese institutions, delivered a number of lectures about Japanese library resources at UBC and in North America and did research at two institutions in the winter of 1999. He also presented a paper about Dr. E. Herbert Norman’s Collection of Japanese Books housed at the Asian Library, UBC, at a film screening and a panel talk on E. H. Norman held at Simon Fraser University this spring. Norman was a Canadian historian and diplomat who was a victim of McCarthyism in the 1950s.

Jan. 12: “Historical Materials of Japanese Immigrants to Canada at UBC and Immigrants from Shiga Prefecture,” Kwansei Gakuin University, Nishinomiya City. Kwansei Gakuin was established by Canadian Methodist missionaries in 1889.


Jan. 14: Visited the Nagasaki University Library in order to do research on old maps of Nagasaki and Dejima (Dutch Trading House) in the Edo period (1600-1868).

Jan. 16: Visited the Japan Center for Michigan State Universities located in his hometown, Hikone, Shiga Prefecture, in order to learn about their Japanese programs.


University of California, Irvine: The East Asian Collection of the University of California, Irvine, recently received two major gifts that will strengthen the library’s support of teaching and research programs in the intellectual political and social history of China.

The first of these gifts is a unique collection on I Ching studies donated by Mrs. Pei Shin Ni and her son James Ni, a faculty member at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, with the support and guidance of Professor Yungdeh Richard Chu of the Rochester Institute of Technology. Mrs. Ni and her late husband Tseh Ni taught Chinese history and literature at Cornell University for thirty years before their retirements. This collection, reflecting Professor Tseh Ni’s lifelong career and efforts, is comprised of some 2,000 volumes, half of which are rare editions published in the Ming (1368-1644) and Ching (1644-1912) dynasties and before the Taisho reign period in Japan (1912-1926). These rare books, bound in traditional stitched format, some with cloth cases, will be housed in Special Collections. The remaining portion of the gift is 700 volumes of monographic works in Chinese, Japanese, and English, plus journals, microfilm, and other miscellaneous materials.

The second major gift is a 60-volume set of the Ching shih lu (Veritable Records of the Ching Dynasty), published by the First Historical Archives, Beijing University Library, and Chung-hua Book Company, Beijing, 1985. This fine edition is a gift from Mr. Chao-chu Fu and his daughter, Mrs. Mimi Wang, of Arcadia, California. An earlier edition of the Ching shih lu, published in Tokyo in the late 1930s and reprinted in Taiwan in the 1960s, was marred by distortions and deletions for political purposes. The new Beijing edition is much superior in scope and contents to the older edition.

The East Asian Collection of the University of California, Irvine is very grateful for the support and generosity of all the donors of these significant collections. The UCI faculty, students, staff, and friends will long treasure these important gifts.

(Adapted from an article by William Wong for the UCI Libraries Update, Spring, 1999)