

 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

東亞圖書館  
*East Asian Library*  
and the *Gest Collection*

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*"End Matter", The Gest Library Journal 6, no. 1 (1993): 101-107, accessed January 14, 2017, <https://library.princeton.edu/eastasian/EALJ/end.EALJ.v06.n01.p101.pdf>*

## NEWS AND NOTES: FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE GEST LIBRARY

### RLG CHINESE RARE BOOKS PROJECT UPDATE

As announced by John Haeger in the Spring 1992 issue of the *Gest Library Journal* (vol. 5, no. 1), the RLG International Union Catalogue of Chinese Rare Books Project is now underway at Princeton University. Located in the Gest Library (Jones Hall, Room 305), the project enjoys the full support of the Firestone and Gest libraries and their staffs. For a project of this complexity, with activities on both coasts (RLG, The Research Libraries Group, is affiliated with Stanford University and based in Mountain View, California), the cooperation and goodwill of all those involved are most important. The choice of Princeton for the location of the central editorial office of the project was desirable for a number of reasons. To begin with, Princeton was active in the earlier pilot project phase, and it possesses the largest number of Chinese rare book titles among the current North American participants in the project. In addition, the bibliographical and reference collections of the Gest Library are comprehensive and capable of supporting the research that accompanies the cataloguing work.

The central editorial office opened in September 1991, and the first six months were devoted to important organizational matters. Furniture and equipment, as well as the necessary electronic and technical connections, were ordered and installed. At the same time, the important recruitment of two persons to fill project staff positions was begun. By January, a specialist Chinese rare books cataloguer in the person of Cao Shuwen was hired. She was educated at Peking University and gained experience in this field at the university library, where she began working after graduation. Ms. Cao participated in the pilot project at Princeton and since then has gained valuable experience in the use of RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) and the application of standard Anglo-American cataloguing rules and other practices. Her expertise as a cataloguer is a great asset to the project. In March, Xu Hui was appointed project assistant. Ms. Xu holds an M.L.S. degree from SUNY Albany and another master's degree from Dartmouth College, as well as a B.A. from Beijing Normal University. Her diverse abilities make her well suited to the demands of this position.

As of September 1992 all nine North American participants in this phase of the project have rare book records on-line in RLIN, and the two Peking participants are soon to follow. The libraries of Peking University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Peking represent special cases, not only because of the large volume and high quality of their holdings, but because of the need to develop efficient means of delivering data and inputting records. It is hoped that their successful participation will

NEWS AND NOTES

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BKS/SAVE Books          FUL/BIB NYCP92-B5603          Cat Maintenance NJPX-CSW
UANG MING MING CHEN YEN HSIUNG LU HSIEN PIEN# - Cluster 1 of 3 - SAVE record - CJK
+
ID:NYCP92-B5603          RTYP:c          ST:a          FRN:          MS:          EL:          AD:00-31-92
CC:9114          BLT:am          DCF:a          CSC:d          MOD:          SNR:          ATC:          UD:09-02-92
CP:ch          L:chi          INT:          GPC:          BIO:c          FIC:0          CON:
PC:s          PD:1553/          REP:          CPI:0          FSI:0          ILC:          I1:0
HMD:          OR:          POL:          DM:          RR:          COL:          EML:          GEN:          BSE:
040          CStRLIN+cCStRLIN
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260          [China] :#bShen Ying-k'uei, #cMing Chia-ching kuei'ch'ou (32*anien) [155
    3]
260          [China] :#b沈 應魁, #c明 嘉靖 癸丑 (32年) [1553]
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590          In 3 cases.
651 0          China*xHistory*yMing dynasty. 1368-1644*xBiography.
650 0          Statesmen*zChina*xBiography.
650 7          Shihepu*xChuan'chie'lei*xTsung'chuan.#2sk
650 7          5 史部*x傳記類*x總傳.#2sk
700 10          1 1 Shen, Ying-k'uei.
700 10          1 1 沈 應魁, #e輯.
797 20          CHRB.
    
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1. Printout of machine-readable record for Chinese rare book from Columbia University, entered on RLIN by the RLG Chinese Rare Books Project.

serve as a model for the inclusion of other important collections outside of North America in future phases of the project. In order to be inclusive, the project welcomes the participation of all libraries, large and small, that have relevant holdings. Besides the general Chinese rare book holdings of Princeton, Columbia, Chicago, and Berkeley, with their well known strengths, our current work also includes lesser known specialized collections. For example, the P'u-pan Collection of the Asian Library of the University of British Columbia is rich in literary and historical sources relating to Kwangtung Province, and the Spencer Collection of the New York Public Library holds a small but choice collection of Ming and early Ch'ing illustrated books.

A printout of a typical Chinese rare book record on RLIN (from the C. V. Starr East Asian Library of Columbia University) is appended (see illustration 1). Fields and

subfields indicated by arrows and numbers one to six represent the most basic elements of a Chinese rare book record and the first five are shared by the two existing "union" catalogues for Taiwan and China. They are: (1) title; (2) author (compiler, editor, etc.); (3) edition statement; (4) collection indicator; (5) *ssu-k'u* classification; (6) block-format description. In addition, RLIN records contain numerous other descriptive elements and parallel romanization fields, as well as Library of Congress subject headings and several other "access points" for locating information.

Another responsibility of the project is the compilation of cataloguing rules applicable to the on-line cataloguing of Chinese rare books. The "Draft Cataloguing Guidelines" produced by the International Advisory Committee to the project in September 1989 were revised by the central editorial office in March 1992, and it is assumed that several more revisions will be needed before a final product is achieved. We also plan to produce a glossary of Chinese rare book terminology to meet the needs of the participants as well as other interested parties. As the project progresses we look forward to receiving the comments and criticisms of all RLIN users and anyone with an interest in Chinese rare book cataloguing.

Sören Edgren

#### ANNUAL REPORT 1991-1992 GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY AND EAST ASIAN COLLECTIONS

By the end of June 1992, the total holdings of Gest Library stood at 490,847 volumes (including 91,535 stored at Forrestal). A total of \$483,648 was expended for books and serials in the 1991-1992 fiscal year (\$265,363 for Japanese, \$183,078 for Chinese, \$23,435 for Western, and \$11,772 for Korean materials).

The second phase of moving Gest books to the Forrestal Annex was completed ahead of schedule on August 31, 1991, and close to one-fifth of the Gest Library holdings are now in storage there. This arduous task could not have been accomplished without our conscientious and dedicated staff. So far this move has not caused any great hardship or inconvenience to our readers.

The Research Libraries Group's International Chinese Rare Book Catalogue Project started operation on September 1 and is now located in Room 305, Jones Hall, courtesy of the East Asian Studies Department. Sören Edgren is the project director with two staff members. We are happy to have them with us.

After twenty years of service, the air-conditioning system acquired a new motor, and the filters and ducts were cleaned in July. The water filter in the Gest drinking-water system was also replaced.

*Technical Services.* Our cataloguers' productivity continues to be high. The number of new titles catalogued in Chinese increased by 0.5 percent over 1990-1991, and those in Japanese by 4 percent; there was a 44 percent decrease in Korean cataloguing. The number of volumes and reels catalogued and added, however, decreased by 8 percent overall, with a 10 percent and 20 percent decrease in Chinese and Korean cataloguing

respectively; Japanese cataloguing increased 0.2 percent. For the third year in a row, the cataloguing statistics for Japanese reached the highest ever.

Whereas the decrease in Chinese total volumes catalogued was attributable to the temporary disability of staff members and new NACO (National Cooperative Cataloguing Operation) training and procedures, the decrease in Korean cataloguing was mainly a result of the lack of LC and RLIN-member copies for new titles. For Japanese, cataloguing copies were much more readily available. As a NACO participant, Gest contributed 403 original headings and updated 119 existing ones to the Name Authority File.

The cataloguing patterns vary little from last year: 22 percent original (the same as last year), 36 percent LC copy (38 percent last year), 42 percent RLIN-member copy (40 percent last year).

Since acquisition figures continue to outpace cataloguing figures, the cataloguing arrearage showed an increase for the fourth consecutive year — from approximately 380 volumes and reels, to a total of 13,880, the majority of these consisting of the Chinese backlog, now numbering 9,280.

We filed close to twenty thousand Chinese cards in the Gest public catalogue, but still have a filing backlog. It is strongly urged that NOTIS (Northwestern Online Total Integrated System) put priority on developing vernacular-character display capacity for OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) so that we may be relieved of the double catalogue maintenance burden.

*Collection Development.* The declining trend of publishing activity in the People's Republic of China was reversed last year. Political control of publishing has gradually lessened, and publishing activity is increasingly controlled by market forces. During the past year, we established many new contacts in China to broaden our sources of acquisitions. After long negotiation, the China International Book Trading Corporation in Peking has agreed to give a 20 percent discount to Gest for all nationally distributed titles published in China.

In Taiwan, the Government Information Office started a new monthly called *Bibliogony: A Monthly Review of New Books* in July 1991. This journal will make it easier for the Gest to keep track of what is being published in Taiwan.

Hong Kong continues to serve as a transshipment point for Chinese mainland imprints. The recently established contacts with Mann's, one of the largest book dealers in Hong Kong, looks very promising.

The distribution of our acquisition expenditures for Chinese materials remained about the same: China, 39 percent; Taiwan, 26 percent; Hong Kong, 24 percent; United States, 8 percent; and others, 4 percent.

Both Taiwan and Hong Kong have a much higher inflation rate than the United States and thus drove up the price of everything, including books, binding, and postage. The average per-title price in Taiwan is now \$30.01.

Although the total number of books on China, Japan, and Korea in Western languages ordered during 1991–1992 remained about the same as in 1990–1991 (355 to

351), Western-language book expenditures rose almost 30 percent to \$23,435, and the deficit from \$3,934 to \$9,244. Because of this anticipated deficit, no Western books were ordered after January. Further, this deficit is not attributable to an upsurge in orders during either 1990–1991 or 1991–1992 but to the fact that this account has been seriously underfunded. It is hoped that serious consideration will be given to an increase in funding.

Japanese book prices for scholarly publications continue to soar, and it is common to find a single volume with the price tag of one hundred U.S. dollars. The exchange rate for the yen fluctuated between 124 and 125 to the dollar, resulting in a 7 percent decline in purchasing power. Nevertheless, Mrs. Kim managed to acquire 212 more volumes than in the last fiscal year.

After seventeen years of Japanese acquisition support for major East Asian libraries in the United States, the Japan–United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) changed its funding policy, shifting from direct acquisition grants to support for resource sharing with the application of technology. Consequently, over ten thousand dollars of standing orders generated by JUSFC orders must be absorbed by us. Expenditure for periodicals and serials was 17 percent of the total acquisition budget; postage absorbed 5 percent and standing orders for Japanese publications 30 percent. Close to six hundred volumes of solicited gift and exchange items were received in 1991–1992. The per-volume cost for Japanese books was \$53.00.

Cooperation among the East Coast Consortium members of Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale continues in the area of collecting Japanese local history. After the Conference on National Planning for Japanese Libraries held at the Hoover Institution in November 1991, three regional coordinating Japanese acquisition plans have evolved into a national plan to coordinate acquisition of expensive books and multivolume sets as part of a solution to overcome shrinking allocation, the weakening dollar, and soaring book prices. The *Union List of Current Japanese Serials in East Asian Libraries in North America*, for which Gest contributed a revised list of holdings and proofreading of the final version, was published in April 1992.

Since our Korean collection is funded at the minimal level, the growth is insignificant. This year, for the first time, a course in the Korean language was offered to undergraduates. We also received 257 volumes of Korean books in English from the Korean government through the Korean Consulate General of New York.

*Public Services.* The circulation statistics have gone down from 25,171 a year ago to the current 24,770 volumes — a decrease of almost 2 percent. But interlibrary loan activity has increased 6 percent.

The stack area for Western-language books is gradually filling up, and we must find ways to alleviate this problem or we will again find books on the floor.

*Professional Development.* Gest staff members continue to be active in the American Libraries Association (ALA), the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), Center for Research Libraries (CRL), East Coast Consortium, and the Research Libraries Group

(RLG). Martin Heijdra is the CEAL representative for the project to convert and update the Bibliography of Asian Studies into a CD-ROM version, and a member of the Staff and Review Committee, as well as a member of the Grievance Panel at Princeton University Library. He is also participating in the NOTIS Display Committee.

Soowon Kim continues to serve as a member of the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials (CEAL-AAS), and she is also a member of the Princeton University Library Grievance Panel, as well as a member of Task Force #2 of the National Planning for Japanese Libraries in North America.

Antony Marr remains a member of the Advisory Panel for East Asian Materials at the Center for Research Materials, a board member of the Center for Chinese Research Materials, a member of the Executive Group of the Committee on East Asian Libraries, and a member of Princeton University Library NOTIS OPAC Training Committee.

Mariko Shimomura continues to serve on the CEAL Subcommittee on Technical Processing.

Iping Wei served as the Princeton liaison to the RLG Chinese International Rare Books Catalogue Project and as a member of the Princeton University Library's Online Catalogue Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the NOTIS Data Conversion Team, the NOTIS Specification Team, and the Authorities Group.

All seven librarians attended the AAS-CEAL annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in April 1992. Charmian Cheng also attended the ALA annual convention in San Francisco in June, and in December 1991 Martin Heijdra took part in the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Chicago.

*Visitors.* During the past year a total of 101 nonlocal visitors did research, used materials, or toured the collection at Gest Library. They came from the following countries: United States, 28; China, 20; Taiwan, 12; United Kingdom, 9; Germany, 8; Japan, 6; Hong Kong, 4; Switzerland, 4; Netherlands, 3; Austria, 2; France, 2; Norway, 1; Russia, 1; and Sweden, 1.

## FRIENDS OF THE GEST LIBRARY

The Friends of the Gest Library is a group of private individuals dedicated to the idea that an East Asian library resource like the Gest Oriental Library (the East Asian Research Library at Princeton University) must be known, supported, and encouraged in order to enrich both the aesthetic knowledge of East Asia and the growth of scholarship and contemporary information concerning that part of the world. Many individuals have already been active for years in guiding the Gest Library, and contributing their time and resources ad hoc. In 1986 they formed the Friends of the Gest Library in order to broaden the Library's support and foster communication among other interested parties.

As a group, the Friends sponsor colloquia and exhibitions on East Asian books, calligraphy, art, and their historical relationships. They secure gifts and bequests for the Library in order to add to its holdings items and collections of great worth. They disseminate information about the Library (and about other East Asian libraries) so that members and non-members alike can benefit from its resources.

### JOINING THE FRIENDS

Membership is open to those subscribing annually thirty dollars or more. With that membership fee is included a yearly subscription to the *Gest Library Journal*. Members will be invited to attend special exhibitions, lectures, and discussions that occur under the aegis of the Friends. Checks are payable to the Trustees of Princeton University and should be mailed to:

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