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"End Matter", The Gest Library Journal 6, no. 2 (1993): 103-107, accessed January 14, 2017, <https://library.princeton.edu/eastasian/EALJ/end.EALJ.v06.n02.p103.pdf>

NEWS AND NOTES:
FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE GEST LIBRARY

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE RLG
CHINESE RARE BOOKS PROJECT

The first International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting of the current Phase III of the Chinese Rare Books Project (CRBP) was held at Princeton University, March 4-5. As stated, the purpose of the meeting was to address the issues of standards and cataloguing as they relate to CRBP, as well as to review and advise on the past performance and future direction of the project. The previous IAC meeting, held in Washington, D.C., in 1989, had laid a viable foundation for the project that resulted in the compilation of a set of draft cataloguing guidelines. It was gratifying that several original members of the committee were able to continue their participation.

The current IAC membership is comprised of eleven outstanding specialists from the fields of scholarship and librarianship. They are: Peter Chang, deputy director of the National Palace Museum (Taipei); Cui Jian-ying, head of Special Collections of the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing); Jane Hwang, former curator of Chinese collections of the Bavarian State Library (Munich); Tai-loi Ma, head of the University of Chicago East Asian Library; Frederick Mote, professor emeritus, Princeton University (absent); Susan Naquin, professor, University of Pennsylvania; Beatrice Chang Ohta, head of the Chinese Section of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloguing Division of the Library of Congress; Shen Naiwen, head of the Rare Book Cataloguing Group of the Peking University Library; Lynn Struve, professor, Indiana University (absent); Tsuen-hsiun Tsien, professor emeritus, the University of Chicago and former head of the East Asian Library (absent); Chi Wang, head of the Chinese Section of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress (absent).

Five others were appointed to participate in the IAC meeting as special observers: Karen Smith-Yoshimura, director of the Research Libraries Group (RLG) Library and Bibliographic Services; Iping King Wei, head of technical services of the Gest Oriental Library of Princeton University; Charles Wu, head of technical services of the Starr East Asian Library of Columbia University; Martin Heijdra, Chinese bibliographer of the Gest Oriental Library of Princeton University; Fran Lafleur, Chinese bibliographer of the Starr East Asian Library of Columbia University (absent). Organizers of the conference, also participating, were the staff of the Central

Editorial Office (CEO) of the project: Sören Edgren, editorial director; Cao Shuwen, Chinese rare book cataloguer; Xu Hui, project assistant.

Many of the participants arrived on Wednesday, March 3, and took advantage of the opportunity to attend a public lecture by Peter Chang entitled "Rare Book Collections in Taiwan." (Chang had been in Princeton for the previous week serving as special consultant to the project.) On Thursday morning, March 4, the conference began with an introductory meeting at the Firestone Library's Taylor Room, where a book exhibition entitled "Chinese Woodblock Books and Edition Discrimination" had been mounted by the CEO. Karen Smith-Yoshimura offered an overview of the project to date and discussed prospects for the future. Sören Edgren and Cao Shuwen spoke on some bibliographic and cataloguing aspects of the project and how the CEO deals with various inherent problems. After a break for lunch at Prospect House, the remaining three meetings took place in the East Asian Studies Seminar Room in Jones Hall. The agenda for the final sessions was based on the contents of the recently revised (February 1993) "Cataloguing Guidelines (Draft)," a copy of which each participant had received in advance. The guidelines had previously been revised by the CEO in March 1992. The afternoon session consisted of a review of the project to date with comments on existing on-line records and a general critique of the guidelines as a whole. An important aspect of the project's mandate is the production of a suitable document to be submitted to the appropriate committee of the American Library Association (ALA) for acceptance as a "standard" for the on-line cataloguing of Chinese rare books. In order to be able to submit the "Cataloguing Guidelines (Draft)" to the ALA by early summer 1993, it was deemed necessary to review the guidelines thoroughly; therefore, the final two working sessions of the IAC meeting on Friday, March 5, were devoted to a point by point discussion of the contents. Both sessions on Friday were intense and fruitful, largely because of the participants' ability to concentrate on specific issues and avoid generalities. All disputed points were resolved through open debate and consensus, and all agreed that any personal compromises were made for the benefit of improving both the quality and quantity of Chinese rare book records yet to be produced by the CEO. After a hard day's work, the IAC meeting officially closed with a reception in the Taylor Room hosted by the Princeton University librarian, Donald Koeppe.

After the departure of the conference participants, the staff of the CEO immediately set out to implement the recommended revisions. It had been decided that a rough draft of the revised guidelines should be sent out to the participants by the first of April, with the firm requirement that replies and comments be delivered to the CEO no later than April 15. To the great credit of the participants all their comments were received by the deadline. Numerous minor revisions and other adjustments were made to the document, and the latest revision of the "Cataloguing Guidelines (Draft)" of the RLG Chinese Rare Books Project was completed on May

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6, with the intention of submitting it to the ALA Committee on Cataloguing: Description and Access at the annual meeting in June. In the meantime, the CEO is engaged in revising our Chinese-language edition of the guidelines to reflect the many changes that resulted from the International Advisory Committee meeting in March.

Sören Edgren

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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