

Short summary of the Workshop for Librarians of Sinological Libraries in Europe, held at the Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden, Sept.7-12, 1981.

(A more detailed minute of the meeting will be found after the short summary.)

Participants: Nicole Halsberghe, Dept.Oriëntalistiek (Sinologie),Leuven.
Kirsten Rønbøl Lauridsen, The Royal Library, Copenhagen
Gunter Hartmann, Institut für Asienkunde, Hamburg
John Michael Streffer, Staatsbibliothek,Ostasienabt.,Berlin
Zhong Weijie, , Bibliothek Sinicum, Bochum
Federico Greselin, Sem.di Lingua e Lett. U.d.Studi Ca'Cappello,Venice
Elisabeth Eide, The Royal Library,Oslo
Lars Fredrikson, Stockholms Universitetsbibliotek, Stockholm
Käthi Hürsch, Ostasiatisches Seminar, Zürich
S.V.R.Char, Oriental Section, University Library, Durham
David J.Helliwell, Dept.of Oriental books, Bodleian Libr., Oxford
Howard Nelson, Dept.of Oriental manuscripts, The British Libr.,London
Valentina Zhuravleva, Sinological Libr.Academy of Sciences, Moscow
John Ma, Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden
Helga Burger and Anton Lachnermet as observers from Bochum. Teresa Wang Chang
met as observer from the National Central Library, Taipei.

Program: Prof. E.Zürcher, Leiden gave a welcome speech. A.L.van Wesemael, Leiden,
gave a speech on new development within the IFLA organisation.
Visits to the Sinological Institute, Leiden, to the Library of the
University of Leiden, to the National Archives, Den Haag, and to the
Dutch Royal Library, Den Haag, were arranged.

Reports: The participants gave reports on their libraries, with special
emphasis on size of collection, budget, members of staff, strength in
collection and arrangement in the library.

(For further details see minutes.)

Discussions: The following topics were discussed in greater detail:

- a)library acquisition
- b)bookdealers and their policy
- c)how to build up a specialized library
- d)the possibility of having one all-inclusive library for Chinese
studies somewhere in Europe.
- e)library automation

f) interlibrary loans

g) cataloguing and different subject heading schemes

(For further details see minutes.)

Proposals that will be considered at later meetings:

- 1) proposal of Union catalogue of post-1949 literature from PRC in European libraries
- 2) proposal of Union catalogue of pamphlets from PRC. (Sug. by K.R. Lauridsen)
- 3) proposal to obtain grants to build up one great Sinological library in Europe

PROPOSALS DECIDED UPON AT THE WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIES

Leiden, Sept. 7-12, 1981.

- 1) It was decided to establish a European Association of Sinological libraries. The French title will be: Association européenne de bibliothèques sinologiques.
- 2) The Association will meet in Cambridge in connection with the 28th conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies. (Preferably on July 4th.)
- 3) The meeting in Cambridge will discuss a charter (E. Eide to prepare a charter for the meeting). Problems with membership on persons or libraries, of membership for part-time or full-time librarians to be decided at Cambridge. Is membership in EACS necessary for membership in the library association?
- 4) H. Nelson and J. Streffer would prepare a proposal for a Union catalogue of Chinese periodicals in European libraries. The project will be considered on an automation basis.
- 5) D. Helliwell to draft a proposal for a list of Cong shu in European libraries, a good bibliographical description considered necessary.
- 6) J. Ma will present a discussion paper on gaps in library holdings in the field of Chinese studies. Suggestions for improvement will also be included.

AGENDA for the Cambridge meeting (tentative).

Discussion of the charter.

General information and "newsletter" on Chinese libraries in Europe.

Proposal from Nelson and Streffer on Union list of periodicals.

Proposal from Helliwell on list of Cong shu.

Discussion on gaps in library holdings within Chinese studies.

Discussion on library automation and bibliographical control. (Side issue of proposal on Union list of periodicals. Nelson to prepare discussion paper.)

John Ma accepted to act as Chairman of the Association. Elisabeth Eide accepted to act as secretary of the same association, and Howard Nelson accepted to act as English coordinator for the meeting in Cambridge.

More detailed minutes from the Workshop for Librarians of Sinological Libraries Leiden, Sept.7-12, 1981.

The participants gave reports on their own library. Attempts were made to make the reports more unified in character in relation to: size of library, staff number budget and special features of library. However, some libraries gave size in volumes and others referred to titles. Some gave budget figures in U.S.dollar and some in their own currency. The details given below are only estimates, and may vary in accuracy.

British Library. Size: in addition to several thousand manuscripts, about 60-70 000 vols. in Chinese. Staff of 3 in Chinese. Budget of about 10-20 000 pounds p.a. 3-4000 new titles added to the collection every year. Strength: Dunhuang and copyright books and periodicals from former colonies up to about 1960. Pinyin trans Active participation on library automation.

Durham. Size: around 10 000 vols. in the Chinese collection. 260 periodicals and about 20 current periodicals. Wade-Giles transcr. Budget of about 3200 pounds p.a. (periodicals not included.) Staff of 1. Strength: Buddhism and Chinese language.

Hamburg. Size: about 40 000 vols. on East Asia. Staff of 2-3. Budget of 60-70 000 DM for the whole of Asia. About 6-800 new titles in Chinese added per year. Strength: Specialized library on modern Asia. Includes newspaper cuttings on Asia from European and Asian newspapers. Pinyin transcr.

It was also mentioned that the Östasiatische Institut, Hamburg had a strong coll. on Ming dynasty and on Chinese theatre.

Venice. Size: about 7000 titles in Chinese. 70 periodicals in Western languages, 250 periodicals in Chinese. Staff of 9 in the Institute. Wade-Giles transcr.

Berlin. Size: about 200-250 000 vols. Staff: 17 to take care of South-East and East-Asia. Budget of about 8-10 000 pounds p.a. in Chinese. About 5000 new titles added per year. Extensive reference service. Title catalogue with author index.

Zürich. New collection with special concentration on classical Chinese and linguistics. Cong shu make up 50 o/o of the collection. Budget of about 15-17 000 S.Fr. for Chinese books. Staff of one part-time. Wade-Giles tr.s. for books, pinyin for periodicals.

Oslo. Size: 12-14 000 vols. 200 periodicals, and 80 current periodicals. Budget of about 100 000 N.Kr. p.a. Staff of one. Pinyin and Wade-Giles transcr. in one catalogue. Strength: Chinese literature from 1917-1949.

Stockholm. Size: when projected library complete, about 75 000 vols. No definite budget. Strength: periodicals. Staff of one. Pinyin transcr.

Copenhagen. Size: about 10 000 titles in Chinese. Budget of 12 000 D.Kr. p.a. Staff of 3 for East Asia, additional help of 2 assistants. About 800 new titles added per year. Strength: old cong shu and linguistics. Pinyin transcr.

Oxford. Size: about 26 000 titles. 691 periodicals of which 202 are current.

Budget of about 15-20 000 U.S.dollar p.a. About 1500 new titles added to the collection per year. Staff of one in Chinese. Strength: Classical Sinology. Backhouse collection. Wade-Giles transcr. Title catalogue with author index.

Leuven. New library with concentration on classical Chinese and Buddhism. Liberal budget, but no figures given. Part-time staff.

Bochum. New library specializing in Chinese language and language teaching.

Size: about 5000. 40 periodicals.

Moscow. Size: about 60 000 vols. and 40 000 vols. of periodicals. Current periodicals

about 100. Strength: Chinese books from 1950-1960. Large collection of Manchu books. Alphabetical catalogue with Russian transcr. Separate title entry. Subject catalogue with Russian classification scheme.

It was also mentioned that Leningrad housed the Dunhuang collection.

Leiden. Size: about 170 000 vols. in Chinese and 30 000 vols. in Western languages.

About 750 current periodicals, and more than 3 000 non-current ones.

Budget of about 100 000 guilders p.a. (for books). Staff: 6 persons of whom 3 are part time. The Library includes Dr. van Gulik's collection on music and vernacular fiction. Includes also a Documentation Centre for Contemporary China.

Discussions.

Acquisition policy in libraries was discussed at some length. Great variation in size of collections, scope of library, size of budget and interests of research members made plans for coordinating acquisition impossible. Doubts about the desirability of a common acquisition policy were voiced, but knowledge of other libraries' policy was regarded as positive.

In this connection the possibility of covering gaps in existing libraries was also discussed. John Ma expressed a strong wish to see one European library achieve a size comparable to the best American libraries, and would like to make plans for the realization of such a library. Other participants were sceptical to the idea. It was agreed that further discussions would be held in Cambridge on the basis of John Ma's discussion paper.

John Ma expressed a wish to start a "Newsletter" for Chinese librarians in Europe. He undertook to edit such a paper, and would present plans for the next meeting.

Library automation. Some of the librarians met to discuss the relevance of automation in connection with Chinese libraries. After exchanging information on developments in Taiwan, PRC and in the U.S.A. by the Research Libraries Group, and at the British Library, agreement was reached on:

a) that the major technical problems of Chinese Input/Output systems have been solved.

b) that given the forthcoming availability of MARC records for Chinese books we should investigate the possible usefulness in a European context. It was considered vitally important as a first step to define the libraries' need for bibliographical control - bearing in mind that Europe (unlike America) consists of a large number of relatively small libraries. Howard Nelson undertook to give further thought to this and to present some tentative ideas to the next meeting.

All participants agreed to send him background information on the existing automation facilities at their own libraries.

Interlibrary loans . John Streffer informed that his library complied with all requests sent on special forms obtainable from the Staatsbibliothek. Berlin also lends out periodicals. Leiden also sends out periodicals. Ordinary interlibrary forms may be used when ordering books from the rest of Western Europe, and from Moscow. A wish to establish special interlibrary loan routines for Chinese libraries was expressed.

Cataloguing .Discussions on alphabetic rules for filing of Chinese cards showed that most libraries file Chinese cards character by character, whereas some libraries file them word by word.

Different subject heading schemes were discussed, but no agreement reached.

Practical information. National Central Library, Taiwan will help acquire any book published on Taiwan. Within a period of two years it is expected that a book from Taiwan will come supplied with a catalogue card. This service will only be supplied from the publishers.

Berlin will publish a catalogue next year on their holdings on East Asia.

A new centre called:Resource centre for Chinese studies (Han xue yan jiu zi liao zhong xin) has recently been established in Taiwan.

John Ma informed that it was still possible to buy the Dunhuang film (Peking sect. for the prepublication price of 12.000 U.S.dollar.

Expression of gratitude. All participants agreed that the workshop had been most useful to us in our everyday work. The Workshop was beautifully organized, the Library staff at Leiden was most helpful, the weather at Leiden, and the city itself an ideal background for this workshop where John Ma had played the major part both in the organization of the workshop and in the day-to-day business during the workshop. We all want to thank him very much.