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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


This translation of Xiao Zhentang and Ding Yu’s *Zhongguo guji zhuangding xiubu jishu* [Art of repairing and binding old Chinese books] (Pei-ching: Shu mu wen hsien ch’u pan she, 1980), adapted for Western conservators, is both succinct and thorough. All the aspects for conserving Chinese traditionally-bound books are dealt with in a clear-cut and straightforward exposition. There is a faultlessly logical progression from the introduction, a description of binding structures, terminology, and preparation through repairing paper and specific types of damage to basic techniques, special preservation techniques, and other (than the “book”) binding structures. Conservators would be wise to copy out Dr. Helliwell’s “Some Concluding Observations” on pages 146-147 and mount it above their work benches. A glossary is included.

There is a full description and procedure for the “Jade Set in Gold” binding (*jin xiang yu*) which, I believe, has not been explained fully in earlier English-language works on this subject. The illustrations and plates are clear and relevant. Although the article lacks an index, a conservator who feels he needs one can make an outline of the article’s sections, subsections, and subsubsections which will yield a detailed table of contents similar to the tables of contents found in old Chinese books. If further indexing is desired, the page numbers of the glossary entries can be filled in after those entries. I found only one minor inaccuracy in the whole work: on page 107 the direction “(see ‘Fitting Corner Protectors’ below)” should be “(see ‘Fitting Corner Protectors’ above)”. The article is very comprehensive in all aspects of the subject and very authoritative on all the topics covered. It is to be hoped that this article will establish a standard terminology of Chinese book conservation.

I encourage every East Asian librarian to bring this work to the attention of his or her library conservators and even, if need be, to procure a copy for them to place in their work rooms.

Edward Martinique


The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) is perhaps the most fascinating chapter of modern Chinese history. It was full of social and political turbulence, drastic and dramatic changes; and to this date it retains not a few unsolved mysteries. It was also possibly the social movement of widest participation in all five thousand years of Chinese history. From the biggest cities to the smallest, most remote villages, Chinese men and women of all ages were led, or more precisely for most cases, dragged into this "soul touching" revolution. Consequently, when the Cultural Revolution finally ended in 1976 after ten long years, it left a deep mark on virtually every Chinese heart, affecting his or her way of thinking and behavior for years, if not the entire life. Thus, it is not an exaggeration to say that if one wants to better understand today's China and its people, one needs to know about the Cultural Revolution.
For the reasons mentioned above and perhaps many others, students and scholars in China studies around the world have taken a keen interest in studying the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Publications on the subject have been produced ever since the Cultural Revolution began to unfold. These publications were first written by outside observers such as scholars or specialists in the West and those from Hong Kong, Taiwan, or Japan, but later, in the 1980s and 1990s, also increasingly by people from China, not only scholars but also witnesses and victims of the Cultural Revolution.

Increased publications on the subject means increased resources for those who need to study the Cultural Revolution. However, as any librarian or experienced researcher can quickly point out, the existence of certain resources does not equal their availability. In fact, to get the resources often requires much tedious and laborious work, which always starts with searching. In the case of Cultural Revolution studies, the task of a comprehensive search could be formidable since the Revolution lasted ten years and included numerous incidents and activities involving a wide range of aspects. In addition, the search may have to involve digging out publications from a number of countries and regions in several languages. This is because, as was mentioned earlier, during the Cultural Revolution research on and analyses of the Revolution were exclusively done by the outside world, while in last two decades, a growing number of publications have come from China. Many of these include invaluable insights and analysis. Thus, my first reaction after quickly browsing this newly published bibliography was that it is a great asset to anyone who needs to study the Chinese Cultural Revolution and a wonderful reference tool for librarians and for professors.

This beautifully bound one volume reference book is a comprehensive bibliography on the Cultural Revolution. The scope of the bibliography is extensive; it includes items published in the West (primarily in English) as well as in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan over a period of thirty years (1966-1996). These items include monographs, journal and newspaper articles, and some videotapes and sound recordings. The authors also collected unpublished theses and dissertations.

The book consists of a main body of fifteen chapters, an author index and a title index. The first chapter of the book is on "general works" and the last on "aftermath" of the Revolution. The rest of the chapters are arranged by subject, each dealing with a particular aspect of the Cultural Revolution such as "Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution," "the Red Guard and the urban youth rustication," and "foreign policy and relations." I found the subject coverage of the book on the Cultural Revolution to be wide and well balanced, and the arrangement for chapters straightforward. The titles for chapters are concise yet clear.

The bibliography is not annotated. Each chapter of the book contains three lists of related items, namely lists for materials in Chinese, Japanese, and English and other Western languages. Although the bibliography does not intend to cover primary resources but rather secondary resources such as books, analyses, and research articles on the Cultural Revolution, it contains some items of primary resource nature such as news reports, chronologies, and reminiscences. In addition, Chapter Thirteen is devoted exclusively to literary works on the Cultural Revolution. The coverage of that Chapter, unlike other chapters in the book, is not comprehensive but selective, as the opening lines to the chapter explain. The bibliography's format for entries is fairly standard. For Chinese and Japanese entries, author and title information is listed first in
romanized form and then in vernacular. Pinyin is used for romanizing Chinese, and modified Hepburn for Japanese. In addition to subject categories, the bibliography provides users two other approaches for searching any given entry included: an author index and a title index. Within the indexes, entries are listed in a single alphabetical order. Cross references are provided in the Author Index for authors who have multiple names.

By compiling a great number of publications and unpublished resources in several languages into a well-organized and indexed single volume, this bibliography contributes greatly to research on the Cultural Revolution. It provides students and scholars a handy reference, which can be used to examine previous research on a given topic and to guide in collecting relevant resources. The bibliography was published at a time when control of the Chinese government of research of the Cultural Revolution seems to be loosening a bit, while the memory of Chinese people of this catastrophic movement seems to be fading. At the same time, as more primary resources become available, there is a new wave of interest in further study of this part of Chinese history. The Cultural Revolution without doubt will be one of the subjects in Chinese history that will continue to draw intensive studies for many years to come. Thus, the bibliography under review will have a sustained value as a research and reference tool. In fact, there will likely be a demand for an updated and enlarged edition in the future. In that event, I hope the authors of the current title will continue to collect new published and unpublished resources on the subject. I have two other suggestions for improvement of a future edition.

First, it would be useful if the bibliography had a list of the periodicals and newspapers cited by the book with brief, essential bibliographic information. Such a list (or lists, one for periodicals and another for newspapers) could be very helpful to users in locating a specific journal or newspaper. This is particularly true in the case of a Chinese source, since it may be published in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan or even a Western country. Second, as the authors collect newly available sources, I suggest, in addition to continuing a general search for additional citations that were published in the period covered by the current edition (1966-1996), that they make a particular effort to collect Japanese citations that were published in late 1980s and after.

To conclude, the bibliography under review is a great asset to the academic community who studies the Chinese Cultural Revolution. It will facilitate and stimulate further studies and future research on the subject. I recommend this bibliography be added to the reference collections of all research libraries, especially those having a Chinese studies clientele.

Yuan Zhou, University of Chicago


During the decade from 1966 to 1976, the anarchic and violent Great Cultural Revolution devastated the People’s Republic of China. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed, numerous officials and intellectuals fell victim to this tragedy. The Red Guards and other groups lawlessly attacked, persecuted, humiliated, and destroyed their targeted people, and nearly led to a collapse of the Chinese economy and social order.
Many scholars around the world have published their studies on this catastrophic period of contemporary China. Two bibliographies were published: James C. F. Wang's *The Cultural Revolution in China: An Annotated Bibliography* (1976), and Robert Geohlert's *The Cultural Revolution: A Selected Bibliography* (1988). However, these two bibliographies contain only publications in Western languages. In 1998, Yongyi Song of Dickinson College and Dajin Sun of the University of Pittsburgh compiled the bibliography under review, which is to date the most comprehensive bibliography on the subject. This monumental work lists monographs and journal and newspaper articles published in Chinese, Japanese, and Western languages from 1966 to 1996, plus a few publications issued in 1997. The inclusion of Chinese and Japanese publications makes this bibliography more comprehensive and complete than the earlier two bibliographies and thus fills a long-awaited need of scholars and researchers.

Song and Sun, benefiting from the earlier two bibliographies, included all titles from those two bibliographies in their bibliography. They also incorporated all of Wang’s nine chapters in the table of contents, and added five chapters of their own. Song and Sun arranged the contents of their massive bibliography into fourteen categories: General Works, Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution; CCP Leaders and the Cultural Revolution; the Red Guards and the Urban Youth Rustication; Rebels and Mass Movements; Heterodox Thoughts; the Army’s Participation; Economic Conditions and Social Life; Education and Intellectuals; Science and Arts; Foreign Policy and Relations; the Cultural Revolution in the Provinces; Literary Works on the Cultural Revolution; Aftermath. Each chapter begins with a brief introduction to the scope and nature of the materials included.

These chapters cover well the multiple aspects of the Cultural Revolution. Many researchers, especially the students who are not familiar with the Cultural Revolution, are interested in the origins of this turbulent event. The compilers, in addition to including studies of the origins in the first chapter, General Works, also include a separate chapter on the origins of the Cultural Revolution, which will direct researchers’ attentions to those materials easily and quickly.

The bibliography primarily includes secondary sources; a chapter listing bibliographies and compilations of primary sources on the Cultural Revolution would add to its value. Though vast primary documents and archives under the Chinese government control may not be accessible, many original sources produced during the Cultural Revolution have been collected and organized or even reprinted, such as the *Red Guard Publications* and *Red Guard Publications Supplement* (1 and 2) by the Center for Chinese Research Materials. A number of other compilations of primary sources have been published in Chinese and English.

Appended at the end of this book are very useful Author and Title Indexes. Chinese authors of Japanese works are entered in both Chinese and Japanese romanizations of their names. Regarding the format, the entries in each chapter are alphabetically listed by author. Chinese sources are listed first, then followed by Japanese and Western-language works. In general, pinyin romanization is used for Chinese words, and modified Hepburn system for Japanese.

In order to compile this bibliography, Song and Sun conducted research at major East Asian collections in this country and several large libraries in China. They received information, counsel, criticism, and support from scholars, librarians, administrators in this country and abroad. According to the compilers, they benefited from the bibliographies by James Wang,
Robert Goehlert, Louise Edwards, and other bibliographic sources, such as *Fuyin baokan ziliao suoyin* 复印报刊资料索引 and *Zasshi kiji sakui* 杂志记事索引. It is remarkable that these two young compilers, while working full time in academic libraries, completed their research and preparation for this work of enduring value in only two years. The bibliography would have been strengthened by more sources from the following: *Bibliography of Asian Studies, Quanguo zhuyao baokan ziliao suoyin* 全国主要报刊资料索引, *Zhongwen qikan lunwen fenlei suoyin* 中文期刊论文分类索引, *Zhongwen baozhi lunwen fenlei suoyin* 中文报纸论文分类索引, *Zhonghua minguo qikan lunwen suoyin* 中华民国期刊论文索引, *Zhongwen qikan renwen ji shehuikexue lunwen fenlei suoyin* 中文期刊人文暨社会科学论文分类索引, and *Tōyōgaku bunken ruimoku* 東洋学文献類目.

Japanese entries in this bibliography were proofread carefully by a meticulous Japanese librarian, yet there are a number of incorrect romanizations and typographical errors. Please note the following incorrect romanizations and their corrections:

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These few comments should not detract from Song and Sun’s invaluable contribution. This comprehensive bibliography is a much needed and most welcome reference tool that will remain very useful for the study of the Chinese Cultural Revolution for many years to come.

Wen-kai Kung (Yale University)