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Organizations and Institutions

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Recent Activity at Berkeley

In April, 1979, Chancellor Albert M. Bowker visited the People's Republic of China to conclude affiliation arrangements between Berkeley and the three leading Chinese universities: Peking University, Tsinghua University in Peking and Chiao Tung University in Shanghai. The memoranda of understanding signed with these institutions call for the exchange of faculty and scholars in all disciplines, for the exchange of curricular materials, for the exchange of professors in the short term for lectures, colloquia and collaborative research, and for mutual assistance and exchange among the libraries. As far as possible, these exchanges are to be conducted on the basis of reciprocity. A China Relations Committee under the Chairmanship of Dean Leonard Kghi has been established to oversee these exchanges. The Head of EAL represents the university library as an ex officio member.

Chancellor Bowker's trip has produced some immediate rewards for the East Asiatic Library. Tsinghua University prepared especially for Berkeley a catalog of its collection of 3,510 early rare Chinese imprints, with the understanding that EAL may request photocopies of any title which it does not already own. This is a unique and valuable opportunity to strengthen our holdings in a field where Berkeley has already attained a certain preeminence. This catalog is being checked under the direction of Raymond T'ang and will be completed well in advance of the arrival of a delegation from Tsinghua next fall.

Both Tsinghua and Peking Universities presented Chancellor Bowker with fine volumes which have been added to the EAL collection. As described by Raymond T'ang, they include, from Peking, the Hsin k'an ch'i mioo ch'ian hsiang chu shih Hsi-hsiang-chi of Wang Shih-fu (fl. 1295-1307). This facsimile reproduction of the 1498 Yueh family woodblock edition of the Romance of the west chamber is the most important northern song tale of the Yuan dynasty, with quaint yet engrossing illustrations at the top of each page portraying the scene described in the text below. This painstakingly executed edition is very valuable to the study of Chinese literature, social mores, history of bookmaking and illustrative arts.

The Ming ch'ing shan mien hua hsüen chi presented by Tsinghua University is a selection of fan paintings of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties. One hundred excellent color reproductions of these exquisite and tasteful art objects are included.

As a result of the reorganization of the East Asiatic Library in February, 1979, nearly every staff member has had some change in their job assignments or has assumed added areas of responsibility. The previous division of the library along functional lines (cataloging, acquisitions, etc.) has been replaced by a division along language lines, with the exception of such functions as serials, circulation, binding preparation,
processing and post-cataloging. Members of the Administrative Council who report to the Head of the EAL, and their responsibilities, are:

Yong Kyu Choo - Head of the Korean Division, Cataloging coordinator & Chair of the Cataloging Council (all original catalogers and the Head of Processing), Acting Principal Japanese Cataloger.

Jean Han - Head of General Services (Serials, Circulation and Binding Prep), Reference Services Coordinator

Ruth Pfeiffer - Head of Processing (all support functions not included elsewhere, such as post-cataloging, filing, processing of incoming materials, etc.)

Raymond T'ang - Head of the Chinese Division; Preservation Coordinator and Curator of Special Collections.

Eiji Yutani - Head of the Japanese Division, Collection Development Coordinator & Chair of the Collection Development Council (all selectors).

Other staff members who have taken on additional responsibilities are Kiyoko Yamada, who is Brittle Books Coordinator in addition to being Head of Circulation, and Jean Lin, who has become Head of Binding Prep in addition to her position as Calligrapher. Yoshi Nakamura and Suzanne Pon have transferred from the Processing Section to the Japanese and Chinese Divisions respectively, where in addition to their responsibilities for vernacular typing they now do LC cataloging. Ruth Pfeiffer became Head of the newly created Processing Section which combined a number of previously scattered tasks.

In addition to reorganization, a number of special projects have been completed, and others are underway or are being planned. A major project is underway to convert the radical/stroke catalog to romanized entries and re-file cards in the alphabetic catalog. The radical/stroke catalog was closed in 1972. A trial project, planned by Yong Kyu Choo and proceeding under the direction of Rose Chang, will give us data on the cost of completely eliminating this file and the need for two searches under two different systems.

Revision and refinement of the EAL collection policy is taking place under the guidance of Eiji Yutani. The Collection Development Council has held meetings with selectors from other departments to clarify areas of responsibility which overlap between these units and EAL. Science and technology branch librarians will soon be invited for similar discussions. Cooperation with Stanford/Hoover selectors is proceeding on several fronts at once.
As a result of Chancellor Bowker's trip to China and the affiliation accords which he signed, the rare book holdings of Tsinghua University in a specially prepared catalog are being checked against EAL holdings. We will present a desiderata list for photocopies to the delegation from Tsinghua which will visit in the fall. Jean Lin and Karl Slinkard have temporarily increased to full-time to complete this project.

Yong Kyu Choo has begun planning for switching EAL from the Harvard Yenching to the LC classification system. Charles Hamilton of the Catalog Department is serving as advisor to this project. The major logistics problem of a stack shift in two locations to accommodate this change is being attacked by several staff members.

Finally, Steve Silberstein of the Systems Office and I are finalizing a proposal for the automation of East Asiatic scripts. With available technology and considerable encouragement from segments of the Library community, we are hopeful of providing for the East Asiatic Library the same products and data management which the rest of the General Library enjoy.

(Richard S. Cooper)

CETA Delegation to China

In April, 1979, the CETA (Chinese-English Translation Assistance) Language, Lexicography, and Computer Applications Delegation visited the People's Republic of China. Led by Jim Mathias of CETA and Thomas Kennedy of Washington State University, the delegation consisted of Irving Antin, Southern Illinois University; Kieran Broadbent, International Development Research Center, Ottawa; Thomas Coffey, freelance translator; Thomas Creamer, CETA; Robert Dunn, Library of Congress; Vivian Hsu, Oberlin College; Martin Day, Xerox Research Center; Henry Louie, FBIS; James McHale, VOA; and T.C. Ting, National Bureau of Standards. Sixteen full or half day meetings were held with well over one hundred Chinese lexicographers, linguists, teachers, librarians, and computer specialists from a number of institutions, among which were:

- Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC)
- Beijing Foreign Languages Institute
- Institute of Linguistics and Philology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing)
- Script Reform Committee (Beijing)
- Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing)
- Beijing National Library
- State Publications Bureau
- Commercial Press
- Nanjing University
- Shanghai Foreign Languages Institute
- Fudan University (Shanghai)
- Shanghai Normal University
A full report describing the delegation trip will be issued late summer 1979.

We were pleasantly surprised at the warmth of the reception we received at all institutions and at the considerable effort expended by our Chinese hosts to adjust their schedules and itinerary whenever we asked for changes. The Chinese teachers, researchers, and administrators we met were more open in their communication with Western counterparts than reported by previous American delegations. Despite the reported closing of some "democracy walls", there was no evidence of this action in Beijing. Also, it was clear from the open expression of differences of opinion among our Chinese colleagues about such things as translations of slogans and jargon that some dissent is still tolerated.

The principal areas discussed with Chinese specialists were language reform, computer applications, lexicography, and information exchange. The people at Beijing National Library and Nanjing University Library were interested in exchanging information about library automation with libraries in other countries. Though both libraries expressed the desire to continue receiving Library of Congress MARC documentation, tapes, and manuals, the application of computer processing to library work is still in the experimental or planning stages. Pinyin was used on the newer catalogue cards at Beijing National Library and the cards we saw were arranged by pinyin.

We inquired about the status of language reform everywhere we went. It seemed that some retrenchment was occurring, especially regarding the Second Draft Plan for Simplified Characters. The Chinese no longer expect to achieve the widespread use of pinyin in the immediate future and implementation of Draft Plan for Simplified Characters has been delayed to further study. However, they are actively promoting the use of putonghua, and there was no evidence of a change in the direction of language reform.

It was evident that the Chinese attached importance to computer development, especially Chinese character input methods. Some modern techniques such as thin film memory have been incorporated in the computers used for research. Also, some research is being done for on-line input. However, there is little interactive computing. Most is of the paper tape, batch processing mode, even in the research environment, and there is little evidence of miniaturization. In general, the Chinese we met appear to understand new technological concepts but lack the resources to implement features requiring extensive production and quality control capabilities.

The Chinese have made great progress in lexicography as is evident from their published dictionaries, completion of a new edition (1979) Xiandai Hanyu Cidian, and work in progress on traditional and modern language dictionaries. The willingness to exchange
information and services with the CETA group is an indication of their eagerness to cooperate with scholars in the U.S. We expect that as long as the present political climate continues there will be further exchanges of reports, computer data, services, and visits between CETA and our Chinese colleagues.

(Jim Mathias)

Washington University in Saint Louis

An exhibit of Japanese art books entitled The Arts of Japan is currently on display in the Rare Book Department, in conjunction with the 189th annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, held in St. Louis in April, and a three-day Japanese theatre festival in May featuring the American premiere of Abe Kōbō's play The Little Elephant is Dead and two Kabuki plays. The exhibit illustrates samples from a variety of genres of Japanese paintings, sculpture, Zen rock gardens, temples and shrines, and performing arts.

The American Oriental Society has donated forty-two titles of its publications to Washington University Libraries.

Washington University in St. Louis has received a grant of $5,000 from the Japan Foundation for the acquisitions of Japanese book materials.

The ACLS-ARL-SSRC East Asian Library Program Delegation to Japan

A visit to Japan to study the preparation of Japan MARC and to survey the general state of automated processing of East Asian scripts in Japan was undertaken on behalf of the East Asian Library Program of the American Council of Learned Societies, the Association of Research Libraries and the Social Science Research Council from June 3 to June 10 by John Haeger, Program Director, East Asian Library Program; Hideo Kaneko, Curator of the East Asian Collection, Yale University Library, and member of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Program; and John Schroeder, Associate Director for Systems, Research Libraries Group (RLG). The cost of the trip was underwritten by a grant from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. James Agenbroad of the Systems Office of the Library of Congress joined the group later and fully participated in the exploratory mission. The group talked with some vendors and visited seven institutions: the National Diet Library (NDL), Japan Information Center for Science and Technology (JICST), National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL), Tsukuba University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, National Museum of Ethnology, and Kyoto Sangyo University.
John Haeger summarizes the tentative conclusion of the East Asian Library Program team as follows:

First of all, I believe we all returned with increased confidence that the fundamental technology for managing Kanji (and Kana) in automated bibliographic and information systems is in hand. Hardware is available from a number of vendors. The NDL has already automated the editing and production of the weekly national bibliography, Nōhon Shūho. JICST maintains an on-line data base of scientific abstracts written in a combination of Kanji, Kana and romanization, and searches it with sophisticated programs. NIJL has built a computer catalog of their holdings in Japanese literature. Not one of these projects is able to operate without simultaneous, in-house software development -- neither they nor we are able to buy a "system" off-the-shelf as it were, which completely satisfies the requirements of a specific application -- but this fact is not discouraging, nor does it affect our fundamental conclusion about the state of technology.

Second, of the hardware we saw in place, the most impressive were an input device manufactured by ALPS (now in use at Tsukuba, Kyoto Sangyo and the National Museum of Ethnology) and a hard-copy output device (a laser-driven xerographic printer) made by Canon. How these will compare with the system shortly to be marketed by Fuji-Xerox or with several systems made in Taiwan remains to be seen. The requirements of the American environment suggest that some hybrid system which can be made closely compatible with terminals now used in, for example, the RLG network (RLIN) may be optimum.

Third, NDL's progress with a UNIMARC-compatible format for Japan MARC was gratifying, impressive, and a little surprising. If NDL meets its timetable, it should be prepared to supply Japan MARC tapes of all new titles published in Japan within two years. It now appears that those tapes could be used in the United States as the basic for preliminary and descriptive cataloging of Japanese titles (by LC or RLG libraries), provided that we have developed a capability for on-line management of bibliographic records containing Kanji and Kana by the time NDL is ready to supply the tapes. That is, the transition from manual shared cataloging (as practiced presently under NPAC) to automated shared cataloging could be relatively painless.

Chinese-American Librarians Association

The Chinese-American Librarians Association (CALA) is a young professional group, the purpose of which is to promote better communications among Chinese-American librarians in the United States and to support the development of Chinese and American librarianship. To serve as a forum for the discussion of mutual problems and professional concerns the association publishes the Journal of Library and Information Science and conducts panels and discussion meetings from time to time. In order to provide programs that can be tailored to meet the needs of members in various regions, two chapters,
namely Northeast (New England, New York, & New Jersey) and Mid-West, have been in the process of being formed. The membership list as of June 1, 1979, shows a total of 178 members.

The officers of the CALA, 1979-1980, are: President, John Yung-hsiang Lai of Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University; Vice-president and Program, Dr. Lee-hsia Ting of the Department of Library Science, Western Illinois University; Vice-president and Public relations, David T. Liu, Pharr Memorial Library, Pharr, Texas; Executive Director, Dr. Richard Li of Graduate School of Library Science, Rosary College.

Plans are now underway to compile and publish Directory of Chinese-American Librarians, 1980, which will be a comprehensive Who's who including members and non-members of the CALA. It is estimated that more than 1,200 Chinese-Americans are working in the North American library world.

If anyone wishes to join the CALA or to be listed in the Directory of Chinese-American Librarians, 1980, please contact John Y. H. Lai, Harvard-Yenching Library, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

(John Y. H. Lai)