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東亞圖書館  
*East Asian Library*  
and the *Gest Collection*

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LIBRARY JOURNAL

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The East Asian Library and The Gest Collection  
of Princeton University

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## From The Editor

The *Gest Library Journal*, the predecessor title of the *East Asian Library Journal*, first appeared in the winter of 1986 as a publication of the Friends of Gest Library. Frederick W. Mote is to be credited with his unfailing support—directly practical, intensely scholarly, and passionately personal in the highest sense—of this publishing venture for more than twenty years until his passing in 2005. His friendship with collectors of materials from East Asia made him distinctly aware that, as the editors wrote in the inaugural issue the *Gest Library Journal* (p. 5), “Collectors understand the passion to see their collections grow. [This passion] often leads them to want their collections eventually to be preserved in libraries.” It was the depth of and the scholarly significance of the accumulation of individual collector’s book and document treasures in the East Asian Library at Princeton University that Professor Mote emphasized. He understood the need to utilize and to preserve the old and rare core of the Gest Collection and to maintain and to expand the holdings of the great East Asian Library resources held by Princeton. The *Gest Library Journal* was but one of the tools through which his support of the traditions of the book in East Asia manifested itself.

With Hung-lam Chu as editor, Howard L. Goodman as managing editor, and Frederick W. Mote as advisor, the *Gest Library Journal* published five numbers including the monumental issue *Calligraphy and the East Asian Book* (volume 2, no. 2, Spring 1988), the catalogue for a major calligraphy and book exhibition that year at the Princeton University Art Museum. Wang Zhenping assumed the editorship of the *Gest Library Journal* beginning with the publication of volume 3, no. 3, in the winter of 1989–1990. He edited a total of nine numbers through the publication of volume 7, no. 2, in the autumn of 1994. Wang Zhenping also oversaw the change of title to *East Asian Library Journal* at the publication of Volume 7, no. 1, in the spring of 1994. This name change was made in order to reflect an expanded purpose for the journal and the growing state of the field of the history of the book, printing, and publishing in East Asia in relation to East Asian library holdings world-wide. Professor Mote continued as advisor and

later as chairman of the advisory board for the journal during Wang Zhenping's tenure as editor, through the three-year hiatus in publication from 1995 through 1997, and up until February 2005.

When Wang Zhenping left Princeton to assume an academic position, Soren Edgren, director of the Chinese Rare Books Project based here at Princeton University and a person with a finely tuned collector's passion for and scholar's understanding of the history of books and printing in East Asia, assumed the position of editor of the *East Asian Library Journal*. Soren marshaled the resources of the journal and gathered manuscripts for the next numbers of the journal, all on the edges of his full-time work with the Chinese Rare Books Project.

In the autumn of 1997 Soren invited the current editor to join the staff of the *East Asian Library Journal* to work on a voluntary basis as associate editor. Soren managed the publication of four numbers beginning with volume 8, no. 1 (Spring 1998) through volume 9, no. 2 (Autumn 2000). The current editor was promoted, as an employee of Princeton University, to editor of the journal in July 2000 and retired from that position at the first of July 2010, having taken the journal through to the production and distribution of its final two numbers, volume 14, no. 1 (Spring 2010) and volume 14, no. 2 (Autumn 2010).

In its nearly quarter century of publishing history, the *East Asian Library Journal* and its predecessor title, the *Gest Library Journal*, have had the privilege of publishing a wide range of remarkable scholarship of the highest caliber and in doing so have set trends that quietly have assisted in defining the increasingly popular field of the study of the history of the book and printing in East Asia. This field has been somewhat slower to emerge than the larger field of the history of the book and printing in the West, a discipline that at best pays cursory attention to the significant and very early emergence of books (pre-paper), writing, scholarly traditions, manuscript texts, and printing—xylographic and with movable type—in East Asian civilizations and cultures.

The current editor is grateful foremost to Professor Mote for his collegial and informed guidance with many aspects related to producing the *East Asian Library Journal*, everything from matters of financing to translation of manuscripts to help with thorny bibliographic and scholarly puzzles. I am also highly grateful to those who have served on the editorial advisory board of the journal for providing solid support with many tasks related to the publication of manuscripts submitted for publication in the journal. I extend a special expression of thanks to Hung-lam Chu for his accepting the invitation to serve as chairman

of the editorial advisory board in 2005, right at a moment when his work at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and responsibilities to his dear family were particularly demanding.

It has been an immense pleasure for me to work closely for twelve years with Judith Martin-Waterman of Martin-Waterman Associates, the journal's current designer. She is funny, clever, and demanding and has helped me hone my skills at presenting her with journal content that is as clean and bug-free as possible. The results of her design sense have garnered praise from readers, among them several book and graphic designers. David Goodrich of Birdtrack Press, who sets the Chinese and Japanese characters for the journal, is a wizard at working across platforms and through technology and software conflicts. He consistently brings to his work large measures of good aesthetic sense, unparalleled efficiency, and promptness, seasoned with insight, graciousness, and humor. Barbara Westergaard, as the journal's manuscript editor in the 1990s and early years of the new century, made carefully measured and invaluable improvements to the manuscripts received. And quite behind the scenes, but a significant facilitator for the consistently high-quality look of the *East Asian Library Journal*, are the people at the journal's printer, Sheridan Books in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It has always been easy and satisfying to work with Mike Yost and Michael Rosen, the journal's main contacts at Sheridan.

The East Asian Studies Department and the East Asian Studies Program at Princeton have supported this publishing project generously by administering moneys given specifically to ensure the journal's continued existence, by assisting with additional funding, and by providing office space and other administrative services. Willard Peterson, Professor of Chinese History and the member of the journal's editorial advisory board who has served as the journal's liaison with the East Asian Studies Department and Program, has my special thanks for his consistently kind and timely advice and insights in how to proceed on many administrative issues. I truly appreciate his wise and even-handed approach and thank him for going out of his way to be an advocate for the *East Asian Library Journal*. Martin Collcutt, Professor of Japanese History and also a member of the journal's editorial advisory board, has steadily offered solid advice in his characteristically well-considered approach. Richard Chafey, the manager of the East Asian Studies Program, has assisted me on bookkeeping matters and with the financial record systems of the university, and I might add, doing so with his quiet, wry humor and ever-pleasant manner.

Individuals in the East Asian Library at Princeton have provided considerable help over the years. Ma Tai-loi, Director of the East Asian Library and a Chinese historian, has resolved several problems encountered in editing manuscripts, and his own articles on topics in the history of the book in China have appeared in the journal. Another of the journal's contributing authors, Martin Heijdra, Chinese Bibliographer and Head of Public Services for Princeton's East Asian Library, has been unfailingly helpful in facilitating access to rare materials in Princeton's East Asian Library and in soliciting manuscripts for the journal. Yasuko Makino, Japanese Bibliographer and Cataloguer for the East Asian Library, has, with her usual cheer, answered numerous questions for me and has promoted distribution of the journal to libraries in Japan. And the former curator of the East Asian Library, Anthony Marr, too, has relayed his continuing interest in the work of the journal.

Many staff members with long years of service in the East Asian Library at Princeton University are to be commended for their determined efforts to carry out their respective assignments in making the collections available to patrons of their library. Perhaps it is no surprise that in their labors to keep up with the rapid influx of new works and to maintain and improve cataloguing records for old and rare items taken into the collections decades ago, they have developed a very strong loyalty to the collections. The names of individuals in this unusually dedicated staff of the East Asian Library at Princeton over the years are too numerous to mention individually and comprehensively here. However, in particular I would like to thank Cao Shuwen, Charmian Cheng, Martha Ho, Chongsook Kim, Soowon Kim, Liu Hsing-fen, Liu Shu Ming, Mariko Shimomura, and Wei I-ping for their enthusiastic appreciation of and assistance to the *East Asian Library Journal*.

As announced in volume 14, no. 1 (Spring 2010) of the *East Asian Library Journal* (see the notice inside the back cover of that number), the Leiden-based publisher Brill has announced its plans to launch in 2011 a brand-new journal entitled *East Asian Publishing and Society*. Managing editor Peter Kornicki of Cambridge University will be supported by an editorial board comprised of Cynthia Brokaw of Brown University; Mathi Forrer of Leiden University; Chris Uhlenbeck, independent scholar; and Hilde De Weerd of Oxford University. The publishing focus for this journal is, according to the announcement, "the study of the publishing of texts and images in East Asia, from the earliest times up to the present" and promises to "provide a platform for multi-disciplinary re-

search by scholars addressing publishing practices in China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Vietnam.” The emergence of this new scholarly publishing venture is good news for scholars and readers world-wide who have an interest in topics related to the history of books and printing and to historical and present-day publishing practices and cultures in East Asia. We at the *East Asian Library Journal* certainly wish the publishers and editors of *East Asian Publishing and Society* the best of success.

This final number of the *East Asian Library Journal*, Volume 14, no. 2 (Autumn 2010), presents a single article, a well-illustrated catalogue of the Chinese-language materials from Dunhuang and Turfan in the East Asian Library at Princeton University. Huaiyu Chen, an assistant professor of religion at Arizona State University and a scholar of Chinese Buddhism, prepared this catalogue about five years ago. He is to be commended for his patient work to describe, transcribe and identify the texts, many of them highly fragmentary, and where possible to translate these texts or to reference an existing published translation.

It is thanks to the work of the British Library’s International Dunhuang Project (IDP) that high-quality images of the Dunhuang and Turfan material in the East Asian Library at Princeton are available to illustrate this publication of Chen Huai-yu’s catalogue. Stephen F. Teiser, Professor of Religion at Princeton and a scholar of Chinese Buddhism, worked with the IDP toward an agreement to have the materials in the Dunhuang and Turfan collection in Princeton’s East Asian Library included in the IDP database. In the autumn of 2007 Susan Whitfield, Director of the IDP, came to Princeton University with two highly skilled photographers, Abby Baker and Rachel Roberts, to photograph digitally these materials in Princeton University’s East Asian Library. The IDP maintains an outstanding website (<http://idp.bl.uk>) with all manner of information about collections of materials from Dunhuang and the larger Silk Route region. The website offers free public access to a huge and growing database of items in the many collections of these materials in institutions world-wide, which, we are privileged to see, now includes images of the items in the collection of The East Asian Library and The Gest Collection at Princeton and those in the archives of James C. and Lucy Lo.

In comparison with the very large archives of Dunhuang materials in institutions around the world, the approximately 180 items in the East Asian Library at Princeton may seem quite small. Yet this group of Dunhuang and Turfan materials is the largest in the United States. In his introduction to his catalogue

of 158 items that are either written or printed in Chinese script or that bear seals or other markings in Chinese script, Chen Huaiyu has pointed out some of the areas of inquiry where Princeton's materials may contribute significantly to the understanding of topics related to Silk Road culture. Several kinds of items have counterparts in other collections of Dunhuang and Turfan materials. And some fragments can even be identified as coming from the same source document as fragments found in other collections.

Approximately forty-five items in the collection of Dunhuang and Turfan materials in the East Asian Library at Princeton University bear scripts other than Chinese or are purely pictorial. Chen Huaiyu's catalogue mentions some of these items, but only in relation to texts in Chinese scripts present in conjunction with the non-Chinese-script material. Thus a significant group of texts in Tibetan, Uyghur, Tangut, and perhaps other scripts, as well as purely pictorial items, invites additional scholarly investigation. (For lists of uncatalogued items, see both the end of Chen Huaiyu's introduction to the catalogue and the second appendix to the catalogue.)

To date three scholars have reported to the Princeton East Asian Library about their continuing research on non-Chinese items in the Princeton East Asian Library. These scholars first learned of the existence of the collection of Dunhuang and Turfan materials at Princeton through the databases of the IDP website. Dr. Shintarō Arakawa, Associate Professor at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, has been working on the materials written in Tangut scripts. Dr. Dai Matsui, associate professor at Hirosaki University in Aomori, Japan, has done research on some of the Princeton texts written in Uyghur scripts, as has Dr. Aydal Mirkamal, a professor in the Department of Social Sciences at Xinjiang University, who learned about the Uyghur materials at Princeton during his time as research fellow at Kyoto University. Publications in Japanese and in Chinese of the work of these scholars are forthcoming.

At the encouragement of the East Asian Library at Princeton, the information in Chen Huaiyu's catalogue entries for the Dunhuang and Turfan materials—description, transcription, identification, translation and notes—has been set in a detailed cataloguing frame with clearly defined fields. Many, but not all, of the entries for the items bearing Chinese script have been illustrated in Chen Huaiyu's catalogue. Those not illustrated in print in the catalogue may be found among the images of items in the Princeton collection of these materials avail-

able on the IDP website (<http://idp.bl.uk>). The Princeton items may be located quickly by entering “PEALD”—for Princeton East Asian Library Dunhuang and Turfan Collection—in the search box on that website’s home page.

One final entry in volume 14, no. 2 of our journal is a complete listing of the contents of the fourteen volumes of the *East Asian Library Journal* and its predecessor title, the *Gest Library Journal*. This list will update the first publication of the contents of volume 1 through volume 8, which appeared in volume 9, no. 1 (Spring 2000) of this journal.

To this editor this final number of the *East Asian Library Journal* feels and looks something like a small, but luminous jewel. I hope it will be especially appealing to the journal’s readers, will attract the interest of scholars studying the history and culture of the Silk Road, and will stand as a worthy presentation on a topic of importance to the study of the book in East Asia and as a high note on which to close the publishing run of the *East Asian Library Journal* and its predecessor title, the *Gest Library Journal*.

NANCY NORTON TOMASKO  
August 2010

