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and the Gest Collection

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of Princeton University

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Contents

THE EAST ASIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL

VOLUME XI · NUMBER 2 · AUTUMN 2004

From the Editor IX

News and Notes XV

Research on the Gest Library "Cribbing Garment": A Very Belated Update 1

BY ANDREW H. PLAKS

The Gest Chinese Research Library at McGill University, 1926–1936 41

BY SU CHEN AND JUMING ZHAO

The Development of Modern Typography in East Asia, 1850–2000 100

BY MARTIN J. HEIJDRA

About Our Contributors 169

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Illustrations

Art from cover of Tobita Tokio's sketchbook, 1948–1949 xvii

"Cribbing garment," Gest Collection 2

"Flyhead" script 4

Red-ink swabbed names: Ming and Qing literati 7

Robe detail: external seam and inside midseam 13

Robe detail: red thread 13

Robe detail: finished edge 14

Robe detail: plain weave 14

Three schematic diagrams of the robe 16–17

Red-ink swabbed names: Qing literati 23

Red-ink swabbed names: studio names 25

Red-ink swabbed names: descriptive notes 27

Guion Moore Gest, undated photograph 40

Hu Shih and James Shih-kang T'ung, February 1952 44

Commander I. V. Gillis with three of his assistants, May 1930 45

Nancy Lee Swann, 1933 52

News clipping, opening of the Gest Chinese Research Library at McGill, 1926 54

Three views of the Gest Chinese Research Library at McGill University, 1929 57–59

Invitation Card for New Year's Tea at McGill, 1932 60

Robert de Résillac-Roese with P. Turner and Sidney D. Quong, *ca.* 1931–1933 61

Distinguished visitors to the Gest Chinese Research Library in 1930 64

Arthur Currie, *ca.* 1930 66

William Edward Beatty, *ca.* 1933–1935 67

Kang-hu Kiang, 1934 69

Arthur Eustace Morgan, *ca.* 1935–1937 83

Abraham Flexner, 1926 85

Matrix made using electrotype method 101

Early-nineteenth-century text printed in movable metal type 103

Artisan-stype type, Late-Ming period 105

Uroko 105

Differences in counters in artisans'-style and regular-style typefaces 106

Corrections to regular-style typeface 107

Poster for the Third Commercial Art Exhibition, Japan, 1928 108

Front cover of *Shidai funü* (Modern Woman), 1934 109

ShuTongti typeface, 1980s 111

Early type cut by P. P. Thoms for Robert Morrison, 1817 113

"Hong Kong type" of Samuel Dyer and Richard Cole, 1850 114

Mei-Hua typeface, 1860–1864 116–117

Minchōtai and other typefaces of Motoki Shōzō, 1872 118

Marcellin Legrand, divisible type, *ca.* 1834 120

Early type produced in Serampore, India, 1814 121

Specimen sheet of Tsukiji Minchōtai typeface, 1903 124

Specimen sheet of Shueisha Minchōtai typeface, 1914 125

Specimen sheet of Tsukiji Gothic typeface, 1913 126

Han'gŭl typeface, *ca.* 1880, designed by Ch'oe Chi-hyŏk 127

Myŏngjo-ch'e *han'gŭl* typeface. *ca.* 1930, designed by Yi Wŏn-mo 129

Juzhen FangSongti typeface, 1921, designed by Ding Shanzhi and Ding Fuzhi 131

Huafeng ZhenSongti typeface, 1927–1934, designed and cut on type by Zhu Yibao 132

Hanwen Zhengkaiti typeface, 1930, designed by Gao Yuncheng 132

Benton machine produced by the Tsugami Seisakujo, 1953 135

Myŏngjo-ch'e *han'gŭl* typeface, 1954, designed by Yi Im-p'ung and Ch'oe Chŏng-sun 136

Two different Songti typefaces 138

Xin Weiti typeface, 1969–1974 138

ChangMouti typeface, 1961, designed by Mou Zidong 139

Morisawa Nobuo and Ishii Mokichi photo-typesetting machine, 1929 139

Two versions of Ishii Mokichi's Minchōtai typeface, 1933 140

Ishii Sai-Minchōtai typeface, 1952–1960, for the *Dai Kan-Wa jiten* 142

Yamashiro Ryuichi, poster for a planting campaign, 1955 144

Taiposu typeface, Family One, 1968 145

Nāru typeface, 1970–1972, designed by Nakamura Katsuhiro 146

Sūbo typeface, 1972–1974, designed by Suzuki Tsutomu 147

Shaken Myŏngjo-ch'e *han'gŭl* typeface, 1960–, designed by Ch'oe Chŏng-ho 148

Shaken Sōranreishotai typeface, 1972, designed by Zeng Qingren 149

Hong Kong advertising fonts from the 1980s 152

"Grunge" fonts for *han'gŭl*, 1997 154

The Ajioka Shintarō *kana* series, 1984–1990 155

From the Editor

In the lead article in this number of the *East Asian Library Journal*, Professor Andrew Plaks writes about his more than two-decade-long interest in one of the unusual non-book objects in the Gest Collection, the so-called "cribbing garment," more than once on public display in earlier years of the Gest Library at Princeton. His inventive research methods invite readers to participate in his investigation into the origins, utility, contents, and significance of this elusively sublime and curious object, about which there remains much to be deciphered. Su Chen, head of the East Asian Library at the University of Minnesota and previously librarian of the East Asian Library at McGill University in Montreal, has written about the ten-year period during which Guion M. Gest's collection of books resided at McGill and was known as the Gest Chinese Research Library. Her writing of the history of this eminent collection of Chinese books at its inception and in its first incarnation as a research library in the context of a university and the development of a Chinese studies program hints at the intriguing, and potentially treacherous, complexities of this process.

These two articles, one about a single item in Guion Gest's eclectic collection and the other about the early history of the development and the management of this collection as a whole, have impelled this editor to spend days reading through the Gest Library Papers, anxious to inform herself at least minimally about the extent of the resources available there. It is now clear that the threads of the story behind and surrounding Guion Gest's passionate commitment to his unusual collection—written in a language that he could not read—may

yet weave themselves into a garment inscribed with a text as complex and arcane as that on the elegant "cribbing garment."

As I pointed out in the editor's preface to volume 11, no. 1, the majority of the materials submitted for publication in the *East Asian Library Journal* is on topics related to Chinese books and documents. This is not by design, but rather by default. Further, this journal is not interested in publishing articles solely about the East Asian Library and the Gest Collection at Princeton, though we are here presenting two articles related specifically to this collection. Thus, it is my pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Martin Heijdra, Chinese Bibliographer and Head of Public Services at the East Asian Library and the Gest Collection, Princeton, to bring to the journal's readers his research on the development of modern typography in China, Japan, and Korea. It is largely texts in Dr. Heijdra's own collection that make his research possible. The kinds of promotional literature and corporate histories written by the companies that produce type and of ephemeral materials from the publishing and graphic-design industries—especially those related to type produced for East Asian languages—seldom find their way into library collections and thus hardly enter into the scholarly discussion of printing and publishing in East Asia. You will enjoy this collector and historian's passionate and informed exposition of technical subtleties in the intertwined solutions to challenges in the development of modern typography for the languages of East Asia.

The opening of Professor Plaks' article reminds us how change in an institution often stimulates a reconsideration of and a renewed appreciation of what preceded the change. Change again is reshaping the buildings that house the East Asian Library at Princeton. In May 2004, at the end of the academic year, contractors began a thorough renovation of Jones Hall, the location of the Near Eastern Studies Department (first floor), the East Asian Studies Department (second floor), the Chinese Rare Books Project and a substantial section of the stacks of the East Asian Library (third floor). For the East Asian Library, completion of this work in September 2005 promises a new easy-to-access Reference Room and restoration of stack space in the warm wood-paneled environment of Jones Hall.

This second phase of the renovation of the facility housing the

East Asian Library and the Gest Collection is tangible evidence of the high regard for and the generous support that Princeton University has continuously provided for this collection of research and teaching resources. This support has allowed the East Asian Library to grow to nearly five times the size of the original Gest Collection. The challenges that Princeton faces in administering this or any of its other large special collections has much in common with similar challenges facing other institutions and libraries. Housing, managing, building, and keeping collections available to readers call for creativity and a profound understanding of the nature of the materials and how the disciplines of the scholars using these resources necessitate they be used. The temptation—and to a large degree the inevitability—of increasing reliance on electronic access to resources has perhaps become a kind of panacea for a range of space and overhead restrictions that libraries face. Sometimes blanket policies for sending older materials with no record of circulation activity to off-site storage are implemented without regard for the fact that many of these materials, because of their age, unusual content or size, or non-Western bindings, had never been allowed to circulate. In the East Asian scholarly context, older texts and earlier editions do not grow less valuable as research and reference tools. Contrariwise, earlier works, in keeping with the precedents of scholarly traditions in all of the intellectual cultures of East Asia, must be consulted as a foil for any argument. To classify these older materials as irrelevant to the work of the modern scholar of East Asian disciplines, and therefore to put them into storage and out of easy reach, is to reshape that scholar's research methods unnecessarily and most unwisely.

The Jones Hall renovation has meant the temporary relocation of collections housed in that space. The reshuffling this spring of books and bound periodicals to temporary locations in the East Asian Library and to off-site storage represented a monumental management challenge for the administrators of the East Asian Library and of the larger Princeton-library system. Inconveniences to users of the collection have been minimal, a tribute to the careful planning and the smooth execution of the move. This vital collection grows steadily by about twenty thousand volumes annually, and rather difficult decisions must be made to determine which works will be placed on the shelves in the finite space

available in the Jones Hall and Frist Campus Center stacks. The collection is continuously culled and volumes sent to off-site storage (ReCap) as part of a new university-library system for the relocation of library materials so that they can be easily and quickly recalled.

The ease of access to off-site holdings provided by this new system, unfortunately, was not available for the very large number of books dislocated during the reconstruction of Palmer Hall completed in 2000. Proposals for that earlier renovation as they affected the Gest Library were first presented to the readers of this journal in volume 3, nos. 1–2 (Spring 1989). These tentative plans projected a significant, much needed expansion of the space in Palmer Hall available for the library—reading and reference rooms, administration offices, cataloguing and work rooms, and, in particular, stack space. What the East Asian collection got in this transformation of Palmer Hall into Frist Campus Center was a handsome new appearance with a new entrance on the third-floor level of the central staircase of Frist under the banner of its new name, East Asian Library. Sunlight fills the large periodical reading room, the open circulation-services area, and also, unfortunately, the glass and wood display cases that stretch ceiling high along the entry corridor. The card catalogue, much beloved by many long-time library users, confidently shares a space with computer terminals used for online searches of Princeton holdings and of collections and data bases worldwide. Despite the best efforts of all involved, the change from Palmer into Frist significantly reduced the amount of shelf space in the stacks of the East Asian Library. Retrofitting an older structure for modern equipment and legally mandated systems requires insight and foresight that often enough are available, regretfully, only in hindsight.

Some users of the library in the last half of the previous century have noted the unfortunate disassembling of the great collection that makes up the East Asian Library and the Gest Collection at Princeton, which has deleteriously affected the usability that collection. The rare books—including both the core group in the Gest Collection and those rare materials added in the years since—formerly were housed entirely in a Rare Book Room in Palmer Hall but now are housed in Mudd Library, the Princeton University Archives. The Gest Library Papers are also now on the shelves of the archives. Older string-bound books from the

original Gest Collection and the vast majority of the works catalogued using the Harvard-Yenching numbering system have been relegated to one of two sites known as the University Library Annexes. Recalling items from these storage sites is often a frustrating experience that discourages some users from even attempting to place a request for a title held there. This situation effectively places these older works out of circulation. One troubling aspect of the current look of the East Asian Library at Princeton is that the books in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean in the stacks—which gratefully are completely open to the public—give no hint of the depth of the resources in old and rare materials, no hint that there is any "age" or any history to this collection. Because the volumes in old-style bindings are not shelved alongside or adjacent to the recent imprints, while the rarest and most valuable holdings also are stored elsewhere, one hears the complaint that the East Asian Library, while growing steadily and now being given improved physical surroundings, in some essential ways no longer supports research and advanced teaching as well as it could and should.

After the Gest Collection was purchased from Guion Gest in 1936 by the Institute for Advanced Study and renamed the Gest Oriental Research Library, its first home in Princeton was in basement accommodations at 20 Nassau Street. In the past nearly seven decades of its being housed at and administered and expanded by Princeton University for the joint use of the institute and the university, the utility of this eminent collection must be counted as undisputed. Would it be a wild notion (as one Princeton scholar has asked) to suggest that in order to maintain the quality and the usability of Princeton's unique and unparalleled East Asian resources, we should strive for the development of a dedicated facility, designed for the particular needs of the East Asian Library and the Gest Collection, the East Asian Studies Department, and the East Asian Studies Program here? One could argue that this fine collection of materials written about or in the languages of the major countries in East Asia and the academic department and the associated programs deserve nothing less. That is because those now virtually inaccessible older editions, which incidentally include many rare books that were not previously so designated, should be constantly turned to for reference, close comparison of editions, and verification of content. Such use of

them, along with all the other materials in the entire East Asian collection, is essential both to scholarship and to the training of advanced students. It is for such reasons that the "wild notion" of eventually reassembling the now widely scattered constituent elements of our research library insistently comes to mind. Granted, realizing this notion of placing all the elements of the study of East Asia at Princeton under one elegant roof will take time and patience and money and discussion and commitment and far-sighted planning, and more. This is an issue that is surely not unique to the study of East Asia at Princeton. The access to and availability of major East Asian research collections is a topic of relevance to the scholarly community in general, and to the institutions blessed with such collections in particular. The editor would be pleased to entertain comments on this topic and hopes that a thoughtful and productive dialogue in the larger scholarly community will result.

NANCY NORTON TOMASKO
10 October 2004

News and Notes

Publishing-Calendar Reform for the *East Asian Library Journal*

For several years, the cover date of the *East Asian Library Journal* and the actual date of publication have not coincided. Having the cover date far out of sync with the actual date of publication is disconcerting, misleading, and, for the editor, a little demoralizing. The previous number Volume 11, no. 1 was published in May 2004 but bore the cover date of Spring 2002. Starting with this issue, the cover date will be the approximate date of publication. The current number, volume 11, no. 2 bears the date (Autumn 2004). This realignment reflects the journal's return to publication of two numbers each year and "catches us up" with the reality of the calendar. Subscribers will receive each of the volumes for which they have paid, and renewals, as before, will be made by the volume, not by the calendar year.

Professor Earl Miner (1927–2004)

News of the passing on 17 April 2004 of Professor Earl R. Miner reached the journal's office after our previous number had been printed. Thus, most of our readers perhaps will already be aware of this loss to the Princeton scholarly community. Professor Miner came to Princeton in 1972, having previously taught for two years at Williams College and for seventeen years at the University of California, Los Angeles. He retired in 2000 as Townsend Martin, Class of 1917, Professor of English and Comparative Literature.

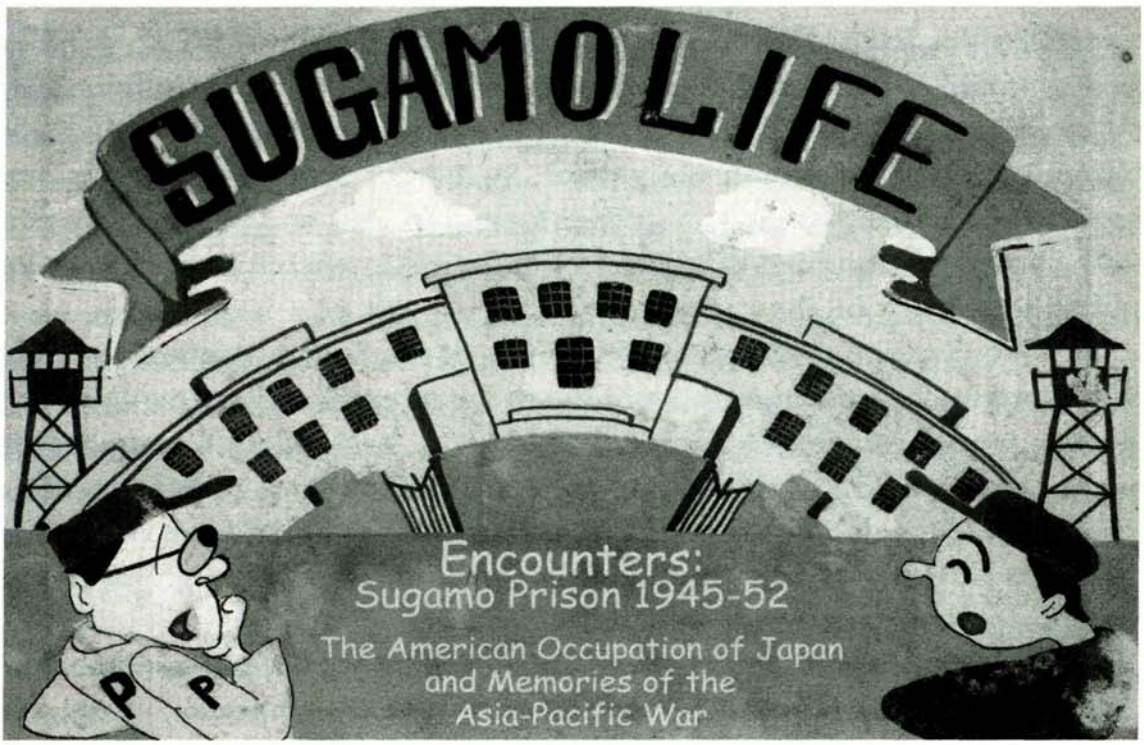
Warm and gentle, with an infectious sense of humor and a love of outrageous puns, Miner was always accessible to students as well as colleagues. His presence at Princeton drew graduate students in English,

comparative literature, and Japanese studies. Once they were here, he was unstinting in his encouragement of their work. His delight in teaching was recognized by Princeton University in the grant of a Behrman Award in 1993. In his study of Japanese literature he had a particular affection for Japanese poetry, from the earliest court poetry to the *haiku* of Bashō (1644–1694) and more recent avant-garde expression. He was an international figure, known in Japan as he was in the United States and Europe. His lifetime commitment to Japanese literature was recognized in the award of the Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese government in 1994. His last publication, co-edited with William Moeck and Steven Jablonski, entitled *Paradise Lost, 1668–1968: Three Centuries of Commentary* was published by Bucknell University Press in the summer of 2004. Professor Miner is survived by his wife Jinny, their children Erik and Lisa, a grandson Bryan, and by four brothers.

Sugamo Prison Exhibit

In the spring of 2003, the East Asian Studies Program and the East Asian Library at Princeton University sponsored a series of events that explored contact between Japanese and Americans at one spot on the map of Occupied Japan, Sugamo Prison in Tokyo. From 6 April to 4 June 2003, an exhibit "Encounters: Sugamo Prison, 1945–52, The American Occupation of Japan and Memories of the Asia-Pacific War" was on view in the East Asian Library. Curated by New York artist Bill Barrette in collaboration with textile conservator and translator Midori Sato, the exhibition featured visual and material remnants of the place of incarceration in Japan for those Japanese accused of war crimes in the Asia-Pacific theater of World War II. Bill Barrette's research into the prison environment has turned up photographs of the prison, its Japanese prisoners, and its American-military guards, enough to fill shelf after shelf of the Princeton exhibit. His contact, often by word of mouth, has led him to veterans on both sides who have loaned him sketches and drawings, hand-crafted art, and daily-use artifacts produced by the captives and their captors. (For an example of art created by a Japanese prisoner-of-war, see figure 1.)

At this same time, a second Sugamo exhibit by Bill Barrette and



1. Postcard announcement of the Sugamo exhibit and related programs at Princeton, spring 2003. Drawing is the illustration on the cover of a sketch book by Tobita Tokio, a prisoner at Sugamo. The sketch book contains seventy pages of the original drawings for four-block *manga* (comic strips) depicting prison life that Tobita drew from 1948 to 1949 for a prisoner-produced, mimeograph-printed newspaper. Note that prison uniforms actually were marked with a "P" for prisoner, and Tobita named himself with the diminutive "P-ko."

Midori Sato was on display at St. Joseph's Seminary in Plainsboro, New Jersey. Entitled "Encounter at Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, April 5, 1948—The Murder of Chaplain John A. Ryan: A New Look at the Court-Martial of Pfc. William C. Manis." This display explored the explosive and long-term tragic consequences of the murder of a chaplain at Sugamo and the subsequent trial and conviction of a young guard in the United States occupying force. William Manis, who was paroled after serving eight and one-half years in federal penitentiaries, claimed his innocence throughout his life. He died at his home in Tennessee in February 2003. Chaplain Ryan's remains are buried at St. Joseph's Seminary.

On 23 April 2003, Lindsey Powell, who teaches anthropology and East Asian Studies at Temple University and at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and Narumi Toyota, co-producer for the project, pre-

sented a video record of reunions, both here in the United States and in Japan, of old soldiers and their former prisoners. This was followed by a symposium on the United States' occupation of Japan held in Frist Campus Center, Princeton University, 8–10 May 2003. The symposium, open to the public, brought together former guards and prisoners, artists and scholars to consider the personal and artistic encounters of Sugamo and the memory of these events.

Word of the trove of vital evidence of the Sugamo experience that Bill Barrette continues to uncover drew the attention of writer Daniel J. Wakin, whose article "Occupied by the U. S., and by Art" appeared on pages A1, B1, and B4 of the 28 July 2004 issue of the *New York Times*. One result of this article in the *Times* is that Barrette has heard from the family members of other guards, thus adding to the depth of the record of the Sugamo prison experience that he is building.

In the autumn of 2004, the Japan Policy Research Institute will publish Bill Barrette's most recent exposition of the unfolding history of Sugamo Prison as the latest in its series of occasional papers. For this online publication, see http://www.JPRI.org/publications/occasionalpapers/op33.html. In planning for the spring of 2005 is a symposium and workshop devoted to modern Japanese art and literature produced under prison and other restrained conditions. Martin Collcutt, Professor of Japanese Literature and Director of the East Asian Studies Program at Princeton, and Bill Barrette are working to include, in addition, specialists in prison art and literature in the context of war outside East Asia.

One Hundredth Anniversary of the East Asian Library at Columbia

On the evening of Friday, 2 May 2003, the C. V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia convened a symposium in honor of its first one hundred years of collecting East Asian resources. James Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, opened the event with a brief history of the building of the East Asian collection beginning with an initial grant in 1901 from General Horace Walpole Carpentier, a trustee of the university. Amy Heinrich, Director of the C. V. Starr East Asian Library, then introduced three professors emeriti whose teaching

and scholarship shaped the East Asian Studies Department at Columbia during the latter half of the twentieth century: William Theodore de Bary, John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus of Chinese Studies; Donald Keene, Shincho and University Professor Emeritus; and Gari Keith Ledyard, King Sejong Professor of Korean Studies. Each of these scholars in turn gave informative and amusing recollections of highlights of his own interactions with the books in Columbia's East Asian collection in his discipline. A reception in the elegant reading room of the C. V. Starr East Asian Library on the third floor of Kent Hall concluded this enjoyable event that marked of the beginning of the second century of collecting East Asian books at Columbia.

Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Harvard-Yenching Library

The symposium "Books in Numbers," held at the Harvard-Yenching Library on 17–18 October 2003 in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of that library, was an exuberant celebration of the book in East Asia. Scholars from around the world presented papers in five categories: bronze inscriptions and writings on bamboo and paper; traditional print culture; the industrialization of print culture in East Asia; book illustration; and digitalization of East Asian collections. On display at the Houghton Library at Harvard from 16 October to 31 December 2003 was "An Exhibition to Highlight the Special Collections of the Harvard-Yenching Library." Three related exhibitions were held at this same time at other venues on the Harvard campus: "Photographs on China" at the Peabody Museum; "Ephemeral Materials on East Asia" at the Pusey Library, Main Gallery; and "Rare and Unique Legal Documents on China and Japan" at the Harvard Law School Library. The 350-page, generously illustrated exhibition catalogue *Treasures of the Yenching*, edited by Patrick Hanan and published by Harvard-Yenching Library in 2003, was presented to each person in attendance. This publication is the first number in a newly initiated Harvard-Yenching Library Studies series which promises to broaden the works in print on the history of the book and publishing in East Asia. James Cheng, Librarian of the Harvard-Yenching Library, announced the establishment of a new postdoctoral fellowship in print culture and library studies at the Fairbank Center for

East Asian Research. The first recipient of this award, for the 2004–2005 academic year, is Hilde De Weerdt, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Tennessee.

Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Chinese Section of the Library of Congress

On 31 October 2003, the Chinese Section of the Library of Congress convened a one-day symposium to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of its Chinese collection. This symposium for a select number of East Asian librarians, scholars, and representatives of US-China policy institutes from Mainland China, Taiwan, and the United States considered the development of the Chinese Collection at the Library of Congress, its relation to academia and other East Asian collections in the United States, special projects related to unusual collections of Asian materials, and the future importance of the Chinese Collection in government and public-service sectors. Dr. Ma Tai-loi, Director of the East Asian Library at Princeton, participated as a speaker and a discussant.

British Library Exhibition of Chinese Printmaking

"Chinese Printmaking Today, Woodblock Printing in China, 1980–2000," an exhibition on view at the British Library, 7 November 2003–7 March 2004, featured woodblock prints by contemporary Chinese artists in the collection of the Muban Foundation, formed in London in 1997 by Christer von der Burg and the late Verena Bolinder-Müller. The strikingly beautiful and spectacularly printed full-color exhibition catalogue is edited by Anne Farrer, Senior Lecturer at Sotheby's Institute of Art, London and curator of the exhibit. It provides a strong and intimate visual record of the expressive power of this traditional printing method in the hands of Chinese artists working at the end of the twentieth century. The introductory essays by David Barker, Reader in Printmaking in University of Ulster, School of Art and Design, Belfast, and others are particularly informed and informative. Generously written captions in-

troduce the artists and the special block cutting and printing techniques each employs.

Second International Conference on Future of the Book

The second annual conference for publishers, bookstore managers, printers, information technology professionals, librarians, educators and authors interested in electronic publishing met in Beijing from 29–31 August 2004. The meeting was organized by professionals in these fields, primarily from Australia. The success of the first conference on new media held in 2003 in Cairns, Australia generated enthusiastic expectations for the second gathering. One of the keynote speakers at this year's conference has promised to write a report of the highlights of the proceedings for the next issue of this journal. More information on this event may be found at http://book-conference.com.

Ohio State University Conference on Chinese Publishing and Print Culture

Christopher Reed, Associate Professor of History at Ohio State University has organized a conference entitled "From Woodblocks to the Internet: Chinese Publishing and Print Culture in Transition" to be held from 3–7 November 2004. This is a working conference for a core group of scholars in the steadily expanding field of the history of the book in China.

First International Book Designer Forum, Beijing

"Beauty of the Book" is the theme of the First International Book Designer Forum to be held in Beijing, 3–6 December 2004. The Book Arts Design Research Center of the Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University and the Beijing Zhidasifang Advertising Company are among the organizers of this forum to be held in conjunction with the Sixth Chinese Exhibition of Book Design, a competition and exhibition of the best books published in China held every four years.

Developments in the technology of book publishing and design today are very much a part of the history of the book in East Asia. A report of the proceedings will appear in an upcoming number of this journal. For additional information, you may consult the website of the forum, http://www.cadob.com, currently available only in Chinese.

Technical Assistant for the *East Asian Library Journal*

Heather Larkin, an undergraduate student at Princeton, majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with a certificate in Japanese language, has been providing excellent and much-needed technical and artistic support for the operation of the journal. Evidence of her interests and talents in drawing can be seen in the schematic drawings of the "cribbing garment" for Professor Andrew Plaks' article in this number of the journal.