

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the Thirty-fifth Annual Conference Oxford, 9-11 September 2015

The thirty-fifth EASL conference was hosted by University of Oxford, Bodleian K B Chen China Centre Library and the Weston Library, Oxford, England, from 9 to 11 September 2015. The meetings were chaired by Maja Fuchs.

During the conference, five library visits, one book presentation and a reception were organised by the local hosts. The reception was held at the Divinity School on Wednesday evening. On Wednesday afternoon, there were tours of the Codrington Library, All Souls College, Queen's College Library the Old Bodleian Library and Duke Humfrey's Library.

On Thursday, a Chinese Special Collections in Europe day was organised and opened to the public at the Weston Library Lecture Theatre. The ten presentations by EASL members were received with great interest. They were followed by a book viewing and a tour of Weston Library.

The farewell dinner took place on Friday evening at the Exeter College Dining Hall.

Present

• Members

Charles **Aylmer** (Cambridge University Library)

France **Besson-Girard** (Université de Genève - Faculté des Lettres - Bibliothèque de Chinois)

Inga-Lill **Blomkvist** (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Copenhagen)

Sara **Chiesura** (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London)

Alice **De Jong** (East Asian Library, Leiden University)

Carina **Enestarre** (Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Lund)

Katarína **Feriančíková** (Institute of East Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague)

Jarmila **Fiurášková** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)

Maja **Fuchs** (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna)

Emma **Goodliffe** (The British Library, London)

Roger **Greatrex** (Lund University)

Cordula **Gumbrecht** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Marc **Gilbert** (Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon)

David **Helliwell** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)

Kerstin **Herelius** (Uppsala University Library)

Helena **Heroldová** (Naprstek Museum, Prague)

Olivier **Höhn** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)

Øystein Johan **Kleiven** (University of Oslo Library)

Sarah **Koch** (German National Library of Science & Technology, University Library Hannover)

Koos **Kuiper** (University of Leiden)

Anne **Labitzky** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)

Dat-wei **Lau** (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient, Paris)

Soline **Lau-Suchet** (BULAC, Paris)
Hanno **Lecher** (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)
Jiani **Liu** (East Asian Studies Library, University of Sheffield)
Zhenxing **Liu** (University of Nottingham)
Fung On **Lui** (University Library Frankfurt am Main)
John **Moffett** (Needham Research Institute - East Asian History of Science Library)
Lucia **Obi** (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Shu-Ching **Naughton** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)
Imke **Mees** (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne)
Bent Lerbaek **Pedersen** (Det Kongelige Bibliotek / The Royal Library, Copenhagen)
Caroline **Schade** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)
Helena **Sedlackova** (Director of Palacký University Library, Olomouc)
Joshua **Seufert** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)
Delphine **Spicq** (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Paris)
Renate **Stephan** (Bavarian State Library, Orient- und Ostasienabteilung, Munich)
Johann Michael **Streffer** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Mamtimyn **Sunuodula** (Durham University Library)
Thomas **Tabery** (Bavarian State Library, Munich)
Katharina **Thölen** (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zürich)
Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library)
Wai-hing **Tse** (School of Oriental and African Studies Library (SOAS), University of London)
Cordula **Treimer** (Museum für Asiatische Kunst / Kunstbibliothek SPK Berlin)
Bénédicte **Vaerman** (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Marc **Winter** (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zürich)

• **Vendors**

Jeff **Strandberg** (Eastview)
Jason **Dai** (WanFang Data)
Johnny **Fu** (Vista Goosuu)
Albert **Hoffstädt** (Brill)
Guo Liyan (CNKI)
Lu Ming (CNPIEC)
Ru Jing (CIBTC/Apabi/Cypress Book)
Wang Xiaosen (China Data Center)
William **Wong** (Wisers)
Seth **Curley** (Vista Goosuu)
Tom **Derrick** (Adam Matthews)
Denise **Che** (Wisers)
Cai Mengdi (Paths Scholar)
Shanghai Library (represented by video presentation only)

Guests

Sun Xianbin (Institute of the History of Social Sciences, CAS, Beijing)

• **Apologies**

Matthias **Kaun** (State Library of Berlin)
Xiaowei **Li** (University of Westminster)
Miriam **Seeger** (State Library of Berlin)
Ruili **Zhang** (University of Manchester Library)

ACTA

1. Chairman's address and the welcome speech by the host institution

Maja Fuchs opened the conference by thanking the local host for organising the conference, followed by a welcome speech by **Dirk Meyer, Associate Professor of Chinese**.

Maja Fuchs then extended her warm welcome to all the participants and especially to the new members who joined the conference for the first time.

2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference and member reports

The minutes of the 34th EASL conference were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Anne Labitzky-Wagner presented the Treasurer's report. There was an increase of €2.52 in the form of interest for 2014. The total balance is €1,891.21.

4. Report on conferences

Presentation of libraries at the annual meeting of sinologists at Olomouc (7th and 8th November 2014): Shenxiao Tong, Cordula Gumbrecht, Maja Fuchs, Inga-Lill Blomqvist attended and presented e-resources available in their institutions and countries resp.

5. News from EASL members' libraries

- **John Moffett** (Needham Research Institute - East Asian History of Science Library):
Interest in the latest Library management system (LMS).
- **France Besson-Girard** (Université de Genève - Faculté des Lettres - Bibliothèque de Chinois):
Re-cataloguing work has been done for half of the Chinese collection. Chinese, Japanese and Korean collections moved last year to the Le Philosophe building, waiting for another moving together with the other collections of literature department in 2020, Budget has remained unchanged for 20 years. The library uses the discovery tool Explore (Primo central data + others) and considers possible change of OPAC in 2017.
- **Inga-Lill Blomqvist** (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Denmark)
The four years' funding will end in 2017 but hopefully the financial support will be reorganized. After a positive evaluation last year, an answer is expected within six months.
- **Alice De Jong** (East Asian Library, Leiden University)
The Library opened a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies and received the visit from Mrs Tseng, director of National Central Library of Taiwan. Leiden will build an 'Asian Library' and therefore (our) collections will move to the main building. The Asian Library includes a new reading room, opening in 2017. Retro cataloguing of 30.000 CJK titles, done in cooperation with CIBTC, is nearing completion. Ten staff are cataloguing journals (2000 Chinese titles) and congshu. The Asian Library will incorporate the KITLV's Indonesian collections, acquired in 2014. Out of our 10 km of CJK books, 2 kms will be shelves in open stacks.
- **Jarmila Fiurášková** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)
The Library has moved to a new building. Out of the two rooms one is used for storage, one is an

open shelves library. Work is still in progress and due to a humidity problem, the opening is postponed. Cataloguing in the library system is under progress, in cooperation with the department of Asian studies. A new director of studies has been accredited and a Korean program will start.

• **Maja Fuchs** (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna)

Work on re-cataloguing is still in progress. Training for RDA is scheduled for this fall, program starting next year.

• **Marc Gilbert** (Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon)

In September 2014 Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China, came to Lyon along with 13 ministers of the Chinese government. They were guided through the exhibition organized last year for the Chinese president. In September 2015, a delegation led by Zhao Hongzhu, Deputy Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, was also shown documents from the Sino-French Institute collection. In April 2015, Mrs. Tseng, director of the National Central Library of Taiwan, visited the Library. A memorandum of cooperation was signed. Records from our library (Cultural Revolution and Republican era) will be added to the Database of the Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books.

• **Emma Goodliffe** (The British Library)

A new exhibition called “Beyond Paper: 3000 Years of Chinese Writing” is taking place in the Treasure gallery until January 2016. Entrance is free, online access available. QR codes were experimented with for the first time, linked to a post blog with lots of material to explore. Bones were digitized for the occasion: 54 are accessible online at this time, the rest will follow.

The Library received visits from its Chinese partners. Agreements were found, for a collaboration on retroconversion of old cards catalogue (Pinyin, Wade-Giles) e.g.

Sara Chiesura will present this retroconversion work in Taiwan. David Helliwell (Bodleian Library) will give a lecture about the Yongle dadian on the 23rd of November 2015.

• **Cordula Gumbrecht** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

The East Asia Department and CrossAsia will be characterized by great changes. Since 2013 the DFG (German Research Foundation) is establishing Specialised Information Services (FID) for Researchers at academic libraries. Our SSG will end this year. We applied for a so-called FID in May, at the end of this year, early next year we will know whether our application was successful. As FID we have to change our collection policy in a needs-oriented way with focus on the researchers, we have to respect the e-(only) policy of the DFG, the financial support provided by the DFG is going to be reduced from 75% to 66% of our budget. Our collections (except rare books) have been moved to an external stack on the outskirts of Berlin (Friedrichshagen).

• **Kerstin Herelius** (Uppsala University Library)

Uppsala University has studies up to Master level in Chinese, but are applying for research studies, PhD level. We have two professors in Chinese, one specialized in Classical Chinese and one in minority languages. A Centre for Chinese studies has been organized within the university, but has not yet a location of its own. Concerning e-resources we are using the Asia portal hosted by NIAS as we are a member institution.

• **Olivier Höhn** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)

Since the rent has increased, the Asia Library might be integrated into the main library in the future. The Library is using patron driven acquisition system. A new professor of Chinese language and culture will soon be appointed at the department.

• **Øystein Johan Kleiven** (University of Oslo Library)

Øystein Johan will be granted a permanent contract from January 2016.

• **Dat-wei Lau** (Bibliothèque de l'École française d'Extrême Orient, Paris)

Organizing a conference in November in collaboration with BULAC.

• **Soline Lau-Suchet** (BULAC, Paris)

Budget has increased for e-resources (public tender before acquisition). Received a donation of one set of 2000 reprints of Si ku quan shu and Si ku quan shu hui yao. Retrocataloguing will be finished next year. Work has been conducted with scholars to identify Naxi manuscripts, has been partly translated. An exhibition and a conference will be organized in November 2015. The Library is looking for someone qualified in Yi or Manchu.

• **Hanno Lecher** (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)

The Library is also joining the RDA program. Re-cataloguing should be finished by early 2016, 15000 books left. New library building is still under construction. Three departments will move there in 2018. The Institute has to contribute financially which affects the acquisition budget.

• **Jiani Liu** (University of Leeds, East Asian Studies / East Asian Studies Library, University of Sheffield)

Leeds: Acquisitions for Chinese and Japanese are purely patron-driven due to budget cuts. Currently cataloging or re-cataloging old books, approx. 5000 remained to be done.

Sheffield: the increase of physical collections is leading to a lack of space, therefore attention will be given to digital collections. The Library system moved to Alma two years ago and no major disruptions on Chinese records. RDA will be implemented soon.

• **Joshua Seufert** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)

In recent years the budget for the Chinese collections is much lower than before 2012. Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies was opened in April 2015 and the Library will join the Database of the Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books that is hosted by the National Central Library.

• **Delphine Spicq** (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Paris)

Asian collections (255 000 books) will move to a building near Bois de Vincennes for two years but the books will remain available to the readers. Retrocataloguing from the old catalogue is completed and should be integrated in SUDOC in 2016. Due to budget cuts, western books are no longer purchased. 8 staff currently working at the Library.

• **Renate Stephan** (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Orient- und Ostasienabteilung)

15 years ago the Library started to buy archival material, which is being digitised and will gradually be catalogued.

• **Mamtimyn Sunuodula** (Durham University Library)

A Si ku quan shu full collection was donated and needs to be catalogued. Publication and academic conference were made around this donation.

• **Thomas Tabery** (Bavarian State Library, Munich)

A Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies was opened last November. Budget is under pressure The re-cataloguing and digitisation of Chinese rare books is continued. A printed catalog has been published: Renate Stephan, Chinesische Drucke und Handschriften in der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek München, Stuttgart 2014.

• **Shenxiao Tong** (Edinburgh University Library)

The part time cataloguer was made permanent in January 2015. There is a large backlog of about

10,000 Chinese books to be catalogued online respectively. The new Library system Alma / Primo was launched this summer. New e-resources were acquired: two from Wanfang Data and one from Shanghai Library, plus Foreign Office Files for China from Adam Matthew Digital.

• **Wai-hing Tse** (School of Oriental and African Studies Library (SOAS), University of London)
Since April, the Library is using a new library system, developed by Chicago University. The search engine (primo central) allows both book search and article search. A part time cataloger started two years ago and card catalogue prior to 1990 is now available on the website. The China Institute launched this term a two years' course. A professor is working on gender in China.

• **Bénédicte Vaerman** (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
A reorganization is taking place and a possible move of the East-Asian library is currently being studied.

• **Marc Winter** (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zürich)
The Western language section of the library moved into a new building in July, merging with Indian and Islamic libraries. RFID system is used in the new library. The office remains the same but the administration is different.

6. Presentations

Members

- Shenxiao Tong (Edinburgh University Library): "Open Access Resources"
- Charles Aylmer (Cambridge University Library): "Latest developments in Cambridge"
- Sun Xianbin (Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Beijing): "Source of the History of Sciences in China"

Vendors

- Shanghai Library: "The North-China Daily News & Herald Newspapers and Hong Lists (1850~1951)" [video presentation]
- Seth Curley (Vista Goosuu): "Chinese Culture Digital Distribution"
- Jeff Strandberg (East View): "New Chinese Studies Resources from East View"
- Lu Ming (CNPIEC): "CNPIEC's services"
- Guo Liyan (CNKI): "Make China Knowledge Easier to Understand"
- Wang Xiaosen (China Data Center, Univ. Michigan): "New Development of China Data Projects"
- Ru Jing (CIBTC / Apabi / Cypress Book): "Chinese Databases & VAS through CIBTC and Apabi Nationwide Digital Reading"
- Tom Derrick (Adam Matthews): "Unique Digital Primary Source Collections for Exploring Chinese History"
- Denise Che (Wisers): "The Greater China Information Gateway"
- Jason Dai (Wanfang Data): "Enriched Knowledge Service Platform"
- Cai Mengdi (Paths Scholar): "Books about China from China"
- Albert Hoffstädt (Brill): "Brill Online Resources on East Asia"

7. Presentations of Chinese special collections in Europe

On Thursday, a Chinese Special Collections in Europe day was organized at the Weston Library Lecture Theatre. A welcome speech was given by **Richard Ovenden, 25th Bodley's librarian**.

- Thomas Tabery, The Chinese collection of the Bavarian State Library: visibility and accessibility

- Renate Stephan, Cataloguing and describing the Chinese rare books in the Bavarian State Library, Munich
- Lucia Obi, Yao manuscripts in Munich
- Koos Kuiper, The archives of the Chinese Council in Batavia (1776-1968).
- Roger Greatrex, Materials for the study of Chinese law in Lund
- Delphine Spicq, Recounting the imperial embassy to Tibet: a scroll in Mongolian script written in 1809
- Bent Lerbæk Pedersen, "Square word" Chinese special collection in Copenhagen
- Cordula Gumbrecht, Digitisation in Berlin and Kraków
- Marc Gilbert, Cultural Revolution documents in the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon
- David Helliwell, The value of rubbish

8. Discussions on EASL affairs

8.1 EASL Web site

The page dedicated to the history of EASL on the website will be updated by Katharina Thölen.

8.2 Opening EASL conference to a wider audience

Considering this year's special collections day success, the meeting agreed to open member's presentations to scholars and PhD students, according to the venue or the topic of the meeting.

9. Elections

The meeting accepted that Maja Fuchs, Anne Labitzky and Marc Gilbert would continue as Chairwoman, Treasurer and Secretary.

10. Next conference

Thanks to Katharina Thölen and Marc Winter's invitation, the thirty-sixth annual EASL conference will be held Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th September 2016 at the Chinese Library, Asian-Oriental Institute, Zürich, Switzerland.

Thanks to Jarmila Fiurášková and Helena Sedláčková's invitation, the thirty-seventh annual EASL conference 2017 will be held in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

The thirty-fifth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to David Helliwell and Joshua Seufert for their excellent arrangements.

Marc Gilbert
EASL Secretary
October, the 19th 2015, Lyon