

Report from the National Library

Staff news



Irina Chou happily retired from the Library after 30 years working in the Chinese Unit, Asian Collections of the National Library of Australia. Irina is a cheerful, delightful, faithful and hard-working staff member who is a very experienced cataloguer and has been patiently training many new staff members on cataloguing, acquisition and reference enquires. We thank Irina for her outstanding contributions to the Chinese Unit and we wish her a Happy Retirement and will greatly miss her, her cheery smile and all the good times spent with

her at work which cannot be forgotten!

Acquisition Highlights of Chinese materials at the National Library of Australia

eResources



Digital Image Collections of Republic of China 民國圖片資源庫 (1911-1949) was purchased from the National Library of China. The database contains historical photographs of China dating from 1911-1949. There is also a small amount of items from the late Qing dynasty and the early years following the establishment of the People's Republic of China. 70,000 photographs in the database are classified in four sub-libraries: personages of the Republic of China, historical events, lives and customs, architecture and scenery, and they are further divided into 24 sections. nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn7202407

Missionary Poster



Joy and rejoicing 歡喜快樂 A large and rare coloured Chinese missionary poster issued by the Religious Tract Society for China (中國基督聖教書會). This poster was used to help missionaries tell the story of the Bible. The upper section features two leaves from the Book of Jeremiah. A man in Qing dynasty costume in the centre is eating buns while reading the Bible, a full bowl of buns with Chinese characters (all quotes from the Bible) are in front of the man. His delighted smile fully illustrates the verse written on the pages. nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn7384014

Political Propaganda Posters



The National Library holds over 400 Chinese political propaganda posters. Recently a collection of 90 posters were acquired and added to the collection. Since the late 1990s a private collector in Melbourne has put together a comprehensive collection of Chinese propaganda posters, acquired during

his visits to China, Hong Kong and at auction in Europe and the UK. The collection includes many rare and early examples, and the posters are well documented and catalogued, including details of titles, dates, artists, publishers and print runs. The collection is divided into three thematic sets: the 1950s and Great Leap Forward, the 1960s illustrating China's public support for the Vietnam war. Chinese political propaganda posters have historical and cultural value and are attracting increasing attention from scholars.

Big sets of books



Press clippings of the South Manchuria Railway Co. series 1. 中國社會科學院近代史研究所藏滿鐵剪報類編 第一輯. These press clippings were collected by the Japanese intelligence agency the "South Manchuria Railway Co." (known as "Manchurian") over a period of nearly 30 years (1918-1945) for the Japanese army and government to formulate policies of aggression against China. The clippings were obtained from up to 170 Chinese, Japanese and Western newspapers and cover a

wide range of topic such as politics, diplomacy, economics, society, culture, military, law, etc. related to China and its surrounding regions, including the Korean Peninsula and the Soviet Far East. It provides an invaluable first-hand source for academics to study the modern history of Northeast Asia, Sino-Japanese relations and Northeast China. The only original copy in the world is held by the Institute of Modern History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The first series of the reproduction of this important historical publication was published in October 2016 by the National Library of China. nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn7334498



***National minority periodicals* 中國少數民族舊期刊集成**

This 100 volume set includes minority periodicals published before 1949 in China. These include rare and early issues that are not available through other aggregated sources and this collection is a very limited edition. nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn7378964