

**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS**
TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MÜNCHEN
18-20 SEPTEMBER 2002

The Twenty-third EASL conference was held in the Bavarian State Library in München from 18 to 20 September 2003.

The meeting was chaired, for the first time, by Cristina Cramerotti.

Our host, Renate Stephan, welcomed the participants warmly to München. She introduced her two colleagues Zhang Yuzhi and Lucia Obi. The deputy-head of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Dr. Rolf Griebel, gave a short opening address with an introduction about his library.

During the course of the conference, a presentation of a selection of precious Chinese books was made by Renate Stephan, followed by a visit through the stacks of the Chinese collection of the Bavarian State library and a reception in the library sponsored by IDC Publishers.

Furthermore, a visit was organized to the Völkerkundemuseum and, for interested members, to the sinological collections of the University of München.

The last evening, a farewell dinner was organized in China Restaurant Jade: on the menu, a great variety of dim-sung which we had time to study-before-tasting on the beautiful scrolls Renate had exposed.

Present were:

Charles Aylmer, Cambridge University Library

Hiroko Brittain, Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa

Chen Naili, CIBTC Beijing

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

Claudia de Morsier, Zentralbibliothek, Zürich

Erica Drochner, Sinologische Bibliothek, Universität Freiburg

Katarina Feriencikova, Charles University, Prague

Maja Fuchs, Institut for East-Asian Studies, University of Vienna

Thomas Gaiser, Universität Tübingen

Martin Hanke, Abt. für Sprache und Kultur Chinas, University of Hamburg

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

Sabine Hildebrandt, Amnesty International, Bonn

Ursula Holler, Institut für Geschichte des Medizin, LM University München

Huang Xiyi, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

Matthias Kaun, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

Guje Kroh, Institut für Sinologie, LM University München

Anne Labitzky-Wagner, Sinologisches Seminar, Heidelberg University

Hanno Lecher, Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden University

Li Meiqi, Zhongguo shudian

Li Xiaowei, University of Westminster

Andreas Mixius, Universität Hannover

Marc Nürnberger, Institut für Ostasienkunde, LM University München

Inga Nyman, Asian Library, Stockholm University Library

Lucia Obi, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München

Richard Puijk, IDC Publishers

Qin Guangping, CNPITC Beijing

Friederike Schimmelpfennig, Univ. Library Erlangen, Science and Engineering Library

Sue Small, SOAS, University of London
Silvia Sun, LSI Sinicum, Bochum
Renate Stephan, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München
John M. Streffer, East-Asia Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Diane Strobl, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München
Richard Teschke, Institut für Ostasienkunde, LM University München
Hermann Tessenow, Institut für Geschichte des Medizin, LM University München
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
Hans von Ess, Institut für Ostasienkunde, LM University München
Vivian Wagner, Institut für Ostasienkunde, LM University München
Wang Tong, CIBTC, Beijing
Joyce Zhang, China National Knowledge Infrastructure
Zhang Ying, CNPITC, Beijing
Zhang Yuzhi, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München

ACTA

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the 22 th EASL conference were accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

2. Introduction and notices of members:

Anne Labitzky-Wagner has moved to the Heidelberg library since May 1, 2003, and is replaced in Bochum by Silvia Sun.

Hanno Lecher was appointed librarian of the Sinologisch Instituut in Leiden.

Friederike Schimmelpfennig reports that she works also free-lance supporting *Allegro*.

Charles Aylmer reports that they have accepted a donation of the *Qianlong dazangjing*, and joined the *China National Knowledge Infrastructure* database.

Li Xiaowei announced that Leeds has received books from the *HANBAN* organization.

Maja Fuchs announces that in Vienna they are since three years transferring their Chinese catalogue into *Aleph*.

Renate Stephan announces that the Bavarian Library wants to buy all 3 additions to the *Siku quanshu*.

Diane Stroble announces that she will be retiring in February 2004. The meeting wishes her all the best.

Sue Small reported that SOAS's acquisition budget has decreased dramatically. SOAS has bought the *Sinolaw* database.

3. Reports on conferences, meetings:

Hanno Lecher reports that he has attended a conference in Taiwan of the National Digital Archives Program: they are trying to standardize their different digital databases, full text searchable. Parts of them are free, some are restricted, some are payable. In a few years, more and more of these databases will be free.

Matthias Kaun assisted the IFLA meeting in Berlin, no comment. OCLC and PICA organize a workshop on Unicode in Leiden, Paris and Berlin.

Katarina Feriancikova reports that a Festival on Chinese theatre was held in Prague.

Sue Small attended two meetings:

a conference on cooperation and development of Chinese resources in Macao

a CEAL meeting in New York: American librarians decided to urge Chinese publishers to propose cheaper prices.

Next year's EACS meeting will be held in Heidelberg, from August 25 to August 29, 2004. Hans von Ess, who happens to be the EACS secretary and is present at this year's EASL meeting, says that EACS could be organizing a library panel. There was a discussion about whether EASL officially has to participate or propose a presentation. Some people complained that EACS at least should invite EASL officially. Finally, it was concluded, that mutual existence is recognized, that EASL members who wish to participate in EACS can attend the meetings and make proposals for speeches, and that EACS can also invite EASL people if they have particular needs or questions.

4. Treasurer's report:

Last year, 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. He reported that his bank can not propose such an arrangement.

The meeting concluded that, since only a small amount of money is involved, things should not be further complicated. The arrangement stays therefore as it is: Martin Hanke has an account with EASL money, with 1761 Euro on it, plus a surplus for one year of 3,25 Euro, totaling 1764,25 Euro.

5. EASL Online resources:

5.1 EASL homepage:

Matthias Kaun asked for funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for building a digital Asian library, in cooperation with Prof. Wagner's (Chinaresource.org), Hanno Lecher's (IGCS) and his work combined. All these resources should be linked in one database: this will take another 2 to 5 years. The aim is to open the new digital database to the public.

David Helliwell objects to Wagner's choice of name: European Center for digital resources in Chinese studies. It is not 'European', it is his own initiative, and not open to the rest of Europe by now.

Hanno and Matthias say that serious efforts are made to make these databases more accessible to the rest of Europe.

Cristina Cramerotti concludes that a truly European solution must probably be organized on a higher level. The EU could be asked for help.

Charles Aylmer thinks this project is too cheap for the EU and too expensive for EASL.

David Helliwell says that we could propose to EACS to have a common move towards the EU, specially concerning the access of databases. The aim would be to work out a practical way to get total European access to all these resources from a single point of access.

Cristina Cramerotti will propose this plan to EACS.

5.2 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

5.3 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, especially due to SPAM.

Members are urged to subscribe to the list. Please contact Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

6. IT demonstrations and discussions:

6.1 Ostasienkataloge der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek:

http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/datenb/rlg_inf.htm

Dr. Fabian of the Bavarian State Library explains how the catalogue was build:

Starting with *RLIN* in 1990, then *RLG* downloaded in a catalogue though *Totals*: only for in-house access, while *Totals* has no internet interface. They now use *Eureka*, will later use *Aleph*. 120.000 Chinese language documents have been input, including 3500 *congshu*.

6.2 Superstar Digital Library:

Tong Shenxiao explains the installation and the use of *ssreader.com*. Many people tried to access it but did not succeed. Tong Shenxiao presents his experience: the system is not very reliable, but there is a lot of material available.

Free cards are distributed by CIBTC

6.3 Automatic conversion of CN-Marc to Marc-21

Charles Aylmer explains how his library converted automatically CN-Marc to Marc-21.

More explanation on <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/mulu/conv.html>

6.4 Introduction to the China National Knowledge Infrastructure

Introduction to the database by Joyce Zhang, and presentation of their collaboration with Matthias Kaun. Matthias explains what Berlin offers to other German libraries and eventually to other European libraries: *China Academic Journals* Database, part of *CNKI*.

Matthias' Email to the Easl-listserver, dated 15/01/2004, explains furthermore:

During our last EASL meeting in Munich we introduced the "China Academic Journals" database (CAJ). The Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin set up a server and provides free access for German users to series F (history, philosophy, literature) until June 2004. To get access to other series for German and European libraries you have the possibility to join our consortium. Now we are able to give free access to CAJ bibliography which, however, does not provide you with the full-text and good searching facilities, but which gives access to the title and very simple bibliographic information of what you can find in the CAJ database (or in printed journals on our stacks!). The good news is that the bibliography is complete. It contains all titles you can find in the series included in CAJ database (including science and engineering, medicine, agriculture, information science, history, philosophy, literature, law, economics, politics, social sciences and education) and is updated monthly (Dec. 2003 more than 8 Mio. titles). We will try to improve this resource within 2 or 3 months' time (with

linking to authors and titles and direct link to Blauer Leihverkehr or other lending forms) See more (in German: <http://ead.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/caj/>) and direct access to CAJ bibliography: <http://caj.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/cjbd/>)

Some libraries in the UK have already access to CNKI because they joined through Eastview: http://online.eastview.com/cnki_login/index.jsp. Eastview has exclusive rights for the US, for Europe CNKI can compete with Eastview.

6.5 Chinese literature in Social Sciences

Charles Aylmer presents a website which offers access to the Fuyin baokan ziliao, of good quality. He proposes to form a consortium with some other libraries to acquire 1 year use. The website address has by now been changed into: <http://66.134.251.50:8100/clsodemo/>

6.6 Cataloguing of Chinese *congshu*

Richard Teschke and Thomas Gaiser talk about their experience with bibliographic contents of Chinese *congshu*. 141 *congshu* with 49.512 analytic titles are projected.

7. Acquisition of books and periodicals

Some people proposed that during next year's meeting, providers should be invited during only one day. This new idea has been accepted by the meeting

8. Elections

No changes

Other business:

Renate Stephan says that the Association of Chinese Librarians wishes to invite EASL to China. CNPITC proposes to host an eventual visit.

9. Next year's conference

The place was already fixed: Edinburgh. Tong Shenxiao will be our host.

Date fixed: 15-17 September 2004

This date has been changed (in November 2003) by mutual consent through the EASL-

Listserver: **it will be from September 8 to September 10, 2004 !**

2005: Berlin

2006: Cristina Cramerotti will find out if there are any possibilities for a meeting in Venice

The Twenty-third EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Renate Stephan and her colleagues for their excellent arrangements.

Benedicte Vaerman

EASL Secretary

Leuven, January 27, 2004