Libraries and Institutions

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University of Michigan Asia Library Offers Travel Grants

The Centers for Chinese and Japanese Studies and the Asia Library of the University of Michigan offer a number of grants of up to $250 to help defray the costs of travel and maintenance for scholars who wish to utilize the resources of the Asia Library during the current calendar year.

Interested applicants should submit a brief statement on their intended use of the Asia Library collections for research on a China- or Japan-related topic to the appropriate Center.

Center for Chinese Studies
104 Lane Hall
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Center for Japanese Studies
108 Lane Hall
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

(Weiying Wan)

Library of Congress's Asian Division Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary

On November 18, 1988, a seminar was held in the Mumford Room at the Library, commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the founding in 1928 of the Library's Division of Chinese Literature. In the years since 1928 the name of the Division has been changed several times, as the geographical scope of its collections and activities has expanded. At present it is known as the Asian Division, which is made up of three Sections (in addition to the Division Office). These are the Chinese and Korean Section; the Japanese Section; and the Southern Asian Section, which includes in its purview the countries of Southeast Asia. When the Division was founded in 1928, the Library already possessed some 100,000 volumes in Chinese. As of 1988 its collections in the languages of East Asia—not including those of South and Southeast Asia—totaled more than 1,388,000 volumes, of which more than 558,000 were in Chinese. (See CEAL Bulletin no. 86, p. 38.)

The seminar of November 18 was opened by Donald Curran, the Associate Librarian for Management, on behalf of the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, who was engaged in another meeting. The morning session, entitled "History and Development of the Chinese Collection at the Library of Congress," was chaired by Richard C. Howard, Acting Chief of the Asian Division. The three speakers in the morning panel were Edwin G. Beal, Jr., formerly Head of the Chinese and Korean Section and former Assistant Chief of the Division, who outlined the beginnings of the Chinese collection in the late nineteenth century; K. T. Wu, former Head of the Chinese and Korean Section, who discussed various problems of the classification of Chinese books; and James K. M. Cheng, Head of the Oriental Library, University of California at Los Angeles, who discussed the activities of the Library as they relate to other collections of East Asian books in the United States, and outlined a number of bibliographical activities for which he hoped that the Library of Congress would accept
the responsibility of leadership. Diane Perushek, Curator of the Gest Oriental Library, Princeton University, served as Discussant for the morning panel. It is hoped that all of the presentations made in both the morning and the afternoon sessions, and in the two-day follow-up meeting to be mentioned below, will be published by the Library.

The group then adjourned for lunch in the West Dining Room of the Madison Building. After the luncheon, Dr. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, welcomed the group, encouraged their activities, and spoke of the new quarters the Asian Division is expected to occupy when the renovation of the Thomas Jefferson Building has been completed. Then Ambassador Arthur W. Hummel, Jr., who had spent some thirty-five years in the Foreign Service of the United States, addressed the group. After some years abroad in the U.S. Information Service, which he had served in Taipei, Tokyo, and Hong Kong, he had served as American Ambassador to Ethiopia, Burma, Pakistan, and— for the years 1981 to 1985—the People's Republic of China. He discussed the career of his father, Arthur W. Hummel, who after two years of teaching in Kobe, Japan, had gone to China as an educational missionary in 1914. After a year of full-time study of the Chinese language in Peking, he taught for ten years in Fenchow (now known as Fen-yang in Shansi). He then moved to Peking, where, until returning to the United States in 1927, he taught Chinese thought and history at the College of Chinese Studies. Ambassador Hummel informed the group that he had attended this same college in 1940-41, where he sought to learn in more systematic fashion the language which he had already spoken as a child. His father had joined the Library staff in December 1927 and had been appointed the first Chief of the Division of Chinese Literature when it was established on July 1, 1928. He received his doctorate from the University of Leyden, The Netherlands, in 1931. He continued to serve as the Division's Chief until his retirement in 1954, supervising many of its most active and productive years.

The afternoon session, entitled "The Library of Congress and Chinese Studies in the United States," was chaired by Mi Chu Wiens, China Area Specialist of the Chinese and Korean Section. The first speaker, Robert G. Sutter, Chief of the Foreign Affairs Division, Congressional Research Service, contrasted his periods of service in the Central Intelligence Agency with his work in the Congressional Research Service. The second speaker, Tao-tai Hsia, Chief of the Far Eastern Law Division, Law Library, discussed the services performed by his Division, and the great expansion in the publication of legal material in Mainland China after the death of Mao Tse-tung and the end of the so-called "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution." Father John Witek, Professor of East Asian History, Georgetown University, discussed the use he had made of the early holdings of the Library's Chinese collection, especially as they illuminated the work of Catholic missions in China. The last speaker, Mary Brown Bullock, Secretary of the Asian Program, Wilson Center, Smithsonian Institution, described her experiences in using the Library of Congress collections, as well as those of the National Library of Medicine, the American Red Cross, and the Rockefeller Foundation. Frederic E. Wakeman, Jr., President of the Social Science Research Council, served as the Discussant for the afternoon period, and recounted some of the experiences he had had in using Chinese local histories.

The seminar was closed by Chi Wang, Head of the Chinese and Korean Section, Library of Congress, who had conceived the program and had invited the speakers. He thanked both the participants and those who had attended. He also told them that he expected to convene a two-day seminar to be held in Washington in 1989. The original plan was for this two-day seminar to be held immediately before the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, which was held in Washington in March 1989. It soon became apparent, however, that many of the persons who would be expected to
participate in the two-day seminar were already committed to other meetings to be held at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Association. It was therefore decided to postpone the two-day seminar to a later date, probably in the fall of 1989. These seminars are made possible in part by a generous grant from the United Daily News Cultural Foundation, Taipei, Taiwan.

(Edwin G. Beal, Jr.)

Important Acquisitions of Chinese Rare Books in Fung Ping Shan Library

The Fung Ping Shan Library has recently acquired a private collection of some 2,600 volumes of traditional Chinese books. This collection contains very valuable and rare items which may be divided by dynasties as follows: Sung - Yuan editions (960-1368), 4 titles in 236 volumes; Ming editions (1368-1644), 10 titles in 306 volumes; early Ch'ing editions (1644-1795), 17 titles in 326 volumes; and stone rubbings, 7 titles in 1 volume and 95 sheets. The total is 38 titles in 869 volumes.

This is probably the most important acquisition of Chinese rare books recorded in recent years in the Fung Ping Shan Library. The existing rare book collection of the Library, which is undoubtedly the strongest among local libraries, will be enriched with several precious Sung - Yuan blockprints. Imprints of this kind are magnificently engraved and highly rated by Chinese bibliographers.

The four Sung - Yuan imprints recently acquired are:

1. *Fang-yü sheng lan* 方興勝覽 車木 創刊本 32册
2. *Tung-chien chi-shih pen-mo* 通鑒紀事本末 遼闔曆史記 42 (1257-1563) 100冊
3. *Chu Hui-an hsien-sheng Wen-kung chi hsū chi pieh chi* 朱晦庵公文公集 繼集別集 車善 100冊
4. *Chin shu* 晉書 蒋暐engcing 康熙重刻 42冊

The collection, known as *Tun-fu shu shih ts'ang shu* 敦煌書室藏書, was formerly owned by the Lo Family. It was built up by the late Mr. Lo Yuan-ko 羅遠如 in Guangzhou before the Sino-Japanese War and later moved to Hong Kong. During the Japanese occupation, it was one of the several notable private collections temporarily housed in the Fung Ping Shan Library (some were later shipped to the National Central Library in the wartime capital, Chongqing. Over the years some titles were sold but most were preserved carefully by Mrs. Lo and her son. The collection was offered for sale to the Library last autumn. After consulting with Professor T. I. Jao, the University Libraries purchased it earlier this year. The addition of these rare items is indeed a landmark in the history of the Fung Ping Shan Library.

(Kan Lai-bing)
OCLC to Contribute to New MARC Distribution Service

The Library of Congress plans to inaugurate a new distribution service for bibliographic records of vernacular and romanized Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (CJK) materials in the MARC format, contributed from other institutions via Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) of Dublin, Ohio. MARC is the Library's machine-readable cataloging data.

The new service will complement, but not replace, the existing MARC Distribution Service (MDS)—Books CJK, that contains Chinese, Japanese, and Korean records which since 1987 have been generated by the Library of Congress. The addition of OCLC CJK records will enable the Library to make available to its MDS subscribers a much larger pool of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean records cataloged in the United States.

"MDS—Contributed CJK" is scheduled to begin some time this year and is being made possible with the cooperation of OCLC. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean records contributed to OCLC by its members will be an important component of the service. The forthcoming CJK tape service was originally announced in the November 14, 1988, issue of the LC Information Bulletin (p.459-60), that reported plans of the Research Libraries Group to cooperate in this effort.


(Adapted from the LC Information Bulletin 48, no. 17 (April 24, 1989): 153-154.)

RLIN Multiscript Station Enthusiastically Received

Librarians and researchers who use the RLIN system for entering, retrieving, and printing out bibliographic information in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean vernacular (CJK) are delighted with a new PC-based workstation that costs less, does more, and does it better than the first-generation RLIN CJK terminals.

The new Multiscript Workstation (MSW) supports the American Library Association's extended Roman-alphabet character set, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Cyrillic, and Hebrew scripts. When not in use as an RLIN terminal, it can be used for stand-alone functions such as word processing; a CJK version of PC-Write developed under contract by JHL Research Inc. is now being tested.

The first MSW users are all libraries experienced in RLIN CJK use—at the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, Columbia, Princeton, and Rutgers universities, and the universities of Michigan and Toronto. Several other institutions are taking advantage of the economically priced MSWs to use RLIN's CJK enhancements for the first time; Arizona State University, Dartmouth College, and the University of California at Berkeley and at Santa Barbara. During the annual conference of the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), Association of Asian Studies, in Washington, D.C. this March, Library of Congress staff provided demonstrations on the MSW to more than sixty conference attendees.
The new workstation's users like the feel of the specially built CJK keyboard, and find the video display particularly easy on the eyes. The MSW provides a simpler method of creating Chinese characters than the original CJK terminal, and "old" CJK users hail this as a real advance. The first users are agreed that the MSW is "very user-friendly."

Hugo Christiansen, Assistant Chief for Shared Cataloging at the Library of Congress, summed up: "It's a beautiful personal computer with many beautiful features."

When used as an RLIN terminal, the MSW enables users to retrieve and display any of the approximately 500,000 RLIN bibliographic records containing Chinese, Japanese, or Korean scripts. The RLIN CJK Thesaurus can be consulted at any time to look up Chinese characters by radical, stroke count, Wade-Giles or pinyin romanization, kana readings, modified Hepburn romanization, or McCune-Reischauer romanization.

The CJK PC keyboard allows users to enter CJK characters in their searches or cataloging records by "building" CJK characters from component parts engraved on the keys, pressing these in the order normally used to write the characters. A character selection display window appears on the video screen as soon as a Chinese or Korean component key is pressed; from this the user selects the desired character or presses more components until the desired character appears on the screen. Japanese kana are typed directly from the keyboard.

Using the standard PC keyboard, users can retrieve, display, and copy from records containing CJK data. With either keyboard, Cyrillic and Hebrew character input and display are also possible. Arabic, now under development, will be the next non-Roman character set added.

Blocks of text can be stored and copied into other records or search requests on the MSW, and users can download RLIN records onto disk or directly into a local system.

For many users interested in RLIN's non-Roman processing capabilities, one of the most attractive features of the MSW is its price. The cost of the complete Multiscript Workstation—system unit, ASCII keyboard, CJK PC keyboard, CJK ROM board, RLIN terminal software, and Epson LQ850 printer—is $6,066 FOB Natick, Massachusetts, where the workstations are assembled by Transtech International Corporation, the producers of the CJK keyboard. An MSW without the CJK keyboard costs $4,566.

The MSW is based on an AT-class personal computer. For additional information about its configuration and functions, contact:

RLIN Information Center
800-537-RLIN
The Research Libraries Group, Inc.
1200 Villa Street
Mountain View, CA 94041-1100

The Corning Museum of Glass, Rakow Library

In 1988 the Rakow Library of The Corning Museum of Glass received a New York State Regional Automation grant to underwrite the cost of having its oriental book collection cataloged by the Chinese, Japanese, Korean division of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Sixteen boxes of books comprising 367 titles were shipped to
Dublin, Ohio in February 1988. Hisako Kotaka assumed the task of preparing the workforms for entering the holdings into the OCLC data base.

This collection was assembled, for the most part, by Dr. Dorothy Blair, author of *A History of Glass in Japan*, published by the Museum and Kodansha in 1973. Dr. Blair, a 1914 graduate of Mount Holyoke College, first became interested in oriental studies in the early 1920s when she was on the staff of the Cleveland Museum of Art.

This interest continued throughout her professional career at the Art Institute of Chicago, the John Herron Institute of Art in Indianapolis, the Toledo Museum of Art, the University of Michigan, and the Corning Museum of Glass. Dr. Blair is considered by many to have been the foremost western authority on Japanese glass.

It is fitting that her personal book collection would become part of the Rakow Library holdings. This library, dedicated to the art and history of glass, attempts to acquire everything published anywhere in the world on its subject. However, it is difficult to identify lacunae in non-western holdings and to find sources of supply for the desired titles. Dr. Blair’s continuing attention to her library assures that the Rakow Library is comprehensive in oriental holdings.

Because Dr. Blair’s collection has been assembled over two-thirds of a century with the help of Japanese scholars, there is a lot of unique material included. In fact, eighty-five percent of the titles were new to the data base. Several titles qualify as rare books, such as the seven-volume 1781 set, *Soken Kishō: Naniwa Shisuikan-Zohan*. Other items which were issued as ephemeral publications have since proved to be essential to the study of Japanese glass. There also are exhibition catalogs from oriental museums dating back to 1929 and as recently as 1988.

All books in this collection will be available for lending in microform format. The Rakow Library also will provide photocopies of a limited number of selected pages upon request. Interlibrary loan activities are conducted by mail only.

(Virginia Wright, The Corning Museum of Glass)

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*Dorothy Lilian [sic] Blair died March 16, 1989, age 98. --Virginia Wright to the Editor in a letter received June 15, 1989.*