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The East Asian Library and the Gest Collection
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EDITORS
Dr. Hung-lam Chu, *Editor*
Dr. Howard L. Goodman, *Managing Editor*
Prof. Frederick Mote, *Advisor*

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From the Editors

Announcements

The first issue of *The Gest Library Journal* was mailed to Friends of the Gest late last December. As this second issue goes to press, the editors wish to thank all the Friends for their warm support, and many for messages approving the idea of the *Journal*. We hope that this issue and those planned for 1987-88 will attain better standards, and will merit your continued support. That there is much interest in all aspects of East Asian books appears to be well verified. It is our hope that the *Journal* will reflect an ever wider range of those interests.

We must apologize to Friends in Canada for one of those embarrassing errors that you Friends have as yet been too kind to mention: on pages 2 and 55, recounting the history of the Gest Collection, we said that it came to Princeton in 1937 from Toronto. We all know that the collection came to us from McGill University in Montreal, but we did not catch the slip until too late. That and a few other errors are corrected in a Table of Errata at the end of this issue. We shall follow the same procedure in future issues.

The Friends of the Gest Library is still a small organization, if an enthusiastic one. We are trying to expand the membership, and hope that you will continue to aid us by reminding your friends to become Friends. An announcement about how to join the Friends appears on the last page of this issue.

As announced in the first issue, the first important activity of the Friends will be sponsorship of an exhibition, "Calligraphy and the East Asian Book," to be held in the main exhibition gallery of Firestone Library from about May 15 to August 15, 1987. All Friends of record as of April will be sent a special announcement concerning the opening of the exhibition, including an invitation to attend a reception and a guided tour of the exhibition on a date late in May or early in June. We hope many of you will come.

The editors will be happy to consider for publication articles sent from beyond the Princeton campus. Volume Two, Number One, to be published in the fall of 1987, will be entirely devoted to the catalogue of the forthcoming exhibition on "Calligraphy and the East Asian Book." The deadline for articles to be used in Volume Two, Number Two (Spring, 1988) is January 1, 1988. Manuscripts preferably should be submitted on standard paper, double spaced (or triple) with very wide margins; notes (where used) should appear on a separate page, also double-spaced. Specific procedures for Chinese, Japanese, or Korean glossaries, as well as for photographs, will be required.

Volume Two, Number Two of the *Journal* will mainly be devoted to the Japanese side of Gest Library, the history of Japanese books, and developments in Japanese book collecting and bibliographic research. We welcome manuscripts in these areas.

THE CONTRIBUTORS

There are several new contributors in this issue: Professor Gilbert Rozman, Professor of Sociology, specializes in the historical sociology of Japan, China, and Russia; his most recent book, *A Mirror for Socialism* (Princeton University Press, 1985) is about Soviet studies of Communist China, and his next, soon to be published, will analyze Communist Chinese studies of the USSR. Professor Chih-p'ing Chou has for some years taught Chinese language and literature at Princeton while directing the Middlebury Chinese Summer School; his book, soon to be published by Cambridge University Press, explores currents of literature in late Ming China. Dr. Howard L. Goodman, the Managing Editor of both *The Gest Library Journal* and *Asia Major* (which ceased publication in London some years ago and will resume in Princeton this October), received his Master's Degree from the University of Washington and his doctorate in early Chinese social and intellectual history from Princeton. Hung-lam Chu and F. W. Mote were introduced in Volume One, Number One, of the *Journal*.

News and Notes from the Gest Library

Visiting Scholar

Mr. Jin Shen, Associate Director of Special Collections and Rare Books at the Shanghai Library in China, whose brief visit to the Gest Library in the fall of 1986 was noted in Volume One, Number One, has been prevailed upon to pay us a second visit. He is spending the entire month of February, 1987, working with us in the Rare Books Collection of the Gest, and examining items to be displayed in the forthcoming exhibition on "Calligraphy and the East Asian Book." Mr. Shen has graciously sandwiched this return visit in between working visits to Harvard, Hong Kong (the Chinese University), the University of Chicago, and the Library of Congress. His vast experience in examining old books and manuscripts and his immense bibliographic learning have been of inestimable value to us. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Friends in helping us to bring Mr. Shen to Princeton.

Tun-huang Acquisition

An important collection of Tun-huang fragments has been acquired by the Gest Library, with assistance from the Program in East Asian Studies. A future article will carry a description of this very valuable collection, some items from which will be included in the forthcoming exhibition announced elsewhere in this issue.

Purchase and Cataloguing of the Complete Library (Ssu-k'u Ch'üan-shu)

The 1,500-volume facsimile reprint of the Complete Library (a manuscript of the Ch'ien-lung period) was completed last year. The entire set has now

been catalogued and shelved, occupying 218 running feet of shelves in the Gest stacks, apparently our largest collectanea. It is the subject of two articles in this issue, one by Hung-lam Chu and the other by F.W. Mote.

Plans for a Gest Library Medical Series

A major component of the original Gest Collection is its unparalleled assemblage of traditional Chinese medical works, including many rare or unique Ming editions. Possessing this important resource has stimulated us to continue to purchase books about Chinese and East Asian medicine. The Gest Library has been designated the library in North America with the principal obligation to acquire publication concerning traditional medicine by the cooperative acquisitions plan of the Association of Research Libraries. The Gest Library recently had the opportunity to acquire a fine manuscript copy of a large compendium of medical prescriptions dating from the mid-nineteenth century. It is a work that probably exists in no other copy. It is both important in the history of medical practice in China, and a beautiful manuscript apparently prepared as the model for cutting printing blocks, a project that was not carried out. Feeling that this work merits publication, we are exploring the possibility of producing a Gest Library Medical Reprint Series, using this item as the first work to be so published, and later adding some of the rarer works from the Gest Collection. We solicit advice and opinions from our readers on this plan.