

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

NUMBER 1

JULY 1985

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PREFACE

Most of the Chinese collections in Europe are maintained by a single librarian with a slender budget: there are few, if any, which can approach at least a dozen American institutions in the level of either their staffing or funding. The sinological librarians of Europe operate in such complete isolation that in the same country and even in the same city there is scarcely any contact between them: they rarely experience the professional and social intercourse that their colleagues in other branches of librarianship take for granted.

Aware of these matters, John Ma convened a workshop for sinological librarians in Europe at Leiden in 1981. The participants found this event to be so informative, and the company of their colleagues so congenial, that they inaugurated the European Association of Sinological Librarians (EASL) and decided to meet annually. At its meeting in Cambridge in 1982 the Association sought, and was subsequently granted, affiliation with the European Association of Chinese Studies (EACS). At Paris in 1983 it was agreed that we should have a bulletin. And at Tübingen in 1984 the chairman of EASL (currently myself) was elected to the Board of EACS.

The framework therefore exists for a considerably better exchange of information among European sinological librarians than has been possible hitherto, and this inaugural issue of the Bulletin is its first published expression. It is necessarily experimental, and its progress will be fully reviewed at our forthcoming conference in Berlin.

The appended list of European institutions with holdings of Chinese books is of particular importance, and members are asked to check their own entry and inform me of any errors.

Notice of the Fifth EASL Conference, to be held at the Staatsbibliothek Pressischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin from September 5th to 7th, has already been sent to members. If by any chance they have not received it, or their reply is still outstanding, would they please contact me immediately.

David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)

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FOURTH EASL CONFERENCE

summary of proceedings, by Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek, Berlin). Protokoll

The fourth EASL conference took place at Tübingen on September 8th and 9th, 1984. The proceedings are summarised as follows:

Members were of the opinion that following the retirement of John Ma, the offices of chairman and secretary should be combined for practical reasons.

David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford) was elected chairman for the year 1984-1985.

Members felt that John Ma's proposed survey of European libraries with sinological holdings would be of utmost value, and expressed the hope that it would soon be available. Should anything prevent its appearance in the near future, the Association should prepare and publish its own survey. In any event, the chairman should regard the updating of the mailing list as a priority.

The publication of Ssu k'u ch'üan shu in Taiwan was discussed, together with the abortive attempt by European librarians to urge a re-thinking of the project.

Members discussed the proposed union list of Chinese periodicals in European libraries, and noted that no material progress had been made in the 3 years since the proposal was first put forward. As an alternative, Johann-Michael Streffer would investigate the possibility of entering non-German locations of Chinese serials into the German union list. His findings, as well as other suggestions, would be considered at the next conference. These considerations would be submitted to EACS, with the recommendation that the present proposal be dropped from its programme.

David Helliwell reported progress on the Bulletin, which he hoped to have ready by the beginning of 1985. It would be printed and distributed by the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin.

Johann-Michael Streffer introduced a discussion which embraced problems in international interlibrary loan, and in locating materials widely dispersed throughout European collections. Members agreed to continue to examine ways of making the contents of their collections more widely and readily available.

Howard Nelson reported on the negative outcome of a recent feasibility study made at the British Library into the possibility of using the RLIN system for automating its CJK records.

Members accepted Johann-Michael Streffer's invitation to the Association to hold its next conference in Berlin from 5th to 7th September, 1985.

REPORT ON THE "WORKSHOP ON THE AUTHENTICATION AND PRESERVATION OF RARE MATERIALS"

by Jane Hwang (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek).

Kindly sponsored by the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and promoted by the Bavarian State Library, I attended the "Workshop on the authentication and preservation of rare materials" held between 18th November and 8th December, 1984, in Taipei. The workshop was organised by the Library Association of China, chaired by Professor Ch'ang Pi-te.

Preeminent in the field of pan pen hsüeh, Professor Ch'ang has often been invited by libraries with holdings of rare Chinese materials in Japan, Korea, and the United States to advise them on problems relating to their authentication. One of his colleagues was the late Professor Abe Ryūichi, the great Japanese sinologist. Professor Abe devoted his life to research on rare Chinese books, and was a regular visitor to the National Central Library and the National Palace Museum. Conscious of the difficulties in authenticating rare Chinese books and the need to preserve them, these two scholars had conceived the idea over many years of arranging a workshop of this kind in response to the demand not only for the training of librarians who work on these materials, but also for a general exchange of ideas in this field.

Unfortunately Professor Abe died two years ago, and as a mark of respect to this distinguished scholar, we kept a moment of silence on the opening day of the Workshop.

The 20 day programme (a total of 120 hours) was divided into 3 parts. During the first two days, the current status of Chinese rare book collections was explained. On the following 10 days, materials from different periods and of different types were displayed and examined, and methods of textual authentication, classification, and cataloguing were studied and discussed. Finally, during the last week problems of preservation were discussed and different methods of restoration were compared. Techniques of repair and binding were demonstrated, and practicals were held.

The workshop was limited to 30 participants, the only ones from European libraries being myself and Lars Fredriksson from Stockholm. For the 25 lectures, the committee had invited 19 specialists from various parts of the Far East and the United States, whose papers were circulated in advance. Original materials were selected and displayed by the staff of the National Central Library and the National Palace Museum, and it was exciting to touch and examine so many beautiful manuscripts and printed books.

Professor Ozaki Yasushi from the Shido Bunko at Keio University in

Tokyo, and a pupil of the late Professor Abe, gave a lecture on the authentication of Sung editions. He pointed out the importance of blockcutters' names, and suggested that we should all try to compile our own lists of them.

Professor Kaneko Kazumasa from Tenri Central Library near Nara took the example of the Japanese Gozanban to illustrate methods of authenticating Chin and Yüan editions.

Three lectures were concerned with Ming editions, of which the most interesting was that given by Mr Li Ch'ing-chih, who spoke on "Special characteristics of middle Ming woodblock printing techniques". From his long experience as Librarian of the Rare Books Department of the National Central Library, he showed us some useful and simple ways of authenticating late Ming and Ch'ing editions. Mr Li's paper was of special interest as most of the woodblock editions in western libraries date from this period.

Professor Tsien Tsuen-hsiun from Chicago lectured on moveable type editions throughout history, and in the interesting discussion that followed, Professor Yu Tak-il from Pusan University in Korea made a comparison between Chinese and Korean moveable types which stimulated a lively debate.

For me, and probably also for the other participants, Professor Ch'ang was simply a walking encyclopaedia on Chinese rare books. He answered our questions patiently in his soft Szechwan accent. His lecture "Examples of old spurious editions" was profound and vivid. He opened our eyes to discriminate between originals and fakes, and broadened our knowledge on the subject of authentication.

There were three lectures on Ch'ing editions. Mr Wu Che-fu of the Rare Documents Division of the National Palace Museum gave a lecture on Wu-ying-tien editions in which I was particularly interested, as we have some examples of these in the Bavarian State Library. For the same reason the following two topics also caught my attention: "Woodblock paintings in Chinese books" by Mr Wu Eugene Wen-chin from the Harvard-Yenching Library, and "Multi-colour printing" by Professor Ch'iao Yen-kuan, who also lectured on the difficulties of authentication caused by reprint editions.

The third part of the programme was devoted to the preservation and restoration of rare materials. Mr Lin Mao-sheng, chief of the Book Restoration Laboratory of the National Palace Museum, demonstrated the various traditional methods of book and paper restoration. We carefully observed how the paste was mixed, what kind of paper was selected for mounting, which brush was selected for smoothing down the broken paper, and which was used for applying the paste. He brushed the very thin paste, almost like milk, on the new paper and laid it over the old. The two sheets were firmly fixed together by stroking them with a dry brush. In a few seconds, the restored paper was hung on a wooden frame and dried in the air. He also showed us the tech-

niques of making covers, cutting paper, and binding.

The last lecture of the whole workshop was given by Dr Helmut Bansa, who is in charge of book restoration at the Bavarian State Library. As a western specialist, he gave a detailed lecture, illustrated with over 100 slides, on how the Chinese rare materials in the Bavarian State Library are being preserved and restored. His lecture attracted many experts and took over three hours to deliver, followed, after lunch, by a further three hours of discussion.

During the following days, the participants divided into two groups. As one group struggled with paper and paste in the laboratory, the other visited various local libraries and bookstacks.

On the last day of the workshop, a combined discussion was chaired by Mr Wang Chen-ku, Director of the National Central Library, who expressed the hope that there would be a second workshop, to which more international experts would be invited, and at which there would be a further exchange of experience and opinions. In the closing ceremony, Professor Ch'ang encouraged us to keep in touch with him and also with the other lecturers, and informed us that a symposium of all the papers and reports given during the course of the workshop would be published in April, 1985.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

X The SINGAPORE SOCIETY OF ASIAN STUDIES published its first bulletin on March 25th, 1984. The bulletin is edited by Chen Tian-qi, and can be obtained from the Society, whose address is 25 Jalan Datoh 05-25, Singapore 1132.

X EDP CHINA REPORT, published by International Data Corporation and edited by Samuel Hui, specialises in current computer products and their market in China. It is published twice a month and can be obtained from 11F Goshen Mansion, 177 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong.

Notable visitors to the SINOLOGISCH INSTITUUT at LEIDEN in the summer of 1984 included Professor C.N. Yang, the first Chinese Nobel Prize winner, accompanied by Professor Wu Ta-chun of Harvard University; also, a delegation from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences led by its vice-president, Mr Ru Xin.

ELIZABETH EIDE has been granted a 3 year scholarship to finish her work on the influence of Ibsen on the Chinese literary scene. She will be absent from the Universitetsbibliotek, Oslo, until 1st August 1985, and will work part-time until 1st August 1987.

X The second edition of PERIODICALS CURRENT IN MAINLAND CHINA held by the Science Reference Library (The British Library), edited by Raymond Kyang, was published in 1984. Copies are available from External Relations & Liaison Section, Science Reference Library, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AW.

As the INDIA OFFICE LIBRARY (London) has been incorporated into the BRITISH LIBRARY, the small number of Chinese books in that collection is now being catalogued, no usable catalogue having existed hitherto. The collection contains some donations from the Royal Society, but consists in the main of late Ming and Qing Buddhist works acquired during the 19th century, many of which have frontispieces.

In October 1983, the DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND PRINTED BOOKS of the BRITISH LIBRARY acquired selected items from the Dubosc collection of early illustrated Chinese blockprinted works. Preeminent among these is a volume of the 1301 Qisha tripitaka, part of the Da ban nie pan jing (T.7, BL pressmark Or.80.d.25). This concertina volume with a fine 4 page frontispiece and 80 pages of text is an important addition to the Department's holdings, which are not strong in printing of this period. Other items include an apocryphal sutra, Fo ding xin da tuo luo ni jing (Or.80.d.21) with a 2 page frontispiece and illustrations at the head of the page throughout the text, printed on bamboo paper and illustrated in a fairly rough popular style. There are also 2 undated 15th century editions: Ci bei dao chang chan fa by Emperor Wu of the Liang (T.1909, Or.80.d.23), printed at Zhaoqingsi, Hangzhou, and illustrated with a 4 page frontispiece; and Xuan Zang's translation of Yao shi liu li guang ru lai ben yuan gong de jing (T.450, Or.80.d.22), with illustrations depicting vows to the Buddha of Medicine and the Twelve Generals who protect his worshippers. The Department also bought a Taoist sutra of the Ming dynasty (Or.80.d.24), with guardian figures and other illustrations. All these recent acquisitions may be viewed on request in the Oriental Reading Room at 14 Store Street, London WC1.

Dès la rentrée scolaire prochaine, l'INSTITUT DES HAUTES ETUDES CHINOISES à PARIS va changer la rédaction de ses nouvelles fiches en adoptant dorénavant la transcription pinyin au lieu de celle de "EFEO" jusqu'ici utilisée. En outre, ces fiches seront rédigées en fonction des normes AFNOR (Association française de normalisation), lesquelles proviennent des normes ISBD. Quant à l'ancien fichier, il sera remanié aux normes AFNOR progressivement à partir de l'année 1985. Par ailleurs, d'autres institutions parisiennes telles que la Société Asiatique et l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient ont décidé d'adopter les mêmes règles pour leurs propres fonds chinois et japonais.

Over the last year, the CHINA LIBRARY GROUP has been working on a UNION LIST OF CHINESE SERIALS IN BRITISH LIBRARIES. It is recognised that no single British library can any longer afford to subscribe to every Chinese periodical currently available, but that without exact knowledge of member libraries' subscriptions it would be impossible to avoid wasteful duplication. While agreeing that each library should continue to take all titles required by its own users, the Group also agreed to distribute the less essential titles more or less evenly around the country, in the hope that a shared effort would allow comprehensive national coverage. The following libraries are included: British Library (London), School of Oriental and African Studies Library (London), Bodleian Library (Oxford), Oriental Institute Library (Oxford), Cambridge University Library, Brotherton Library (Leeds), Durham University Library. The Science Reference Library (London) and Edinburgh University Library are not yet included, but

are expected to join the scheme shortly. The automated file (in romanisation only) currently contains about 1,500 entries, representing Chinese language serials from the People's Republic, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Amendments and additions are made monthly, and printouts are made when there have been enough changes in the list to justify them. Although the list was originally intended for internal use by members of the China Library Group, it is now obviously of wider interest, and the Group has agreed to make copies available to non-participants at normal photocopying charges. Requests for copies should be sent to Anthony Hyder, Oriental Institute Library, Pusey Lane, Oxford. The cost is £15, and cheques should be made payable to "The China Library Group."

The Commercial Press's new edition of SSU K'U CH'UAN SHU is being acquired by the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek at Munich and the East Asian History of Science Library at Cambridge. Are these the only two copies in Europe? *and Stockholm.*

Several European libraries have lent antiquarian material to the exhibition EUROPA UND DIE KAISER VON CHINA which opened on the upper floor of the Martin-Gropius-Bau in BERLIN on May 12th and closes on August 15th, unfortunately three weeks before the EASL conference. Concurrently, a spectacular exhibition of large-scale late imperial art from the National Palace Museum in Peking is being held on the lower floor of the building, much of it rarely seen even in China.

LIBRARIANS

JOHN MA

On March 1st 1985, the Sinological Institute of Leiden University had to take leave of John T. Ma (Ma Daren), who had reached the age of retirement after having been in charge of the Chinese collection for more than nine years. His departure has meant a very serious loss to the Institute and all who are working in it, both staff and students, for in the short time that he spent with us John had not only established his fame as a highly esteemed colleague and librarian of international standing, but also as a good friend and one of the most lively and colourful personalities we have ever known.

When he came to Leiden in January 1976, John Ma was already a senior librarian with an impressive record of professional know-how and experience; in his previous position as curator and librarian of the East Asian collection of the Hoover Institution at Stanford he had, moreover, acquired a profound and many-sided familiarity with materials on contemporary China. It is therefore not surprising that John's main contribution to our Library can be summed up in the word "professionalisation". His arrival meant the end of a situation that now, at his departure, seems almost prehistoric: a minimal staff consisting of mainly philologically trained sinologists, running a modest library with much enthusiasm, but without the specialised skills required in modern librarianship, and without a well-defined acquisition policy. Under John's direction all this changed almost beyond recognition, both qualitatively and quantitatively. At an explosive tempo, he introduced efficient library management and personnel training; by making use of his incredible network of relations all over the world, and by extensive "field trips" to East Asia, he has been able to create channels for the exchange of materials with many centres, notably in the People's Republic of China. Owing largely to his efforts, the size of the Chinese collection doubled in those years to nearly 200,000 volumes. In addition, John was able to enrich the Library with several valuable collections, such as the library of the late R.H. van Gulik (especially important for its rare editions of pre-modern Chinese fiction and works on Chinese art), the Go Collection (once owned by a late 19th century scholar living in Batavia), and a rare collection of the earliest China coast missionary periodicals.

That John was able to do all this was not only due to his professional knowledge and experience; it was also the effect of his personal qualities: organisational talent, unending energy, initiative, good humour, and persuasive powers. Many times we have witnessed with astonishment how families, once exposed to John's eloquence, parted

with their heirlooms as an "act of public spirit"; authors sent us personal copies of their works because our students were "eager to read their masterpieces"; and in one case, a theological institute was moved to donate all its Chinese materials by means of arguments drawn from both Old and New Testaments. Above all, staff and students have always profited from John's hunting instincts: whenever a specific item was desired, however obscure, he would leave no stone unturned to locate it and bring it to our shelves.

Apart from all the work he has done for the Institute, John Ma has earned our gratitude for what he has done to stimulate European co-operation in the field of Chinese librarianship. The readers of this bulletin do not need to be reminded that he was the initiator and first chairman of the European Association of Sinological Librarians. It is also of much satisfaction to all concerned that his useful Survey of Chinese Collections in Western Europe, a guide on which he has been working intermittently for seven years, has been published on the eve of his retirement.

However, all who know John Ma will agree that in his case "retirement" is a misnomer. We are convinced that Ma Daren with his indomitable energy will be active for many years to come, and that in the near future other institutions in East or West will profit from it as much as we have done over the last nine years. John Ma will continue his course, and our best wishes and good memories will accompany him wherever he goes.

Erik Zürcher (Director, Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden).

HOWARD NELSON

Howard Nelson has recently moved to a new post in the British Library's Preservation Service. He began his professional career as a Chinese librarian when he was appointed to take charge of the Chinese collections in what is now known as the British Library in October 1969. He quickly made his mark as a specialist in things Chinese, established the collections on a sure footing, and embarked on a vigorous acquisitions programme. The size of the Chinese collection of printed material, keeping pace with the steady growth in volume of publications from the People's Republic of China and the increasing number of books and serials available for export, increased by leaps and bounds. By the end of 1984 it had risen to about 90,000 printed volumes and 2,500 serial titles.

In 1966, the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books had adopted, uniquely in Britain, the use of pinyin romanisation for

Chinese catalogue records, and Howard Nelson followed this up by systematically cataloguing all post-1966 imprints in pinyin. At the same time he incorporated the vast mass of entries in R.K. Douglas's two volume Catalogue of Chinese printed books ... in the library of the British Museum (1877 and 1903) into a card catalogue under authors, titles, and subjects in Wade-Giles romanisation. Aware of the importance to Chinese scholarship of the huge collection of manuscripts from Tunhuang and other sites in Northwest China, Howard concentrated much effort on the care and conservation of this material, collected half a century ago by Sir Aurel Stein, and actively encouraged its exploitation by researchers from east and west.

Howard's establishment of an automated current serials list for the China Library Group, which involved detailed work on profile drafting, devising a common format, training colleagues, and editing and distributing output in a form acceptable to users, reflected his growing interest over recent years in the exciting possibilities offered by applying computers to the generation, storage and output of catalogue records in Asian languages in both the original scripts and romanised form. A promising start was made in this area with the Far Eastern Languages Automation Project, developed at Cambridge University with financial support from the British Library. This project suffered a major setback in 1982 when the initiative unexpectedly passed to the U.S.A., enabling Stanford University to build on the solid results achieved at Cambridge. Disappointed but undeterred, Howard pressed on with other aspects of bibliographic automation in the Asian field. With his increasing expertise in computer technology, he became the natural focus for catalogue automation in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, guiding and teaching his colleagues in Asian language fields far removed from Chinese. He was also invited to Scandinavia on two occasions to give lectures and lead discussions on the automation of Chinese bibliographic records.

Ken Gardner (Deputy Keeper of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, British Library).

As a sinological librarian, Howard was present at the inauguration of EASL at Leiden in 1981, and has been an enthusiastic participant in all our annual conferences to date. Members will recall his comprehensive plan, worked out carefully and in considerable detail, to update and automate the union list of Chinese periodicals in European libraries. In the second issue of our newsletter, we shall publish a paper by him on problems in Chinese bibliographic automation. We shall not be deprived of his company immediately, as he will represent the British Library at this year's EASL conference in Berlin.

Ed.

CHINESE COLLECTIONS IN EUROPE (1)

SINOLOGISCH INSTITUUT DOCUMENTATION CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CHINA

by John Ma.

The year 1969 marked a new departure in the history of Leiden University's Sinologisch Instituut. For many years the institute, as the only centre for Chinese studies in the Netherlands, had carried on the centuries old Dutch tradition of philological study and sinological research. Beginning in the 'sixties, increasing public interest in present day China was reflected in a growing demand, both inside and outside the University, for an expanded emphasis on the study of contemporary Chinese affairs.

In 1969, in response to this need, the Documentation Centre for Contemporary China was established. Formally, the Documentation Center is a subdivision of the Sinological Institute; in this sense, the Centre is an integral part of the Department of Chinese Studies within the University. In addition, however, the Documentation Centre, owing to the specific purposes for which it was created, also performs a number of tasks in an extra-academic context.

From the date of its founding, the Documentation Centre has been active in four rather distinct functions: (1) library-building, (2) participation in the teaching programme of the Department of Chinese, (3) research in various areas relating to modern and contemporary China, and (4) providing information services to a wide range of interested parties, both public and private.

Within the framework of this basic fourfold orientation, the tasks of the Centre have evolved in specific directions. The following represents a thumbnail sketch of the Centre's more recent activities:

(1) The buildup of the library collection has proceeded steadily. During the Centre's early years, primary emphasis was given to the formation of a working research library for contemporary Chinese affairs. Aside from the acquisition of almost all the available issues of the more important periodicals from and about the People's Republic of China (such as the English language Hsinhua releases and Survey of China Mainland Press), during this period a number of important microfilm series were purchased, including the Union Research Institute's Classified File, substantial selections from the U.R.I. periodical and newspaper holdings, &c. Work was begun on a systematically indexed collection of colour slides. Posters, maps, photographs and other audio-visual materials were collected. In recent years, the

collection of Chinese and Japanese monographs has been expanded. Holdings of periodicals from the People's Republic, Taiwan and Hong Kong have been greatly increased. The acquisition of colour slides and other visual documentation material has proceeded apace. A collection of Landsat satellite photographs has been obtained to facilitate geographic and demographic research.

(2) As personnel of the Sinologisch Instituut, the staff members of the Documentation Centre carry a share of the teaching duties in the Department of Chinese. In a broader interdisciplinary context, the Centre frequently co-operates with other departments of the University in offering seminars, area-study courses, &c.

(3) Concurrently with their teaching and documentation duties, the staff devote a major proportion of their time to basic research. Projects on various aspects of Chinese society are led by individual staff members, and project reports result in publications in both national and international media.

(4) From the beginning, the Documentation Centre has played an active and unique role in the Dutch community. As the national focal point of study and research into modern China, the Centre receives numerous requests for information and consultation on many levels. These services include the provision of extramural evening courses, co-operation with broadcasters and journalists, the organisation of public lectures by visiting scholars, and the briefing of individuals and groups preparing to visit China. One of the highlights in this area was the briefing of the team of journalists accompanying Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus on their visit to the People's Republic in May, 1977.

As cultural and economic relations between China and the Netherlands increase, and as public and academic interest in China continues to grow, the Documentation Centre may expect to assume additional responsibilities in future.

LA BIBLIOTHEQUE DU CENTRE CHINE

par Odile Pierquin-Tian.

Cette bibliothèque constitue la partie "documentation" du Centre de Recherches et de Documentation sur la Chine Contemporaine. Ce centre est une des cellules constituant l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, et est domicilié au 54, Boulevard Raspail à Paris (75006), au 4e étage de la "Maison des Sciences de l'Homme".

Physiquement, le centre de documentation comprend une salle de lecture, pouvant recevoir une vingtaine de lecteurs, trois bureaux pour les bibliothécaires, et des réserves dans les sous-sols, où est rangée la plus grande partie des documents, soit sur des rayonnages immobiles, soit dans des travées de compactus. L'accès aux réserves est interdit à toute autre personne qu'aux bibliothécaires.

Le Centre Chine a été créé en 1958, essentiellement pour fournir les outils de travail indispensables à la "nouvelle génération" de chercheurs qui se spécialisaient sur la Chine moderne et contemporaine (plus précisément de la guerre de l'opium à nos jours). Ils étaient peu nombreux. La sinologie française continuait à se consacrer surtout au monde chinois traditionnel et disposait pour cela de plusieurs autres centres de documentation. En 1971 le centre s'est installé dans les locaux actuels, et depuis 1982 il a été dirigé par Madame Marie-Claire Bergère. Sept personnes du Centre Chine partagent les permanences dans la salle de lecture, dont quatre se partagent le travail de documentation.

La bibliothèque dispose des fichiers suivants:

- a - fichier des ouvrages classés par matière. Ce fichier est subdivisé en périodes: 1840-1911, 1911-1949, République Populaire de Chine depuis 1949, Taiwan depuis 1949.
- b - fichier des ouvrages en langues occidentales classés par auteur.
- c - fichier des ouvrages en langue chinoise, classés par auteur (en Wade-Giles).
- d - fichier des ouvrages en langue chinoise, classés par titre (en Wade-Giles).
- e - fichier des périodiques en langue chinoise.
- f - fichier des ouvrages et périodiques en japonais.
- g - cartex complète des fichiers de périodiques.

Le fichier des périodiques en langue chinoise est en cours de réfection. Il avait été constitué en Wade-Giles, comportait de nombreuses erreurs, et n'avait pas été dactylographié. Nous sommes en train de constituer un fichier en pinyin. Environ 50% des revues y sont déjà cataloguées. Par ailleurs, on trouvera la liste des périodiques chinois du Centre Chine dans l'Inventaire des périodiques chinois dans les bibliothèques françaises.*

Le centre de recherches étant voué aux sciences sociales, ses acquisitions ne couvrent pratiquement pas le domaine des sciences exactes. Nous acquérons des livres, revues et tirés à part, couvrant les domaines suivants: philosophie, politique, informations générales, économie, commerce, histoire, géographie, droit, littérature, sociologie, ainsi que des revues d'universités. Nous avons aussi un peu de documentation en médecine, en architecture, et dans le domaine des beaux-arts.

Dans les dix premières années de la vie du Centre, le volume de la documentation est demeuré assez restreint. La demande de la sinologie française restait relativement limitée. Pendant toute la décennie 70, et jusqu'à présent, la production d'ouvrages et de périodiques de

Taiwan, de Hong Kong, du Japon, et des pays occidentaux, n'a cessé de s'accroître. Et depuis 1978, à la suite de la fin de la Révolution Culturelle, les ouvrages et périodiques publiés en République Populaire de Chine, et diffusés à l'étranger, ont connu un tel gonflement, que le temps de travail, les crédits, la place, rendus nécessaires à l'acquisition de tout ce qui est jugé utile posent souvent problème.

Le centre de documentation dispose actuellement d'environ 9000 titres en langues occidentales, 6500 en langues chinoise et japonaise, de 1200 périodiques en chinois (dont 220 reçus actuellement en abonnement), de 400 périodiques en langues occidentales (dont 140 environ reçus actuellement en abonnement). De plus, le Centre possède certains quotidiens de la fin du XIXe siècle et du XXe siècle, dont 22 en abonnements (R.P.C., Hong Kong, Taiwan, Paris). Enfin il existe une importante collection de microfilms, concernant surtout le début du XXe siècle. On peut signaler que le Centre possède, entre autre choses, un certain nombre de périodiques parus en Chine dans les années trente; la collection de La politique de Pékin; celle du Journal de Shanghai; un fonds de publications des gardes rouges pendant la Révolution Culturelle. Depuis plusieurs années, le Centre reçoit les "écoutes radio" quotidiennes américaines (FBIS Daily Report) et britanniques (S.W.B. - The Far East Daily); le Centre a les collections complètes du Shen bao, du Dong fang za zhi, et les 200 volumes de Min guo er shi nian dai zhong guo da lu tu di wen ti zi liao, édition de 1977, publiée à Taiwan.

Le centre de documentation est officiellement accessible à tous les sinisants "professionnels" (chercheurs, enseignants, journalistes, diplomates ...) et aux étudiants de niveau "maîtrise" (4e année) ou d'un niveau supérieur. Et, depuis quatre ou cinq ans, elle accueille un grand nombre de Chinois (de R.P.C., de Taiwan, de Hong Kong) en cours d'études ou en stage en France, et qui viennent au Centre, non pour des recherches, mais pour une information sur l'actualité en Chine.

La bibliothèque est ouverte toute l'année, du lundi au vendredi, de 10 heures à 18 heures, le mercredi jusqu'à 20 heures. Pendant les congés universitaires elle reste ouverte, mais parfois de 14 heures à 18 heures seulement. Elle est fermée les samedi, dimanche, et jours fériés. La bibliothèque du Centre Chine ne fait pas de prêt.

* Cet inventaire, préparé sous la direction de M. Cartier, vient de paraître, publié par le Centre de Recherches et de Documentation sur la Chine Contemporaine, et par l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Chinoises. Il est en vente au Centre Chine (85F.).

REVIEWS

TWITCHETT (Denis):

Printing and publishing in medieval China. The Wynkyn de Worde Society, London, 1983. 94pp. ISBN 0-85331-440-3.

par Monique Cohen (Bibliothèque Nationale).

La mise au point d'un procédé de reproduction en série, moins coûteux que la copie manuscrite, d'images et de textes bouddhiques destinées à satisfaire la piété des fidèles désireux d'acquérir des mérites semble être à l'origine de l'imprimerie. Un usage laïque en est toutefois attesté dès la fin du 9^{ème} siècle par les calendriers et les dictionnaires de rimes retrouvés à Dunhuang.

Dès vite la technique est parfaitement maîtrisée, et l'imprimerie se développe et se diffuse rapidement, atteignant son apogée dès les Song (960-1278). Entre 971 et 983, 130,000 planches sont gravées à Chengdu au Sichuan pour l'impression du Tripitaka. L'Académie Nationale publie les éditions officielles des Classiques et des Dix-sept histoires dynastiques, mais aussi des encyclopédies, des dictionnaires et des œuvres littéraires. Parallèlement, un secteur privé d'éditeurs "commerciaux" s'implante sur les lieux même de production des manuscrits. Au Fujian, Masha et Shufang près de Jianyang, dont les productions sont souvent plus soucieuses de rentabilité que de qualité, resteront des centres actifs jusqu'au milieu du 17^{ème} siècle.

Le pouvoir comprend vite l'intérêt, mais aussi le danger, de l'imprimerie, légiférant pour garder le monopole de l'édition de certains textes (calendriers, histoires dynastiques, ...) et pour contrôler sévèrement les publications dont les manuscrits devaient être approuvés avant d'être imprimés.

Même si certains colophons citent les noms des copistes, des graveurs, des relieurs et détaillent les sommes investies pour la location des planches, l'achat du papier et de l'encre ou pour la nourriture du personnel, l'aspect économique de la production est mal connu. Il en est de même des problèmes commerciaux. Il est malgré tout certain que le livre, sans parler des éditions de bibliophiles qui d'ailleurs restaient hors des circuits commerciaux, est un produit cher.

Le choix technologique de la xylographie est justifié par sa parfaite adaptation à l'écriture chinoise, mais aussi par son prix de revient, relativement moins élevé que celui des autres procédés - inventés eux aussi en Chine, basés sur l'impression à l'aide de caractères mobiles en porcelaine, en cuivre ou en bois.

Basée sur une conférence donnée en 1977, cette publication de moins de cent pages, destinée à un large public, évoque les grands problèmes spécifiques de l'édition chinoise médiévale. L'iconographie, légendée avec précision, est abondante et judicieusement choisie: elle est aussi importante que le texte.

SHAW (Shiow-Jyu Lu): The imperial printing of early Ch'ing China, 1644-1805. Chinese Materials Center, Taipei, 1983. (Asian library Series, 20; Studies in East Asian librarianship.) xiv, 87pp. ISBN 9-89644-621-2.

by Beth McKillop (British Library).

Mrs Shaw's survey of the publishing and printing enterprises of the Qing court was written as a Chicago Graduate Library School M.A. thesis. It describes the organisation and principal publications of the imperial printing works between 1644 and 1805.

Chapter 1 deals with the establishment of the Wuyingdian (Imperial Printing Works) in 1680 by the Kangxi emperor in order to store and publish works considered worthy of dissemination. Blockprints considerably outnumbered movable type editions, and not all government printing was carried out in the Wuyingdian itself: movable type printing was the responsibility of the Juzhendian, and some works were printed at Yangzhou.

The categories of works issued by the Wuyingdian are listed in chapter 2: imperial exhortations and literary works, records of Qing achievements, scientific and other imperially commissioned studies, and reprints of parts of the imperial collections. In chapter 3, the special characteristics of imperial editions are described, while chapter 4 discusses the two monumental achievements of the Imperial Printing Works: the encyclopaedia Gu jin tu shu ji cheng and the Si ku quan shu collection. There are seven plates of examples of palace editions.

Government publishing in the Qing is interesting to historians of printing technology and of state control of the dissemination of information. It raises complex questions of editorial control, distribution, use of raw materials, and technological advances. The early achievements of Chinese printers using xylography and then movable type are well known and touched upon again in Mrs Shaw's study, but it seems a pity that she has so little to say about the reasons underlying the government's decision in 1773 to revert to wooden movable type for the "Assembled Gems" selections from the Si ku quan shu after copper type had been used almost 50 years earlier

for the great encyclopaedia. This decision must have been strongly influenced by the shortage of copper in China, rather than by the difficulty of engraving copper type as Mrs Shaw suggests - if indeed the type was engraved: Mrs Shaw's reasons for believing so are less than convincing, and Denis Twitchett in his Printing and publishing in medieval China (London, 1983) takes the view that the type for the encyclopaedia was cast, not engraved.

Mrs Shaw states in conclusion that "the major concern of the Imperial Printing Office was the printing of documents of the reigning government or works compiled by contemporary authors. It abundantly succeeded in this respect". One would not wish to quarrel with such praise of the diligence with which the early Qing emperors went about this task, but the other side of the coin - the ruthless suppression of works with real or imagined heterodox tendencies - ought not to be overlooked in a study of this kind.

This is a study which is full of detail but which lacks the insight to make the subject come to life. It is unlikely to inspire the many people with and without sinological qualifications who are anxious to find out about the contributions of the Far East to the history of printing. Such readers must wait for T.H. Tsien's forthcoming contribution to the Science and civilisation in China series.

MARTINIQUE (Edward): Chinese traditional bookbinding, a study of its evolution and techniques. Chinese Materials Center, Taipei, 1983. (Asian library series, 19; Studies in East Asian librarianship.) xiii, 67pp. ISBN 0-89644-596-8.

by Christopher Clarkson (Bodleian Library).

This book is a straight transcription of the author's University of Chicago Thesis no.T23798, December 1971. Those familiar with the thesis will find no additions to the text, not even to the bibliography or illustrations. In fact, 5 pages of glossary have been omitted, which will surely not find favour with certain interested students.

I am a conservator of library materials, and not in any way a specialist in Oriental bibliography. In fact, my specialist subject is mediaeval European book structures. Throughout my career, I have had the occasional Chinese t'ao and ts'e to care for or repair, and have therefore been familiar with Martinique's thesis since the early 1970's. Over the years, I have been appalled at the careless storage, over-restoration, or even brutal imposition of modern Western binding structures on such material. The present European conception of a

bookbinding, along with its materials and techniques, is being mis-applied when imposed on pre-18th century European books or on books from alien cultures. The thoughtless application of such late Western European bookbinding practices has caused immense damage to cultural property throughout the world.

We require a series of reference works on Oriental library materials which has the scope to encompass all aspects of Oriental book forms: economic and social history, library furniture and handling, and also techniques of preservation, conservation, and restoration. In fact, it is to the author's credit that most of these subjects are touched on in this little book. Of all the binding structures that have been applied to the preservation of books, there are two masterpieces: the Ethiopic chain stitch in its protective bag, and the Chinese ts'e in their protective t'ao. As soon as spine liners and covering materials are attached directly to the spine of the text-block, stress points occur on opening which have to be provided for. Likewise, the attachment of stiff boards requires a more substantial structure on which they can swing. In combining the two functions - ease of opening and sound protection - a far more complex construction with many areas of stress is produced.

For those concerned librarians or conservators who have wished to restore the Chinese books in their collections by traditional means, I know of only two English references which contain some technical information: O.K. Nordstrand's article in Libri 17.2 (1967), and E. Martinique's thesis, now the present book. For such technical matters, the latter relies very much on the former, but Nordstrand, although eminently sensible, is mainly concerned with stopping the thoughtless rebinding in Western styles and demonstrating methods of rebinding based on his own observations. It may be significant to a conservator that no dates of provenance are set against his observations: it is popularly thought that such simple bindings could not reveal "telling" detail, and that in any case they must have all been re-sewn many times over. I wonder! The scope of Martinique's book extends basically from the replacement of the roll by the flat sheet format through to the adoption of Western binding systems. It is a continuation of T.H. Tsien's Written on bamboo and silk in that it concentrates on the stitched, double-leaved book. It also briefly discusses such early Chinese attempts at preservation as the treatment of paste with insecticide, the use of certain hardwoods, &c.

As may be expected with a thesis, the author writes from a strictly academic viewpoint. One senses little practical observation or research into extant historical examples. Although Martinique's book is a useful collection of data culled from many sources, I doubt some of his interpretations of the Chinese references: certainly, his quotation (p.39) from B.C. Middleton's History of English craft book-binding technique, which infers that side-stabbing is much the strongest form of book structure, is quite out of context. Middleton refers only to the European text-block, where the leaves are far less flexible in relation to their size, and the page layout is related to

sewing-through-fold and not to side-stitching. Martinique misses these essential physical differences as Middleton somehow misses the characteristic kinking, strain, and tear-back damage found on side-stitched European text-blocks. The word "strength" is misapplied. The key, as in all good bookbinding construction, is a balance and compatibility between the qualities of the various materials used and the mechanical movements, and Martinique's failure to understand this is a major flaw in his thesis. By "technique" students of the physical book seem to mean the flashy or the complex. Recent study of the Chinese *ts'e*, as of much Western binding, has perceived only a "simple" binding structure and not beyond to what makes it work, an attitude which leads naturally to unsympathetic handling and restoration.

Illustrations are very important in this type of book. There are 41 altogether, of which 25 are in colour and are of finished specimens. The photographs actually illustrating techniques of manufacture are 6 black and white reproductions of the half-tones in Hedda Morrison's 1949 article, which are here so poorly printed that important detail is lost in washed-out highlights and areas of impenetrable black. Do not be put off by the dust jacket, which shows a row of badly drawn modern European case bindings, and is totally unsympathetic with the wonderfully visual and tactile subject discussed within. The person who produced it may not have been able to read English, but might surely have been shown the illustrations as inspiration for a more appropriate design.

Having read the book through for a second time I am disappointed that the author and publisher did not take the opportunity of revising and updating the work, or at least of supplying information of the important developments in Chinese historical bibliography since 1971 in the form of either a summary or footnotes. For most modern readers, I feel that a well composed and detailed series of photographs of technical methods taken in a superior Chinese restoration workshop would have been far more valuable than reprinting the Hedda Morrison illustrations. If this had been done, the book would have helped us much better to understand and preserve the traditional Chinese bookbinding heritage.

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