

## EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The tenth annual conference of EASL was held at the Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden, from 6th to 8th September 1990.

Present were: Monique Cohen (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)  
Nathalie Monnet (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)  
Jacqueline Nivard (Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur la Chine Contemporaine, Paris)  
Chang Ming Hua (Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur la Chine Contemporaine, Paris)  
Anne-Marie Brigand (École Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris)  
Hubert Delahaye (Collège de France, Paris)  
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek PK, Berlin)  
Claudia Lux (Staatsbibliothek PK, Berlin)  
Cordula Gumbrecht (Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, Berlin)  
Eva Schrepf (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)  
Diane Strobl (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)  
Thomas Hahn (Sinologisches Seminar der Universität Heidelberg)  
Kira Rohde-Liebenau (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)  
Ina Asim (Institut für Sinologie der Universität Würzburg)  
Barbara Hoster (Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin)  
Cathy Thölen (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)  
Roland Altenburger (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)  
Michael Egloff (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)  
Basilica Fang (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien)  
Elisabeth Eide (Univerisitets Biblioteket i Oslo)  
Lars Fredriksson (Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm)  
Joyce Wu (Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden)  
Beth McKillop (British Library, London)  
Charles Aylmer (Cambridge University Library)  
Lillian Chia (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)  
David Arrandale (Brotherton Library, University of Leeds)  
William Liu (Edinburgh University Library)  
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)

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### 1. Notices

- 1.1 Cathy Thölen announced that her library in Zürich had filmed its holdings of *Ren min ri bao* for the period 1963-1975, and that orders might be placed for copies of the film. The cost would be in the region of Sfr.1,500-2,000. Thomas Hahn announced that Heidelberg would be filming its holdings of *Jie fang jun bao* for the period 1950-1990. Those interested in acquiring copies should contact him. Monique Cohen reminded members that microfilm of the Tunhuang holdings in the Bibliothèque Nationale was available at a cost of approximately

Ffr.30,000 for the Chinese materials, and Ffr.60,000 for the whole collection. Beth McKillop reported that the British Library was about to film the hitherto unfiled parts of the Stein Collection of Tunhuang materials.

- 1.2 J-M Streffer outlined proposals for the unification of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek and the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz following German national unification on 3rd October. A full account of how this will affect the Oriental departments would be published in the EASL bulletin as soon as the details are known.
- 1.3 Beth McKillop announced that the Oriental Collections of the British Library would be united with the India Office Library collections early in 1991, and that the new name of the department would be British Library Oriental & India Office Collections. The move would be complete and the department functioning normally by Easter. The department would again be moved to the new British Library building in St Pancras in 1996.
- 1.4 It was announced that the the Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises in Paris had moved from the avenue du Président-Wilson together with its library. Its new address is: 52 rue du Cardinal-Lemoine, 75005 Paris.

## 2. Statistics

- 2.1 The chairman circulated a copy of *Current status of East Asian collections in American libraries, 1988/89*, a special report which appears annually in the *Committee on East Asian libraries bulletin* (ISSN 0148-6225). The report consists of five simple tables listing the number of accessions, annual expenditure, staffing and so forth of the various American libraries with East Asian holdings.
- 2.2 It was agreed that EASL ought to attempt a similar exercise, the results of which would be published annually in the EASL bulletin. Charles Aylmer undertook to coordinate this exercise, and would accept reports from individual members. He and the chairman would draw up a questionnaire which would be circulated to members, and would define the reporting criteria (for example, what should be considered a volume). Members would conform with the EASL norm as far as they were able, briefly noting the nature of any departure from it in their reply.

## 3. Bulletin

- 3.1 The 4th issue of the bulletin had been edited by Charles Aylmer and designed and printed by Lars Fredriksson. Members were of the view that the form and content of the bulletin (which would henceforth be known as BEASL) were excellent, and recorded their thanks to its producers.
- 3.2. Contributions were solicited for BEASL5. These should be sent to Charles Aylmer in Cambridge for textual recension, and preferably in machine readable form; the edited material would then go to Lars Fredriksson, who would produce camera-ready copy; the copy would then be sent to J-M Streffer who would have it printed and mailed. The intention was to have BEASL5 in the hands of members by summer 1991.

- 3.3 The editors pointed out the extreme difficulty they had experienced in extracting contributions from members, and the chairman undertook to circularise the membership of EASL on this subject. In the meantime, the following members agreed to make contributions to BEASL5: Barbara Hoster on the Monumenta Serica library; David Arrandale on the Royal Asiatic Society Chinese collection, currently housed in the Brotherton Library; J-M Streffer on the unification of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek and the Staatsbibliothek PK, and on EDOCS; and Claudia Lux on the "Blauer Leiverkehr" interlibrary loans system in use in German libraries.

#### 4. EASL visits to China and elsewhere

- 4.1 The chairman read out a letter he had received from Ji Qingbin, head of the European/American section of China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation in Peking. Mr Ji had been asked by Lou Ming, the president of CNPITC, to invite an EASL delegation to visit China, and offered to make all necessary arrangements. After a brief discussion of the issues involved, which are known to all, it was considered inconvenient to arrange an EASL delegation this year, but members would reconsider the matter at the 11th conference. The chairman would inform Mr Ji of this decision, leaving open the possibility of a visit at some later date.
- 4.2 It was suggested that a visit to the various sinological libraries in eastern Europe might be arranged to advantage. This matter would be discussed at the 11th conference, with a view to making such a visit in 1992.

#### 5. EDOCS

- 5.1 J-M Streffer reported that so far, the EASL/EDOCS project was running entirely to schedule, and he offered microfiche output of the 3,500 titles which were now in the database, including both German and British locations. Members expressed their sincere thanks to J-M Streffer for the hard work on behalf of EASL which these microfiches represented. Other German and British locations would be entered during the next year, together with the Scandinavian holdings.
- 5.2 Any library was free to send details of their holdings to J-M Streffer for incorporation into the database, but although these would be welcome, a general invitation to contribute would not be made until a little later in the project. J-M Streffer circulated a form on which details of holdings might conveniently be submitted. Beth McKillop, as chairman of the (British) China Library Group's serials subcommittee, said that the British union list was now effectively superseded by EDOCS, and would therefore probably be discontinued. As for distribution of the output, copies of the microfiches were handed out to those present, and would be available free on demand to other members. There was some discussion as to whether EASL ought to sell the output, but more detailed consideration of this question was deferred. The chairman was asked to publicise the existence of EASL/EDOCS.

- 5.3 Whereas it would not be possible for EASL members to have direct access to ZDB for the purpose of making new records, J-M Streffer would examine the possibility that members might have online access for the purpose of searching and adding their own holdings statements.

## 6. Automation

- 6.1 Lars Fredriksson demonstrated the Chinese library system which he had developed for use in Stockholm, and J-M Steffer demonstrated the ALLEGRO-C library package working in conjunction with a Chinese input system, a linkage which was still in the process of development.
- 6.2 With automation initiatives now advancing on several fronts, discussion centred around the necessity to establish an EASL norm for the construction of bibliographical records, and J-M Streffer presented a proposal which gained unanimous acceptance. Individual libraries would be free to subtract from or add to this norm according to their local requirements, but the EASL basic format was established as the norm for the fullest exchange of data between members. Members were agreed that the importance of this EASL decision can scarcely be exaggerated.
- 6.3 The overriding priority for EASL members was to adopt some system, however modest, which would enable them to begin cataloguing in machine readable form and abandon the use of cards. To this end, there was a need to present members with a written document on the basis of which they might advise their institutions and acquire hardware and software. The development of a central online database was a different problem, which EASL would address in due course. In the immediate future data would be exchanged on diskettes.
- 6.4 A new automation subcommittee was elected as follows:

J-M Streffer (Chairman)  
Beth McKillop  
Monique Cohen  
Hubert Delahaye  
Lars Fredriksson

The task of the subcommittee would be to produce, as quickly as possible, the document referred to in 6.3 above. The subcommittee agreed to meet in Paris in October or November. J-M Streffer would have prepared and circulated to the subcommittee members a draft of the document, at least three weeks in advance of the meeting. In its final form, the document would (1) record and clarify the EASL norm referred to in 6.2 above; (2) describe the library software currently available which might be used for the construction of Chinese bibliographical databases; (3) give a detailed specification of the hardware requirements for the operation of such systems. The committee would present the final document to the chairman of EASL by the end of February 1991 for distribution to members.

[It has subsequently been agreed that the document will be circulated as a special issue of BEASL.]

7. Funds

There was a brief discussion as to whether EASL should begin to accumulate funds. Members were of the view that further consideration of this matter should take place when there was something specific to spend them on.

8. Election

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

9. Visits

Members were taken on a tour of the reading rooms and bookstack of the Sinologisch Instituut by Joyce Wu, the librarian.

10. Eleventh annual conference

The eleventh annual conference of EASL will take place at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien, from 5th-7th September 1991. The twelfth annual conference in 1992 will be held immediately before the EACS conference in Paris.

David Helliwell  
Chairman

Oxford: 12ix90