

**CHINESE STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
FOURTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY,
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The Chinese Studies Association of Australia (CSAA) was founded in 1988 to promote Chinese studies in Australia. Conferences have been held at the University of Melbourne (1989), the University of Sydney (1981) and Griffith University (1993). The National Library of Australia and other Australian libraries with Chinese collections have been represented at all CSAA conferences.

The Fourth Biennial Conference was attended by around one hundred and fifty academic staff, postgraduates, officials, teachers and others. Participants came from Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and the United States. Librarians attending were Magdalen Lee (East Asian Librarian, University of Sydney), Dennis Kishere (Chinese Resource Librarian, Monash University), Ben Gu (National Library of China) who was at that time on secondment to the National Library of Australia, Mrs Rui-lan Gu Wu (Acquisitions Librarian, National Central Library, Taiwan), and Andrew Gosling (National Library of Australia).

The conference was officially opened by Professor Di Yerbury, Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University, who commented that this was the first major Asia-related conference to be held at Macquarie.

The conference attracted about 100 papers on a variety of topics, demonstrating the wide range of academic studies on the Chinese world being carried out in Australia. Major themes were contemporary economic, political and social issues in China, Chinese language, linguistics and language teaching; traditional and modern literature; regional studies, particularly on peripheral areas such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, south west China and also minority groups in these regions; the history of the late imperial period (18th and 19th centuries) and the Republican period (1911-1949).

One theme of particular interest was the Archaeology and History of the Overseas Chinese in Australasia. This was convened by Dr Henry Chan of the University of Newcastle. papers included "Chinese Voices", by Diana Giese, who has carried out a project for the National Library of Australia on the Chinese in northern Australia and produced the book *Beyond Chinatown*. Paul McGregor of the Museum of Chinese Australian History in Melbourne gave a paper on sources for the history of the Chinese in Australia and New Zealand. Other papers were on the archaeology and history of Chinese settlement in particular areas, including the Northern Territory and New England. This session also included the launching by the

speaking, just read their papers in a monotone, and that the user of audio-visual materials was generally poorly organised.

General meeting of CSAA

The biennial meeting of the CSAA was held during the conference. Unfortunately, attendance was poor. The main topic of discussion was the election of a new committee. The new President, Professor Andrew Watson, and Secretary, Sylvia Chan, are both from the University of Adelaide. The Treasurer is Tim Wright of Murdoch, and Council Member He Baogang of the University of Tasmania. It was agreed that the next conference would be held in July 1997 in Adelaide.

Library matters

It was pleasing that during his acceptance address, the new President of CSAA, Professor Watson, referred to the importance of library matters to the CSAA and the future of Chinese studies in this country. He stressed the role of the National Chinese-Japanese-Korean (CJK) Project in this regard. He also recommended that there be a library panel at the 5th CSAA Conference in Adelaide.

In conjunction with the conference, there was an exhibition of around 200 publications from Taiwan, sponsored by the Center for Chinese Studies and the National Central Library in Taipei. The books are a gift to Macquarie University Library. The exhibition was opened by Mr Chang Jin-gou, Director-General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sydney, with Robin Walsh representing the University Librarian. Mrs Rui-lan Gu Wu of the National Central Library, who organised the exhibition, later visited the National Library of Australia.

Documentation

Unfortunately, as at other similar recent conferences, the papers were not readily available. However, the Program and the Proceeding (including abstracts of the papers) were obtained, as was the Book Exhibition Catalogue of publications from Taiwan.

As in the past, the Fourth CSAA Conference provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about directions in Chinese studies in Australia, and to make and renew contacts with researchers in this field concerning their library needs.

Andrew Gosling
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