

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The fifteenth annual conference of EASL was held in the Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich, from 6th to 9th September 1995. The meetings were chaired by Cathy Thölen.

Present were:

Jana Šrajerová (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)
Dušan Andrš (Charles University, Prague)
YU Dong (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana)
Cathy Thölen (Universität Zürich)
Rita Baldegger (Universität Zürich)
Wu Chia-hsün (Universität Zürich)
Yu Lifeng (Universität Zürich)
Hubert Delahaye (Collège de France, Paris)
CHENG Ying (Centre Chine, Paris)
Jean-Louis Bouilly (Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon)
Marc van der Meer (Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden)
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Cordula Gumbrecht (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Diane Strobl (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Thomas Hahn (Universität Heidelberg)
Annette Specht (Universität Bonn)
Ina Asim (Universität Würzburg)
Michael Leibold (Universität Würzburg)
Aleks Stypa (Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin)
Kira Rohde-Liebenau (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Anne Labitzky-Wagner (Landesspracheninstitut NRW, Bochum)
Matthias Kaun (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel)
Thomas Gaiser (Universität Tübingen)
Andrei Borisov (Russian State Library)
Benedicte Vaerman (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Roger Greatrex (Lunds Universitet)
Sue Swee Chin Small (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)
Graham Hutt (British Library, London)
Lars Laamann (British Library, London)
David Arrandale (Brotherton Library, University of Leeds)
Charles Aylmer (Cambridge University Library)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)

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1. Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Tony Hyder (Oxford), Nathalie Vandepierre (Bruxelles), and Andreas Mixius (Hannover).
2. Notices and reports
 - 2.1 A new 3-storey East Asian wing would be constructed at Cambridge University Library, to be completed by the end of 1997, with funds provided by a Japanese benefactor. (Charles Aylmer)
 - 2.2 A 2-year project to construct a multi-lingual Chinese thesaurus for automated cataloguing is being discussed at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. (J-M Streffer)

- 2.3 The small collection of Manchu literature at Lund would be catalogued. (Roger Greatrex)
- 2.4 A catalogue of Chinese missionary materials in the Vatican Library had been completed, and a catalogue of the rare Chinese books was in progress. (Yu Dong)
- 2.5 The library of J.K. Fairbank at the Czech Academy of Sciences was being catalogued. (Jana ŠrajEROVÁ)
- 2.6 A list of the pre-1800 Chinese imprints at the British Library was in the course of preparation. (Lars Laaman)
- 2.7 Attention was drawn to the continued progress of the Dunhuang project at the British Library, and especially to image digitisation and the project's Newsletter. (Graham Hutt)
- 2.8 A collection of Chinese cookery books had been acquired by the Brotherton Library. (David Arrandale)
- 2.9 The two Chinese libraries at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven had been brought together on a single site. (Benedicte Vaerman)
- 2.10 An extra floor had been added to the library of the Sinologisch Instituut at Leiden, and the collection of visual materials on China was being digitised. (Marc van der Meer)
- 2.11 J-L Bouilly's catalogue *Ouvrages en langue chinoise de l'Institut franco-chinois de Lyon, 1921-1946* had been published with the assistance of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation. (J-L Bouilly)
- 2.12 The Oriental Centre in the Russian State Library would be housed in a new building, occupying some 1,800 square metres. (Andrei Borisov)
- 2.13 Thomas Hahn had been appointed to the academic staff of the Sinologisches Seminar at Heidelberg, and would be replaced as librarian by Annette Specht. (Thomas Hahn, Annette Specht)
Thomas Hahn was congratulated on this appointment, as well as on the recent completion of his doctoral thesis.

3. Meetings and conferences

- 3.1 Thomas Hahn had convened a meeting of the German colleagues at Heidelberg in October 1994 to discuss cataloguing rules, including matters of bibliographic format and allegro configurations.
- 3.2 Alfons Dufey and David Helliwell had attended a meeting of the international advisory committee of the RLIN Chinese Rare Books project at Princeton, New Jersey, in April.
- 3.3 The French colleagues had now established a formal grouping of 12 members, named SINODOC, with Hubert Delahaye as convener.
- 3.4 The British China Library Group had met twice in the past year; David Arrandale remains convener.
- 3.5 Thomas Hahn had attended the annual general meeting of CEAL (now renamed Council, rather than Committee, on East Asian Libraries) in Washington, and a conference on Oriental text processing in Moscow.

4. BEASL

- 4.1 BEASL 8 (January 1995) had been edited by Ina Asim in Würzburg, and was the biggest issue to date. Members offered their congratulations and thanks to Ina on the quality as well as the size of this production. The issue had been printed in Heidelberg, and distributed from Berlin and Oxford.
- 4.2 Ina Asim agreed to edit the next issue of BEASL, with the assistance of Michael Leibold. The arrangements for printing and distribution would be the same as for BEASL 8, but the print run would be increased to 200 copies.
- 4.3 The EASL accounts (which relate entirely to BEASL) had been prepared by Tony Hyder, and were accepted. The Secretary was asked to convey thanks to Tony for his meticulous work.
- 4.4 Attention was drawn to the fact that a number of members, among them many in

western Europe, had failed to pay the subscription of £10 for BEASL 8 and 9, and they were urged to do so without delay.

4.5 The deadline for BEASL 9 was set for December 1st.

5. Automation

5.1 A number of members reported on the progress of catalogue automation in their libraries, and demonstrations were made.

5.1.1 Charles Aylmer demonstrated the online handlist in Wade-Giles romanisation of the Chinese books in Cambridge University library.

5.1.2 J-M Streffer gave an outline of the copy-cataloguing of Chinese books in the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin from China MARC records. Some 250,000 records from Peking Library, representing the entire output from 1988, had been imported into allegro, and the hit-rate for current publications was in the region of 90%.

5.1.3 Marc van der Meer described the project to automate the Chinese catalogue of the Sinologisch Instituut in Leiden. The University's PICA system had been enhanced to accept Chinese data, which would be encoded in Guobiao.

5.1.4 Hubert Delahaye reported that the Chinese catalogue of the Institut des Hautes Etudes Chinoises in Paris had been mounted on a fileserver in Grenoble, and could be accessed through the World Wide Web. This was demonstrated outside the meeting.

5.1.5 David Helliwell demonstrated the current Chinese and Japanese catalogues in Oxford, drawing attention to the recent development of allegro that permitted the display of digitised graphic images from within the catalogue.

5.2 There was informal discussion of a number of issues arising from the various presentations described above, especially on the subject of word division (also known as syllable aggregation), and the production of a Chinese thesaurus.

5.3 Thomas Hahn outlined the growing importance and availability of a number of different networked resources, and gave a successful demonstration of how the Twenty-five Dynastic Histories Database could be accessed and searched online from Heidelberg.

5.4 It was proposed that EASL should have a home-page on the World Wide Web, and Thomas Hahn was asked and agreed to coordinate this project. The data would be mounted in Heidelberg, and the cooperation of members in its design and execution was sought and offered.

6. EDOCS

6.1 Thomas Hahn gave an outline of the EACS proposal to construct a union list of Chinese serials in European libraries that would also include titles in Japanese and western languages. A grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation had been obtained for this purpose.

6.2 Owing to the uncertainty that this development had cast over the continuation of EDOCS, J-M Streffer had suspended work on EDOCS until EASL had been given the opportunity to discuss the matter.

6.3 Members were of the view that until the shape of the EACS project had become clearer, EDOCS should continue as before, and that J-M Streffer should continue to run the project.

6.4 This notwithstanding, members agreed to cooperate with the EACS project as far as they were able. J-M Streffer pointed out that three parties were involved in the production of EDOCS: EASL, ZDB, and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. For the project to be modified or suspended, all three would have to agree. For its part, EASL agreed that a copy of the EDOCS database could be made available to the EACS project if it were required.

6.5 J-M Streffer agreed to provide members with a list of the library location codes used in EDOCS.

7. Rare and out-of-print books
Sources of rare and out-of-print books were discussed. It was agreed that a list of dealers in Hong Kong and other places should be mounted on the proposed EASL World Wide Web home page.
8. Copyright
Matters relating to the legality of photocopying Chinese books were discussed.
9. Interlibrary loan
J-M Streffer drew attention to the *Blauer Leiverkehr* system, whereby materials in East Asian (but not western) languages might be borrowed by European libraries on interlibrary loan from the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (München).
10. Election of officers
Cathy Thölen (Chairman), David Helliwell (Secretary) and Tony Hyder (Treasurer) were re-elected for a further period of office.
11. Sixteenth annual conference
A majority of members agreed that the sixteenth annual conference should be held in Moscow during either the second, or failing that, the first full week of September 1996. If it should prove impossible to go to Moscow at that time, the venue would be switched to Heidelberg.
12. Visits
During the course of the conference, members had the opportunity of visiting the library and classrooms of the Ostasiatisches Seminar, newly constructed three years ago in high-tech style, and superbly appointed. On Thursday afternoon, a visit was made to the Museum Rietberg, where members were given a tour by Daniel Schneider of exhibitions of Buddhist sculpture and East Asian painting.

The fifteenth annual conference closed with an expression of thanks to Cathy Thölen and Rita Baldegger for the careful and successful arrangements that they had made for the conference, and to the University of Zürich for sustaining the cost of lunch for participants on Thursday and Friday.

David Helliwell
Secretary

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