

**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS**
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS
18-20 SEPTEMBER 2002

The Twenty-second EASL conference was held in the Maison de l'Asie in Paris from 18 to 20 September 2002. The meeting was chaired by Cathy Thoelen. Our hosts, Bénédicte Héraud and Vincent Durand-Dastès, welcomed the participants to Paris. Their library director, Mr. Jean-Louis Taffarelli, gave a short opening address.

During the course of the conference, a visit to the Maison de l'Asie was made, to the Musée Albert Kahn, to the Library of the Institut des Hautes Etudes Chinoises du Collège de France and, for interested members, to the old Chinese books department of the Bibliothèque Nationale. The last evening, a fare-well dinner was organized "Au petit riche", during which Cathy Thoelen was specially thanked for her many years of very competent and inspiring chairmanship.

Present were:

Charles Aylmer, Cambridge University Library
Barbara Bonazzi, Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris
Hiroko Brittain, Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa
Cristina Cramerotti; Bibliothèque interuniversitaire des langues orientales, Paris
Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris
Hubert Delahaye, Institut des Hautes Etudes Chinoises du Collège de France, Paris
Valentina Delmonte, Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris
Frédéric Devienne, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre Chine, Paris
Vincent Durand-Dastès, Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris
Katarina Feriancikova, Charles University, Prague
Jie Formoso, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
Lars Fredriksson, Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm
Thomas Gaiser, Universität Tübingen
Martin Hanke, Abt. für Sprache und Kultur Chinas, University of Hamburg
David Helliwell, Dept. of Oriental Books, Bodleian Libray, Oxford
Bénédicte Héraud, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre Chine, Paris
Huang Xiyi, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds
Graham Hutt, British Library, London
Matthias Kaun, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
André Keiper, Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Erlangen
Anne Labitzky-Wagner, Landesspracheninstitut NRW, Bochum
Hartmut Lamparth, Bonn
Li Yi, CNPITC, Beijing
Bruno Loussouarn, Librairie Le Phénix, Paris
Andreas Mixius, Universität Hannover
John Moffet, Needham Research Institute, Cambridge
Nathalie Monnet, Dépt. des manuscrits, div. Orientale, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
Jacqueline Nivard, Revue Bibliographique de Sinologie, (EHESS), Paris
Inga Nyman, Asian Library, Stockholm University Library
Hua Offenberg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Bent Pedersen, Orientalisk og Judaistisk Afdeling, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen
Cheng Pei, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
Dorothee Schaab-Hanke, University of Hamburg
Renate Stephan, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München

John M. Streffer, East-Asia Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
 Alek Stypa, Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin
 Cathy Thoelen, Ostasiatisches Seminar, Universität Zürich
 Tong Shenxiao, Edinburgh University
 Annie Troedsson, Asia Library, Lund University
 Benedicte Vaerman, Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven
 Wang Ju, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre Chine, Paris
 Wang Tong, CIBTC, Beijing
 Yu Dong, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
 Zhang Ying, CNPITC, Beijing
 Zhu Min, CIBTC, Beijing

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1, 2 Chairman's address:

Cathy Thoelen starts by congratulating Matthias Kaun and Anne Labitzky for passing their librarian's exams. She announces that she has written a short history of EASL, to be consulted on the first page of the new EASL website, constructed by Matthias Kaun.

Cathy Thoelen stresses that members should not forget to forward addresses of eventual new member libraries.

3 Minutes:

The minutes of the 21th EASL conference were accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

4 Presentation of new Paris project:

Mrs. Marie-Lise Tsagouria explains the project of the Pôle des Langues et Civilisations du Monde, and its plans for a Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations (BULAC) which should be holding 2 million books and have 67 km of stacks.

5 Notices of Members:

Thomas Gaiser reports that his library has received new funding after severe budget cuts the latest years.

Renate Stephan reports about the major reorganizations in the Asian part of the Bavarian State Library (BSB) at the beginning of 2002. The former East Asian and Oriental Departments have been combined to the new called Oriental- and East Asian Department with Dr. Günter Grönbold as head of the new department and Renate Stephan in charge of the East Asian section.

It was also decided to give up the Japanese section in favor of a concentration on Old China up to 1911. Secondary literature concerning the new focus Old China will however include books in all East Asian languages. Important Japanese reference works will also be provided.

- a. A catalogue with detailed descriptions of the old Chinese prints and manuscripts of the BSB is currently being prepared by Prof. Gimm and Renate Stephan. This project is part of the long standing project "Katalogisierung der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland"
- b. The BSB has bought the Manjurian *Tripitaka* generously financed by a donator who wants to remain anonymous.

The BSB's CJK records are directly catalogued into Rlin. The BSB has no local catalogue of its East Asian holdings. In order to gain access to these holdings one either has to have access to Rlin (which only few in Europe have) or one personally has to come to the BSB.

To give at least German sinological institutes better if only limited access to the library's East Asian holdings these institutes will be provided with separate Rlin accounts.

Katarina Feriancikova reports about the situation at Charles University. There was no flood damage in the sinological collections of Prague, except for the archeological institute.

David Helliwell proposes that a library which still needs a lot of basic material could ask for the donation of the private collection of Piet van der Loon: no selling or destroying is allowed.

Sue Small (absent) reported that SOAS, as part of the RSLP retro-conversion project, has upgraded the following bibliographical records with Chinese characters:

All Chinese yearbooks

Current Chinese periodicals and newspapers

Most books on Shanghai, Beijing, Tibet and Xinjiang

SOAS has now more than 14,500 records with Chinese characters in its database.

Jean-Louis Bouilly (absent) will be in Guangzhou for one year and will be replaced in Lyon by Valentina Delmonte.

Vincent Durand-Dastès will leave the profession of librarian, since he accepted a lectureship in Classical Chinese Literature at the INALCO in Paris. He will be replaced by Barbara Bonazzi.

Mark Ulianov (absent) reported that, by 2003, the renovation of the new building of the Center for Oriental literature of the Russian State Library shall be completed. Catalogues shall be changed into an electronic version.

6 Reports on conferences, meetings, workshops 2001-2002:

6.1 Yu Dong participated in the 7th International Conference on the History of the Chinese Catholic Church at Furen Daxue, Taipei.

6.2 David Helliwell participated in a conference on the *Yongle dadian*: he explains the topic and asks everyone to tell him if anyone knows about old *Yongle dadian* volumes in Europe.

6.3 Hanno Lecher (absent) attended a conference on digital libraries in Beijing. His paper was shown around on the meeting, with a general overview of his work in Heidelberg and its technical implications.

6.4 During the summer, Sue Small (absent) attended the Annual Conference of the China Society for Library Science at the Shaanxi tushuguan, Xi'an.

6.5 Sinodoc meetings have mainly been discussing about the Agate catalogue, about the new forthcoming project of BULAC, and announces that the actualization of their serials index will be done soon. The EHESS acquired the complements of the *Siku quanshu: xuxiu, cunmu, weixiu*. In the UK, the meetings' main topic was the RSLP catalogue.

7 Treasurer's report:

Martin Hanke was elected as the new treasurer in 2001. However, he had the money transferred to his account only in July 2002, totaling 1153.33 GBPounds or 1761 EURO.

Since the money was still in England until that date, Tony Hyder again made the report this year, which was accepted by the meeting. Tony was heartily thanked for his efforts.

Martin was asked to arrange with his bank for a second person from EASL to have full authority on the account, in case he would be absent.

8 EASL Online resources:

8.1 EASL homepage

Matthias Kaun has re-designed the EASL homepage. He was thanked for this beautiful work. He informed us that, up to now, the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin pays the domain fee.

8.2 Entry of libraries

It is again stressed that every member is urged to check if the data on his/her library are still correct and to make regular updates. Just send your Emails with corrections and addenda to

Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

8.3 Discussion List EASL-L

The EASL-discussion list is a closed list, but everyone can send mails to the list. Matthias Kaun filters the irrelevant messages

9 IT demonstrations and discussions:

9.1 David Helliwell demonstrates the RSLP (UK) Chinese union catalogue, <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/rsllpchin/>, now holding more than 240,000 records.

He suggests again that he would be happy to forward this database to an eventual European Union Database. The Staatsbibliothek of Berlin has agreed to add its 90.000 Chinese records in this database.

9.2 Matthias Kaun shows the Online Guide on East Asia, now holding 125,000 titles. This could also be used as a general European catalogue, but Matthias says there is no manpower in Berlin to do all the work.

Discussion goes on about the possibilities to further develop these catalogues into a European shared catalogue. Matthias stresses the fact that we need a better cataloguing tool. It is decided that, in next year's meeting, this will be a special topic on the agenda.

10 Collecting CD-Roms and other NBM:

There is no time left to discuss this topic. David Helliwell suggest that we need a whole day during next year's meeting to discuss online contents. Someone should for example be giving a demonstration of the *Chaoxing* (Superstar) digital library <http://www.ssreader.com>.

David Helliwell visited this organization while in Beijing: started in 1993, they now have more than 400,000 books full text on line.

11 Buying books and periodicals:

Bruno Loussouarn (Librairie Le Phénix) informs EASL that he will be taking his leave and be replaced by Judith Como. He informs the meeting of the problems for specialized bookstores in Europe like Le Phénix.

A discussion goes on about the strengthening of regulations on acquisition for French colleagues, which restrains them to buy freely wherever they think it most convenient. The meeting urges them to resist these restrains to the utmost.

Zhang Ying (CNPITC) informs the meeting that the Chinese government encourages the merging of sellers, to cope with growing competition in the light of China's recent access to the WTO. CNPITC will merge with CNPIEC and other groups, and become the biggest seller.

EASL is informed about China's biggest book fairs:

Each year one week in January: big book fair in Beijing

Each year in September: book fair in another city

Every two years, the China Publisher Association holds an international fair, mainly for copyright selling.

Wang Tong (CIBTC) hands out material from CIBTC and cards for accessing the *Chaoxing* digital library.

12 Relations to other institutions:

12.1, 2 There was again a discussion about EASL-EACS relations and the eventual need to be represented at EACS. Finally, we agreed that if any EASL member would attend next year's EACS or AAS meeting, or any other important meeting, he/she would inform the EASL members through the EASL-list. If someone would be send by EASL as a delegate, and therefore use EASL-funding, his/her mission should be approved by the EASL president or secretary.

13 EASL trips:

Cathy Thoelen might organize a trip to China in the future.

14 Elections:

Cathy Thoelen is resigning this year.

Cristina Cramerotti was asked to act as the new chairman, and accepted this task.

The old chairman was warmly thanked for her years of work for EASL.

There was an applause welcoming the new chairman.

The secretary was re-elected.

The treasurer was re-elected.

15, 16 Others, Time and place of next conference:

There were several propositions for next meetings. John Streffer wants the meeting to be in Berlin in 2005, the year of his retirement. München can only welcome EASL in 2003, not in 2004.

Agreement: 2003 München, 2004 Edinburgh, 2005 Berlin

The meeting in München will be organized by Renate Stephan, from September 17-19, 2003

The Twenty-second EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Bénédicte Héraud and Vincent Durand-Dastès for their excellent arrangements.

Benedicte Vaerman
Secretary
Leuven, 10 December 2002