Organizations and Institutions

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National Library of Australia Oriental Language Collections

A separate Orientalia Section in the National Library of Australia was formally established in April, 1962. However, the collection of Oriental materials began in the early nineteen-fifties when the Library decided to acquire materials relating to Asian countries in all languages. Since its establishment the Orientalia Section has endeavoured to develop a comprehensive collection of East Asian language materials with particular emphasis on modern history, political science and administration, economics, sociology, customs and folklore, defence and military science, mathematics, statistics, archaeology, and fine arts. The Library has also built up an extensive collection of reference and bibliographical works.

At present the Oriental language collection consists of monographs, serials, and microfilms in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Manchu, and Tibetan. Of the 186,638 volumes in the collection, 97,089 are in Chinese, 68,476 in Japanese, 10,252 in Korean, 10,239 in Thai, 414 in Manchu, and 168 in Tibetan. Serial and microfilm holdings amount to 5,923 titles and 10,864 reels respectively.

The Chinese collection gained strength from the acquisition of collections originally owned by professors Chao-ying Fang, W. P. Yetts, Walter Simon, Herbert Giles, and Otto van der Sprengel and by the London Missionary Society. Important source material is contained in the microfilm of the Union Research Institute's Classified Files on Communist China on 1,306 reels. Special emphasis in developing the collection has been placed upon material relating to modern China since 1911. Over 1,300 titles of Chinese periodicals and newspapers relating to this period are held by the Library. The Chinese collection also contains important works on politics and government, economics, sociology, local history, archaeology, and fine arts.

In Japanese, the Library has acquired the collections of General Sakakibara covering both civil and military history and of Dr. Tadashi Nakano on economics and the Japanese economy. Other important acquisitions include an extensive collection of biographical works and microfilms of Japanese archives on foreign affairs and army and navy activities, totalling 2,279 reels. The Japanese collection, like the Chinese, is strong in modern history and the social sciences, particularly economics and politics. In addition, the Library holds more than 3,300 Japanese official and nonofficial serial titles.

The Library's holdings of Korean books are mainly in the fields of history, government, foreign relations, literature, and Buddhism. The strength of the Thai collection lies in politics, history, law, literature, and Buddhism. These two collections contain 899 and 308 serial titles respectively.

Works on Asia in other languages not covered by the Oriental language collection are housed with the main body of the National Library's collections and access to these may be obtained through the main catalogues in the Catalogue Bibliography Room on the Ground Floor.

The Oriental Studies Reading Room on the third floor is open to readers from
9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday to Friday. Library staff, fluent in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Thai, are available for consultation. At times when the reading room is closed readers may use Oriental language materials in the Main Reading Room of the Petherick Special Studies Room by prior arrangement with the staff in the Orientalia Section.

In the Oriental Studies Reading Room besides reference works and bibliographies for immediate use, there are public catalogues including the name, subject, serial, and union catalogues, which enable readers to locate not only a work held in the National Library, but also materials located in libraries in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. Subject to certain limitations, Oriental language materials are available for inter-library loan throughout Australia.

Cornell University

To celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Wason Collection on China and the Chinese, Cornell University Libraries will hold a one-day conference on inter-library cooperation among the East Asian libraries in North America on October 9, 1978. Speakers will be Professor T. H. Tsien, of the University of Chicago and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, Chief of the Orientalia Division, Library of Congress. Dr. Richard Howard, Assistant Chief of the Orientalia Division, Library of Congress, will act as moderator. It is sincerely hoped that East Asian librarians will attend this conference. For further information, please contact Paul P.W. Cheng, Cornell University Libraries.

Harvard-Yenching Library

The Harvard-Yenching Library has just acquired the Hua-tung cheng-fa hsüeh pao 華東政法學報, nos. 1-2, 1956, from the Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R. This extremely important legal journal, first published as a quarterly in June, 1956 during the Hundred Flowers campaign, was heretofore available in the United States from issue no. 3 (December, 1956) only, including subsequent issues published from January, 1957, under the title Fa hsüeh 法學 as a bimonthly which follows more closely the official party line.

This unique acquisition has been made available to the ARL Center for Chinese Research Materials and will be reprinted with all the subsequent issues in a single volume for distribution.

Seoul City Libraries

The March 1977 issue of the CEAL Newsletter reported the opening of a new library for Seoul residents called the Chōngdōk. The latest issue of the Tonga Daily News carried an article on the condition of the library and an accident in the waiting line of this 3,500 plus seat library. It reported that there are always more than double the number of people the library can accommodate
waiting in line long before the seven o'clock opening hour. Not many of these users want to borrow books, nor are they seeking reference assistance, but many of them are college-bound high school students who failed once or twice at the entrance examinations for colleges of their choice. The city of Seoul now has ten public libraries for over seven million people, one for every seven hundred thousand people. One morning in May there was a melee at the waiting line and two innocent passers-by had fallen into the ditch after trying to avoid the skirmishes. The accident was minor and the injuries were not serious. However, it gave a warning to the city that it should expand the facilities and add at least six more libraries, as it has been promising to do for some time.

(Sungha Kim)

University of Southern California

In early February of this year, Dr. John R. Hubbard, President of the University of Southern California visited Korea at the invitation of the International Cultural Society of Korea. The purpose of his trip was to explore the possibilities of setting up a Korean Studies Center at the University in the near future. In a press conference held during his stay at Seoul he also expressed the intention of establishing a Korean section in the University of Southern California Library. However, he explained that he faces financial problems as do most other American university presidents and must seek financial backing to implement such projects.

(Sungha Kim)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

East Asian studies materials on the campus of the University of Wisconsin at Madison will be physically integrated into one collection. Recently the Director of Libraries wrote to all the members of the ACLS Steering Committee for a Study of the Problems of East Asian Libraries to ask advice. While the majority of the opinions received recommends a language collection following the Harvard-Yenching model, some favor an area collection similar to the Wason Collection of Cornell University. The library administration is carefully studying the many details involved and will appreciate further advice.

(Ed Friedman/Chester Wang)

East Asian Librarians' Group of Australia

The East Asian Librarians' Group of Australia, the first such body to be established in that country, was formed as the outcome of an East Asian library seminar, held on September 16, 1977. The objectives of the Group include the promotion of standards for East Asian librarianship in Australia, the encouragement of discussion and exchange of information through correspondence, newsletters, conferences, and seminars; contributions toward an understanding of
the problems of East Asian library services in libraries at large; and the promotion of effective bibliographic controls for East Asian collections in Australia. In connection with this last-mentioned objective, it is of interest to note that just prior to the East Asian library seminar, the National Library of Australia carried out a survey on the holdings of East Asian collections in Australian libraries; also, a union catalog of East Asian monographs in Australia and New Zealand is now being published on microfilm by the National Library of Australia, and a union catalog of East Asian serials is in preparation. Further information may be obtained from Nicole White, Secretary/Treasurer, The East Asian Librarians' Group of Australia, c/o Orientalia, National Library of Australia, Canberra, Al CI Tl 2600, Australia.

PROFESSIONAL VACANCY

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Position: Cataloger, East Asian Language Materials
Salary: $11,000+ depending on qualifications
Available: On or before July 24, 1978

Responsibilities: To catalog monographs, periodicals, and non-book materials in East Asian languages, using LC.


Send resume to: Joseph Jerz
Assistant University Librarian
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514