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The Hoover Institution's East Asian Collection and Its Bibliographical Services

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The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace has become widely known in recent years as the brain trust of President Ronald Reagan. Major magazines and newspapers in the United States and abroad and even small local newspapers have featured the Institution in their coverage. What is not often mentioned in these articles is the fact that the Institution started as a library, growing in size and scope to become one of the major research institutions of today. In the following, I will discuss briefly the history of Hoover's library collections as background information for a description of its East Asian Collection. Then I would like to touch on the Institution's bibliographic activities aimed at the dissemination of information on Hoover's holdings, as well as its cooperative bibliographic work with the East Asiatic Library of the University of California (Berkeley).

I. Brief History of the Collection

The library collection of the Hoover Institution currently holds more than 1,200,000 volumes. It was started on Herbert Hoover's own initiative out of the personal conviction that the contemporary documents and other fugitive materials from which the First World War would be studied and its causes examined should not be lost as had happened so often in times of upheaval and rapid change. With funds in the amount of $50,000, Mr. Hoover dispatched scholars to every corner of Europe to collect materials related to the ongoing war. By 1921 close to 80,000 items were in the Hoover War Collection of Stanford University. From this beginning the collecting effort continued, and in June 1941 the Hoover Tower was dedicated to house hundreds of thousands of books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, government documents, personal records, etc.

By the time hostilities broke out in Europe in 1939, the Hoover Library's network was well established in Europe for collecting government documents, propaganda materials, underground newspapers and so forth. With the opening of the Pacific Theater in 1941, the Far East was added to the library's areas of interest. When the war ended, Mr. Hoover sought to ensure continued collecting activities in both Europe and Asia, securing outside funds to support the project. Many items of great value were also contributed from materials collected by Stanford students, faculty, and alumni during their tours of military service throughout the world.

Soon after the Japanese surrender, members of the Stanford University Alumni Association of Tokyo laid the groundwork for a well-organized plan to gather documents illuminating pre-war Japan and its descent into war. With the
permission of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, a Tokyo office of the Hoover Institution was established in November 1945 under the direction of a Japanese Stanford graduate and the supervision of a Stanford professor serving in SCAP. The office was formally recognized by the United States Army in 1946 at the time of Mr. Hoover's visit to Japan and continued its activities until 1952.

In China, documents, newspapers, pamphlets, journals, and all sorts of printed and non-printed materials relating to wartime activities and Communist movements were vigorously sought and acquired until the Communist central government—the People's Republic of China—was established in Peking in 1949 and the country was closed. The materials collected during this period form the core of the unique and valuable Chinese collection well known among scholars of modern China.

The Institution's sphere of collecting activities was further expanded to Africa, the Near East, and later to Latin America. Today, the Hoover Institution's collecting effort covers almost all the world with the lesser emphasis on South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia.

In its quest for historical and primary source materials, the Institution acquired the private papers of many individuals and the internal documents of various agencies. There are nearly four thousand individual collections of original documents housed separately in the Archives. Archival materials include virtually all types of written, spoken, recorded or filmed documentation, taking the form of correspondence, cables, reports, diaries, memoranda, drafts, photographs and films, and so forth. The originators of these documents have been participants at nearly every level of the revolutionary events of the 20th century, both American and foreign.

Thus, the library of the Hoover Institution is no ordinary library. Herbert Hoover's words at the dedication ceremony of the Hoover Tower on June 20, 1941, still hold true:

Here are not alone published books. They are easy to obtain. But here are the fugitive documents which quickly disappear. Here are the inner records of governments, of minutes of war councils and war departments, records of peace negotiations, economic and social organizations over all the nations who have been involved in the war. Here are records of every social movement from Communism through Fascism, Nazi-ism, and in the democracies.... Here are the records of the efforts to make and preserve peace.

These millions of items have one great distinction—that a large part are not preserved elsewhere. And the collection is not ended yet, for, by funds provided by generous donors, and gifts from those countries, collection is in progress in every part of the warring world today. And no doubt wars, revolutions, famine, and peace will long continue.
II. **Scope and Strengths of the Collection**

The original scope and definition of the East Asian Collection were established at the outset of collection development. By "war" is meant the causes and results of war rather than military operations. Under "revolution" fall all types of revolutionary movements. "Peace" is conceived to be the whole field of international relations—political, economic and cultural, and the organization of peace.

These conceptions have guided collecting activities. For China, major attention is given to the period from the Opium War (1840-42) to the present. Political movements and social and economic changes continue to evolve in the country, and Western impact is manifested in complex and confusing social situations: the late 19th century reform movements, the Revolution of 1911, the war with Japan, the civil war of 1945-49, establishment of the Communist government, the succession of revolutionary movements culminating in the Cultural Revolution, and so on. Documentation of these social, political, economic and cultural changes is sought and assembled in Hoover's Chinese Collection.

The uniqueness of the Hoover Institution's holdings on Chinese Communism has long been acknowledged by scholars. There are several outstanding archives and private collections. The Isaacs Collection consists of Communist publications during the 1920's and 1930's. The Jay Calvin Huston Collection, containing manuscripts, pamphlets, placards, leaflets and newspaper clippings in Chinese, Russian, and English, deals with political and economic conditions in China with special reference to the influence of Soviet Russia and Communist-affiliated organizations for the period 1917-31. The Chen Cheng Collection pertains to the Chinese Kiangsi Soviet period, 1931-34. The Nym Wales Collection includes Communist documents dealing with the first phase of the Yenan period, 1935-37. The Chang Kia-Ngau Collection documents economic conditions in Manchuria at the end of World War II and Chinese-Soviet negotiations for the return of Manchuria to Chinese control.

More recent acquisitions include more than one hundred titles of recent academic journals collected by Stanford scholars in China; Kwangtung Province newspapers on film published during the Great Leap Forward (1957-60) and the period following Mao's death (1976-80); land deeds and account books from Hong Kong; documentation on Taiwan customary law; and approximately four hundred school textbooks used in the past two decades. Efforts continue to complete runs of government documents, periodicals of the Republican period, and newspapers from wide geographic areas. Literature and popular writings of the last three decades are also important, for they reflect social changes vividly.

The Japanese Collection's major focus lies in political, economic, social and cultural history from the late Tokugawa period in the mid-19th century, through Japan's modernization period and the Pacific War, up to the present. Japan's rapid industrialization, changes in governmental and political systems, social tensions created by the new economic life and population shift and Japan's
self-imposed role in foreign relations are well documented in the Collection. The attempt to control Asian markets and resources, the consequent military action, the defeat, and the reforms introduced by the Allied occupation forces are also well covered. Materials to study Japan's high-level industrialization and re-emergence once again as a world power in the last decades are steadily being assembled.

Hoover's copy of the 500 folders of documents originating in the Japanese Legation in Seoul, 1894-1905, and in the office of the Japanese Resident General in Korea, 1906-10, is one of only two in existence. In the Araki Sadao Collection are the general's diaries during the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-05, personal letters addressed to him on the ensuing Far East question, telegrams exchanged between him and his supporters concerning the Japanese Navy officers' coup d'état on May 15, 1932. The Prince Konoe Collection is a microfilm copy of Konoe Fumimaro documents held in the Konoe family library, with a wide range of personal and official pieces of correspondence, reports and manuscripts covering the period 1937-45 and relating to the Chinese-Japanese War, the Tripartite Treaty, Russo-Japanese relations, U. S.-Japanese negotiations of 1941 up to August, domestic policies, and the conclusion of the Pacific War. The Joseph C. Trainor Collection consists of writing, memoranda, reports, surveys, handbooks, maps, and photographs describing educational reform during the Allied occupation. The James T. Watkins Collection includes correspondence, reports, maps, and photographs relating to the Allied military government in Okinawa following World War II.

Some examples of the special strengths of the Japanese Collection are political processes and economic development since the Meiji Restoration; tenancy problems, farmers uprisings, and land reform; labor movements; and the student movement of the 1960's. Materials on relations with China and the study of modern China are particularly strong. Foreign relations with other Asian countries and with the United States are also well represented.

In the mid-1950's, the Stanford University Library transferred its holdings in Chinese and Japanese to the Hoover Institution for processing economy. Thus, the East Asian Collection became the sole repository at Stanford of books in these languages to support the teaching and research of faculty and students in the University. The historical period covered by the collections was expanded and the various fields of the humanities were added to the collecting categories. In the 25 years since, the East Asian Collection has developed relatively extensive holdings which include most of the basic sets, series, periodicals, and reference books. Excluding the documents held in the Archives, the Library's current holdings are almost 170,000 volumes of Chinese language books, over 100,000 volumes of Japanese materials, more than 10,000 reels of microfilm, and 3,000 sheets of microfiche. These include about 7,000 Chinese periodical titles and close to 2,000 in Japanese. The recent survey by Naomi Fukuda revealed that Hoover's Japanese Collection is the only Japanese library in the United States with decidedly more volumes in social sciences than in humanities, the ratio being 48 percent of the total, with an additional 21 percent in history holdings which are predominantly on the post-Meiji period.
III. Catalogs and Guides to the Use of the Collection

The materials described above are of little value unless they are used by scholars for their research. Access to holdings information is one of the major concerns of the Hoover Institution, and to this end a number of bibliographic works have been published. Printed catalogs of the Chinese and Japanese Collections were published by G. K. Hall in 20 volumes in 1969, and two supplements totaling six volumes were published in 1972 and 1977, bringing the listing up to June 1973. *Guide to the Hoover Institution Archives*, 1980, describes the depository's 3,569 documents with a detailed index. The Hoover Institution has so far published about a dozen bibliographies, checklists, and guides on East Asian subjects. Several more subject bibliographies are either underway or planned for publication in the coming several years. We believe these volumes not only disseminate information on available resources but also stimulate scholarly research activities.

In 1973 the East Asian Studies communities of the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University formally began cooperative programs with the establishment of the Stanford-Berkeley Joint East Asia Language and Area Studies Center (now known as the Stanford-Berkeley Joint East Asia National Resource Center). Among the Joint Center's activities, library cooperation has been given high priority and promoted enthusiastically. Duplicate current periodical titles were identified and about 100 titles were eliminated in each library not only to reduce subscription and processing costs but also to save binding costs and shelf space. A rapid interlibrary loan delivery system has been established and operates successfully. Monthly lists of newly catalogued books are exchanged.

Among these library cooperation projects, perhaps most significant for access to the library collections is the publication of joint checklists. Compilation of these checklists was originally conceived to identify strengths and weaknesses of the two libraries as well as overlapping or missing areas in the combined holdings. It was hoped that by formulating cooperative acquisition programs in various areas we could combat rising acquisition costs in the face of budgetary retrenchment and still continue to develop broadly based strong collections in the participating libraries. To date, four volumes have been published; these cover Japanese local histories, company histories, newspapers, and Chinese local histories, respectively. We hope to fill gaps that exist in the two libraries so that the combined holdings will be sufficiently complete to meet research needs. We also believe that these checklists will help scholars obtain necessary research materials easily.

IV. Conclusion

The Hoover Institution continues its collecting efforts while developing vigorous research programs. Any prediction of how various societies might develop and their policies must be based upon a careful study of the past. The treasures
in the Institution have already aided many scholars to produce important and influential writings. Herbert Hoover's original concept of collecting original source materials about social changes for scholarly research is still alive and pursued tenaciously by the Institution's staff. Scholars and librarians will continue to make important materials known for research purposes through the compilation of bibliographies.

(A part of the paper presented at the annual meeting of the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast, Honolulu, June 1981)