

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES' NEWS

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

ANU delegation to China

A three-member delegation consisting of the University Librarian, the Head of the Asian Studies Division and the East Asian Studies Librarian, went to Beijing as guests of the National Library of China to attend the opening of their new building.

Special projects

During the last ten months, the East Asian collection received funding to launch special projects, dealing mainly with its increasing load of uncatalogued publications; the projects included the cataloguing of serials acquired during the last few years, the entering of records for all East Asian serial titles onto the library's URICA automated system in romanised form, the cataloguing of material on modern and contemporary Chinese studies, as well as providing full catalogue entries for those materials which had been given interim cataloguing in the past four years.

All the projects aimed at bringing uncatalogued material under bibliographic control and making the collection more accessible to the users.

Library fellowships

In recognition of the growing importance of the collection on contemporary Chinese studies in Canberra, the Contemporary China Centre at ANU last year initiated a library fellowship scheme to help scholars from other parts of Australia come and use the collection for their researches. Financial assistance includes return airfare, accommodation and use of the facilities of the library and the Centre. After one year of operation, it has proved to be very successful. For information about this scheme, please contact the Head of the Contemporary China Centre at ANU.

Important acquisitions

The library received some budget cuts in 1986 which to some extent affected the acquisition of monographs during the past year. In 1987 there was also a cut in serials expenditure; some titles in the East Asian area have been cancelled with effect from next year. However, before any title was cancelled, the holdings at NLA were checked to ensure that only duplicated and little-used titles were cancelled. At the same time, some important new serials are to be added to the collection. The constant review of the serial collection through cancellation and new subscription is believed to be the best way of keeping the

quality of the collection to the highest possible standard.

There is a substantial increase in this year's monograph budget. Large sets of books and reprints of periodicals in Chinese and Japanese have been either acquired or ordered; they are too numerous to be listed individually.

The library is still endeavouring to strengthen its collection on hard-to-get material, especially on contemporary Chinese studies. This year has been most fruitful in this regard. Many serial and monograph titles have been added as complete items to the collection. Most of them are thought to be unique outside China. The subject areas cover Chinese Communist Party history, archival material, labour movement and conditions, women's studies, journalism and military science. Whilst they are not available for inter-library loan or reproduction due to staff shortages, they are available to all users inside and outside this University.

Staff movement

Apart from the many casual staff appointed for the special projects throughout the year, there are some major changes in the East Asian Section.

Mrs Yumiko Mills, who has been associated with the Japanese collection for the past ten years in various capacities, has resigned to complete her studies in computing at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (CCAЕ). Her hard work and achievement is well acknowledged by all the users and by her colleagues. Mrs Susan MacDougall resigned and took up a position at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (CCAЕ) as Tutor in Information Retrieval. Her contribution, especially in regard to the future of Asian script automation, is appreciated.

Dr Li Lung-wah was appointed to the position of East Asian Acquisitions Librarian and Mr Richard Chan was appointed Cataloguer for Chinese material.

Mr Li Zhilang and Mr Wang Jialing, the two Chinese library trainees, will complete their training in early 1988. It is expected that another librarian from the National Library of China will come soon after Li's departure. This scheme, now in its sixth year, has proved very beneficial and the returned librarians are all performing well.

Y.S. Chan
Head, Asian Studies Division
Australian National University Library

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

1. Changes

This has been a year of considerable change. First there was a change of name from the long established 'Orientalia' to 'East Asia'. The subsection is now part of the General Collections and Services Program. With the introduction of a programme structure, staff have been heavily involved in drawing up documents on subjects such as collection policy, tasks, targets and performance indicators. Meanwhile the two parts of the Asian Collections Section (formerly Asian Studies), viz., East Asia and South & Southeast Asia, have been housed together. Reorganisation of the stacks has included the integration of all Chinese serials in a single classified sequence.

2. Automation of East Asian language records

East Asian language materials have been catalogued on the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) in fully romanised form, with cards containing the vernacular script still being filed into the name catalogue, shelf list and Union Catalogue of East Asian Monographs.

2278 monographs were fully catalogued and 5783 interims records were created this year.

From January to August 1987, as time permitted, Japanese-language serials were input on ABN retrospectively. (New Japanese serials have been catalogued on ABN since the beginning of 1985.) Where a record existed on ABN (usually a Library of Congress or National Library of Medicine record) it was checked for current romanisation practice, amended if necessary and holding and location were added. If no record existed for a title, a detailed interim, which included ISSN where available, was created, and holding and location were added.

A total of 4432 Japanese serials records were entered. These represent both government and non-government publications and include reprints and microform editions. Of these 4432 records, 1760 already existed on ABN while for 2762 records, interims had to be created. This represents quite a high hit rate.

We should like to encourage the use of ABN for searching Japanese serial titles. Use of a call number speeds your request. Call numbers may be obtained from NUCOS as well as ABN. NUCOS is available from Sales and Subscriptions, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.

3. Europe and the Orient Exhibition (July - November 19 1987)

This major exhibition, held to mark two international conferences at the Australian National University, is in two

parts, entitled 'Europe and the Exotic' and 'The Occident and the Orient'. The exhibition traces Western perceptions of the East and includes materials from Rare Books, Manuscripts, Pictorial, Maps, the general collection and the Asian collections. This is the first large NLA exhibition in many years to exhibit East Asian publications; there are many unusual items such as Laotian lontars, Japanese gold and silver coins, woodblock prints, old illustrated Chinese and Japanese books, pith paintings and many first editions of accounts by various European writers. It is hoped that this exhibition will prove a boost to public awareness of the East Asian collections and service.

4. Major Buddhist collection donated to NLA

The Australian Buddhist Library, which was formerly situated in central Sydney, has recently donated its entire 3000 volume collection to the National Library. At the request of the donor, the books will be kept together as a formed collection and retain the name Australian Buddhist Library.

In Sydney the library was built up between 1984 and 1987 through the generosity of the Liao family and other benefactors. The collection consists mainly of Chinese and English language works on Buddhism as well as items in other Asian languages. There are reference works, monographs, periodicals, audio-visual materials, and a Tripitaka section with editions in Chinese, English, Pali, Burmese, Sinhalese and Thai. As some series are incomplete, the National Library is seeking to obtain outstanding volumes.

Access to the materials is good, as the Australian Buddhist Library compiled and published a book catalogue in 1986 listing its collections by language, then for each language by subject according to the Library of Congress Classification Scheme. The items will also be entered on ABN and into the Union Catalogue of East-Asian Monographs. They are housed in the Asian Studies Section of the National Library, where they are available for use. They may be borrowed on inter-library loan, subject to the usual requirements.

In addition to the books, the collection contains a bronze Buddha image. This weighs 184 kg. and is approximately 115 cm. high. It is a replica of a 12th century Thai work, with an inscription stating that it was donated to the Australian Buddhist Library. From July to September 1987 it is being displayed as part of the Europe and the Orient Exhibition at the National Library. At a later date it is hoped to mount a special exhibition featuring works from this collection, in order to make them known to a wider audience.

5. Irina Chou was appointed CA4 for the Chinese Unit in October. She replaced Norma China, who left for another position in the library. Beatrice Tam has been away on 6 months' leave since June 1987. There have been no changes to the staff of the Japanese or Korean Unit.

6. Visit to China

The Director-General, Mr Warren M. Horton, and the Chief Librarian, East Asia, Mr Andrew Gosling, were part of the Australian Library Delegation to China in October. Other members were the State Librarians of Queensland and South Australia, and the Librarian of Murdoch University. The Delegation attended the inauguration ceremony for the new National Library of China building and an international symposium on the developing strategy of computer-based Chinese data processing. They also visited various libraries and universities, many of whom are NLA exchange partners.

Andrew Gosling
Nikki White
National Library of Australia

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE LIBRARY

The exhibition of Significant Acquisitions and Gifts from China, which is being held on the first floor of the Baillieu Library from 28th October to 11th December, 1987, contains a selection of the 2,000 books which were presented to the Library by Mr Wan Li on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and other resources for Chinese studies from the Library's collection.

The donation was air-freighted in sixty-eight cardboard boxes from Peking to Melbourne in late June this year. The books represent a selection of the best current Chinese imprints; they cover a wide range of topics including Chinese history, contemporary literature, fine art, architecture, archaeology, Chinese medicine, encyclopaedias and dictionaries.

The gifts have added greatly to the strength of the East Asian collection; the collection, founded in 1962, has been built up with a considerable number of gifts and exchange publications from China. It is the major collection in Victoria, with a total of 65,000 volumes of monographs and more than 900 serial titles. Its strength is in language and contemporary literature. History, philosophy, religion and art are also well covered. In the last few years, more courses related to Asia were offered at the University. In response to these developments, the focus of collection development is in the areas of Asian law, sociology, anthropology, folklore, religious studies and fine art.

Infogram 11/87

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY LIBRARY

Automated loan system

The University of Sydney Library is in the process of installing a new integrated computer system, ADLIB. Some modules, such as Special Reserve, Cataloging and Online Library Catalogue have been implemented and are operating smoothly. The new ADLIB Circulation system has recently been implemented and manages all loans from Fisher Library initially, including those from the Oriental Library collection. This new loan system marks the end of the cumbersome manual loan system and the beginning of an effective automated loan system for the Oriental Library.

Book Drive

The Department of East Asian Studies (formerly Department of Oriental Studies), University of Sydney, and the Australian Chinese Community in Sydney started the Australian Bi-centennial Book Drive for the Oriental Library in early 1987 for the purchase of Ssu-k'u ch'uan shu hui yao (A Selection from the Complete Library in four divisions, 500 volumes). By June 1987, we had reached our target of collecting \$14,000 for the item. After placing the order, we still have a surplus of about \$6,500. The Department of East Asian Studies has now converted the Book Drive into a permanent book fund for the Oriental Library, to be called the Chinese Community Book Fund. This will enable us to continue buying important collections of Chinese books for the Oriental library which we could not afford to buy from our library allocation.

Gift from the National Library of Australia

The Oriental Library received an invaluable gift, namely, Ssu k'u ch'uan shu chen pen (Rare titles from the Complete Library in four divisions, 12 series in 4,400 volumes) from the East Asia Subsection, National Library of Australia. This set would complement the set which we purchased from the Book Drive and is a great asset to the Oriental Collection. We are very grateful for the gift.

Gift from the Government of the People's Republic of China

The Chinese Government has donated 1,029 volumes of Chinese books to the Oriental Library covering a wide range of areas: language and literature, arts and crafts, science and medicine, history and geography, philosophy, economics and politics, dictionaries and encyclopaedias, etc. A selection of books from the collection is on display in the Rare Book Library until the end of the year.

An official reception was held on 2 October by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Taylor, in conjunction with the University Librarian, Dr Radford. Among the 40 prominent guests

were the Chinese Consul General, Mr Li Xiling, and Mrs Li, the Chinese Consul, Mr Xu Ming and Mrs Xu, the Vice Consul (Cultural), Miss Dong Qi.

Cancellation of serials received on gift and exchange

The University of Sydney Library has numerous established exchange partners for books and serials. We have started to evaluate the serial titles which are recieved on exchange. As part of the exercise, the Oriental Library will be looking at the exchange serials from China, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan.

Magdalen Lee
Oriental Library
University of Sydney

