

A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE TEACHING OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES AND SUPPORTING RESOURCES IN NEW ZEALAND

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Most of us will probably agree that the most important task now concerning East Asian collections in New Zealand is the automation of these collections into the library system and making them accessible online so that these limited resources in various centres are better understood and can be more efficiently used and shared by the rapidly growing numbers of users.

A rough estimate shows that there are about 65,000 volumes of monographs and bound volumes of periodicals written in East Asian languages throughout the country. To look at it from a different angle, how marvellous it is that, with such limited resources, New Zealand has been able to sustain teaching and research on East Asia to post-graduate level and also provide a basis for the production of many Masters and PhD degrees.

It is impossible, in any case, to collect extensively publications in the Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) languages from such a huge market where in 1993 China alone supplied 100,000 titles. Japan is not only an advanced publishing power but is also well-known for the high costs of its publications; they are usually accompanied by several layers of fancy covers and lovely, expensive, and yet not absolutely necessary, boxes. In the last few years, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong have also increased and improved their publications to an amazing extent to meet the rising consumption of the wealthier and more educated population. Even the East Asian libraries of well-known academic institutes in the United States have to acknowledge that they can afford to collect only a small proportion of these voluminous materials, mainly in the fields of the humanities and social sciences. We are obviously in no position to compare ourselves to the American giant or to our counterparts in Australia. Like libraries all over the world, however we are also confronted by problems of MMS (Money, Manpower and Space). This is, therefore, another reason for sharing resources through an online system: it is economically the best alternative, particularly when funding in recent years has become less and less generous while, on the other hand, the teaching of East Asian languages and Asian studies has suddenly gained much momentum.

The teaching of Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian languages and literatures began in the late sixties at Auckland University, a place well chosen for its cosmopolitan nature and the diversity of its population; and, since then, Auckland still remain the largest centre of Asian studies in New Zealand, recently extending to teaching of Japanese at the Tamaki Campus.

When Victoria University established its Asian Studies Centre in 1972, it took the initiative in offering language and cultural courses as well as courses about the social, political and economic changes of our Asian neighbours. It foresaw the growing importance of Asian countries and the likelihood of closer cooperation between New Zealand and these countries, particularly as trade partners. Unfortunately, the Centre was dissolved, probably for economic reasons. On the other hand, the Asian economy surged ahead with Japan appearing like the rising sun, closely followed by the four little dragons of South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. The eastern horizon no sooner became fully illuminated than China, the big dragon, joined in the race at full speed while tigers like Malaysia emerged to prove that the whole of Asia could become a powerful economic region in the next century.

In response to this emergent economic force and the New Zealand Government's 'open door' policy towards Asia, other universities followed one another in establishing departments of Chinese and Japanese studies. Besides universities, polytechnics at various centres also began to offer language courses in Japanese and Chinese. In many secondary schools, too, Japanese has been taught as a foreign language for quite some time. For Chinese, which was introduced into some schools just over the last couple of years, a unified syllabus has recently been drafted to promote the teaching of the language throughout New Zealand.

In Auckland, some primary schools are considering seriously whether or not to introduce Japanese and Chinese into their curricula. At present, all the universities attempt to offer courses of great variety concerning these countries, ranging from literature to trade and engineering design. This is a part of the 'Asia 2000' strategy being used to bring practical results, such as the expansion of trade and employment opportunities. The idea of setting up a School of Asian Studies is once again being revived among some academics.

Existing collections reflect the complexity of the use of East Asian materials and the variety of interest users have in these materials, but fail to take into account the interests of the large number of educated new immigrants from Asia who are eagerly looking for reading materials in order to keep in touch with their own cultures in a totally foreign land.

The Asian Languages Collection of Auckland University began with several major collections of Chinese literature as well as traditional encyclopaedias, and some items of lexicography and fiction obtained from Taipei and Hong Kong, plus a timely donation of 800 books of historical value from the Reverent Alexander Don of Dunedin. Regular funding for the purchase of monographs and periodicals in the Japanese language began in 1968 with the immediate acquisition of important works such as *Kokushi taikei* 國史大系 (One of the most important collections of primary sources of pre-Meiji historical writings), *Kokka taikan* 國歌大觀 (a standard collection of Japanese poetry) and *Kokuyaku kanbun taisei* 國譯漢文大成 (Japanese translation of Chinese classics). In 1989, New Zealand's first Korean studies course was introduced with the sponsorship of the Yongkang

Foundation. Donations of relevant and valuable materials have since been given regularly to expand and enrich our Collection in support of the teaching of Korean language and culture at Auckland University. Now in 1994, we have total holdings of more than 40,000 volumes.

This Collection also always exists physically as an independent identity, managed currently by three subject specialists and three other assistants. Although we have a computer with windows software in the CJK languages for the management of resources, we are far from automation and networking, and have been eagerly looking beyond the oceans for an efficient and cost-effective automated library system which is able to handle the CJK vernacular scripts.

While 90 percent of our materials is on the open shelves, we also have a separate room holding, in closed stack for security purposes, some items such as *Shinshu Nihon emakimono zenshū* 新修日本繪卷全集 (Japanese scroll paintings 32 v.), the famous Korean map *Taedong yojido* 大東與地圖 by Kim Chong-ho in 1837 (ours is a facsimile reproduction of a limited edition, published several years ago). Chinese materials of historical value kept in this rare book room include: 御制耕织图 (a set of books on land cultivation and weaving with illustrations published by Roman Command in 1696), 盛京宝谱 (a collection of prints of seals used by the Manchurian Royal Families, produced in 1746 in handwritten characters and Manchurian script, bound in golden cloth covers: presumably a rare item which may be one of the several original copies handmade for preservation purposes), an early translation of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* in the Cantonese dialect, published in 1871) *Li Yishan shi ji* 李义山诗集 (Poems of Li Yishan, published in 1879) *Ming shu zong* 明诗综 (Collection of poems of the Ming Dynasty, published 1701), and *Shi san jing zhu shu* 十三经注疏 (Thirteen classics with annotations and commentaries, published in 1987).

About half of the Chinese materials printed and bound in the traditional Chinese way (线装书) were bought from the scholar, critic of Peking opera, playwright, novelist, translator and collector, Xiong Shiyi 熊式一 who wrote both in English and in Chinese, and who himself has become a research topic. About 50 sets of valuable recordings of traditional Japanese music in compact disc and other formats were donated by our "Friend of the Library" in Japan, Mr Tsukioka Ikoma-shi, and these musical items include music of various musical instruments (e.g., shamisen 三味线, so 箏, sankyoku 三曲, percussion 打), Japanese dance music, gidayu and Joruri (Narrative chant), Kabuki (Classical theatre), zen, gagaku (雅乐 Imperial Court music), Kyogen(狂言 Traditional comic drama), and even music of clandestine Christians. In addition to these, we also have a collection of video cassettes which are mainly documentaries, dramatisations of literary works, movies, Peking Opera, and other local drama, materials on language acquisition and topics which contribute to the understanding of Chinese, Japanese or Korean history, culture and society.

It is our resource development policy to put less emphasis on overall coverage of subjects, but more on the development of some specific areas, to be supportive of the University's courses and the interests of lecturers and

researchers. Consequently, we may be weak in many fields but have acquired some useful core materials to make it truly a specialised research collection.

The strength of the Collection, therefore, lies mainly in that it consists of some big series or collections which are much sought-after in oriental libraries in Western countries.

Examples of these in the Japanese section are:

- 1) Kojiruien (古事類苑)
51 v. Encyclopaedias
- 2) Gunsho ruijū (and) Zoku Gunsho ruijū
群書類從 and 続群書類從
(111 v. of a large series)
- 3) Dai Nihon shiryō 大日本史料
(A series of more than 300 v. about the history of Japan)

In the Korean Collection, examples of substantial series held are:

- 1) Haŋguk kubi munhak taeye 韓國口碑文學大系
(Oral literature)
- 2) Haŋguk kojonsosŏl chongsŏ 韓國古典小說叢書
(Classical fiction)

In the Chinese section, these are just a few:

- 1) Sì bù bēi yào 四部備要
(640 v. of Chinese classics)
- 2) Xuán lǎn táng cóng shū 玄覽堂叢書
(280v. of collected works of the Ming period)
- 3) Míng shí lù 明實錄, Qīng shí lù 清實錄 (267 v.)
- 4) Dào Zàng 道藏, Zàng wài dào shū 藏外道書
(Collected work on Taoism, 56 v.)

The huge series in Chinese that we would really like to have is undoubtedly the Si ku quan shu 四庫全書 if we can find \$100,000, or we will have to wait until it is available in a cheaper and space-saving format, such as CD-ROM.

Another feature of the Auckland University CJK Collection is that it consists of many complete collected works of novelists, poets, playwrights, philosophers and other outstanding individuals. This feature is most conspicuous in our Japanese collection, which seems to be characterised by sets of books written by individual authors, each set having its own colour - neat and easy for shelving.

As the plan is to follow the University's subject areas, our CJK Collection has been developing with an emphasis on the humanities in this order: literature, history, philosophy, religion and languages.

About half of the Collection consists of works of, or about, literature. For this reason, particular topics have been developed more fully for in-depth study. For example, in the Chinese section we have acquired a fairly substantial number of primary and secondary sources on early Chinese fiction, ranging from tales of the supernatural 志怪 to prose romances 传奇 and from prompt-book 话本 to tales in narrative style 笔记小说. Some of the titles in these areas are: *Bi ji xiao shuo da guan* 笔记小说大观 (Collected works of tales in the narrative style, 12 v.), *Gu ben xiao shuo cong shu* 古本小说丛书 (A series of classical fiction; so far we have received 360 v.). For the famous Chinese classical Drama *Xi xiang ji* 西厢记 (the Western Chamber) alone, we hold not only some modern editions of the play, but also a dozen or so valuable older editions, one of which was published in 1640 and another in 1767. They were all brought from Xiong Shiyi, the writer I mentioned previously, who gathered them for his translation of the play into English. On topics such as modern Chinese misty poetry 朦胧诗 we have collected many unpublished manuscripts; we have had two representative poets of this school of poetry working at Auckland University as visiting researchers.

Outside Auckland, the five universities in different parts of New Zealand and the New Zealand Centre for Japanese Studies, affiliated to Massey University, have total holdings of about 25,000 volumes of material in the CJK languages. Among these centres, Canterbury University, where Japanese was introduced as a subject in 1975 at the initiative of the Japan Foundation, has a holding of 13,000 volumes of CJK materials (10,000 volumes in Japanese). Holdings of the other centres range from 2,000 to 4,000 volumes each. Unlike the University of Auckland's Collection, the materials are spread through the libraries, being shelved with publications in other languages by subject content.

Canterbury University and Otago University each have an Asian languages librarian responsible for the acquisition, cataloguing and reference work for the collections. Like Auckland University, these collections, on the whole, have a strong bias towards literature, history, philosophy, anthropology, religion and languages. In recent years, increasing interest has been shown, particularly in Auckland, in subjects such as the teaching of Japanese or Chinese as a second language, Japanese and Chinese linguistics, Oriental feminism, film and mass media studies, geography, and current immigration issues.

Understandably, too, the demand for economic, commercial, legislative and political information on countries in Asia by students and the public has also been rising rapidly. The New Zealand Centre for Japanese Studies in Palmerston North, which regards the provision of information in these areas as one of its responsibilities, is actually collecting resources mainly in English, while Auckland University is very selective and cautious in the purchase of materials in these areas. The Department of East Asian Studies of Waikato University, maintaining close relations with the Department of Business Management of the same institution, supervises the development of its resources by placing more emphasis on subject areas like Japanese business management, political economy, behavioural science, and social anthropology. Not only does half the student enrolment of the East Asia Department come

from the Department of Business Management, but it is the deliberate intention of Waikato University to make some of the courses more practical and more useful commercially. To counter the relatively limited resources available on the campus, and to satisfy the urgent needs for current information in these fields, lecturers of Waikato University appear to be relying more frequently on their online access to national and international networks.

This brings us to the fact that, in this world of electronic information, a small collection size is no longer a restriction to one's scope of knowledge and access to more recent data. Through online networks, both students and researchers in New Zealand are able, so far, to have world-wide access to many Asian databases in English and in transliterated CJK languages. With the introduction of the CJK vernacular scripts in online information systems, though remote from Asia as we are in the Land of the Long White Cloud, it will be true that the whole of Asia, if not the whole world, will be within our reach, and it will not matter whether New Zealand is a part of Asia or not. Although we may be late starters in the line access system to East Asian materials, we are ready to energise ourselves as soon as the means become available, so that we shall be able to embark and travel together along the super highways by the Oriental Express to Asia.

