

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Annual Conference Stockholm, 3-5 September 2014

The thirty-fourth EASL conference was hosted by Stockholm University Library, Asian Library, Stockholm, Sweden from 3 to 5 September 2014. The meetings were chaired by Maja Fuchs.

During the conference, two library visits, one museum visit, two presentations and a reception were organised by the local host. The reception was held at the Department of Oriental Languages, Aula/Lecture hall on Wednesday evening. On Wednesday afternoon, there was one visit to the Stockholm University library (presentation of rare books by Helena Backman, rare books librarian at Stockholm University). On Thursday afternoon there were two visits, one to the Far Eastern Library (presentation by Si HAN, curator of the library) and the other to the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities. The farewell dinner took place on Friday evening at the Grillska huset.

Present

• Members

Inga-Lill **Blomkvist** (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Denmark)
Sara **Chiesura** (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London)
Alice **De Jong** (East Asian Library, Leiden University)
Katarína **Feriančíková** (Institute of East Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague)
Jarmila **Fiurášková** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)
Maja **Fuchs** (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna)
Marc **Gilbert** (Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon)
David **Helliwell** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)
Kerstin **Herelius** (Uppsala University Library)
Helena **Heroldová** (Naprstek Museum, Prague)
Olivier **Höhn** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)
Matthias **Kaun** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Øystein Johan **Kleiven** (University of Oslo Library)
Sarah **Koch** (German National Library of Science & Technology, University Library Hannover)
Anna **Larson** (Asia Library, Lund University)
Dat-wei **Lau** (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient, Paris)
Soline **Lau-Suchet** (BULAC, Paris)
Martin **Lavicka** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)
Bent **Lerbaek Pedersen** (Det Kongelige Bibliotek / The Royal Library, Copenhagen)
Fung On **Lui** (University Library Frankfurt am Main)
Mia **Nilsson** (Asia Library, Lund University)
Inga **Nyman Ambrosiani** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)
Imke **Mees** (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne)
Emma **Palmqvist Wojda** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)
Martina **Rysova** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc)
Miriam **Seeger** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Joshua **Seufert** (Bodleian Library, Oxford University)
Helena **Sedlackova** (Director of Palacký University Library, Olomouc)
Delphine **Spicq** (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Paris)
Thomas **Tabery** (Bavarian State Library, Munich)
Katharina **Thölen** (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zürich)
Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library)
Bénédicte **Vaerman** (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Marc **Winter** (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zürich)
Ruili **Zhang** (University of Manchester Library)

• **Vendors**

Dai Jason (Wanfang Data)
Wang Xiaosen (China Data Center)
Guo Liyan (CNKI)
Feng Qi Claire (CNKI)
Wang Tong (CIBTC)
Liu Xin (CIBTC)

• **Apologies**

Hiroko **Brittain** (The British Library, Boston Spa)
Anne **Labitzky-Wagner** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)
Hanno **Lecher** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)
Erik **Svanström** (Humanities and Theology Libraries, Lund University)
Wai-hing **Tse** (School of Oriental and African Studies Library (SOAS), University of London)

ACTA

1. Chairman's address and the welcome speech by the host institution

Maja Fuchs opened the conference by thanking the local host for organising the conference, followed by a welcome speech by **Torbjörn Lodén (Professor of Chinese language and culture at Stockholm University)**.

Maja Fuchs then extended her warm welcome to all the participants and especially to the new members who joined the conference for the first time.

2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference and member reports

The minutes of the 33rd EASL conference were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Maja Fuchs on behalf of Anne Labitzky-Wagner presented the Treasurer's report. There was an increase of €4.71 in the form of interest for 2013. As German banks calculate interests for the entire fiscal year – 1st January to 31st December, the interests that have been accumulated in 2014 will be shown in next year's report. The total balance is €1,888.69.

4. Report on conferences

There was no report on conferences this year.

5. News from EASL members' libraries

• Katarína Feriančíková (Institute of East Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague):

- Budget for 2014 is lower than last year by about 20%. Therefore the library is able to purchase basic periodicals and almost no books. Only Chiang Ching-kuo International Sinological Centre in Prague purchases sinological books at Charles University.

- Donation of about two hundred books and periodicals of Prof. Jarmila Gabrielová. The donated publications belonged to professor's deceased sister - sinologist Jaroslava Gabrielová. The sinologist gained the publications in China by the end of 1970s.

• Marc Winter (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zürich) :

In the wake of the formation of the Asia-Orient-Institute for the beginning of 2013, the Western language section of the East Asian library will relocate to a new building and be joining a room with the Indian and Oriental library, thereby creating an Asia-Orient-Library (no official name) by summer 2015. So far the three libraries were separate, and will remain so organization wise for the time being. The catalogue of the Indian library is not in the union catalogue yet, some problems with conversion remain. The Central Library Administration has approved the use of non-Latin-scripts for cataloguing and retrieval in the union catalogue. The cooperation between the four librarians with their specialty on India, the Arab world, Japan and China looks promising. So far the goal to buy books on matters relevant to all of Asia is still stalled because professors seem reluctant to invest part of their budget in books of seemingly too general an interest. The original language libraries on Japan and China will stay put. For the Asia-Orient-Library an RFID-installation is projected but has not been approved yet.

• Joshua Seufert (Bodleian Library, Oxford University):

The New China Center will open on September 8, with royal visitors. There will be offices, seminar rooms, academics of social sciences, humanities, far eastern curator. Chinese studies will definitely be getting a boost in Oxford. Also working on transforming the old Allegro catalogue, and digitization project.

• David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford University):

For the past 3 years, David and Joshua have prepared for the New China Center library that will open on September the 8th: a very big 'special collections library' in a completely new building. Next year when EASL is held in Oxford, many special things will be shown (a conservation studio has been set up for pre-modern work).

• Bent Lerbaek Pedersen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek / The Royal Library, Copenhagen):

No more books from Asia. Bent is in charge of 100 languages and his role slowly changes to that of curator. Professors and students haven't protested. Palm leaf manuscripts from China were just acquired. Tibetan too.

• Alice De Jong (East Asian Library, Leiden University):

Project of retro cataloguing with CIBTC is being prepared with OCLC and team leader, visit to Beijing last August. When all is clear, CIBTC will start cataloguing 50.000 Chinese titles, 20.000 Japanese and Korean titles. The East Asian Library hasn't moved yet, a new floor in the Main Library has to be built. Probably 2016. Also, Leiden will become a TRCCS (Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies), signing in October.

• Thomas Tabery (Bavarian State Library):

The oldest Chinese printings and manuscripts (originating from the 7th to the mid-17th century) of the Bavarian State Library were comprehensively catalogued and fully digitized between 2011 and

2013 in this project, which was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

More than 5,000 fascicles, 29 leporelli and 10 scrolls were digitized and around 400,000 single images were produced. In 2014 and 2015, another 6,000 fascicles and 10 scrolls (with a total number of approximately 600.000 single images) will be comprehensively compiled and fully digitized. This second project is also funded by the DFG and covers Chinese printings and manuscripts originating from the mid-17th century to the end of the 18th century. A printed catalogue prepared by Renate Stephan will be published probably in 2015.

In November 2014 the Bavarian State Library will sign a memorandum with the National Central Library, Taipei to establish a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies at the Bavarian State Library.

• Delphine **Spicq** (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises):

Digitization project with Zhonghua shuju. Scripta Sinica database was bought with Leuven and Leiden. Acquisition of CNKI journals. Budget cuts are reported, some extra money could be found for genealogies. New director (an archaeologist) was appointed. China, but also East Asia and Middle East collections will have to move out of the building and split for 4 years before being back in 2019 in a new building. 250.000 books have to be moved, a small lecture room will remain. BNF have stowed all the books in a faraway building, it takes 4 days for your book to arrive, some remain unavailable. Several petitions are being prepared.

• Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library):

Edinburgh University Library doesn't have many Chinese rare books, but we are keen to increase our collection through purchase or donation. We have applied to the UK Heritage Lottery Fund for help with purchasing Chinese rare books. The result will be known in late autumn. There will be a slight increase in the library material budget for the new academic year. The Library has an e-preference collection policy which also influences Chinese acquisitions. Over the last year, we have purchased the Chinese Historical Newspapers (ProQuest), China Doctoral Dissertations/Masters Theses (CNKI) and the Chinese Periodicals Full-text Database 1911-1049 (Shanghai Library). We have also started a one-year trial subscription to Peking University's China Law Info, and will continue our participation in the European consortium for Siku Quanshu. MARC records for over 6,000 CAJ titles have been uploaded into the Voyager Catalogue via SFX. Procurement for a new generation product of library management and resource discovery system is underway. It is hoped that the new system shall be in place before the start of academic year 2015/16. There has been steady development in the Chinese Studies Department, with two new academic posts and three Chancellor's Fellows in Chinese sociology, Chinese history and Chinese studies. There are about 30 honours students majoring in Chinese every year.

• Jarmila **Fiurášková** (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc):

Situation is improving thanks to the generous EU funding. New website (chinet.cz) to support people from the Czech Republic and abroad to hold conferences and workshops, including reviews and field notes for Chinese studies. Looking for people who can write reviews about new books.

• Helena **Sedlackova** (Director of Palacký University Library):

In the process of cataloguing all their books. Direct links to their catalogue in the Marc21 system are created.

• Dat-wei **Lau** (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient, Paris):

A new director was appointed along with a new manager for the library. As for the Chinese collections, undergoing project of cataloguing the Naxi manuscripts.

• Matthias **Kaun** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin):

The 'old new reading room' in Unter der Linden has been reopened. Conversion project (with

CIBTC) is finished, Japanese and Korean still have to be finished. Pre-modern collection needs to be re-catalogued. 2 million pages have been digitized, including the Manchu collection, etc. The Second World War split the collection in three, the library is trying to get it back. All the collections have to be moved to a warehouse in Berlin, 1 hour's drive from the centre. Contract has been signed with the Capital library in Beijing. Support from the special German funding will end in 2016: less books will be bought, focus on the researchers. More projects: discussion with Heidelberg to expand Cross-Asia to sources also of South Asia.

• **Kerstin Herelius (Uppsala University Library):**

The new center for China studies, professors (minorities, classical Chinese...) working together with archaeology, medicine etc., lots of cooperation with others within the university, but also with NIAS.

• **Sara Chiesura (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London):**

- Chinese Collections at the British Library

The Chinese collections at the British Library are composed of more than 100.000 printed books and 2.500 periodical titles. The earliest acquisitions of Chinese material were from the collection of Sir Hans Sloane, founder of the British Museum.

Sara started to work at the British Library as the Chinese Curator on January the 20th and is currently the only person in charge of the Chinese collections. The British Library is undergoing a restructuring project but there will be the possibility to open a new position in the Chinese Sections.

- Ongoing projects:

The “Window to China” project sponsored by the NLC is ongoing, and the books selection is made by the Social Sciences Curator Ian Cooke and Sara Chiesura.

- Catalogues:

1. Chinese Wade-Giles pre-1966 catalogue (microfiches) (Total: about 56,500 cards, Titles: 19,800);
2. Chinese Pinyin catalogue (1966-1993) (Total: about 34,650 cards, Titles: equivalent to about 27,720 titles [of which 25,000 are in Chinese only]);
3. Manuscripts (Non-Stein Chinese manuscripts: ca. 630), in cards catalogues and the Douglas' Catalogue of Chinese Printed Books and Manuscripts.
4. Post 1993: Allegro UK Union Catalogue

We are currently working on possible retro-conversion activities for our catalogues.

Shandong University and the National Central Library in Taiwan expressed their interest in beginning cooperation activities in this area.

• **Øystein Johan Kleiven (University of Oslo Library):**

New discovery layer PRIMO. Meeting with Shanghai library last summer, possible acquisition of Baokan suoyin (BKSJ).

• **Bénédicte Vaerman (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven):**

The library changed to a new system Alma (update of Aleph). Configuration and mapping needs some work.

• **Ruili Zhang (University of Manchester Library):**

- John Rylands Chinese Special collection project

In February 2014, our library hosted Professors Li Guoying and Zhou Xiaowen from Beijing Normal University to survey our Chinese collections in more detail. Following their survey and report we are now moving forward with plans for a collaborative project to catalogue, research and

promote the collections both internationally and locally within the University and local Chinese community.

- My Learning Essentials (MLE) win

My Learning Essentials, launched in September 2013, has been designed to empower students to become proactive, independent learners. It offers access to a comprehensive academic skills programme at the point of need and offers a blend of support opportunities via face to face workshops, skills clinics and via interactive online learning resources. On the 30th of April 2014, MLE was recognised as the winner in the Innovative Blended Learning category of the 2014 Blackboard Catalyst Awards.

- Library wins Guardian University Award 2014

On the 26th of February 2014, Manchester University Library was presented with the Guardian University Awards 2014 award for best Facilities Project for the Learning Commons. The winning means that the Learning Commons will become an example of what can be achieved through wide-scale partnership between professionals and students across a large UK university.

• Olivier Höhn (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library):

Things are very centralized. The acquisition and cataloguing tasks are now taken care of by the staff at the main library. There are no longer any subject librarians responsible for developing the collections. This means that the acquisition of books is now selected by researchers, teachers and students only. We greatly and thankfully rely on our cooperation with NIAS (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies) for the shared acquisition of important databases and e-journals.

• Inga-Lill Blomkvist (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Denmark):

Budget cut of 20% mainly taken from the library's printed collections plus the collection of western language journals. The printed books and journals collections (all in western languages) were transferred to the Copenhagen social sciences faculty library together with the librarian responsible for the books collection. Part-time head of the library also transferred to the University Library. Inga-Lill is now the only librarian left and the main focus of the library is on online resources for the 26 Nordic NIAS Council member institutions. Some more funding has been set aside to further develop these online collections consisting mainly of Chinese and Japanese language databases.

• Soline Lau-Suchet (BULAC, Paris):

Since Dat-wei Lau has left, work had to be reorganized. 6000 books or more turned out not to be catalogued, a cataloguer has been hired and this work should be finished within 2 years. Soline is now in charge of acquisitions. All pre-modern materials have to be redone. The 'Chinese education history' collection will be available in the catalogue next year. The National institute of oriental languages and civilizations has digitized all PhD dissertations, now online available through SUDOC. France has finally a national licence for e-resources, there has been a survey. Scholars didn't respond so a second survey was needed. BULAC will get advisory role, and there will be funds for Asian language e-resources.

• Marc Gilbert (Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon):

Two librarians are now working on the Chinese collection. In October 2013, Lyon was invited by the Capital library and signed MOU. 2014 being the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between France and China, many officials (including Xi Jinping) came to Lyon and the library was closely involved. IFLA congress in Lyon was also an opportunity to introduce the attendees to our Chinese collection and to welcome our Chinese partners. 2014 being also the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the first World War, the Chinese collection of the library will display some documents about Chinese workers in France during the Great war.

• **Maja Fuchs** (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna):

Large donation of 350 books. Undergoing retro cataloguing work.

• **Imke Mees** (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne):

Quite some problems: leaking roof, Internet, etc., it is truly amazing such an important museum should work in these conditions. Exhibition held with Palace Museum in Beijing. Many donations were received. Worries about the future of the catalogue Imke has been working on since 1993 (not online available yet).

6. Presentations

Members

- Delphine Spicq (Collège de France, Paris): “Examination papers”
- Joshua Seufert (Bodleian Library, Oxford): “New Allegro catalogue”
- David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford): “An update on the Serica project”
- Marc Winter (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, East Asian Studies, Zurich): “New joint library system in Switzerland – some problems”
- Helena Heroldová (Naprstek Museum, Prague): “Mongolian Prints and Manuscripts in Tibetan Language kept in the Naprstek Museum in Prague”
- Katarina Feranciková (Charles University, Prague): “Theses of Institute of East Asian Studies in Thesis Repository of Charles University, Prague”
- Marc Gilbert (Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon): “Report on the IFLA conference 2014”
- Fung On Lui (University Library Frankfurt am Main): “The situation of the Chinese catalog at the Goethe University Frankfurt – a brief review”

Vendors

Wang Xiaosen (China Data Center): “China Geo-Explorer and US Geo-Explorer”

Jason Dai (Wanfang Data): “Wanfang: New Resources for Chinese Studies”

Wang Tong (CIBTC): “New databases; shelf-ready service”

Guo Liyan (CNKI): “Discovery of a new treasure - CNKI E-books Series”

7. Discussions on EASL affairs

7.1 Authorities management

This topic was discussed on two opportunities, bringing into light diversity of practices among European institutions, technical difficulties, etc.

7.2 EASL conference in Oxford

Upon next conference in Oxford, one day will be dedicated to presentations, open to scholars, of special Chinese collections held by European institutions.

Therefore, the opportunity of having a four days meeting was discussed to decide if an extra day for these special presentations should be added to the usual three days agenda. The members chose not to change the length of the conference.

Among EASL members, the Royal Library in Copenhagen, the British Library, the University of Zürich, the Bodleian Library, the Bavarian State Library, the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon, the Collège de France already offered to contribute.

It was also decided that next year’s conference will take place on the 2nd week of September to allow more members to attend.

8. Elections

The meeting accepted that Maja Fuchs, Anne Labitzky-Wagner and Marc Gilbert would continue as Chairwoman, Treasurer and Secretary.

9. Next conference

Thanks to David Helliwell and Joshua Seufert's invitation, the thirty-fifth annual EASL conference will be held Wednesday 9th to Friday 11th September 2015 at the Bodleian library, Oxford, Great Britain.

There was also an invitation from Olomouc to hold the 2016 EASL meeting there.

[Since the new building in Heidelberg is under construction, Heidelberg could be an option for EASL conference only from 2018/19 on.]

The thirty-fourth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Olivier Höhn, Inga Nyman Ambrosiani and Emma Palmqvist Wojda for their excellent arrangements.

Marc Gilbert
EASL Secretary
November the 3rd 2014, Lyon