

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The eighth annual conference of EASL was held at the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, East Berlin, from 31st August to 2nd September 1988. A short welcoming address was given by Dr Karl Schubarth-Engelschall, Director of the Asien-Afrika-Abteilung.

Present were: Johanna Scheerlinck, (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Nathalie du Chastel (Institut Belge des Hautes Études
Chinoises, Bruxelles)
Katharina Thölen (Universität Zürich)
Michael Egloff (Universität Zürich)
Basilia Fang (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien)
Lars Fredriksson (Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm)
Peter Bryder (Forskningspolitiska Institutet, Lund)
David Arrandale (Brotherton Library, Leeds)
John Cayley (British Library, London)
Charles Aylmer (Cambridge University Library)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
Andreas Mixius (Universitätsbibliothek und TIB,
Hannover)
Diane Strobl (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Eva Schrepf (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer
Kulturbesitz, Berlin)
Claudia Lux (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer
Kulturbesitz, Berlin)
Helga Keller (Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, Berlin)
Johann Dill (Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, Berlin)

Observer: Jin Yansheng (Academia Sinica, Peking)

ACTA

1. Notices

- 1.1 The Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin had recently completed tests on OCLC; Lutz Bieg had been appointed Referent für Sinologie with effect from 1st September.
- 1.2 The Österreichische Nationalbibliothek would publish a catalogue of its Chinese holdings in the near future.
- 1.3 A colloquium on resources for Japanese studies would be held at the British Library from 14th to 16th September.

2. Bulletin

- 2.1 The future of the bulletin was discussed twice during the course of the conference. David Helliwell would be replaced as editor by Charles Aylmer (Cambridge) and Lars Fredriksson (Stockholm). Contributions should be sent first to Charles Aylmer, who would edit them with the assistance of others if necessary, and then pass them to Lars Fredriksson who would produce camera-ready copy. The camera-ready copy would then be returned to Charles Aylmer for final proof-reading, and finally sent to J-M Streffer for printing and distribution.
- 2.2 Lars Fredriksson agreed to investigate the possibility that he might be able to take over the production of address labels for all EASL mailing, including mailing not connected with the bulletin.
- 2.3 Arrangements were made for the production of the 4th issue of the bulletin. Contributions should be sent to Charles Aylmer by the end of November, who would send the camera-ready copy to J-M Streffer by the end of January 1989.

3. Serials

- 3.1 J-M Streffer reported that the EASL project to produce a European database of Chinese serials (EDOCS) had so far gone entirely to plan: the German national standard for the romanisation of Chinese had been changed from Wade-Giles to Pinyin; input of German holdings and editing of existing records had begun; and a sample microfiche had been produced for members to examine.
- 3.2 The microfiche bears the heading EASL/EDOCS, by which name the project will henceforth be known.
- 3.3 During the next year, British and Scandinavian holdings would be entered into the database on the basis of existing union lists, which it would then be possible to abandon. By that time, arrangements would have been made for updating EASL/EDOCS so that there would be no hiatus in the incorporation of amendments following the abandonment of the regional lists.
- 3.4 The chairman argued that output from EASL/EDOCS should not be made available to those libraries with holdings of Chinese serials who refused to supply input. Others suggested that it should be sold to them for a high price, but no firm decision was reached.

4. EASL visit to China

- 4.1 Members were of the view that it would be advantageous to visit China as a group.

- 4.2 The visit would take place in May 1990, would last approximately two weeks, and would take in Peking, Shanghai, Nanking, and other places which could be reached either en route to or as single day excursions from those centres.
- 4.3 J-M Streffer would take charge of the arrangements for the visit. Members would submit to him their wishes and ideas for what should be included as soon as possible. It was felt that general library tours should be avoided, and that libraries should be visited with some specific objective in view, e.g. the examination of a particular collection or some specific bibliographic function. The visit would include meetings with book suppliers, especially the China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation (CNPITC) in Peking and Shanghai.
- 4.4 The visit would be organized directly by EASL in its own name, and not under the umbrella of another institution.

5. Name

EASL would be known in Chinese as *Ouzhou Zhongwen Tushuguan Xuehui* (written in Chinese characters), and Lars Fredriksson would organize the production of headed notepaper and a seal. Both would be designed in a traditional style.

6. Automation

J-M Streffer reported on the experimental use of OCLC by the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin. John Cayley outlined some new developments in the services offered by RLIN. Lars Fredriksson gave a summary of his own investigations into automation systems on behalf of Stockholm. David Helliwell announced his intention to examine the DOBIS-LIBIS-TALIS system at Tamkang University during a visit to Taipei in December. Kathy Thölen announced that a large sum of money had been earmarked for the purpose of Chinese bibliographical automation in Zürich, but that definite plans for how it should be spent had not yet been made.

7. A Japanese association

- 7.1 The chairman would give an outline of the nature and functions of EASL at the colloquium on resources for Japanese studies at the British Library in mid-September.
- 7.2 It was noted that the Japanological librarians of Europe were planning to set up an association of their own in imitation of EASL, and in consideration of its success.
- 7.3 Members felt that nothing was to be gained from any organic unity with such an association, but would welcome co-operation with it on specific issues, such as automation.

8. Election

David Helliwell was re-elected to the office of Chairman.

9. Visit

Members were taken on a tour of the Reading Room, Catalogue Room, and Stack of the Asien-Afrika-Abteilung of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek.

10. Ninth annual conference

The ninth annual conference would be held at the Östasiatiska Bibliotek in Stockholm on 7th and 8th September 1989.

David Helliwell
Chairman

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