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The issues of the *Gest Library Journal*, volume III, are numbered differently from previous volumes. The first issue was numbered volume III, numbers 1–2; this second issue is therefore numbered volume III, number 3.



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# From the Editor

## NOTE

This issue of the *Gest Library Journal* initiates the practice of segregating news of general interest to all readers from news and information of narrower concern to the Friends of the Gest Library; the latter will be found at the end of each volume under the heading News and Notes: For the Friends of the Gest Library.

## VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

Ch'iao Yen-kuan of the Department of Chinese Literature, National Chengchi University, visited the Gest Library on January 22, 1990. Professor Ch'iao pointed out that the library's edition of the *T'ung chih* is commonly regarded by scholars as having been engraved and printed during the *Ta-te* period (1297–1307) of the Yüan Dynasty. Careful examination of this work, however, shows that some sections of it appear to have been printed by woodblocks engraved during the Southern Sung Dynasty (1127–1279), with minor alterations made to the original woodblocks, such as changing the term “this dynasty” (*pen-ch'ao*) to “Sung Dynasty” (*Sung-ch'ao*). This is an interesting practice in that rather than highlighting the fact that part of this edition of the *T'ung chih* was printed by the original Southern Sung woodblocks, a practice commonly used by contemporary publishers to enhance the value of their publications, the publisher of the *T'ung chih* deliberately obscured it in order to give himself all the credit for publishing this work.

After his visit, Professor Ch'iao also kindly presented copies of his recent works to the Gest Library.

On April 12, 1990, the Gest Library welcomed a distinguished visitor, Yang Ch'ung-sen, director of the National Central Library, Taiwan. He was accompanied by Teresa Wang Chang, head of the Bureau of International Exchange of Publications and four other librarians from the same library.

## FROM THE EDITOR

A team of experts on Chinese rare books from Peking, headed by Cui Jian-ying, completed its six-month stay in Princeton and returned to China in October 1989. The project is jointly funded by the Association of Research Libraries and the National Endowment for the Humanities. While in Princeton, the experts advised on standards to be adopted for a proposed union catalogue of Chinese rare books in North America and helped perfect the catalogue of Chinese rare books held in the Gest Library. Cao Shu-wen, a member of the team, remained in Princeton. She will continue working on the Chinese rare books at least through September 1990.

## THE CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew L. Markus is an assistant professor of East Asian Language and Literature at the University of Washington. He received his doctorate from Yale University in 1985. His specialty is Edo-period Japanese literature. The author of two articles published in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* and the *Journal of Asian Studies* respectively and the translator of "Kabuki and Its Social Background" by Gunji Masakatsu, Professor Markus is currently revising his doctoral dissertation for publication by the Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University.

Cui Jian-ying is head of the Division of Special Collections, Library of the Academy of Sciences, and research scholar of the academy, as well as serving as research scholar for the Committee of Research on Old Editions of the Association of Chinese Libraries. He is also advisor to the Institute for the Historical Study of Chinese Seismology. All the above research units are located in Beijing. Professor Cui was born in 1931 in what was then called Peiping, and since 1949 has been known as Beijing. After graduating from college in 1954 he taught in college before joining the Academy of Sciences, eventually becoming head of his division, and concurrently professor in Beijing Normal University. He has at one time or another borne responsibility for curatorship and cataloguing of epigraphy and rubbings, producing catalogues of the tomb inscriptions and other epigraphic remains held by the Library of the Academy of Sciences. He has written on the acquisition of old editions, local gazetteers, genealogical materials, local history materials, and the historical documentation of earthquakes. Since 1977 Professor Cui has participated in the planning for and organization of

the "Comprehensive Catalogue of China's Rare Books," and has been a member of the working committee responsible for guiding that work, serving simultaneously as head, Section Number Four, responsible for cataloguing all works in the category of "chi" or "literary collections." He has produced a number of specialized studies on the literary collections of Ming- and Ch'ing-dynasty authors. He has also published *A Record of Rare Chinese Gazetteers in Japanese Collections*. We are fortunate that Professor Cui and two assistants were able to spend April through September 1989 working at the Gest Library on a project helping to define the standards for the compilation of a union catalogue of all Chinese rare books held in North American collections. During the summer of 1989 he gave three workshop presentations at Princeton on problems of handling rare Chinese books; these were widely attended by scholars from the staffs of East Asian libraries in this region. His article in this issue of the *Gest Library Journal* is based on the first of those presentations. We hope to present a second article in a later issue.

In the study of old Chinese editions, Professor Cui places equal weight on the identifying features of block format and the examination of the content of the book, noting in particular the differences in printing made at different times from the same set of printing blocks, in establishing the criteria for distinguishing among different editions. In his current work at the Library of the Academy of Sciences in connection with the union catalogue of all rare Chinese books in China he has to date produced catalogue entries for about twelve thousand items, running to about six million words.

F. W. Mote, who contributes an article on the place of rare books in the East Asian research library, is professor emeritus of East Asian Studies at Princeton University and faculty advisor to the *Gest Library Journal*.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The editor of the *Gest Library Journal* wishes to extend thanks to several persons who helped prepare this issue. Martin Collcutt, director of the East Asian Studies Program at Princeton University assisted with editorial procedures; an article by Professor Collcutt will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal*. Cui Jian-ying kindly had a rare picture of Liu-li-ch'ang pho-

tographed and sent the negative to us from Peking. Illustrations used in Professor Cui's article were selected and photographed with the help of Martin Heijdra and Cao Shu-wen. Soowon Kim of Gest Library painstakingly checked the Japanese romanizations. Thanks are also extended to Andrew Markus of the University of Washington, who provided us with the valuable illustrations for his article.