2-1-2014

Institutional News

Journal of East Asian Libraries

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INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

Columbia University Libraries/Information Services Establishes W.K.W. Endowment Fund to Support the Chinese Studies Collection

Columbia University Libraries/Information Services (CUL/IS) announced in December 2013 the establishment of the W.K.W. Endowment Fund for the Chinese Studies Collection in the C.V. Starr East Asian Library. The endowment, with initial principal funding of $50,000, was established by a Columbia University Visiting Scholar, Founding Councilman of Peking University Entrepreneur Club, and Adviser to the Columbia University Asia-Pacific Development Society. The fund will support the collection by enabling the acquisition of additional biographical materials related to historical figures in Chinese studies. Such acquisitions may include epitaphs, eulogies, genealogy materials, autobiographies, biographies, oral histories, and photographs. It will also provide resources to host related events such as a symposium, lectures, book talks, and exhibitions.

(From an Eastlib posting by Jim Cheng, Columbia University)

University of Washington Libraries receives 2013 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Grant

The University of Washington Libraries has been selected to receive a 2013 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources in the amount of $183,500 to support the project “Discovering Modern China: University of Washington (UW) & University of British Columbia (UBC) Collections.” One of 22 selected from a total of 75 applications, this project will catalog the special Chinese language materials at the UW East Asia Library and the UBC Asian Library. It is scheduled to start on June 1, 2014, and will be completed in 18 months. The project will recruit two professional catalogers specializing in classical and modern Chinese to be based at UBC and UW respectively, plus one Chinese rare-book specialist who will assess the special collections at each institution. UW and UBC libraries will share the expertise of project staff through regular online meetings, site visits, and exchange. The project, one of only two international collaborative projects funded by CLIR, will make accessible to scholars worldwide up to 2,000 special Chinese publications, including pre-modern texts and rare books, as well as rare publications of the Chinese Republican Era.

(From an Eastlib posting by Zhijia Shen, University of Washington)

C.V. Starr East Asian Library Receives CLIR Hidden Collections Grant for Makino Mamoru Collection

Columbia University’s C.V. Starr East Asian Library has been chosen to receive a 33-month $380,500 Hidden Collections grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to support processing and cataloging of the Makino Mamoru Collection on the History of East Asian Film.
The collection contains over 80,000 items chronicling the history of Japanese and East Asian film from the earliest moving pictures in Japan from the 1870s through 2006, including 9,500 Japanese film programs and fliers, 450 volumes of Japanese rare books from the early era of film, Japanese film periodicals both commercially published and self-published by student clubs at university campuses, and film studio archival materials.

The grant will enable the Starr Library to recruit a Japanese cataloger and an archivist to perform original cataloging and archiving of rare books, early film magazines, internal film studio documents, film programs, and ephemera, a significant portion of which are unavailable in the U.S. or Japan. Online finding aids that include Japanese characters will be published to help scholars around the world access materials independently.

Few actual Japanese films from prior to 1920 exist for research purposes. Thus, movie-related print materials such as programs, fliers, company newsletters, and books are an important scholarly element to the research and teaching of early Japanese film. The Makino collection contains 9,500 printed cinema programs, the largest outside of Japan, spanning from the earliest years of Japanese film to the present.

Cataloging the rare film book titles and film magazines will also improve access to the research materials related to the proletarian film movement (Prokino), amateur film magazines, and print materials published by cinema clubs in various university campuses. The collection contains the only original copy of an 1880 Japanese book on magic lantern slides and the first Japanese translation in 1891 of the book “Modern Magic” by Louis Hoffman.

“This grant will certainly further our outreach efforts to expand access to the collection,” said Jim Cheng, Director of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library. “Our goal is to continue to increase awareness of and access to the unique materials from the Makino Collection for scholars around the world.”

(From a press release by Columbia University Libraries)