Meetings and Conferences

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MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

I. Workshop for Japanese Collection Librarians.

On August 28-30, 1978, the Association of Research Libraries/Office of Management Studies conducted a workshop on collection development for curators and librarians of Japanese Collections, made possible by a grant from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. Twenty-seven librarians and Japanese Studies specialists met for the three days to identify and explore issues of importance to the future of Japanese Collections in academic and research libraries. The program consisted of eight presentations followed by reactions and small group discussions on these topics: Japanese Studies—Current Status and Directions; Collections in Support of Japanese Studies: Current Status; Management and Organization of Japanese Collections; Resources in Japan; and Resource Sharing.

In the small group discussions, participants identified three broad categories of problems to work on: 1) Development, Use and Support of Japanese Collections; 2) Management and Organization of Japanese Collections; and 3) Resource Sharing. Within each group, the aspects of the problem categories were ranked and alternative solutions to the problems were generated. By focusing on actions that could be taken at the local, regional, and national levels, a series of recommendations were advanced.

The results of the small group discussions will be compiled and added to the papers and reactions which were presented during the workshop and issued as a publication by the OMS and will be available by January, 1979.

II. Meeting of the Southern California East Asian Librarians Group.

The 9th annual meeting of the Southern California East Asian Librarians Group was held on June 9, 1978, in conjunction with the Asian Studies Pacific Coast Conference which met at the Grand Hotel in Anaheim, June 9-11, in lieu of its regularly scheduled time during May. In addition to representatives of the four regular member institutions, 10 other librarians in Southern California who deal with East Asian materials in university libraries joined the group: 2 from California State University, Fullerton; 2 from U. C. Irvine; 2 from USC; 1 from U. C. Riverside; and 3 from UCLA. There were two guest participants, both librarians of the Asia Library, University of Hawaii. This was the largest representation the group has had to date.

The librarian from San Diego State University chaired the meeting and reviewed the Group's history and projects for the benefit of the new members. Important matters discussed were:

1. Cooperative projects of cataloging and acquisitions, exchange programs, and interlibrary loan services.

2. USC's East Asian resources: USC has approximately 15,000 volumes of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean books. The Oriental Collection is located in the
Von Kleinsmid Center Library. Because of stronger faculty support from the newly established East Asian Studies Center at USC there is possibility for new growth of the collection.

3. Clarification of the definition of the Group’s membership.
   a) Institutional members—Those Institutions which have East Asian collections. Institutions to be represented by heads of collections and to participate in cooperative exchange programs.
   b) Individual membership—open to all librarians interested in East Asian Studies.

4. Acceptance of California Library Association Program Committee’s request to provide speakers to discuss East Asian Studies and Asian Librarianship.

5. Preliminary plans to host a social function for CLAL librarians at the 1979 AAS Convention in Los Angeles.

   (Frances Wang)

III. Cornell University Wason Collection Commemorative Conference.

The Sixtieth Anniversary of the Wason Collection Commemoration Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Libraries in North America was held at Cornell University on October 9, 1978, and was attended by thirty-seven conferees. Twenty-one librarians from major institutions besides Cornell participated. The conference was chaired by Paul Cheng, East Asian Librarian of Cornell, who delivered the opening address on the history of the Wason Collection and stressed the importance of library cooperation on a regional and national basis.

The first paper was given by Professor T. H. Tsien of the University of Chicago, on the history and trends in the development of East Asian collections in American libraries. The second paper was presented by Mr. Weiyi Wang of the University of Michigan, who gave a detailed analysis of surveys of East Asian library collections, subject interests of scholars, and their geographical distribution. The third paper was given by Dr. Warren Tsuneishi of the Library of Congress, who emphasized the requirements of cooperative cataloging and standardization for international bibliographic data bases applicable to East Asian languages. In the afternoon session key points on library cooperation were summarized by Dr. Richard Howard of the Library of Congress, who also commented briefly on the papers. Discussion lasted for the rest of the day until 5:00 p.m., when a reception was held. In the closing remarks, Hendrik Edelman, Assistant Director of Collection Development, indicated that Cornell would be most willing to participate in resource sharing.

Miss Gussie Gaskill, who served for 36 years as the first curator for the Wason Collection, was present and received a great ovation.
IV. Nara Ehon Workshop-Conference.

A workshop-conference unique in the history of Japanese studies took place from August 16 to August 31, in three locations—London, Dublin, and New York. The event was called "The International Workshop-Conference on Illustrated Medieval Japanese Literary Texts: Toward the Development of the Nara Ehon Field." It was conceived and organized by Barbara Ruch, Director of the Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Among the thirty participants in the workshop were James T. Araki, University of Hawaii, Miyeko Murase, Columbia University, John Rosenfield, Harvard University, Teiji Ichiko, National Institute of Japanese Literature, Ryūshin Matsumoto, Keio University, and Shigeo Sorimachi, Kōbunsō, Ltd.

The workshop was unusual in several respects. First, it was the first major conference in Japanese studies held outside of Japan where the proceedings were conducted in Japanese. Second, the workshop took Japanese scholars abroad to view Japanese source materials virtually unknown to them. Third, the workshop represented a new stage in the international coordination of Japanese studies, since scholars of medieval Japanese literature, art, and religion from Japan, Europe, and the U.S. were brought together to develop the foundation of future Nara ehon research on a cooperative and interdisciplinary basis.

In order to accomplish this goal, it was felt that this group of interested scholars should work closely and intensively together, and become aware of the large holdings of illustrated medieval Japanese manuscripts in Europe and the U.S. The sites of the workshop were the British Library in London, the Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art in Dublin, and, in New York, the Spencer Collection in the New York Public Library, and the Japan House, where materials from the Fogg Art Museum, the University of Illinois Library's Rare Book Room, the Freer Gallery, and the Denver Art Museum were available for study purposes.

The daily schedule of the workshop revolved around three groups of literature, art, and religion specialists examining and discussing the manuscripts from the point of view of their respective disciplines; later in the day, the group leaders would report on their findings to the entire body of scholars. On August 31, the last day of the New York session, an English summary of the workshop's tentative conclusions was presented to invited guests in the auditorium of Japan House. Immediately following that presentation, an exhibition of Nara ehon, prepared by Miyeko Murase, chiefly from works owned by the Fogg Art Museum and the Spencer Collection, was opened in the Japan House Gallery. The exhibition was open to the general public from September 1 to September 17, 1978. This historic workshop-conference, however, is not over; it is merely suspended until it reconvenes in August, 1979, in Tokyo, where formal papers will be presented in the final session.

The workshop-conference will produce several publications. In time for the New York session, Shigeo Sorimachi published a new limited edition of the Catalogue of the Japanese Illustrated Books and Manuscripts in the Spencer Collection of the New York Public Library (Kōbunsō, 1978). Several working papers were prepared for the participants, including lists of Nara ehon held in the British Library, the Chester Beatty Library, the Fogg Art Museum, the University of Illinois Library, the Freer Gallery, and the Denver Art Museum, a glossary of relevant terms, and a bibliography of books and articles related
to *Nara ehon* studies. Future publications will include a monograph to be published by Sanseido, reporting the research results of the Dublin and New York sessions, an illustrated collection of the Tokyo session papers by Kadokawa, and an English-language catalog by Kodansha of a planned international exhibition of *Nara ehon*, which will be prepared in Tokyo in conjunction with the final session of the *Nara Ehon Workshop-Conference*.

(Robert Sewell)