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## A Note from the Editor

A word of explanation and apology is due to readers and contributors for the inordinate delay in the appearance of this number of BEASL. Some of the material included here was submitted over two years ago for inclusion in the intended issue Number 5, which was to have been jointly edited by myself and Lars Fredriksson. But for reasons known to all, as they say in China, things did not turn out that way, and we had instead a special issue on automation by John Streffer, more properly a *haowai* or 'extra', but calling itself Number 5. So now you have Number 6.

In order to avoid even more delay, I have not only digitised and edited the texts but also prepared camera-ready copy and seen the whole issue through the press. I trust that the result meets with approval.

I am grateful to all the contributors and hope that more EASL members will send material, especially those who have promised to do so at successive conferences.

CA

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EXHIBITION OF CHINESE BOOKS AT LEIDEN

The XXXIII EACS and Xth EASL Conferences, which took place at the Sinologisch Instituut in Leiden in August and September 1990, provided auspicious circumstances for an exhibition of Chinese books organised at the invitation of the Institute by the National Central Library (NCL), Taipei. The exhibition, which ran from 27 August to 8 September in the Institute's Library, comprised 259 recent publications from Taiwan in over 1,000 volumes, including *Ming Qing dang'an*, *Guan zhong dang Qianlong chao zouzhe* and *Qingdai qiyue (Giangxi chao)*. The exhibition was arranged under the personal supervision of the Director of the NCL, Dr Yang Ch'ung-sen, assisted by Messrs. Wang Yen-ch'in (Head of Exchange Division), Lin Ch'eng-han (Head of Visits Section) and Cheng Heng-hsiung (Head of Liaison Unit, Center for Chinese Studies). The exhibition was much appreciated by visiting sinologists and scholars from West and Eastern Europe (including the USSR) attending the Conferences. At the conclusion of the exhibition, the exhibits were presented to the Library of the Sinologisch Instituut. At a ceremony held on 28 August, the books were formally handed over to the Director of the Institute, Prof. Dr. Erik Zürcher, by Dr Yang.

Joyce Wu

### THE ASIA CATALOGUING PROGRAM

The ASIA cataloguing program for libraries is designed for the input, search and exchange of bibliographic data both in romanized and non-romanized characters (Chinese, Japanese and others), provided that the latter are generated by a distinct program which ASIA takes into account.

Operations are made easier by an extensive use of batches and pop-up menus, predefined commands and context-sensitive help screens. Direct input into the fields is achieved through the filling, if necessary,

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of 9 successive screens which contain a total of 65 elements of description. Among them, 27 fields are indexed and a few of these have multiple access if needed. 6 input screens of the total 9 may be activated for non-romanized input.

Every information element within a fiche is automatically inserted in its place within a format, with its address registered on top. Both tags and addresses comply with the norms and recommendations of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) as they appear in the *UNIMARC Manual* (British Library Bibliographic Services, London, 1987). Adopting the UNIMARC format not only corresponds to a normalisation principle, but also guarantees exchange between libraries or from existing data, whether on- or off-line.

Search in ASIA is of Boolean type and allows an appreciable choice. Keys are: titles, authors, collections/series, editors, dates of edition, manufacturers, date of manufacture, accession number and date of input, which may be combined. Options can also be chosen from the menus in printing ISBD cards (title, author, keyword headings) or according to format display or ordinary listing. A few facilities (index reshaping, browsing of the entire catalogue, importation of other MARC formats) are also available from the menus.

The concept of this program is based on easy handling. The installation of up to 8 bases, access keyword and languages used in the language description fields takes a few minutes, and configuration can be modified at any time. The User's Guide provided with the program has 20 pages.

ASIA has been written in C and assembler, which means a very high speed in the execution of commands in dealing with up to one million records. It runs in a DOS environment (from 2.1) on a PC compatible, XT or preferably AT. It is in normal use since 1990 in the Instituts d'Extrême-Orient du Collège de France (Paris) and associate centres, and is experimented in several other centres.

A graphic version of ASIA which includes fonts other than CIK (Thai, Khmer, Sanskrit, Vietnamese, etc.) is presently being tested. The maintenance and evolution of this program is undertaken by the Instituts d'Extrême-Orient du Collège de France, which own the

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copyright. It is available free of charge and will be sent on request to any university or research centre.

Hubert Delahaye

#### AUTOMATION PLANS IN THE EAST ASIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE BAYERISCHE STAATSBIBLIOTHEK IN MUNICH

In 1989 the Librarian of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (BSB) ordered our department to find a local library network for Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) books. The system should be able to import CJK cataloguing data from North American union catalogues, preferably online from the Research Libraries Group Information Network (RLIN), which has been connected online with the BSB since September 1990. As it seemed desirable to have compatible systems in Berlin and Munich, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) (German Research Foundation) granted funds to Dr Streffer of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SBK) and myself to visit Taipei to test a system now called the TOTALS (Technology Opulent Transtech Automated Library System).

For this purpose Munich passed some CJK records from its RLIN Multiscript Workstation onto a floppy disc to be downloaded to TOTALS in Taipei. The test proved that both romanised and CJK parts could be reproduced by the system, though some machine-readable data remained which the system in Taipei could not handle, as the RLIN format had not yet been implemented. This implementation will take the TOTALS staff some months, and the translation of the Chinese prompts on the screen into English some weeks.

Dr Streffer, who tested the system five months later, informs me that he also basically acknowledges the capabilities of TOTALS for Far Eastern collections in Europe, but he would require several modifications concerning retrieval, ability to correct records, etc. These modifications would require a good deal of time to be implemented. The most important of them seemed to him to be a conversion between the 3-byte East Asian Character Code (EACC) of TOTALS, used in North American libraries, and the 2-byte code used in Japan, mainland

China and Europe. We have however heard from Transtech that TOTALS virtually has a 2-byte code with a conversion program to 3-byte EACC.

In the mean time, the Bavarian Parliament has allowed Munich to acquire such an automated system and we hope to have TOTALS in Munich as soon as possible, with the above-mentioned modifications. But to be on the safe side, Munich will still try to find out whether it will need prohibitively much more time, as it seems, to enhance recent European Chinese automation developments as e.g. ALLEGRO-C with the abilities of CJK input-output, networking and RLIN data import than it would need to adapt TOTALS to BSB's requirements.

With several Sinostations connected to a Central Processing Unit (CPU), an ample CJK character font (about 20,000), an internal code which is compatible to North American and basically also to Japanese and Chinese codes, so that bibliographic data can be imported, TOTALS seems to be the system which might fulfil the requirements of middle and large size collections in Europe and elsewhere. Smaller collections, however, which cannot afford an expensive local network, could, in my opinion, consider the possibility of using a single Sinostation called Bibliostation as a stand-alone unit.

Alfons Dufey

#### LIBRARIANS

JOHN MOFFETT has been appointed Librarian of the East Asian History of Science Library, Needham Research Institute, Cambridge. He studied Chinese at Edinburgh University, where he also worked on a doctorate on *Predictions in the Zuozhuan*. He has also studied at Peking University and worked as a translator and editor at the Foreign Languages Press in Peking. The holdings of the East Asian History of Science Library number some 20-30 thousand volumes. A large part of the collection is in Chinese and Japanese, with some Korean material as well as European language works on the history of East Asian Science. There is also a unique collection of off-prints, photographs and unpublished material relating to the work of Joseph Needham and his collaborators, as well as artefacts, scrolls, models and other items

amassed by Joseph Needham over the years. The Library is at a stage of transition. Originally it was the private collection of Joseph Needham himself but since the establishment of the Institute, responsibility for the management of the collection has been given over to a Librarian. It is planned to computerise the card catalogue and to participate effectively in the Cambridge University Union Catalogue, contributing to the Cambridge University Union List of Serials will be the first step in this process. In the past the Library relied heavily on donations by friends and collaborators of Joseph Needham. Books tended to be bought only on the subject areas on which Joseph Needham was currently working and once he moved on to a new area, coverage of other areas tended not to be maintained. Hence, a further concern is to attempt to fill some of the lacunae which have been allowed to develop. A Chiang Ching-kuo Institutional Enhancement Grant for the next three years has been given specifically for this purpose.

### CHINESE COLLECTIONS IN EUROPE (5)

#### THE MONUMENTA SERICA LIBRARY, ST. AUGUSTIN, GERMANY

By Barbara Hoster

The history of the Monumenta Serica Library is closely linked with the *Monumenta Serica Journal of Oriental Studies*, so it is appropriate to begin with a short account of the history of the latter. *Monumenta Serica* was founded as a semi-annual sinological review in 1935 at the Catholic Fujen University in Peking. The intention of its founder, the German sinologist Franz Xavier Biallas SVD, was to provide a forum for sinological studies by Western scholars resident in East Asia and for close cooperation between Western and Chinese scholars in this field. The Latin title of the journal alludes to an old name for the Chinese, 'Seres' ('the silk-producing people'), and the Chinese title *Huayi xuezhì* ('Studies on China and Contiguous Peoples') hints at the intention of the editors 'to lay before the public materials for the study of the peoples, languages and cultures of China and the neighbouring countries, not neglecting the domains of ethnology and prehistory' (Editorial Note in Vol.1 Fasc.1).

The first fascicle of the journal was published in Peking by Henri Verch in 1936 and was favourably received by the learned community. Unfortunately, Fr. Biallas died suddenly of typhus while fascicle 2 was in the press in May 1936. After his death Fr. Hermann Köster (1904-78) became acting editor, to be succeeded by Fr. Rudolf Rahmann, an ethnologist, as chief editor in 1936. Most of the editorial work was done by Fr. Eugen Fefel and Achilles Fang, assisted by four Western and four Chinese 'associate editors'. The first period in the history of the journal ended in 1948 (Vol. XIII), when editorial work had to be interrupted on the eve of the communist seizure of power. Work resumed in 1954 at the 'SVD Research Institute' in Tokyo where Vols. XIV to XVI were published. Fr. Heinrich Busch SVD was appointed editor-in-chief, and under his auspices twenty subsequent volumes appeared until 1983. In 1957 the journal was transferred to the campus of the SVD-managed Nanzan University in Nagoya, where it remained until 1962. The Institute then moved to the University of California at Los Angeles, again without becoming a part of the University. Finally in 1972 the Monumenta Serica Institute moved to its present site at St. Augustin near Bonn, and was housed in the vicinity of two other SVD institutes, the Anthropos Institute and the Institute for Missiology. Thirty-eight volumes of *Monumenta Serica* and twenty-two volumes of the *Monumenta Serica Monograph Series* have been published so far. An index to the journal (Vols. 1-35) will be published in 1991.

The Monumenta Serica Library is an editorial library. It began from a modest nucleus of books which had belonged to Fr. Biallas and gradually expanded into a fair-sized collection of mostly Western-language works. The Fujen University Library was used for Chinese reference material, but the Monumenta Serica Library did acquire some Chinese works, including a fine copy of the Mukden edition of the *Qing shi lu* (*Veritable Records of the Qing Dynasty*) and a set of the *Sibu congkan*. The Library was permitted to be taken out of China in 1948 as the Chinese authorities respected its private character. Some losses occurred during the hazardous journey, but the bulk of the Library finally arrived in Japan. During the Institute's sojourn in Japan, a systematic acquisition of Chinese books was undertaken in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. At the same time sinological works in Japanese and Western languages continued to be purchased, periodicals and Western-style Chinese books such as the large *Congshu jicheng*

were bound and Chinese fascicles were fitted with cases. Most important of all, the cataloguing of books according to the Harvard-Yenching classification scheme was begun, this being applied not only to the Chinese and Japanese but also to the Western books. Despite a number of drawbacks caused by this uniform application (e.g. the cumulation of numerous Western books under the same number), the system has the advantage that Chinese and Western books on the same subject, although shelved separately, appear under the same class number. Separate author, title and subject catalogues for Western, Chinese and Japanese books are provided. An index to the Harvard-Yenching classification scheme is in preparation.

At present, the Library comprises nearly 67,000 volumes, including 11,000 in Western languages, 45,000 in Chinese (including both stitched fascicles and Western-type books), 4,000 in Japanese and 7,000 volumes of periodicals (1989 figures). 260 current periodical titles are held, predominantly Western, but also Chinese and Japanese.

The collection is primarily devoted to China. All aspects and periods of China and its civilisation are represented. The humanities are strongly represented, especially history, philosophy, religion, language, literature and art. The Library also holds a good number of secondary sources on other countries in East and Central Asia. There is a small separate collection of SVD publications printed in China, mostly of a catechetical nature, and a nucleus of microfilms of important Chinese Christian writings in the collections of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the Vatican Library.

Recently, stronger emphasis has been laid than before on the acquisition of materials on contemporary China, as the books and journals of the China-Zentrum, an information and coordination office founded in 1988 by several German Catholic organisations and congregations, are integrated with the Monumenta Serica Library. The China-Zentrum produces a bimonthly bulletin *China Heute*, dealing with the situation of religions, and especially Christianity in China.

As stated above, the Monumenta Serica Library is mainly an editorial reference library, but visitors are welcome. Visitors can work in the reading room, and photocopying facilities are available. The Library is open from Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm. St. Augustin is situated

about 10 km northwest of Bonn and can be easily reached by public transport from Bonn main railway station.

Address:

Institut Monumenta Serica  
Arnold-Janssen-Strabe 20  
D-5205 St. Augustin 1  
Federal Republic of Germany

Tel.: 02241/237431  
Fax.: 02241/29142

P.S. The Monumenta Serica Institute is holding an international symposium in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Jesuit missionary Johann Adam Schall von Bell (Tang Ruowang) in May 1992. The Institute would be very grateful for any information from EASL members on works by or about Schall von Bell in their collections.

## CHINESE COLLECTIONS IN EUROPE (6)

### THE LU XUN LIBRARY, PRAGUE

By Jana Srajerová

The Lu Xun Library is a library of Chinese books in the Oriental Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague. The Library was founded in 1952, and benefited greatly from the friendly political relations between Czechoslovakia and China at that time, as well as from personal contacts with Chinese colleagues of Prof. Jaroslav Průšek, the true founder of the Library. During the 1930s Prof. Průšek spent several years in China where he became engaged in contemporary Chinese literature, making personal contacts with many important personalities in Chinese cultural life, such as Lu Xun, Mao Dun and Guo Moruo. He later became one of the first sinologists to be interested in the systematic study of twentieth century Chinese literature.

The idea of establishing a Chinese library in Prague was first mooted as early as the spring of 1949, during the visit of the first cultural delegation from China, headed by Guo Moruo. The 42-man delegation included famous writers, poets, artists and scholars, among them Mao Dun (later Minister of Culture of the PRC), Guo Moruo (later Vice Premier) and Ma Xulun (later Minister of Education). They recognised the importance of a well-equipped library for the development of Chinese studies in Czechoslovakia, and political relationships between the two countries were favourable to the implementation of this plan — Czechoslovakia was one of the first countries to recognise the PRC in 1949, and both countries instituted Soviet-type socialist regimes.

In 1950, while Prof. Průšek was visiting China at the head of a Czechoslovak cultural delegation, a draft agreement on a future Chinese library in Prague, prepared by the Czechoslovak side, was discussed with the Chinese Minister of Culture and representatives of various Chinese universities and libraries. Subsequently about 27,000 volumes were selected by Prof. Průšek and other sinologists; they were partly paid for with Czechoslovak funds and partly donated by the Chinese government. With the 2,000 Chinese books assembled by the Oriental Institute before World War II, they formed the core of the new library, which was named in honour of Lu Xun, the founder of modern Chinese literature, and a personal acquaintance of Prof. Průšek.

Prof. Průšek's main area of concentration in book selection was literature, both high and popular, traditional and modern. The new library therefore contained mainly works on Chinese written and oral literature, literary criticism, histories of Chinese literature written in the 1920s and 30s, drama, art, ancient history, etc. The library grew significantly in the 1950s, and by the early 1960s held about 55,000 volumes and over 300 serial titles, mainly contemporary but also from the pre-liberation period.<sup>1</sup> The library had close links with the Peking National Library, the Academia Sinica Library and other important institutions. At that time the Prague library was the sixth largest in Europe, after Moscow, Leningrad, London, Paris and Marburg, and its holdings of contemporary Chinese literature were among the finest in Europe.

During the 1960s, due to the strained political relations between China and the USSR (and Czechoslovakia), contacts between the Lu Xun

Library and its Chinese counterparts practically ceased. The only valuable accession in the 1960s was a collection of Red Guard publications made by a sinologist working at the Czech embassy in Peking and brought back to Prague in 1967.<sup>2</sup> However, exchanges with institutions in other countries continued to develop during this period, and the library grew by 5,000 volumes in the years 1967-75.

The 1970s saw a rapid decline in the activity of the library. The so-called 'normalisation' in the wake of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet forces in 1968 created havoc in all the humanities including sinology. True Chinese studies were for the most part suspended, contacts with China were not restored to their original scale and contacts with western countries were broken off. Access to the library was denied to politically 'undesirable' Czech and Slovak sinologists, and was possible only with considerable difficulty for researchers from western countries. Accessions amounted to only some 150 volumes a year, a situation that continues at the time of writing. Present holdings are approximately 66,000 volumes. Our task for the future is to re-establish effective contacts with Chinese partners and to begin regular contacts with other Chinese libraries in Europe.

The library contains an excellent range of *congshu*, mainly reprints published in the first half of the 20th century, but including some dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The oldest is *Han Wei congshu* (1791); other basic *congshu* in the library are *Sibu beiyao*, *Ershtsi shi*, *Siku quanshu zhenben* and *Zhibuzhu zhai congshu*. *Congshu* concerning Chinese drama include *Sangu congkan*, *Shengming zaju ershi zhong*, *Guben xiqu congkan (chujü, erji, sanji, siji, jiwü)*, *Yuan qu bai zhong qu* and *Qing ren zaju erji*. Among religious *congshu* are *Dao zang* (11,220 vols, Taipei, 1963), *Pingie jingshe jiaokan da zang jing* (1,916 titles in 414 vols, Shanghai, 1909-13), *bKa' gyur* and *bsTan gyur* (316 vols, sDe-dge, 1959 [from 18th century blocks]).

The library holds 224 titles of local gazetteers (*difangzhi*), more than half of which do not appear in Y. Hervouet, *Catalogue des monographies locales chinoises dans les bibliothèques d'Europe* (Paris, 1957).<sup>3</sup>

A unique feature of the Lu Xun Library is its collection of modern Chinese literature, which provides an almost complete record of literary

production for the period 1919-49, including literature of the so-called 'liberated areas', literary theory and criticism.<sup>4</sup> Some interesting serial titles from the first half of the 20th century are held, including complete runs of *Xiaoshuo yuebao* (1910-31) and *Xin qingnian* (1915-26).

The main purpose of the Lu Xun Library is to provide a service to researchers, and we are able to supply microfilm or xerographic copies of materials acquired before the 'cultural revolution'. Interlibrary loans are also possible, though books published before 1949 are not permitted to leave Czechoslovakia. Researchers are welcome to make use of our collections in person.

Thanks are due to Mrs Xenie Dvorská, for many years custodian of the library, and to Mr and Mrs Hrdlička, for their help in compiling this brief introduction.

1. *List of Chinese Journals in the Lu Xun Library of the Oriental Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague*. Prague, Oriental Institute, 1963

2. *List of Red Guard Publications in the Lu Xun Library of the Oriental Institute in Prague*. Prague, Oriental Institute, 1975

3. Josef Fass, *Chinese Local Histories in the Lu Xun Library in Prague*. *Archiv Orientální* 29 (1961/2) pp. 316-21

4. *List of books concerning modern Chinese literature held in the Lu Xun Library of the Oriental Institute, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague*. Prague, Oriental Institute 1991

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(as at December 1992)

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*Librarian*: Gudrun Alber Tel: (0222) 40103 ext.2799

BELGIUM

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chez l'Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises,  
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Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire des Langues Orientales,  
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GERMANY

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