

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MOSCOW, 14-16 SEPTEMBER 2006

The Twenty-sixth EASL conference was held in the Oriental Center of the Russian State Library from 13 to 15 September 2006.

The meeting was chaired by Cristina Cramerotti.

An exhibition of a selection from the Chinese collection was held in a room next to the meeting.

Dr. Meri E. Trifonenko, Director of the Oriental Center, welcomed the meeting to Moscow. At noon, the Oriental Center hosted a festive reception. Afterwards, we visited the Museum of Oriental Art, where we had an interesting guided tour. Thursday afternoon, we visited the collections of the Oriental Center and the Russian State Library.

Friday evening, a farewell dinner brought us together in a close-by restaurant, including lots of drinks and even dancing!

Present were:

Matthias Arnold, Digital Resources, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Heidelberg

Inga-Lill Blomkvist, NIAS Library and Information Centre, Denmark

Barabara Bonazzi, EFEO Paris

Hiroko Brittain, Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa

Cristina Cramerotti, Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris

Katarina Feriencikova, Charles University, Prague

Lars Fredriksson, Ostasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm

Fung On Lui, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

David Helliwell, Dept. of Oriental Books, Bodleian Libray, Oxford

Bénédicte Héraud-van der Meer, Centre Chine moderne EHESS, Paris

Huang Xiyi, University of Leeds

Matthias Kaun, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

Sergei Kukushkin, Deputy-head of the Oriental Center, Russian State Library, Moscow

Anne Labitzky-Wagner, University of Heidelberg

Hanno Lecher, Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden University

Imke Mees, Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln

Inga Nyman, Asian Library, Stockholm University Library

Bent Pedersen, Kongelige Bibliothek, Kopenhagen

Irene Sandell, Asia Library, Lund University

Sue Small, SOAS, University of London

Delphine Spicq, Bibliothèque Orientale, Collège de France, Paris

Tong Shenxiao, Edinburgh University

Mark Ulyanov, Russian State Library, Moscow

Benedicte Vaerman, Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven

ACTA

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the 25th EASL conference were accepted.

2. Introduction and notices of members:

- David Helliwell tells the meeting he has been to China as a guest of CIBTC.
- Delphine Spicq announces that she has been appointed permanently. The Collège de France will adopt Aleph.
- Hanno Lecher reports that Leiden is preparing to convert its Chinabase into Aleph. He wishes to obtain automatic creation of pinyin. He also reports that the university library's new director wants to integrate the Sinological library in the rest of the library management.
- Sue Small reports that their new director is working on a 10-year plan.
- Bent Pedersen reports that their library is reorganizing.
- Inga Lill explains the aims of the Asia Portal project, comprising free internet resources, other databases to pay-members and coordination of Nordic projects on Asia.
- Hiroko Brittain announces that she manages the Chinese and Slavic departments. She tells the meeting there is a growing need for Chinese-language articles and expresses her satisfaction with the Wanfang database.
- Huang Xiyi says that Leeds has received a significant amount of money to develop the Chinese and Japanese study programs, and their involvement in teaching. She also attended a conference in China, where a lot of E-books were presented.
- Irene Sandall explains that Lund has 23000 books on China, of which about 8000 in Chinese
- Lars Fredriksson reports that space has been found for their books, and they are finally being taken out of the crates. A Sinologist is doing this, while another Japanologist librarian has also been appointed.
- Bénédicte Héraud explains that the library of the Contemporary China Research Center will be part of the new BULAC library. She says that less books but more databases are bought. Training of researchers and students in using these databases is part of their work now.
- Barbara Bonazzi says the SUDOC database of French universities supports multiscript. It will be demonstrated later.
- Fui Long On says that the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin is still using Allegro, though looking for another cataloguing solution. He explains that a new director for the whole East Asian department has been appointed: Matthias Kaun. The meeting congratulates Matthias.
- Imke Mees explains that the Ostasiatische Museum in Köln is municipal, and that there is no post provided for a Sinological librarian. She has the post of Curator. There is no book budget

any more, but happily they receive catalogues through affiliated museums and obtain some money to buy books from the Friends of the Museum.

- Matthias Kaun says that space problems might affect the Blaue Leihverkehr for the coming year. They are changing the structure of departments and creating more space.

The financing of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft continues, which enables the State Library to purchase databases for the whole of Germany. CAJ is a good example: it can be accessed by any person everywhere in Germany.

Matthias says also that he collaborates on the Cross-Asia project together with Heidelberg and Leiden.

- Anne Labitzky-Wagner says that there is now a full-time IT position in their library, jointly held by Matthias Arnold and Sven Eigler. The Krupp-funding has finished, therefore there is less acquisition in Heidelberg than before.

- Mark Ulyanov says that moving books from different places has now completely finished.

- Sergei Kukushkin says that the Russian State Library lacks funding for acquiring what they need. However, there is a lot of exchange going on. Cataloguing is still on card, but Aleph will be implemented. The State Library wants to know how to put Chinese in Aleph.

3. Reports on conferences, and other discussions:

- Sue Small attended the 5th Chinese Resources Conference in Hong Kong in November 2005.

- Cristina Cramerotti has attended IFLA in Seoul. She says that the new trend is that libraries should be self-sufficient, be making money. The general message to that meeting was: you are managers, not librarians.

- David Helliwell tells the meeting that the Gugong Bowuyuan Tushuguan will send someone in 2007 to all European libraries to see what we have. Pre-modern books are the “crown jewels”, the only things still taken seriously by managers nowadays, says David.

4. Treasurer’s report:

The arrangement stays as it is: Martin Hanke’s account with EASL money grew from 1,815.98 Euro with an interest of 9.05 Euro, totaling 1,825.06 Euro.

The meeting has asked that Martin Hanke continues this task.

5. IT demonstrations and discussions:

5.1 Eastview

An Eastview representative explains that they are partners of CIBTC and suggests the meeting to take their flyers.

5.2 Tao-tsang. Travail d’index. A new resource at ChinaResourceOrg

By Matthias Arnold, Heidelberg

<http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/database/daoang%2Didx/>

Matthias believes that this index will remain interesting, even after the Academia Sinica will have digitized the full-text of the *Daoang*, because this is a subject index.

5.3 Publications in Taiwanese studies on the web of the Institute of East Asian Studies in Prague

By Katarina Feriancikova

5.4 crossAsia.org

Technical platform for E-resources, By Matthias Kaun

Free access to all databases for German users of the Blaue Leihverkehr.

Metasearch can be used now also with Chinese characters.

The bibliographies of articles called Online Contents East and Southeast Asia and Online Contents Asia/Northafrica can also be accessed by other European users, if they register and ask a password to Matthias Kaun or forward their IP addresses.

5.5 SUDOC

Cristina Cramerotti introduces multiscript cataloguing in SUDOC

www.sudoc.abes.fr

France decided for disaggregation of pinyin, except for names, along the OCLC system.

6. Discussions

Wednesday morning, a discussion was started about the cataloguing of old books. David says that although cataloguing is looked upon like a Cinderella, it still has to be done. Pre-modern Chinese books in European collections urgently need to get catalogued. Hanno Lecher says that the problem is that there is no money to do that work. He suggests that we could ask money for a European project, to ask Chinese people to come and do this work. According to Hanno, the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation would consider funding this if it is a European project.

We also need to define first what is needed, how we want the cataloguing to be done. Hanno asks the EASL librarians to consider if they eventually wish to participate in this project. The meeting regrets that there is no representative from the Bibliothèque Nationale, and that their interest in this project is unclear.

The same subject was re-discussed again on Friday morning. Hanno Lecher explains that the Taipei National Library would like to add Leiden's old book data in their catalogue. The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation is prepared to fund it, if it is on a European level.

We are talking about pre-modern books (before 1911), not only about rare books (defined until end of *Jiaqing*, 1796) Who wishes to participate? The work needs to be defined first in each library, and counting has to be done. In what kind of catalogue it will go, if it will be unified or not, is not relevant in the first phase. Since David is preparing a similar project for the UK, Hanno and David agree to meet as soon as possible to further discuss possibilities on a European level.

7. Acquisitions

- Matthias Kaun says he always tells the Chinese vendors that they need to find European solutions. The *Zhongguo jiben guji tushu* is a huge full-text database. Cost is 110.000 USD for 5 concurrent users in 1 library. But very often, 5 concurrent users for the whole of Europe is enough.

Matthias proposed to pay 1.8 times that price for the whole of Europe. The offer was rejected in a first discussion. Matthias wants to know who could eventually apply for money for acquiring such database. Please let him know.

8. Various

- John Ma asked if there is a way to make a bibliography of Russian materials related to China. Mark Ulyanov says that publishing information can be get from websites. Many old books have recently been reprinted. He promised he would make a list of available resources. Cristina asks Mark to tell EASL when a particularly interesting publication in Russia is made.

- Tong Shenxiao announces that he is building a Chinese film collection in Edinburgh, of films mostly without subtitles.

9. Elections

Informal elections were organized and resulted in the election of Hanno Lecher as chairman and Tong Shenxiao as secretary. They accepted the appointment, and were congratulated by the meeting. Cristina Cramerotti and Benedicte Vaerman were warmly thanked for their service to the EASL organization in the past years.

10. Next year's conference

Lund University invites the meeting in 2007. Irene Sandall shows a small presentation of the place where we will be hosted.

Date fixed: 12 to 14 September 2006

The Twenty-sixth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Dr. Meri E. Trifonenko, Sergei Kukushkin and Mark Ulyanov for their excellent arrangements.

In December 2006, EASL members received the sad news about the untimely death of Dr. Meri E. Trifonenko on November 25, 2006. She was the founder and first director of the Center of Oriental Literature, Russian State Library. Hanno Lecher expressed condolences and deepest sympathies in the name of the European Association of Sinological Librarians. She will certainly be dearly missed.

Benedicte Vaerman
former EASL Secretary
Leuven, January 9, 2007