

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The ninth annual conference of EASL was held at the Östasiatiska Bibliotek, Stockholm, from 7th to 9th September 1989.

Present were: Monique Cohen (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
Christiane Rageau (École Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris)
Anne-Marie Brigand (École Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris)
Richard Schneider (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)
Hubert Delahaye (Collège de France, Paris)
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek PK, Berlin)
Claudia Lux (Staatsbibliothek PK, Berlin)
Andreas Mixius (Universitätsbibliothek und TIB, Hannover)
Kira Rohde-Liebenau (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Michael Egloff (Universität Zürich)
Andrea Eigner (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien)
Joyce Wu (Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden)
Frances Wood (British Library, London)
Charles Aylmer (Cambridge University Library)
Raghavendra Char (Durham University Library)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
Elisabeth Eide (Universitets Biblioteket i Oslo)
Bent Lerbæk Pedersen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek, København)
Kerstin Herelius (Universitetsbiblioteket i Uppsala)
Roger Greatrex (Forskningspolitiska Institutet, Lund)
Peter Bryder (Forskningspolitiska Institutet, Lund)
Kerstin Wallin (Östasiatiska Museets Bibliotek, Stockholm)
Lars Fredriksson (Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm)
Lin Zhang Fredriksson (Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm)

Observer: Karen Smith-Yoshimura (The Research Libraries Group, Inc.,
Mountain View, California)

ACTA

1. Notices

- 1.1 J-M Streffer reported that Lutz Bieg had been appointed Professor of Chinese Literature at Cologne, and also that there was a vacancy for a Japanological librarian at the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin. Kirsten Rønbo Lauridsen had left the Royal Library at Copenhagen to become Librarian of Aalborg University, and had been succeeded by Bent Lerbæk Pedersen. John Cayley had left the Chinese section of the British Library to join Han-Shan Tang Ltd. Further details of all these changes in personnel would appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.
- 1.2 Frances Wood announced that the British Library had established a Tiananmen Square Archive on the basis of copies of 300 leaflets collected in Peking by Robert Munro, and also a collection of photographs of banners and *dazibao*. A list of these materials would shortly be sent to other libraries with such collections, including Princeton, Chicago and Toronto. The School of Oriental and African Studies in London was collecting video and film material. Further details would appear in the Bulletin.

2. EASL visit to China

- 2.1 In view of the atrocities which had taken place in Tiananmen Square earlier in the year, it was agreed that the EASL visit to China should be postponed *sine die*. The situation would be reviewed next year in light of any changes in the political situation in Peking.
- 2.2 On the general subject of contacts with the Chinese, members were of the view that whereas it would be beneficial to maintain or even encourage informal, personal contacts with Chinese friends, colleagues, and scholars, we should have no truck with official delegations. This policy had been adopted in all the states represented at the meeting.

3. Bulletin

- 3.1 The 4th issue of the Bulletin had not yet appeared owing to a dearth of material. However, on the basis of what little he had received, Lars Fredriksson had produced a sample of what the 4th issue would look like, which met with general approval. It appeared that sufficient material could be gathered within the next month to enable the editors to get the 4th issue out by the end of the year.
- 3.2 Contributions should be sent to Charles Aylmer in Cambridge for textual recension by the second week of October; the edited manuscript would then be sent to Lars Fredriksson who would produce camera-ready copy by the end of October; the copy would then be sent to J-M Streffer who would have it printed and mailed by the end of the year.

4. EDOCS

- 4.1 J-M Streffer reported that owing to the replacement of the ZDB software, it had not been possible to enter any data for the last six months. Entry would recommence in October. So far, EDOCS contained 2,200-2,500 titles, all in German locations. The entry of the Staatsbibliothek PK holdings would add at least 1,000-1,500 new titles to the database, so that it would contain in excess of 3,500 titles by spring 1990. Output (on microfiche) would be available by summer 1990, by which time the British and Scandinavian holdings may also have been incorporated.
- 4.2 All members of EASL who wished to participate in EDOCS were encouraged to take stock of their own periodical holdings and list them in any way they chose, whether manually or on computer. However, it would not be possible for members to have direct access to ZDB for the purpose of making new records. Whereas the initial concern of EDOCS was current titles, the database was intended to hold all serials titles in European libraries, whether current or dead, and thus supersede the 1972 *Bibliography*.
- 4.3 The EDOCS project was viewed as a cooperative venture between EASL, ZDB, and the Staatsbibliothek PK. Its production could be justified on a number of very substantial grounds. On this basis, an application would be made for EC finance.

5. Automation

- 5.1 Lars Fredriksson demonstrated his local Chinese library system, which ran on Macintosh hardware, as an example of what might be achieved with a small budget. Karen Smith-Yoshimura outlined various considerations which

EASL members should take into account when specifying and designing their own systems.

5.2 A somewhat amorphous discussion took place along the lines of the extraordinary meeting held in March. The functional requirement of any European system was discussed, and it was felt that it ought to at least provide for the sharing of information, the obviation of manual filing, the production of printed output, serials registration, searching by all the customary criteria including subject and key-word, circulation, and user access. The possibility of obtaining EC finance for the development of a suitable system was again discussed.

5.3 Members were of the view that the process of automation could only be advanced through the establishment of an informed and dedicated subcommittee. Accordingly, the following subcommittee was elected:

Michael Egloff (Chairman)
Monique Cohen (supported by a local specialist)
Frances Wood (supported by a local specialist)
J-M Streffer
Lars Fredriksson
Joyce Wu (supported by a local specialist)

The subcommittee would have its first meeting by the end of 1989, and its chairman would present the written results of its deliberations to the chairman of EASL for distribution to the full membership.

6. Election

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

7. Visits

Members were taken on a tour of the Östasiatiska Museum by its director, Dr Jan Wirgin. Kerstin Wallin showed members the Library of the Museum, which serves as the art and archaeology section of the adjacent Östasiatiska Bibliotek. The latter was shown to members by Lars Fredriksson.

8. Tenth annual conference

The tenth annual conference of EASL will take place at the Sinologisch Instituut in Leiden immediately before next year's EACS conference. By a happy coincidence, EASL is therefore able to celebrate its tenth anniversary in the place of its founding. The EASL conference will be held on **Friday 31st August** and **Saturday 1st September 1990**. The EACS conference runs from **Monday 3rd** to **Thursday 6th September**.

David Helliwell
Chairman

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