

EAST ASIAN LIBRARY NEWS

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Staff

There have been several staff changes during 1986. After Andrew Gosling succeeded Sidney Wang as Chief Librarian, Orientalia, Beatrice Tam was promoted to Senior Librarian, Chinese, and C.P. Tang to Librarian Class 1, Chinese. Lily Li and Chuen-chi Brace have been appointed to the Library Officer positions for Chinese. The Korean Library Officer position has recently been upgraded to permanent, full-time, and Jung-hee Fry began full-time hours at the end of November 1986. There have been no changes to the staffing of the Japanese collection.

Restructuring of National Library

As part of the restructuring of the Library's management currently underway, the East Asian collections, which had been part of the former Reference Division, have been assigned to the General Collections and Services program. Further modifications to the organisation structure are to be made over the course of the present financial year.

Serial Cancellations

Subscriptions to serials and the continuation of standing orders absorb over two-thirds of the funds available to the National Library for the acquisition of library materials. At the time of the August 1986 Budget, it was calculated that, with rising prices and a weak Australian dollar, after meeting existing periodical commitments, no funds would remain for the purchase of monographs or to place new subscriptions.

The only alternative was a program of planned cancellations. As part of this process, a considerable number of minor Chinese periodicals in marginal areas such as foreign literature and popular science, and also a few Japanese titles have been cancelled. Consultations with the ANU Library have been held concerning these and ANU's own planned East Asian serial cancellations. Further details will be included in the next Newsletter.

Cataloguing

During the 1985/86 financial year, 2626 East Asian language monographs were fully catalogued and 5012 interim records created on the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). During the first five months of 1986/87 (July to November), a further 1305 monographs were fully catalogued and 2397 interims entered on ABN.

Newspaper list produced on Chinese language wordprocessor

A complete list of Chinese language newspapers held by the National Library has recently been prepared in the Orientalia Sub-section, using the newly acquired Asiagraphics Chinese wordprocessing system.

Chinese Language Newspapers in the National Library of Australia includes 309 titles published in China and 14 other countries

including Australia (4 titles) and most of the Southeast Asian nations. The National Library has by far the largest collection of Chinese language newspapers in Australia.

The newspapers are arranged alphabetically by title, from An-hui jih pao 安徽日报 to Yun-nan jih pao 雲南日報. Each entry consists of the Wade-Giles romanization and Chinese characters for the title, followed by place of publication, details of holdings and call number. See references from English language and other alternative titles are included. The list is also indexed by country of publication (and by province for China) as well as by subject for those newspapers which relate to a particular subject such as law or science for example.

Production of this list is the first major project carried out using the Asiagraphics Chinese wordprocessing software system recently purchased by the Library. Operating on an IBM PC now housed in the Sub-section, this system allows the generation, processing and printing of texts written wholly in Chinese characters, as well as those containing both Roman and Chinese scripts.

The input method is basically phonetic. To display a Chinese character it is necessary to enter its pronunciation according to the Wade-Giles or Pinyin Romanization Schemes. Usually its tone and radical family must also be keyed in. Thus to display the character for "good", which is 好, the romanization "hao" is entered, followed by the third tone indicator ";" and the radical "n", hence "hao;n". In order to speed up the process of inputting, abbreviations may be used for some common characters and compounds. For example, to enter the Chinese for "library", rather than the full form "tu/k shu- guan-b", it is only necessary to type in "tsg" and 圖書館 is displayed. Simplified characters may be used if preferred, for example "library" as 图书馆

Publication of the newspaper list should occur early in 1987.

#### Award for Sing-wu Wang, OAM\*

The former chief of the Library's Orientalia collection, Sing-wu Wang, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday honours announced last week. Mr Wang came to Australia from Taiwan 21 years ago and has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of librarianship in the field of East Asian Studies as well as to the understanding of Chinese culture in Australia. He is a prominent member of the Chinese community in Australia. Mr Wang has built up the Library's Orientalia collection from a small beginning to a substantial resource which is one of the major centres of Oriental scholarship and research in Australia. Mr Wang is a distinguished scholar in his field and is widely respected.

The Library congratulates Mr Wang on his award, which is a public recognition of his service to the Library and to the community.

\* National Library of Australia Staff Bulletin, 26 June 1986.

Andrew Gosling  
National Library of Australia

A terminal will be allocated to the Oriental Library in the near future. A direct link has been set-up between our computer and ABN to enable the PRIME terminals to be used as ABN terminals. The availability of terminals will certainly help to increase the cataloguing input onto ABN. Also, our ADLIB system will enable Chinese, Japanese and Korean materials entered on ABN to be retrieved by an on-line public access catalogue in the Oriental Library.

#### Shelf-Space

The Oriental Library has been facing a shelf-space crisis. Based on past accession figures, the annual growth rate is about 2,200 volumes. Also, there are about 30 boxes of unpacked Korean books. The Library has recently agreed to allocate two rooms, on the same floor, to the Oriental Library as a temporary relief for our space problems. These two rooms will soon be ready and the move will take place in the Long Vacation. We are in the process of identifying titles which are either less frequently used or bulky to store.

#### Gifts

The Oriental Library is fortunate to have received an invaluable gift of several Japanese titles to the value of ¥300,000 from the Japanese Foundation. Another set of gift to the value of US\$3,000 came from Waseda University, Tokyo. Such generous donations assisted in building up the Japanese collection of the Oriental Library.

Magdalen Lee  
University of Sydney

#### UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE LIBRARY

Mr Wan Li, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, presented 2,000 volumes of Chinese books to the Melbourne University when he visited the University on 12 September 1986. Baillieu Library plans to mount an exhibition when the books arrive this year.

The list of Chinese and Japanese Periodicals held in Baillieu Library has been downloaded from the WORD 11 onto an IBM PC for revision. Parallel titles in Chinese scripts have been entered in the file by using a Chinese Wordstar program. It will be ready for printing soon.

The book budget for East Asian materials has been reduced by 10% due to the impact of Australian currency devaluation and inflation in 1986. However, special funds have been allocated to build up the Chinese art collection for the new course commencing in 1987. Legal materials in Oriental languages are also acquired for the Asian Law Centre which will specialize in Japanese and Chinese commercial law.

L. H. Hu  
University of Melbourne

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

VISITORS

The Deputy Librarian of Shantung Medical University Library, Mr Wang, visited the Queensland University Libraries in August/September 1986. At the same time, Miss Liu Chunhua from the same Library finished her eight months stay at Queensland University Herston Medical Library. They left Brisbane on 20 September, and toured Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne before returning to China.

DEATH OF DR WILLIAM CHEN

It is very sad to hear of the death of Dr William Chen, former Senior Lecturer of the Department of Library Studies, Western Australian Institute of Technology. Dr Chen was born in Chekiang Province, China. He went to the US in the mid 1940s and received his PhD in Public Administration and MS in Library Science from the University of Illinois. Before he came to Australia, he was head of Technical Services at California State University at Fullerton. It was there that, as a young graduate, I worked under him for four years. A year after we left California, Dr Chen and his family went to Western Australia. He taught over there for more than ten years until his retirement in 1984. At the time of his death, he was working to build a school in his homeland, Ch'ing-tien. Dr Chen will be deeply missed by all his friends, colleagues, and students in the US, Australia and China.

Flora Chiou  
University of Queensland

