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From the Editors

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Friends of the University Art Museum hosted a reception for the Friends of the Gest to celebrate the opening of “Calligraphy and the East Asian Book.” Many of our member Friends attended and viewed the handsomely mounted exhibit — scheduled to run until June 25.

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Judith Ogden Bullitt, a Princeton resident, is a charter member of the Friends of the Gest Library. She is doing work toward an advanced degree in East Asian art history.

Wu Xiaoling writes for us from Beijing about a valuable Gest Library textual discovery. He states (June 1985) that his U.S. research findings will aid in his compilation of *Early Editions of Chinese Drama* [*Guben xiqu congkan*], a project that his teacher Professor Zheng Zhendo had not been able to complete before his death. Mr. Wu is also involved in compiling *Early Editions of Chinese Fiction*, a task entrusted by his late friend He Qifang to the researchers of the Chinese Academy of Social Science, of which Mr. Wu is a member. We take this opportunity to thank CHINOPERL (the bulletin of the Association for Chinese Oral and Performance Literature) for allowing us to republish Mr. Wu’s article.

Cary Y. Liu has contributed invaluable to the article in this issue that presents architectural “sketch” plans for an intended expansion of Gest Library. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, and received his A.B., M.A., and M.Arch. degrees from Princeton, where he is presently a doctoral candidate in the Program of Chinese Art and Archaeology. His field of specialization is Chinese architectural history and is researching for a dissertation on late Ming and early Ch’ing library buildings: “T’ien-i ko and the Ssu-k’u ch’üan-shu Libraries.”

King-fai Tam is a Ph.D. candidate in Princeton’s East Asian Studies De-

partment. His specialty is contemporary Chinese literature, specifically the popular novelist Zhang Henshui. From 1985-1987 Mr. Tam traveled to Beijing and Shanghai for research. He attended the Conference on Zhang Henshui held in Anhui in 1988, where he interviewed Zhang's associates and family members.

News and Notes from the Gest Library

SPECIAL ACQUISITIONS

Over the past months, Gest Library has acquired a modest number of rare Chinese and Japanese books. Predominantly in the fields of science and medicine, most of these books are rare even in China and Japan. Among these recent purchases are *Honzō wamyō* (*A Collection of Names for Japanese Natural Science*) by Fukae Sukehito in two volumes. It is the 1796 edition of the earliest Japanese book on natural science, compiled by Fukae at the order of the Emperor in 918 A.D. It contains the Japanese and Chinese names for 1,025 such objects as rocks, plants, birds, animals and fish, in addition to short notes and copious illustrations. This is the first printed edition, published by order of Taki Genkan, head of the Medical College of the Tokugawa Shogunate in the late eighteenth century.

Another work in a similar vein is Hiraga Gennai's *Butsurui hinshitsu* (*A Classification of Natural Products*) printed in 1763. With its hundreds of illustrations, this is one of the most important Japanese works on natural history of the eighteenth century. It is actually a catalogue of objects displayed in a natural history exhibit sponsored by Hiraga in Tokyo in 1762. Hiraga commissioned Kusumoto Sekkei (Sō Shiseki), a famous Nanga artist and book illustrator, to draw thirty of the illustrations.

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

During the past year, Gest Library has hosted a number of distinguished visitors. In July, Peter Ch'ang, Deputy Director of the National Palace Museum in Taiwan, and P'an Mei-yüeh, Professor of the History of Chinese books at National Taiwan University, gave lectures at Princeton. Attending the lectures were librarians and specialists not only from Princeton but also

from Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, the Library of Congress, the Freer Gallery, and other East Coast institutions.

Gest Library also hosted a group of librarians from Peking, including Zhuang Shoujing, head of the Peking University Library and Yan Lizhong, head of the library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The two libraries have ties with the Research Libraries Group (RLG), the library consortium of which Princeton is a member. Messrs. Zhuang and Yan are hoping to send rare book catalogers to Gest Library in the spring for training in the use of RLG's computer network.

More recently, a team of three rare book experts from libraries in Beijing, headed by Cui Jianying, has arrived at Gest for six months to advise on standards to be adopted for a proposed union catalogue of Chinese rare books in North America. The current project, including a team at Columbia University, is partly funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is directed by Diane Perushek, Curator of the Gest Collection.

PERSONNEL

Ch'iu-kuei Wang, Chinese and Western-language bibliographer from September 1986 till June 1988, has returned to his teaching post in the English Department at Taiwan National University. While on the Gest staff, Dr. Wang taught the Chinese proseminar for graduate students in the East Asian Studies Department and did much to build up the collection of periodicals from the People's Republic of China.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

Materials from Gest Library will soon be getting exposure in two Ohio art museums. The Oberlin College Allen Memorial Museum of Art will be launching an exhibit of "Illustrated Books from Imperial China" under the direction of Robert Harrist of Oberlin's Department of Art. Harrist has chosen to display a number of titles, many of which are outstanding examples of woodblock illustrated books. The exhibit, which will also include pieces from the Princeton University Library Graphic Arts Collection, will be on display in the spring of 1989.

The Dayton Art Institute will also display one volume of Gest's *Chi sha ta tsang ching*, a very rare edition of the Buddhist canon. The Dayton ex-

hibit, scheduled to open in fall 1989, is entitled "Leaves from the Bodhi Tree: The Arts of Pala India and Its International Legacy" and will include materials from American, European and Asian collections.

D. E. Perushek

THE JAPANESE LIBRARIANS' TOUR OF LIBRARIES IN JAPAN

In October 1988 ten Japanese librarians from the United States visited Japan under the arrangement organized by the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials, Committee on East Asian Libraries, Association for Asian Studies. This was the first attempt by a large group of Japanese librarians to visit major university libraries in Japan, as a means to developing greater understanding and cooperation between libraries in Japan and the United States. Under the leadership of Mrs. Yasuko Makino, the chair of the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials, University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign and Mr. Eizaburo Okuizumi, Japanese Librarian, University of Chicago, eight other librarians from Columbia, UCLA, Genealogical Society of Utah, Hawaii, Kansas, Princeton, Texas (Austin), and Yale met in Tokyo on October 18, 1988. Partial fundings were generously provided by the Japan Foundation and a subsidy from the affiliated institutions where it was possible.

We went on a field trip to fourteen libraries, institutions, publishers and book dealers in Tokyo and Kyoto for ten days. We visited the following libraries: Keio Gijuku University, Kyoto University, Tenri University, Tsukuba University, University of Library and Information Science, Tokyo University, and National Diet Library. Also visited were: International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kodansha Publishing Company, and National Center for Science Information System.

We exchanged information with academic librarians, library specialists, representatives of the publishers, book dealers, and the educators of library and information services. Everywhere we visited, we were met with cordial welcome, and the staff proved most helpful and informative. As a result, I was able to obtain firsthand information on Japanese libraries and special collections and to start personal contact with key personnel of various libraries for future gift and exchange arrangements. This provided insight into their existing organizations and activities.

NEWS AND NOTES

It was an eye-opening experience, as far as I was concerned, to learn how librarians are trained in Japan, how carefully rare books are maintained and preserved and also the system of a cardless library with open stacks that exists at Tsukuba University. At this library all services are provided by an on-line system. The most impressive function was the national network system for libraries now in use to enable libraries to input cataloging data directly to the on-line system developed by the National Center for Science Information System in Tokyo.

Soowon Kim