

CHINESE LANGUAGE RESOURCES IN MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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The Baillieu Library has built up one of the four major East Asian collections in Australia. This paper reviews briefly its development, especially the strengths and weaknesses of its Chinese language resources and the latest projects it is undertaking.

Baillieu Library began collecting Chinese materials in 1961 and Japanese materials in 1965. When the author arrived in 1968, there were about 17,000 volumes of books and a few serial titles. By the end of last June, it had grown to 66,000 volumes of books, 56,000 of which were in Chinese. It also holds some 1,100 serial titles, including about 450 current periodicals and 1,200 items of microform materials.

The development of the collection has been in close association with the teaching and research programmes in Oriental studies at the university. As well, any Melbourne researcher who has ever looked for our assistance has had an impact on its development. The members of the Melbourne China Study Group, which formed in 1976, have been our major users and have provided us with continuous support over the years. The collection, nevertheless, has some unevenness overall and in some places unexpected weaknesses. In the early days, books were most often purchased by academics who happened to be in Hong Kong or Taiwan. Early acquisitions covered mainly basic reference books, traditional literary works, modern literature of the 1930s and of contemporary authors, including a rich collection of *Wu hsia hsiao shuo*, or *kung fu* fiction.

As the founding chair of Oriental Studies at Melbourne was held by Harry Simon, whose speciality was in Chinese language studies (incidentally, my husband is also a scholar of Chinese linguistics), it was logical that, right from the very beginning, this collection emphasised Chinese philology and its related fields.

An important acquisition in the initial stage of development was the collection of Kao Pen-han (Bernhard Karlgren) who was the pioneer in modern Chinese linguistics. The purchase was funded by the Graduate Union in 1962. The collection comprises a number of fine editions of classical Chinese works on philology as well as some traditional literary works in block print form. It has laid a firm foundation for Chinese language studies.

Another earlier acquisition project was a collection of 1,123 volumes of Buddhist literature acquired from *Hsiang-Kang Fo Ching Liu Tung Chu* (Hong Kong Buddhism Dissemination Services) in 1964. Unfortunately, since Dr Lancashire left for New Zealand these books have been used only occasionally by those scholars who know of its existence.

The other major focus of this collection has been Chinese history covering the period from the Ching Dynasty to the Republican period. However, since Dr Carney Fisher became our patron the collection scope has been extended to the Ming period. We have actively collected materials on Ming studies and have built up a strong collection in this area too.

I came to the Baillieu at the time when the Cultural Revolution was at its height and there were hardly any publications available from China. One of my first tasks was a systematic search for indispensable pre-Cultural Revolution publications. In many cases, photocopies or microforms were acquired from Hong Kong or Japan at a very high cost. For example, the journals of *Jen min wen hsueh* (People's literature) and *Chung-kuo yu wen* (Chinese language studies) were collected issue by issue at HK\$50 each in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In order to exchange ideas on library development, an East Asian Library Committee was formed in 1977. Committee members included academics from the related departments and two librarians from this library. The committee advised the library, from time to time, on book selection policies, periodical subscriptions, library hours, services to other institutions and other issues. A collection development policy for the East Asian Library was drawn up and stated that the Chinese collection at the University of Melbourne is intended to provide the principal resource for Chinese studies in the region. Areas for in-depth coverage are: Chinese language and literature, Chinese history (1368 to date), Chinese art, Chinese politics and society, and Chinese outside China.

In response to a proposal submitted by the East Asian Library Committee in 1978, Baillieu allocated a total amount of \$144,000 for five years between 1979 and 1983 for building a balanced collection of 50,000 volumes to meet the research needs of East Asian area studies. Many source materials were acquired, such as the *Hung wei ping tzu liao* (A collection of the Red Guards' publications), *Ming Ch'ing tang an* (Historical archives of the Ming and Ching dynasties), *Ming shih lu* (Veritable records of the Ming

dynasty), *Ch'ing shih lu* (Veritable records of the Ching dynasty), and *Ch'ing shih kao* (Manuscripts of Ching history), etc.

Great effort has also been made to strengthen the Chinese serials collection. Periodical and newspaper backsets published between 1900 and 1966 were acquired either in microform or reprint. These included *Shen pao* (The Shanghai Times), *I shih pao* (The Tientsin Daily), *Jen min jih pao* (The People's Daily), *Hsin hua pan yüeh k'an* (New China Semi-Monthly), and *Ch'en pao fu chuan* (Literary pages of Chen Daily, 1921-1929) and so on. These materials have filled some gaps and provided good sources for the study of twentieth century China, particularly in relation to political movements and social and economic conditions. A list entitled *Chinese and Japanese Serials* was first published in 1977 and revised in 1984 as a guide to the rapidly expanding serial collection.

We also acquired a set of *Ssu k'u chuan shu chen pen*, series 1-12 (Rare books from the Ching encyclopedia). This has strengthened considerably the holdings of Chinese classical literary works.

Bibliographies and library catalogues relating to China studies were also intensively collected. Significant acquisitions included: *Ch'üan-kuo hsin shu mu* (Chinese national bibliography), *Chung-kuo yü wen hsüeh lun wen so yin* (Index to Chinese philology), *Chung-kuo k'ao ku hsüeh wen hsien mu lu* (Bibliography of Chinese archaeology), *Chung-kuo shan pen shu t'i yao* (Annotated bibliography of Chinese rare books), and library catalogues of the Hoover Institution Library, the Asiatic library of the University of California at Berkeley, the Chicago University and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London, and many other catalogues of Chinese collections in China and Japan.

In recent years, in response to the new development in Asian studies at various Victorian institutions, book selection has been broadened to cover basic materials on Chinese fine arts, anthropology, sociology, folklore and religion, law, economics, education, language teaching and bi-lingual dictionaries in all fields. The most valuable additions include a Chinese version of *Tripitaka* as well as the *Tao tsang* (Taoist canon) and its supplement, *Hsü tao tsang*.

Materials on Chinese local history, particularly those of Kiangsi, Fukien, Kuangtung, Chekiang and Hunan provinces are well covered. In late 1988, a series of local gazetteers of Kiangsu Province was acquired under the Kiangsu-Victoria Project, undertaken by scholars in Victorian institutions.

The library also has on microform a number of valuable research sources, for example, the *Ch'en Ch'eng* collection, which pertains to the Chinese Kangsi Soviet period, 1931-34, the *Tun-huang manuscripts* collection held in the National Library of China in Beijing, a selection of 97 titles of Chinese rare books of Ming and Ching editions held in the National Central Library in Taipei, and the 1784 and 1806 editions of the *Salt records of the Lianghuai* area.

Gift and exchange has also played an important role in collection building. For instance, the library received a gift of 650 volumes of books from the National Central Library in Taipei in early 1963. These were good selections of Taiwan imprints and have formed a basic part of this library.

In the same year, Mr Woo Sou-don of the Chung-hua Book Company donated to this library a reprinted set of the *Yung-lo ta tien* (Encyclopedia of Ming Yung-lo) in 202 volumes.

In 1979, a gift of the *Jen shou pen erh shih ssu shih* (Twenty-four dynastic histories, Taiwan edition), and a complete run of the *Ming Pao Monthly* were received from the late Mr Chiang Chia-tung, the late diplomat and former chief of the Chinese Section of Radio Australia.

In 1987, we received a gift of 2,000 books from the Government of the People's Republic of China. These additions greatly strengthened the coverage of the collection.

Exchange relations have been established with the National Central Library and a number of other institutions in Taiwan since the early years. Publishing activities in China did not resume until 1972. Exchange programmes with various libraries in China have been established in recent years and a great number of journals of various institutions and local publications have been received.

In the early days, the collection was housed on the fourth floor in Baillieu. The collection was not properly catalogued, with only a brief title catalogue arranged by the four corner number system. Not until mid-1969 was a classification scheme adopted for both Chinese and Japanese materials and a call number assigned to each book for shelving. The collection was moved down to the present site on the third floor in 1973 and the four corner number catalogue was converted into an alphabetical and romanised catalogue.

Since 1981, East Asian cataloguing has been automated and incorporated into Baillieu's main computer system in full romanised form. This means that a Chinese item can be searched on Baillieu's online catalogue within or outside the Library. The romanised records are also shown on the National Bibliographic Database and the Victorian regional union catalogue called COOL-CAT. It has provided easy access to this collection and has enhanced co-operation among Australian East Asian libraries.

However, the romanised system has brought with itself certain problems and more often than not, has been considered unintelligible by many users. Baillieu has been for some time exploring the feasibility of employing a computer-assisted system which has the capability to enter, manage, store, transmit and output bibliographic records in Chinese and Japanese scripts. We have examined various systems available here and overseas. We have finally decided to purchase the OCLC CJK350 system and the deal has just come through.

Meanwhile, the Australian National University Library has also committed itself to the adoption of the same system for its East Asian cataloguing. This latest development will certainly bring closer co-operation and resource sharing between these two collections.

On the whole, Baillieu's Chinese collection can be considered a good working collection with a major emphasis on nineteenth and twentieth century China. Its major strength lies in language, modern literature and history. It also has a comprehensive collection of reference books including dictionaries and bibliographies, and a good coverage on arts and Chinese local histories, particularly those of Kiangsu, Fukien, Kiangsi and Kuangtung provinces.

Note: This is the text of a talk delivered to the Melbourne China Study Group meeting of 24 August, 1990.

