

EAST ASIAN LIBRARY RESOURCES GROUP OF AUSTRALIA

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Biennial Meeting, University of Sydney, 14 May 1986, 2-5pm

1. Present

Y.S. Chan (ANU) - Chairman; S. Wang - Vice-Chairman/Editor; Andrew Gosling (NLA) - Secretary/Treasurer; Carmel Bezzina (Macquarie Uni.); Kay Cherry (Uni. of Sydney); Flora Chiou (Uni. of Queensland); Marian De Saxe (Uni. of Sydney); Pauline Haldane (NLA); Lily Hu (Uni. of Melbourne); Lai-chu Lau (Australian Buddhist Library); Elsie Leow (Griffith Uni.); George Miller (ANU); Susan Prentice (ANU); Nikki White (NLA).

2. Chairman's Report

a. Sidney Wang

The Chairman, Y.S. Chan, expressed appreciation for Sidney Wang's continuing active involvement in the Group, following his retirement from NLA, and in particular for the excellent Newsletter he had just produced.

b. Committee

Y.S. Chan commented, that the Committee always consisted of Canberra members only, and that other states should also be represented. Pauline Haldane believed the experience of other bodies such as SASA and SEARMG showed that a split committee with members in different cities was not efficient, but states could take it in turn to form the committee. However Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane representatives disagreed, on the grounds that they had insufficient staff.

c. Name change

Y.S. Chan raised the question of changing the name of the Group from East Asian Librarians' Group of Australia, as this name was seen as inhibiting non-librarians from joining or contributing Newsletter articles. While the Group had achieved much, its active membership was confined to a small number of librarians. Further growth would require promotion and a name change to attract academics and others. Pauline Haldane believed it was important not to abandon Library related articles. She suggested that to encourage a wider membership a letter could be sent to those on the NLA's Current Awareness Bulletin mailing list. Several alternative names were put forward including East Asian Library Materials Group of Australia and East Asian Library Group of Australia. Finally a motion that the name be changed to East Asian Library Resources Group of Australia proposed by Andrew Gosling, seconded Susan Prentice was passed.

3. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Andrew Gosling reported that there are currently 91 members. New members include Dr Lung-wah Li and Miss Megumi Ito of ANU; Mr C.P. Tang of NLA; Mr Masaki Nasu of the National Diet Library (currently on secondment at NLA); and the University of North Carolina. Several members paid their subscriptions during the meeting, bringing our assets to A\$668.21. Other renewals are expected soon as a reminder notice was included with the latest Newsletter. Pauline Haldane suggested overseas members should pay US\$10 per annum. The questions of raising the fee for all (or only overseas) members and whether to charge in US or Australian dollars were referred to the committee to decide.

4. Editor's Report

The Editor, Sidney Wang said he will produce one more Newsletter later this year. It will include his Survey of East Asian language collections in Australia with some new figures, and relevant papers from the ASAA 1986 Conference. He also suggested the next issue contain reviews for major new reference books. These would be of interest to academics. It should be possible to have 10 such reviews in the issue if members write one each.

5. Automation

a. LC tapes

Lily Hu mentioned the delay in the Library of Congress separate tapes for CJK materials. Nikki White commented that the delay was caused by internal problems at LC of a non-systems nature. New tapes are supposed to be ready by June 1986.

b. LC cards

Carmel Bezzina reported that Macquarie Uni. has had difficulties obtaining LC cards for CJK items. NLA obtains all such cards, while ANU has not ordered any for a long time. Macquarie uses the LC cards but changes the romanization to pinyin by the "scissors and paste" method. Where LC hyphenates words, Macquarie joins up the syllables eg. it turns Chung-kuo into Zhongguo.

c. ABN Interims

Lily Hu said she had found few NLA interims on ABN for Chinese publications. Andrew Gosling promised to supply statistics.

d. ANU

East Asian materials were not yet in the automated system. There were still problems with diacritics. Currently ANU is carrying out a trial with RLIN and is finding a high hit rate for early 1980's items. A report will be made available on this trial, possibly for the Newsletter. ANU is also producing a list of its CJK serials on microfiche with holdings. This can be officially requested from the University Librarian, Colin Steele.

6. Union catalogues

a. UCEAM

ANU is no longer supplying cards for UCEAM. This is because it is carrying out interim cataloguing in the manual system, with no card production. This was to have been for a short period only, but automation has taken much longer than expected. Andrew Gosling reported that UCEAM has almost doubled in size since last microfilmed in 1982, when it held 220,000 cards. In April 1986 there were 402,493 cards.

b. Rare books

Kay Cherry said Australia's East Asian rare books are a national resource which should be more widely known. It was agreed there should be a union list of such works. After discussion on what guidelines to follow, it was decided that each Library should send its own definition of rare books to the Group's Secretary (Andrew Gosling).

7. Inter-Library loans

Nikki White mentioned the heavy demand on NLA for inter-library loans and photocopies. Sometimes 20 or more requests were received at once from one borrower. It was not possible to handle such requests without delays. Borrowers should also pay attention to the NLA/ANU co-operative acquisition agreement when requesting material, eg. requests for Chinese and Japanese publications in the field of literature should be directed to ANU not NLA.

8. Kay Cherry

The Chairman Y.S. Chan, conveyed to Kay Cherry, who is retiring at the end of June, the Groups appreciation of her service at the Oriental Library, University of Sydney. He praised her for doing an excellent job in difficult circumstances, building up the collection to over 77,000 volumes. Kay Cherry gave members a copy of her annual report for 1985, which gives details about the Oriental Library.

Andrew Gosling  
Secretary  
EALGA