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Contents

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VOLUME VII · NUMBER I · SPRING 1994

From the Editor	3
Visitors to the Library	3
The Contributors	3
Acknowledgments	4
Correction	5
To Bury the Unhappy Past: The Problem of Textbook Revision in Japan	
BY YUE-HIM TAM	7
The Use of Japanese Records in Sung Official Histories: A Textual Study	
BY ZHENPING WANG	43
The <i>Gazetteer of the Nanjing Ministry of Revenue</i> : The Record of an Auxiliary Capital Department in the Ming Dynasty	
BY JUN FANG	73
News and Notes: For the Friends of the Gest Library	99
Excerpt from "Annual Report 1992-1993: Gest Oriental Library and East Asian Collections"	99

Illustrations

Page 1, preface, <i>Gazetteer of the Nanjing Ministry of Revenue</i>	75
Page 1, <i>juan</i> 1, <i>Gazetteer of the Nanjing Ministry of Revenue</i>	86
Page 15b, <i>juan</i> 5, <i>Gazetteer of the Nanjing Ministry of Revenue</i>	87
Page 1, <i>juan</i> 14, <i>Gazetteer of the Nanjing Ministry of Revenue</i>	88
Page 31a, <i>juan</i> 18, <i>Gazetteer of the Nanjing Ministry of Revenue</i>	89
Pages 19b–20a, <i>juan</i> 23, <i>Gazetteer of the Nanjing Ministry of Revenue</i>	91

The *Gest Library Journal* Becomes the *East Asian Library Journal*

Our readers will note the new title and the new design of this issue of the journal. We hope they will see in this the beginnings of a new journal, albeit one with strong links to its predecessor, the *Gest Library Journal*. To emphasize this continuity, the *East Asian Library Journal* will continue the volume numbers of the *Gest Library Journal*, making this issue volume seven, number one.

We retain our original commitments to the Gest Library, and to its Friends Association, which continues to sponsor this publication. But over the years since we advertised our first issue in 1986, we have come to see a different role for the journal from the role we then anticipated. This broadened role encompasses service to and support for the field of East Asian bibliography and the history of printing, from its origins in China to its spread throughout the culturally contiguous regions of East and Inner Asia. This is a field of specialized investigation, one of growing interdependence among libraries and scholars everywhere, and one not served by English-language publications of similar focus.

Our readership has become more professional and more scholarly than we expected; it has become more international, and less drawn from persons with Princeton University affiliations than we had assumed would be the case. Seeing the logic of this development, we have decided to give the journal its new name, to symbolize our intention to make of it a publication that will better meet some of the more specialized

concerns of this larger audience. We hope that the content will soon reflect more clearly this reorientation of the journal, and especially that authors representing the widespread international audience will soon appear here in larger numbers.

Despite these new directions, we shall also continue to publish articles of broad cultural relevance, and will not abandon the ideal of reaching the informed general reader who has interests in East Asian civilizations. And we shall continue to respond to the special concerns of the members of the Friends of the Gest Library at Princeton who, we think, will be pleased to see that what has all along been their journal is now becoming a publication that strives to contribute ever more widely to all the concerns to which the Gest Library itself is dedicated.

We invite your comments and advice.

From the Editor

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

Close to one hundred nonlocal guests and scholars visited the Gest Library during the 1992–1993 fiscal year. Of these, the largest numbers came from other parts of the United States and from the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Taiwan. The library also welcomed visitors from Germany, India, Russia, and Australia. They included such noted persons as Mr. Li Zexing, Chinese ambassador to the United Nations; Liu Junwen, professor of Chinese history, Beijing University; and Peter Ch'ang, deputy director of the National Palace Museum, Taiwan.

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Yue-him Tam is a member of the *East Asian Library Journal's* advisory board and as such was first introduced to the readers of the journal in the spring issue of 1991. Dr. Tam received a Ph.D. from Princeton and was for many years a senior lecturer in the Department of History at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 1991, he accepted a visiting professorship in the Department of History at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was soon offered a tenured position. Professor Tam teaches Japanese history and directs a program in Japanese studies at Macalester College.

Zhenping Wang is editor of the *East Asian Library Journal*. He received a doctorate from Princeton in 1989, and went on to teach Chinese history in the Department of History at the University of Toronto. Recently he accepted a teaching position at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. In the past two years, he has published three English articles: "Chinese Manuscript Copies in Ancient Japan," *Gest Library Journal*, vol. 4, no. 2 (1991); "T'ang Maritime Trade Administration," *Asia Major*, vol. 4, pt. 1 (1991); "Chinese Titles as a Means of Diplomatic Communication between China and Japan during the Han-T'ang Period," *Studies in Chinese History*, no. 2 (1992). His most recent article, "Speaking with a Forked Tongue: Diplomatic Correspondence between China and Japan 238-608," will be published in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 114, no. 1 (1994). He is now revising for publication his doctoral dissertation on early Sino-Japanese relations.

Jun Fang is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. Before coming to Canada to pursue his doctorate in 1989, he earned a B.A. in political science from Nanking Normal University and an M.A. in Chinese history from Nanking University. After graduating from Nanking University, he taught in the university for two years. Jun Fang's research interest is in the social, political, and institutional history of late imperial China. He has one Chinese and three English articles to his credit. The most recent one is a survey, "Yüan Studies in China," published in the *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies*, no. 24 (March 1994). He is currently writing a Ph.D. dissertation on the dual-capital system of the Ming dynasty.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The production of this issue was carried out when the editor had decided to accept a teaching position in Singapore. Moving to a new country and trying to settle down there was immensely time consuming, and caused

considerable disruption to the editor's normal working schedule. Without the generous help of Professor F. W. Mote and Barbara Westergaard, manuscript editor of the journal, the timely publication of this issue would have been impossible. The editor would like to acknowledge his indebtedness to them.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *Gest Library Journal* (volume 6, number 2), two of the illustrations in Ruowei Yang's "The Liao-Dynasty Stone Inscriptions and Their Importance to the Study of Liao History" were unfortunately incorrectly captioned. The epitaph for Pei-ta wang shown in illustration 2 was written in Chinese, not in Khitan "major characters"; illustration 3 shows the epitaph written in Khitan major characters. We regret any confusion this mixup may have caused.