

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The fifth annual conference of EASL was held at the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, from 5th to 7th September, 1985.

Present were: Ingrid Siegmund-Rux (Technische Informationsbibliothek, Hannover)
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin)
Lutz Bieg (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin)
Helga Dressler (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin)
Shu-huei Kolb-Wu (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin)
Ulrich Stackmann (Universität Göttingen) - observer
Kirsten Rønbo Lauridsen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek, København)
Kira Rohde-Liebenau (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Weng-Onn Loke (Universität Hamburg)
Katherina Thölen (Universität Zürich)
Bosco Shumou Yu (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Lars Fredriksson (Sinologiska Biblioteket, Stockholm)
Roger Greatrex (Forskningspolitiska Institutet, Lund)
David Arrandale (The Brotherton Library, Leeds)
Carmen Lee (East Asian History of Science Library, Cambridge)
Howard Nelson (The British Library, London)
Chin Foo-Kune (The British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa)
David Helliwell (The Bodleian Library, Oxford)

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1. Several members gave accounts of limited projects in automation using romanisation. No European library at present had plans for the automation of its complete Chinese holdings, whether in romanisation or Chinese characters. The Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books of the British Library was to have the use of the RLIN/CJK system on an experimental basis for one year, from January 1986, and would report its experience to EASL through its bulletin and at the next conference. A close watch should be kept on the forthcoming addition of CJK to the OCLC system, and an assessment made of its suitability for use in European libraries. A representative of OCLC should be invited to attend the next conference to explain and demonstrate the system. European librarians expressed a general preference for pinyin input systems over systems based on character analysis.

2. Johann-Michael Streffer explained the Federal Republic's "Zeitschriften Databank" (ZDB), and confirmed that it would be possible to augment it with non-German locations. Members felt that this would be the

most suitable means of producing an updated union list of Chinese periodicals in European libraries, and undertook to participate subject to the following conditions: input would be in pinyin romanisation, and the chairman would write to the director of ZDB on behalf of EASL urging a change from the Wade-Giles system, in which some 1,500 Chinese titles are already entered; it should be possible to obtain an output of the Chinese titles uniquely; output should be available in both microfiche and print; and output should be available regularly to participating libraries. Once these matters had been resolved, J-M Streffer would present a sample of what was available to members, and explain in detail how their holdings should be entered into the system.

3. Members examined sample copies of the inaugural issue of the bulletin, and expressed a general satisfaction with its form and content. A vote of thanks to the editor was passed for his work in its preparation. Arrangements were made for the gathering of material for the next issue, which was to be produced in spring, 1986. At the next conference, the progress of the first two issues would be reviewed, and the possibility examined of charging for the third and subsequent issues. The Staatsbibliothek would sustain the cost of printing and circulating the second issue, as it had the first, and members expressed their thanks for this generous assistance.

4. Members were taken on a tour of the Ostasienabteilung of the Staatsbibliothek, and the management of the Chinese collection was explained in some detail. The recent death of Dr Wolfgang Säuberlich was announced, and tribute paid to his services to the Staatsbibliothek. J-M Streffer agreed to write a notice of this for publication in the next issue of the bulletin.

5. A visit was made to the Asien-Afrika-Abteilung of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in East Berlin, and members were warmly received by Dr Karl Schubarth-Engelschall, the director, Frau Helga Keller, the Chinese librarian, and Herr Johann Dill, her assistant. Frau Keller and Herr Dill explained the working of the Chinese section, and took members on a tour of the collections. The chairman would ensure that they received copies of the bulletin, invitations to future conferences, and all other information relating to the activities of EASL.

6. Following a suggestion which arose at last year's EACS conference in Tübingen, members expressed a desire for fuller information on holdings of Chinese books in Italian libraries. The chairman was asked to investigate the possibility that he, Lars Fredriksson and Katherina Thölen might visit the collections which are held in Rome, Venice and Naples, and report on them at next year's conference in Turin.

7. The next EASL conference would be held in conjunction with the EACS conference in Turin, in August, 1986. A draft agenda was agreed, to be augmented during the meantime and despatched to members in advance. The above minutes were accepted as an accurate account of the proceedings of the fifth conference.

David Helliwell, Chairman
Oxford, 9:ix:85