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The East Asian Library and the Gest Collection
33 Frist Campus Center, Room 317
Princeton University
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United States

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EDITORS

Dr. Hung-lam Chu, *Editor*

Dr. Howard L. Goodman, *Managing Editor*

Prof. Frederick Mote, *Advisor*

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Contents

THE GEST LIBRARY JOURNAL

VOLUME II · NUMBER 1 · FALL 1987

From the Editors 1
Announcements 1
The Contributors 2

News and Notes from the Gest Library 3

The Gest Library and the Study of Early Modern Japan: a Room with a View 8
By Charles L. Yates

Mu-yü shu and the Cantonese Popular Singing Arts 16
By Sai-shing Yung

Bibliographic Sources for Henan Local History in the People's Republic of China 31
By Odoric Y. K. Wou

Illustrations

Two *Mu-yü shu*, showing the popularity of the tradition 18
"Chi-hsi wei seng," an unusually printed *Mu-yü shu* 21
A politically concerned *Mu-yü shu* 23
The cover of a *neibu* type of modern local history source 33
Detail of *neibu* source, discussing the wording of restriction 37

From the Editors

Announcements

In the past few months there have been several activities at Princeton the themes of which center on Japanese culture and history. To give these activities a clearer voice, *The Gest Library Journal* devotes much of the present issue to them.

An outstanding exhibit of original Japanese woodblock prints was concluded during the summer at the Leonard Milberg Gallery for the Graphic Arts at Firestone Library. This featured many examples of the *ukiyoe* ("floating world") genre from the Edo period. Two items from the Gest Library supplemented the exhibit, which was otherwise drawn from the Princeton Art Museum. Forming a kind of counterpoint was an exhibit of early Japanese calligraphy, mounted at the Gest also last summer. (See the section, News and Notes.) In addition, we have in this issue a note about a special holding of the Library, the Robinson *Go* Collection, which illuminates a part of Japanese culture and its influence on the West. (Again, please see News and Notes.)

Counterpoint continues. The article by Dr. Charles Yates explains further the Gest Library's strong commitment to Japanese studies, especially that concerning modern Japan. Switching to the China side, Prof. Wou's essay raises questions and reveals new developments about "restricted circulation," thus counterpointing the subject first raised here by Prof. Gilbert Rozman. In both cases the problems of today's scholarship and bibliography may have deep implications not just for academics, but for professionals in government and business, as well as any person wishing to be aware of resources and information about East Asia and its political and intellectual currents.

As announced earlier, but with some recent changes in schedule, our catalogue of the upcoming exhibit, "Calligraphy and the East Asian Book," is reaching the final stages of preparation. We shall mail these to members and subscribers sometime in the late spring, 1988. (Because of unavoidable construction delays, the exhibit at the Art Museum, Princeton University, will

now be mounted in May, 1989.) We have called on the talents of quite a number of scholars, museum curators, and book designers and, rather than acknowledge them all here, we shall do so in the catalogue. The catalogue will contain about 100 photographs of rare books in the Gest Library collections, about 10 original letters written by Ming dynasty scholars, 10 scrolls (both *belles lettres* and *sūtra*), as well as several rubbings. There will be an introductory essay on the history of calligraphy and its close relationship with the printing arts in pre-modern China. In addition, each section will have an introduction, and all the reproductions will be appropriately labeled. This comprehensive catalogue will be, we hope, a useful tool of historians of art and culture. Moreover, the special design and paper should make it a beautiful guide for the nonspecialist Friend.

Speaking of Friends, it is a good time to win us a subscriber or two. Membership now will reap an unusual year's reading. Procedures for obtaining membership are on the last page.

The Contributors

Dr. Charles L. Yates received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1987. His special area of research is the political history of nineteenth-century Japan, and he is now an Assistant Professor of History at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Dr. Odoric Y. C. Wou, who received his Ph.D. from Columbia University, is an Associate Professor at Rutgers University, Newark. He is the author of *Militarism in Modern China: The Career of Wu P'ei-fu, 1916-39* (Folkestone, England, 1978), and is presently working on the social movements in China's Honan province during the Republican period. Yung Sai-shing is a graduate student of the Department of East Asian Studies, Princeton University. His field of research is pre-modern Chinese literature.

The Gest Library presents two of its own. Diane Perushek, Curator, who contributed to us in Volume I, Number One, was introduced there. Also in this issue is Mariko Shimomura. She is Assistant Head, Technical Services.

News and Notes from the Gest Library

An Exhibit of Edo Calligraphy

Mariko Shimomura and the Japanese staff at Gest Library have installed an exhibit in the display case in the main hallway leading to the Jones Hall section of Gest Library. It contains three of the most famous representatives of the art of calligraphy in the Edo period (1600-1868), Hon'ami Kōetsu, Ryōkan, and Ike no Taiga. They represent the early, middle, and later parts of that period. The Gest's display features modern art books that discuss these men's careers and lives, giving examples of their calligraphy. Included is a historical reproduction in facsimile form of an entire calligraphy manual by Ike no Taiga (1723-1776). The case also displays Chinese style ink and inkstones commonly used in the production of calligraphy.

An Exhibition of Rare Chinese Books

From May 16 to July 19, 1987, an exhibit entitled "The Book in Imperial China" was on display in the Gould Gallery, Firestone Library featuring rare books from China held in the Gest Oriental Library and East Asian Collections, which is noted, among other things, for its many outstanding books from the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). The Gest Library, whose rich rare book collection was largely built up during the 1920s, was acquired by the Institute for Advanced Study from Mr. Guion M. Gest in 1936, and its development and administration has been in the hands of the Princeton University Library since that time. (See *The Gest Library Journal*, I.1 [1986], *passim.*) The books in the exhibit included some of the finest examples of Chinese printing and manuscripts produced from the 7th century to the 18th.

The earliest examples of Chinese books, dated to the fifth century B.C., were written on thin strips of bamboo lashed together with twine. Inscrip-

tions on bone and shell, carvings on stone, and bronze castings, which predate even the bamboo strips, are said to have originated in the Shang dynasty (16th-11th century B.C.). Somewhat later, books were also written on silk, but it was the inventions of paper and printing that heralded the appearance of the book as it is known in China today. "The Book in Imperial China" included approximately sixty rare books and manuscripts that show the evolution of the Chinese book over the past 1,300 years.

The oldest items on display were fragments of documents and Buddhist sutras recently acquired through an anonymous donor from the Collection of James C. and Lucy L. Lo. While the Los were at the cave temples in Tunhuang, Kansu, in western China, during the 1940s photographing art and artifacts in the caves, they also acquired written and printed materials, some of which date to the fifth century, as well as some paintings and printed illustrations. Of the over seventy items in the Lo Collection, the six on display were a Buddhist text, a military document, fragments of Chinese classics which were later used as shoe pattern paper and a haunting painting of a weeping figure. All these items come from the book depository at Tunhuang, which contained about 30,000 paper rolls dating from the 4th to 10th century. The priceless documents had been sealed in the cave from perhaps the 11th century until the beginning of this century.

The Gest Library has a wealth of Buddhist materials, thanks to the interest Gest, a Quaker by faith, had in religion. In the exhibit is the remarkable *Chi sha ta tsang ching*, a translation into Chinese of the Buddhist canon which was produced in over 5,000 volumes in the 13th and 14th centuries. The copy bought by Gest had been lost for hundreds of years until his conscientious collaborator in the library and book purchasing agent in China, Commander I.V. Gillis, unearthed it. Many of its existing volumes are examples of original 13th- and 14th-century printing; missing volumes were replaced with printed or manuscript copies during the Ming dynasty. Bound in accordian fashion, the usual style for binding sutras, many of the volumes contain intricate woodblock illustrations of Buddhist deities as their frontispiece. These are as valuable to art historians for the study of Sung (960-1278) and Yüan (1206-1367) Buddhist art as the texts themselves are to scholars in Buddhist studies.

The works on display exhibit a variety of the highest quality of paper, binding techniques, print types, and calligraphic styles as used in Chinese

books from the T'ang dynasty (618-906) to the early Ch'ing (1644-1911). The cases in which Chinese books were stored were often objects of much interest and beauty themselves. Several of the cases are covered with colorful brocade and silk and fastened with carved ivory clasps. There are two works in languages other than Chinese, though both were produced in China. One is an exceptional sutra in Mongolian printed in the early 18th century. Its binding is in Tibetan style, with stiff covers wrapped in yellow imperial silk and its loose pages painted with an elaborate fore-edge design. Another is a noteworthy copy of the famous 13th-century drama, *The Romance of the Western Chamber*; the Gest copy, printed during the Ch'ing dynasty, is a bilingual Manchu-Chinese version. These works reflect the ethnic backgrounds of the rulers of the Yüan and Ch'ing dynasties, which were Mongol and Manchu respectively. Of special note in the exhibit were two fine works lent by the Scheide Library, a 12th-century Buddhist work and a 13th-century book of history, both of great rarity; and lent from the Garrett Collection was an exquisite late palace manuscript which complements two earlier ones from the Gest collection.

Although the works in the display offer but a small sampling of the splendors of Gest Library, which contains about 40,000 volumes in its rare book collection alone, the works do cover a wide range of Gest rarities from the Confucian classics to martial arts, and from official documents using the finest inks and paper in the empire to painting manuals and medical works for daily use, which were well-read and annotated by former owners. An extraordinary silk shirt was displayed, on which are written some 520,000 tiny Chinese characters to be used as a wearable cribbing sheet by ill-prepared civil service examinees.

Currently the Gest Oriental Library and East Asian Collections contain over 420,000 volumes, which are consulted heavily by scholars and students in East Asian studies from Princeton and around the world. Founded on the core of rare Chinese books acquired by G. M. Gest some sixty years ago, the Library continues to develop as a working collection to support research on traditional and modern East Asia and as one of the eminent rare book collections outside China.

D. E. Perushek
Curator, Gest Oriental Library and East Asian Collections

THE ROBINSON *GO* COLLECTION

Few persons outside the American *Go* Association (AGA) membership know of the Karl Davis Robinson *Go* Collection housed in the Rare Book Room of the Gest Oriental Library. The gift to Princeton University Library in 1974, consisting of 229 titles in 514 volumes of mainly Japanese books and periodicals, comprises the collection of the late Karl Davis Robinson (1884-1961), a "pioneer" who introduced the game of *go* to the United States. Robinson first learned the game in 1909 and was one of the founders of the first American *Go* Club in 1915 and later the American *Go* Association in 1934.

Go, or *igo* as it is also called, was ignored in the West until the latter part of the 19th century, although it had flourished in the East through many centuries. The game of *go* is said to have originated more than 4,000 years ago in China, probably under the name of *yi*, and later developed into the game known as *wei-ch'i*. From China, *go* was brought to Korea and then to Japan in the 5th or 6th century, A.D. The game is depicted in one of the memorable scenes from the *Tale of Genji Scroll*, describing the elegant court life of 11th-century Japan. *Go* in Japan enjoyed tremendous popularity and was subsidized in the 17th century by the Tokugawa Shogunate, which set up four *go* schools: Hon'inbō, Hayashi, Inoue, and Yasui. *Go* reached its highest development in Japan, and Japanese *Go* Masters today are the best in the world.

In 1949 Robinson became the first editor of *The American Go Journal*, which provided literature in English on the game of *go* and reported on visits by *go* professionals and the tournaments that were held. Robinson was instrumental in initiating Japan-U.S. *go* contacts and in having numerous Japanese works translated into English. The books which he collected between 1909 and 1950 now constitute the largest collection of Japanese books on *go* outside the Orient. Among the older works in the collection is one by Hayashi Genbei (1778-1861), entitled *Gokei shumyō*, published in Tokyo in 1813, in four volumes. Several other works in the collection date from the early 1800s.

In 1954 Robinson gave his collection to the American *Go* Association for the benefit of the AGA members. One of the trustees appointed to administer the library was the late D. Ralph H. Fox, Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University. Fox served as curator for nearly 20 years. It was after

Fox's death that the AGA presented the collection to Princeton University Library, where it has been made available to *go* players throughout the country by interlibrary loan. A bibliography of the Robinson *Go* Collection was included in the 1975 issue of *The American Go Journal*. Several copies of the bibliography in book form are kept in the Gest Library for public use.

Mariko Shimomura

Book Dealers and Librarians in the P.R.C.

This past summer, Diane Perushek and the heads of seven other Chinese collections in the U.S. made an extensive tour of the People's Republic of China sponsored by the Chinese National Publication Trading Corporation and the Chinese Librarians' Society. In conjunction with this tour she met with representatives both of the leading book distributors and leading libraries. Part of the agenda was to iron out some recent problems in the receiving of new book shipments and in the sharing of information and access with the libraries. Issues of *The Gest Library Journal* were distributed to curators and directors as an act of friendship and to prime the pump of cooperation.

A Conference on Japanese Collections

In June of 1987 the Gest Library was host to more than twenty librarians from Japanese collections on the East Coast. The conference lasted three days and was sponsored by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission. Panel topics included the sharing of resources on a regional basis, automation in libraries, and research strategies for faculty from universities with small or no Japanese holdings.