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LC-CEAL CATALOGING WORKSHOP

Kio T. Kanda, Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division, Library of Congress

The Council on East Asian Libraries and the Cataloging Directorate of the Library of Congress joined forces to hold a pre-conference cataloging workshop on April 1 and 2, 2002. The workshop was made up of three sessions: East Asian Art Cataloging, a Chinese and Japanese Rare Book Cataloging, and Korean Romanization. Held at LC in conjunction with the 2002 AAS/CEAL annual meetings, the workshop was attended by 135 librarians from across the United States and from as far away as Australia, China, and Canada. Forty-three LC staff from various divisions were also among the participants. This was the third workshop on cataloging Asian materials that staff of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division (RCCD) of the Cataloging Directorate have worked on organizing. The first seminar on cataloging Asian materials was held at the Library in March 1998; the second one, devoted to serials cataloging, took place in conjunction with the 1999 AAS/CEAL meetings in Boston.

The idea of holding a workshop in 2002 was initially proposed by the Committee on Japanese Materials (CJM) and was approved by the CEAL Executive Committee in March 2000. Based on the results of a CEAL survey conducted by the Committee on Technical Processing (CTP), a CJK rare book cataloging workshop to be held in conjunction with the 2002 CEAL Annual Meetings was proposed jointly by CTP, Committee on Chinese Materials, CJM, and Committee on Korean Materials. CEAL President Bill McCloy sent a letter to Director of Cataloging Beacher Wiggins in September 2000, requesting the cooperation of the Library in offering a CJK rare book cataloging workshop in 2002 in D.C. Though LC had initially responded positively to the proposal, it made a counter proposal to hold an art cataloging workshop instead, citing the LC’s lack of expertise for CJK rare book cataloging. Following further input by CEAL membership regarding training needs and and the availability of expertise from CEAL members, the final plan for the contents of the workshop program emerged.

The contribution of CEAL to the planning and successful execution of the Workshop was substantial. When the Planning Committee was organized at LC in May 2001 with Kio Kanda, Japanese Team 1 (JPN 1), RCCD, as host co-chair, Abraham Yu, University of California, Irvine, and Chair of CTP, accepted the co-chairship of the Planning Committee, coordinated the CEAL efforts, and took responsibilities for publicity and registration. Reiko Yoshimura, Freer Gallery of Art Library, joined the Planning Committee. Other CEAL members coordinated planning of segments of the programs: Sarah S. Elman, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Chinese rare book cataloging; Hyokyoung Lee, Columbia University, Korean materials group; and Toshie Marra, UCLA, Japanese rare book cataloging. The Chinese rare book session featured the distinguished scholar and bibliographer Soren Edgren of Princeton University. As will be noted, other CEAL members participated as panelists or presenters. On the LC side, nearly forty staff were involved in preparing and carrying through the Workshop as Planning Committee members, presenters, coordinators, and volunteer helpers.

The morning of April 1, John Byrum, chief of RCCD, whose staff bore a major responsibility for preparation, welcomed the participants, saying, “The Library of Congress is truly honored to have
with us more than 90 members of CEAL ... including descriptive and subject cataloging experts as well as area studies specialists." He noted the workshop was jointly prepared and executed by the LC staff and CEAL members and thanked all involved for their hard work. He summarized the objectives of the respective parts of the workshop, which included learning how to catalog Chinese and Japanese rare books, sharing Korean romanization issues, learning about applying AACR2 and the LCRIs to East Asian art materials, sharing East Asian art cataloging experiences and expertise, learning about new subject cataloging rules and new subject heading subdivision practices pertaining to East Asian art cataloging, and learning specific issues of "N" classification schedules that pertain to the arts of East Asia. He also noted that during the two days the emphasis would be on discussion of common cataloging problems and sharing of expertise. Abraham Yu, co-chair and CEAL coordinator of the Workshop Planning Committee made some welcoming remarks and thanked the LC staff for organizing and preparing the program.

Following the opening session, the cataloging workshop began with three CJK breakout sessions: rare book cataloging for Chinese and Japanese materials, and romanization issues for Korean materials. The Chinese rare book cataloging session was conducted by Dr. Edgren. He presented a step-by-step approach to analyzing and cataloging Chinese rare books and manuscripts with special reference to the publication, "Cataloging Guidelines for Creating Chinese Rare Book Records in Machine-Readable Form," compiled by the Chinese Rare Books Project. He also introduced several non-conforming editions, including forgeries to make catalogers familiar with them.

The Japanese rare book cataloging session was conducted by Manae Fujishiro, senior cataloger of Japanese Cataloging II Team, RCCD, who had cataloged over 2,500 titles of pre-Meiji publications in LC holdings. Based upon her experience, she answered over fifty pre-submitted questions, which had been compiled and submitted by Toshie Marra, UCLA.

At the Korean romanization session, the LC procedure for handling proposed changes to romanization guidelines was presented by Robert M. Hiatt, senior cataloging policy specialist, Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO); the changes of the Korean romanization guidelines between version one and two were presented by Philip Melzer, acting assistant chief, Asian Division; and problematic guideline items were presented by Young Ki Lee, Senior cataloger of Korean/Chinese Team (KCT), RCCD, and by Mikyung Kang, UCLA. These presentations were followed by a discussion session moderated by Sook Hee Weidman, acting team leader of KCT.

In the afternoon, Barbara Tillett, chief of CPSO, made a special presentation entitled, "Authority Control: Future Direction for Including Non-Roman Scripts." Using the name authority record for Confucius as an example, she showed how an internationally linked "virtual authority file" could work with CJK and other non-roman scripts applied.

The East Asian art cataloging workshop, which was divided into two parts, descriptive cataloging and subject cataloging, began with a descriptive cataloging presentation by Robert B. Ewald, senior cataloging policy specialist, CPSO. Using over sixty examples of CJK bibliographic records, he discussed applying AACR2 and the LCRIs to CJK art materials with the special emphasis on cataloging art exhibition catalogs. Next, Robert Hiatt discussed "Named Individual Works of
Art" with emphasis on LCRI 25.3A, 25.4A, and 25.5B.

After the full first day's schedule, participants went to CJK breakout dinners, relaxed and enjoyed fellowship.

On the second morning, a panel discussion focusing on sharing of descriptive cataloging experience and expertise by expert art catalogers was held. The discussion was moderated by Philip Melzer. Panelists were Jane Cheng, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; Lydia Hsieh, senior cataloger of KCT; Shu Yong Jiang, Art Institute of Chicago; Yunah Sung, Cleveland Museum of Art; and Reiko Yoshimura, Freer Gallery of Art. Panelists shared with participants a wide range of topics including the process of analyzing art materials, local practices, difficulties and efficiency of cataloging, and suggestions for changing descriptive cataloging rules and interpretations.

The subject cataloging part of the workshop began with a presentation on subject headings by Milicent Wewerka, senior cataloging policy specialist, CPSO. She covered the types of headings and subdivisions that are used in the cataloging of materials in the fine arts and decorative arts, some of which pertain specifically to the arts of East Asia, including an overview of the construction of subject headings, the use of free-floating subdivisions, and the assignment of subject headings to bibliographic records.

The last part of the workshop was on the classification of art materials--an analysis of the LC art classification schedules and their application to East Asian art cataloging. Three RCCD senior catalogers covered the respective areas of the N schedules pertaining specifically to the arts of East Asia. John Topping of KCT discussed N (Visual arts), NA (Architecture), NB (Sculpture), and ND (Painting). Hiroshi Suzuki of JPN I discussed NC (Drawing) and NE (Prints). Judy Choe of KCT discussed NK (Decorative arts) and NX (Arts in general).

Participants raised questions, made suggestions, and shared their views during each segment of the program throughout the workshop. After the conclusion of the workshop, interested CEAL participants were led on a tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building and Asian Division Reading Room, where they were greeted by Karl Lo, Acting Chief of Asian Division.

The evaluations of the workshop submitted by the participants were overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed their wishes that this type of workshop be held regularly.