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MATERIALS AND LIBRARY RESEARCH

SPECIAL ISSUE

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## From the Editor

Nineteen ninety-two marks the ninetieth anniversary of Peking University Library. Dr. Sören Edgren contributed the following article in celebration of this event.

### *Peking University Library's Ninetieth Anniversary*

The Peking University Library was founded in 1902 as the Ts'ang-shu lou of the revived Metropolitan University (Ching-shih Ta-hsüeh-t'ang), which was the ancestor of Peking University. The university had been created in 1898 as part of the late-Ch'ing reform movement's progressive educational policies. From the start it was hindered by the disapproval of the conservatives in power, and two years later was destroyed during the Boxer Uprising. At the beginning of 1902 the Empress Dowager Tz'u-hsi ordered the university re-established with the addition of a library. In 1912, after the Republican revolution, it was renamed Pei-ching Ta-hsüeh-hsiao, and the library was called T'u-shu-pu. Shortly thereafter it received the official designation of National Peking University (Kuo-li Pei-ching Ta-hsüeh), and finally in 1931 the library assumed its present name, Peking University Library (Pei-ching Ta-hsüeh T'u-shu-kuan).

The library began with a collection of 78,000 volumes in Chinese and foreign languages; by 1948 it had increased nearly tenfold to 725,000 volumes. By the end of 1950 it had absorbed the former holdings of the Yenching University Library (403,000 volumes), resulting in holdings of well over 1 million volumes. Since then the holdings have increased even more rapidly, and the library is reckoned among the largest in China.

Numerous celebrities have been associated with the library as well as with the university. In 1918, on the eve of the famous May

Fourth Movement, the head of the library was Li Ta-chao (1889–1927), and in the same year Mao Tse-tung (1893–1976) arrived from Changsha to take up a clerk's position there. In 1948, shortly before he fled China, Hu Shih (1891–1962) was chancellor of the university, and he actively contributed to the catalogue and exhibition of rare books in the Peking University Library held that year to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the university. From 1950 to 1952, Hu Shih served as curator of the Gest Oriental Library.

From the very beginning the library has possessed a large number of rare books and manuscripts. As early as 1904 the Ch'ing-dynasty collector Fang Ta-teng donated his Pi-lin-lang-kuan collection, containing many rare books from the former Saeki Bunko Japanese library, to the newly founded library of the Metropolitan University. In 1937 Peking University bought the collection of its former professor Ma Yü-ch'ing, containing more than five thousand volumes of works of vernacular literature, especially Ming and Ch'ing editions of fiction and drama. A few years later the university was able to purchase from his family the extraordinary collection of Li Sheng-to (1858–1937). The collection of nearly ten thousand titles in over fifty-eight thousand volumes contained a large number of Sung and Yüan imprints, as well as numerous Ming and Ch'ing rare editions, important holographs, collated manuscripts, and handwritten copies, plus old Japanese and Korean editions of Chinese works acquired during a diplomatic sojourn in Japan during the Meiji period. In 1956 the university published a catalogue of the collection produced under the direction of Chao Wan-li; in 1985 Li's own colophons together with his extensive bibliographical notes were edited and published by the university press. Other aspects of the library's holdings are equally renowned.

It is worth noting that the Peking University Library, together with the Gest Library and nine other libraries, currently participates in the RLG International Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books Project, which is located in the Gest Library.

## VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

A number of eminent scholars have signed the guest register within the past year, recording the fact that they visited the library and, in many cases, came in order to carry out some item of research. Among those whose names we have noted are the following: Barend J. ter Haar (Leiden University), Ellen Widmer (Wesleyan University), Li Bozhong (Chekiang Institute of Social Sciences), Kawata Teiichi (Kansai Daigaku), Evgenij Lubo-Lesnitchenko (Heritage Museum, St. Petersburg), Willy vande Walle (Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven).

Early in April 1992, Professor Samten G. Karmay, director of research at the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique (Paris), delivered a talk on invitation from the East Asian Studies Department. Born in the Eastern Tibet region Amdo, educated in a Bonpo monastery and at Drepung, a monastic university in central Tibet, Dr. Karmay is the author of several books, including *The Great Perfection: A Philosophical and Meditative Teaching of Tibetan Buddhism* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1988), and *Secret Visions of the Fifth Dalai Lama* (London: Serindia Publications, 1988). In the course of his visit to Princeton, Dr. Karmay also examined the Tibetan holdings of the Gest Library. He gave us helpful advice concerning the identities and the historical background of several Tibetan Buddhist texts, about which our information was incomplete. We are much indebted to this gracious and learned visitor.

Also during the month of April the Gest Library entertained a delegation representing the European Association of Sinological Librarians who had attended the annual meeting of the Committee on East Asian Libraries, held in conjunction with this year's annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Washington, D.C. Some two dozen members of this delegation followed up their visit to Washington with visits to the East Asian libraries at Princeton, Columbia, Yale, and Harvard universities. At Princeton, they looked in on the International Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books Project of the Research Libraries Group, Inc., based here, and also were conducted through our rare books holdings by Mr. Martin Heijdra, the Gest Collection's Chinese bibliographer. The delegation was headed by Dr. Thomas H. Hahn of the library of the Sinologisches Seminar, Heidelberg University, and included East Asian library specialists from other institutions in Germany as well as from Austria, the Netherlands,

Norway, Sweden, France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. We look forward to future scholarly contact with this association and with its European counterpart association of Japanese librarians.

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Morris Rossabi's latest book is *Voyager from Xanadu: Rabban Sauma and the First Journey from China to the West* (New York: Kodansha America, 1992). It is the stunning tale of a Turkic historian born near Peking who traveled to Persia, thence on to Rome and France in the thirteenth century, a wholly improbable and revealing encounter between East and West at about the time when the Polos were traversing those regions from the other direction. Professor Rossabi himself has an unusual personal history. Born in Alexandria, Egypt, he received his doctorate in Chinese and Inner Asian history at Columbia University in 1970, having submitted a dissertation entitled "Ming China's Relations with Inner and Central Asia, 1404–1513; A Re-examination of Traditional China's Foreign Policy." He has since published *China and Inner Asia: From 1368 to the Present Day* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1975) and *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988). He also edited the symposium volume *China among Equals: The Middle Kingdom and Its Neighbors* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983). Among his many scholarly articles, of greatest relevance for his essay in the present issue is, no doubt, "Khubilai Khan and the Women in His Family," in *Sino-Mongolica: Festschrift für Herbert Franke*, edited by W. Bauer (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1979).

JaHyun Kim Haboush is associate professor of Korean culture and history at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Born and raised in Seoul, Korea, she came to the United States for graduate work and received a doctorate in East Asian languages and cultures from Columbia University in 1978. She is the author of *A Heritage of Kings: One Man's Monarchy in the Confucian World* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1988), and coeditor of *The Rise of Neo-Confucianism in Korea* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985). Her research interests cover such diverse topics as national consciousness in late Chosŏn Korea, and the relationship between literati and popular culture as seen in literary Chinese and vernacular Ko-

rean texts. Professor Haboush is now working on a study and translation of the *Memoirs of Lady Hyegyōng*.

Gary P. Leupp is assistant professor of history at Tufts University and coordinator of Tufts's Asian Studies Program. After receiving a B.A. and an M.A. in history from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, he went to the University of Michigan for a doctoral degree. He also pursued research for his dissertation at the University of Osaka, Japan. A Japan specialist, Professor Leupp is interested in urban labor, domestic service, vagrancy, urban gangs, untouchability, gender and sexuality, criminality, and popular culture in Tokugawa Japan. His research interests also extend to Japanese Marxism, the history of the Japanese left, and contemporary Japanese historiography. Among his numerous publications is a book entitled *Servants, Shophands, and Laborers in the Cities of Tokugawa Japan* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1992). Another book-length study on issues of class, sexuality, and urban violence in early modern Japan will be published under the title "*Nanshoku: Homosexuality, Gender, and the Social Order in Tokugawa Japan (1603–1868)*" by the University of California Press. In his article in the *Gest Journal* entitled "Population Registers and Household Records as Sources for the Study of Urban Women in Tokugawa Japan," Professor Leupp discusses the location and content of these sources, the household structure, and female employment in several wards in Kyoto and Osaka.

Janice B. Bardsley is assistant professor of Japanese language and literature at Wake Forest University. In 1989, she received her doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, by defending the thesis "Writing for the New Woman of Taishō Japan: Hiratsuka Raichō and the *Seitō* Journal, 1911–1916." Professor Bardsley is no stranger to Princeton. At the invitation of the Department of East Asian Studies, she visited Princeton in April 1991, during which time she presented "Approaching the Study of *Seitō*: The Men's Story." Professor Bardsley has written extensively on Japanese women. In her article in the *Gest Journal*, she introduces to us an early twentieth-century women's literary magazine, *Bluestockings Journal* (*Seitō*), and evaluates this magazine as a source for research on Japanese feminism and Japanese woman writers.

Huang Lin is director, Branch of History of Chinese Literary Criticism, Institute of Chinese Language and Literature, Fudan University, China. Professor Huang graduated from Fudan University in 1964. Since then his research has concentrated on traditional Chinese novels. His numerous works include *Chung-kuo li-tai hsiao-shuo lun-chu hsüan* in two volumes (Nanchang: Kiangsi jen-min ch'u-pan-she, 1982, 1985), *Ku hsiao-shuo lun kai-kuan* (Shanghai: Shanghai wen-i ch'u-pan-she, 1986), and *Chung-kuo wen-hsüeh p'i-p'ing shih* in three volumes (Shanghai: Shanghai ku-chi ch'u-pan-she, 1985). He has also published a series of essays on *Romance of Three Kingdoms* (*San-kuo yen-i*), *Outlaws of the Marsh* (*Shui-hu chuan*), and *The Scholars* (*Ju-lin wai-shih*). In recent years, his research on *Golden Lotus* (*Chin p'ing mei*) resulted in the publication of several important works, including *Chin p'ing mei man-hua* (Shanghai: Hsüeh-lin ch'u-pan-she, 1986), *Chin p'ing mei lun-k'ao* (Shenyang: Liao-ning jen-min ch'u-pan-she, 1989), *Chin p'ing mei tzu-liao hui-pien* (Peking: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1987), *Chin p'ing mei ta tz'u-tien* (Chengtu: Pa-shu shu-she, 1991), and the annotated and punctuated version of *Hsin-k'o hsiu-hsiang p'i-p'ing Chin p'ing mei* (Hangchow: Chekiang ku-chi ch'u-pan-she, 1991).

Kang-i Sun Chang is professor of Chinese literature and chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale University. After receiving her doctorate from Princeton University in 1978, Professor Chang worked for a year as curator of Gest Library, and we are thus particularly delighted that she once again extends her support to the library by contributing an article to its journal. A specialist on classical Chinese poetry, Professor Chang is author of three books: *The Late-Ming Poet Ch'en Tzu-lung: Crises of Love and Loyalism in a Dynastic Transition* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991), *Six Dynasty Poetry* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1986), and *The Evolution of Chinese Tz'u Poetry: From Late T'ang to Northern Sung* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1980). She also has to her credit more than thirty articles in English and Chinese. Currently, Professor Chang is working on two books about Chinese women poets, "Chinese Women Poets from 1600 to 1900" (forthcoming, Yale University Press) and "An Anthology of Chinese Women Poets from Ancient Times to 1911" (forthcoming, Yale University Press). A member of many associations in America concerned with Chinese culture,

#### FROM THE EDITOR

Professor Chang is a member and enthusiastic supporter of the Friends of the Gest Library.

Sören Edgren is editorial director of the Research Libraries Group Chinese Rare Books Project which is located in the Gest Library, Princeton University. A Ph.D. in sinology from the University of Stockholm, Dr. Edgren is a specialist on East Asian books. In 1972 and 1974, he helped organize two exhibitions on printing in China, Korea, and Japan at the Royal Library, Stockholm. Two years later, he was consultant to an exhibition on Japanese handmade paper (washi) held at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm. In 1984 he was involved in another exhibition, "Chinese Rare Books in American Collections," which was organized by the China Institute in America, New York. From 1971 to 1978, Dr. Edgren was Far Eastern cataloguer and bibliographer at the Royal Library (National Library of Sweden) and at the same time taught bibliography and research methodology in the Department of Chinese at the University of Stockholm. In 1978, he became a self-employed Far Eastern bookseller in Los Angeles. He stayed in business for almost ten years before becoming a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Edgren's research on East Asian books has led to the publication of a dozen articles. Currently, he is working on two monographs: "Catalogue of the Berthold Laufer Collection of Chinese Books in the American Museum of Natural History" and "An Illustrated History of Korean Printing."

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Upon the publication of this special enlarged issue on East Asian women, the editor wishes to extend his hearty thanks to several people who helped inform and create this issue. Professor F. W. Mote, chairman of the journal's advisory board, conceived the idea of organizing articles concerning problems that scholars may encounter when conducting library research on East Asian women, and organizing these articles into a special issue. During the process of talking to prospective contributors, the editor benefited greatly from the help and information provided by Professor Earl Miner, Department of Comparative Literature, Princeton University; Professor Martin Collcutt, Department of East Asian Studies, Princeton University;

FROM THE EDITOR

Professor Janet Walker, Program in Comparative Literature, Rutgers University; and Dr. De-min Tao, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University. The editor is grateful to Ikeda On, professor and director of the Institute of Oriental Culture, Tokyo University, Japan, who kindly granted permission to use a photograph of the *I-p'ien ch'ing* preserved in his institute as an illustration for Professor Huang Lin's article. Last, but of course not least, is Mr. John B. Elliott, a longtime friend, who generously extends his sustaining support to the editor, and whose energy and thoughts provide a driving force for the journal.

Special Issue

East Asian Women:

Materials and Library Research



# Foreword

The genesis of this special issue of the *Gest Library Journal* is worth recounting. The impact of women's studies in many fields of research has grown significantly within the past decade; that is as true of East Asian studies as of other fields. Innovations in research and significant new findings bear full witness. The editors of the journal are not unaware of that, but despite their awareness of the force and relevance of these developments, this issue of the journal did not spring from an attempt to enter a popular arena and take upon ourselves an aura of high-minded modernity.

The impulse to produce this special issue is in fact quite different in its origins. Over the past year or two we have received several unsolicited manuscripts of considerable intrinsic interest that have spurred us to relate them to each other by invoking their relevance to the subject of women's studies. That is to say, we have had our attention drawn repeatedly to the way the researcher-author has coped with the special research problems that arise when one focuses on any topic involving the place of women in East Asian societies. That subject was seldom if ever central to the concerns of the persons who created and preserved the documentation of their civilizations, so that when modern scholars decide to make that their focus, they must in most cases use materials that had other purposes; they must learn to use them in ways contrary to the nature of the materials. In some degree, that is often the case when we ask any modern questions of traditional resources. But it is particularly true when the subject of our inquiry is women in any roles other than those that could be handled summarily and in formulaic manner by the makers of the documents. Even though the actual status of women varied considerably in the different Asian societies, in none of them were there practical needs to record women as fully as men. And, in all of them, although it could be argued that what women normally did from day to day was essential to the survival of their societies, the need to describe and record even the most notable among them was seldom granted high importance, by women or by men. Semipopular fiction some-

times escaped that limitation, and there are a few biographical writings that rise above the depersonalization of women that characterizes most of the documentation. And, as Kang-i Sun Chang's article in this issue shows, in China at least there is a surprisingly large quantity of women's poetry. And, to be sure, there are other belletristic writings, such as the early women's fiction in Japan. Yet, taken all together, such materials are insufficient to overturn our larger generalization.

When a modern scholar, therefore, is able in some degree to transcend that problem, it immediately draws attention to his or her methods: to the special uses of special kinds of documentation, and to the disciplined imagination that can be applied to the task.

All of that is too well known to merit further comment. But, as we have said, it was not a decision to devise some strategic attack on that set of problems that led to the emergence of this special issue. Instead, its genesis goes back to the day when Huang Lin's article on the early Ch'ing work *A Tangle of Emotions* (*I-p'ien ch'ing*) arrived. For in his essay, Huang Lin, a research scholar at Fudan University in Shanghai, critically examines what traditionally had been classified as a collection of erotic fluff, and shows that it bears a weighty message. Each of these stories of "tangled emotions" turns on an unsatisfactory marriage, or on distorted relations between men and women. When those led to criminal actions they might get brief notice in records of judicial proceedings. That is how Jonathan Spence's attention initially was drawn to the challenge of creating the story of "The Woman Wang" (Jonathan Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang*, New York: Viking, 1978). Yet, although Spence, working in the historian's usual manner, was able to offer telling information on the grim poverty of the region in Shantung where the case unfolded, and able to inform us about the political and judicial systems through which it was handled, the success of his story lies in his brilliantly imaginative creation (i. e., *not* reconstruction) of hypothetical personal circumstances. For the materials in our libraries simply do not include detailed descriptions of society at the level on which *Woman Wang's* short and tragic life was lived. To tell that story, Spence had no other means.

We thought about that fundamental limitation as we read Huang Lin's fascinating exploration of the dozen or so cases treated as fiction in the collection *A Tangle of Emotions*. Were we to try to reconstruct the lives of men and women of no particular note in society, especially those of the women

who inhabit these curious stories, which, we believe, were credible to the seventeenth-century reader precisely because they reflect real life, where would we start? Because these stories are about emotions not fulfilled within the marriage patterns of seventeenth-century Chinese society, or fulfilled only by ingeniously defying its stringent conventions, they fall beyond the scope of serious discourse at that time. We can study the social norms, at least in idealized presentation, and we can read a few writers who were able to make highly generalized comment on human imperfections and social problems. But can we come to a satisfactory understanding of how an ordinary person, especially an ordinary woman, fit into the real society of her family's and her community's actual men and women and children, to understand the range of pressures and frustrations she may have felt, and the range of satisfactions she could achieve and the options she could exercise? Are we to accept the rather depressing conclusion offered by the book Huang Lin has analyzed for us here, that is, that marriages often were unhappy and that emotions mostly lacked satisfactory outlets? How would we go about investigating such issues in order to know whether this assessment is valid?

Pondering Huang Lin's essay and the further research challenge it offers, we decided that it could be useful to draw together a group of essays each bearing in some way on the issues in research involving women in East Asia. We assembled two or three from among manuscripts on hand, then wrote to a few scholars known to us to have worked on related matters, and asked if they had something more or less ready to present. In that way we have tried to achieve a more balanced coverage that includes different times and places in East Asia. Having done so, we can say that this issue of the journal joins a growing body of research demonstrating that the problems, although formidable, are not insurmountable.

Moreover, the resulting collection presented here is far more revealing than we might have expected. First of all, we have an article by Morris Rossabi which takes us into Mongolia for the first time in these pages. Publication of Professor Rossabi's recent biography of Khubilai Khan (*Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988) was preceded by his article "Khubilai Khan and the Women in His Family" (in *Sino-Mongolica: Festschrift für Herbert Franke*, ed. W. Bauer, Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1979, pp. 153–180), justly famous as one of the most intriguing essays ever written about East Asian society. We asked him to recount

for us some of the problems he encountered while doing his research for that essay and the biography of Khubilai Khan. And, we have from the hand of Professor JaHyun Kim Haboush an account of the diaries written by the Lady Hyegyŏng, certainly one of the strangest stories in all of Korean history. Present-day Koreans are now learning about the life of this wife and mother of late eighteenth-, early nineteenth-century Korean kings, a courageous woman whose remarkable personal diaries are only now becoming well known thanks to the researches of Professor Haboush and others. From the field of Japanese studies we offer two essays, one on an early twentieth-century feminist magazine, *Bluestockings*. Written by Professor Janice B. Bardsley, and including a translation of an important appeal to the people of Japan by a feminist writer of eighty years ago, the study brings very directly to us the genuine voice of an earlier generation of Japanese women. The other is quite different in character; it is Professor Gary Leupp's revealing introduction to the nature of population registers from the Tokugawa era, from which sound sociological data can be gleaned about women, particularly women as productive workers in many social roles. From China we again have articles of quite different character. First is Huang Lin's essay on the erotic book *A Tangle of Emotions* referred to above. Following that we have a truly ground-breaking study by Professor Kang-i Sun Chang of Yale University about collections of women poets, dating from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. The number of women poets and the extent to which their poetry was published and has been preserved are startling; Professor Chang has opened up a large field for further exploration. Finally, we have an intriguing essay by Dr. Sören Edgren, editorial director of the Research Library Group's Chinese Rare Books Project, based at Princeton. Dr. Edgren's subject is a small and extremely rare book purchased at the beginning of this century in China by the late Berthold Laufer, for the anthropological collections of the New York Museum of Natural History. In this book we get a rare glimpse into the lives of a certain category of young women in Shanghai at the end of the last century, and we also see a book that possesses many unusual qualities of style and production.

These articles show that there are interesting and important things the ingenious and determined scholar can say about even so recalcitrant a topic as the study of women in East Asia. They explore the nature of the less frequently exploited materials, and they offer findings of value in the incre-

## FOREWORD

mental growth of the field. The articles are not written to a shared formula, in the manner of conference papers; they vary widely in topic and approach. They reveal tantalizing aspects, if often fragmentary, of the larger issues. Taken together, however, we feel they do support each other in showing many dimensions of the library research problems involving women in four East Asian societies, from early times to the present century. We cannot yet offer solutions to the remaining questions they raise, but we believe that many such questions may ultimately come within the grasp of scholars. In the meantime, we have enjoyed the tasks of bringing this issue of the journal to you, and we hope that you, our readers, will find the effort has produced something worth your reading time.

F. W. Mote

