

1. Articles

CHINESE PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS

S. W. Wang
National Library of Australia

In January 1980 I went with the National Library of Australia Delegation to China visiting 10 libraries in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Guangzhou. Each of them held a large number of current Chinese periodicals displayed in its reading room. The majority of these periodicals relate to science and technology and many of them were new to me.

Since the downfall of the "Gang of Four", the Chinese government has encouraged scholars, researchers, novelists, journalists, playwrights, etc. to write more articles and books and urged various institutions and organizations to establish publishing houses. According to a recent press report, 138 publishers have been operating in China. Of them, 66 are located in Beijing.

(1) I was told by all universities visited that they had or planned their own presses. The National Library of Beijing and Shanghai Library have already set up their own publication departments.

The publishing business in China is on its way to a boom period, particularly in the area of periodicals. During the Cultural Revolution, almost all periodicals and newspapers ceased publication. Only Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Jen-min hua-pao (China Pictorial), Jen-min jih pao (People's Daily) and Kuang-ming jih-pao (Kuang-ming Daily) were made available for overseas readers.

The year 1972 was the turning point. In that year two archaeological journals, Wen-wu (Cultural Relics) and K'ao-ku (Archaeology) reappeared. Seven scientific journals, one archaeological journal and one medical journal were added to the 1973 list of periodicals. (2) Towards the end of 1973, two important periodicals named Hsüeh-hsi yü p'i-p'an (Learning and Criticism) and Ch'ao-hsia (Morning Glow) were published by the Shanghai Clique, through which the Clique preached their ideology. The former was not made available for overseas until 1975.

From 1973 to 1978, the number of serials shipped out of China increased steadily from 15 to 58. (3) Their distribution of subject areas was as follows: (4)

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
32	Science, Technology, Biology, Agriculture	58.2
1	Culture, Education, Athletics.	1.8
3	Literature.	5.5
6	Philology, History, Geography, Archaeology.	11.0
-	Youth, Women, Children	-
5	Art, Photography.	9.0
3	Medicine, Hygiene.	5.5
5	Pictorials, Politics, Economics, Generalities.	9.0
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55		
3	Newspapers	100.0

58

During this period, it is unknown by the West how many Chinese periodicals and newspapers were published in China. But literature and art journals issued by various provinces called "Wen-i" mushroomed. Some of them were brought out of China by tourists and reprinted in Hong Kong. According to Hong Kong booksellers' catalogues, the number of such journals reprinted in Hong Kong was between 26 and 30. (5)

After the death of Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese government adopted a moderate course working towards the four modernizations. Education and research are now placed on a higher priority. As a result, the year 1979 saw a sudden increase in the number of periodicals and newspapers. The total number of periodicals available for foreign subscribers announced by the Chinese agent in Hong Kong. San-lien shu-tien (Joint Publishing Company) had 131, (6) double the figure of 1978. Since January 1979, almost every week has seen a new periodical appearing or an old title resuming publication.

The number of periodicals and newspapers available for overseas distribution in early 1980 announced by kuo-chi shu-tien (China Publications Centre) and San-lien shu-tien was 224 (7) and 267 (8) respectively. Kuo-chi's figure included the following 12 newspapers: Jen-min jih-pao (People's Daily), Kuang-ming jih-pao (Kuang-ming Daily), Chung-kuo ch'ing-nien pao (Chinese Youth News), T'i-yü pao (Athletics Daily), Kung-jen jih-pao (Worker's Daily), Pei-ching jih-pao (Peking Daily), Wen-hui pao (Wen-hui Daily), Chieh-fang jih-pao (Liberation Daily), Nan-fang jih-pao (South China Daily), Chung-kuo hsiao-nien pao (Chinese Young People News), Tien-chin jih-pao (Tientsin Daily), and Chien-k'ang pao (Health News). San-lien's list included two more newspapers: Che-chiang jih-pao (Chekiang Daily) and Ta-chung jih-pao (Mass Daily).

The number of periodicals listed in San-lien's announcements was 253 which covered the subject areas as follows: (9)

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
92	Science, Technology, Biology, Agriculture	36.4
13	Culture, Education, Athletics	5.1
30	Literature	11.9
20	Philology, History, Geography, Archaeology	7.9
13	Youth, Women, Children	5.1
20	Art, Photography	7.9
29	Medicine, Hygiene	11.5
36	Pictorials, Politics, Economics, Generalities	14.2
253		100.0

In February 1979, Chung-kuo hsien-wen (China News) carried an item mentioning that more than 940 periodical and newspaper titles were published in China and a total more than one hundred and twenty million copies of each issue of them was distributed. Of the 940 titles, the item continued, 681 were on science and social sciences. The circulation of Kuang-ming jih pao reached one million four hundred thousand copies per issue. Among the periodicals, the most popular one was Wu-hsien tien (Wireless), which enjoyed a circulation of more than one million three hundred thousand. (10)

Ta kung pao (Impartial Daily) published in Hong Kong also reported on 3 December 1979 that more than 1,500 periodicals and newspapers were currently published in China. Of them, 1,200 titles were periodicals.

The rest of them were newspapers issued by authorities of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and counties. The reporter anticipated that 200 more would be added to the above figure in 1980. Both Kuang-ming jih pao and Chieh-fang jih pao, he said, issued more than one million copies daily while Jen-ming jih pao as well as Ts'an k'ao hsiao-hsi (Reference News), an internally circulated daily, each had a circulation of several to ten millions. The reporter also mentioned that of the 1,200 periodicals, about 130 were on literature and art, 900 on science and technology, and 170 on the social sciences. (11)

According to these reports the number of periodicals and newspapers distributed to foreign countries is only 17.8 percent (267 titles) of the total (1,500 titles) published in China.

During my visit to various libraries, I gained the impression that the actual number of periodicals seemed more than those reported. The Shanghai Library is now responsible for compiling Ch'uan-kuo pao-k'an so-yin (Index to Periodical and Newspaper Literature), but I was unable to obtain a copy of it. Later I got hold of a copy of Shang-hai chiao-tung ta-hsueh hsien-ch'i ch'i-kan mu-lu (Current Periodicals in the Shanghai Chiao-tung University). (12) It is divided into four sections: Chinese, European, Japanese and Russian. In the Chinese section, 596 titles are listed. The subject areas of these periodicals are:

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
334	Science, Technology, Biology, Agriculture.	56.0
20	Culture, Education, Athletics.	3.4
62	Literature.	10.4
21	Philology, History, Geography, Archaeology.	3.5
2	Youth, Women, Children.	0.3
23	Art, Photography.	3.9
30	Medicine, Hygiene.	5.0
104	Pictorials, Politics, Economics, Generalities.	17.5

596

100.0

Because Shanghai Chiao-tung University is a engineering university, periodicals on the humanities and social sciences are not the area of their serious collecting. Other libraries I visited reported that their holdings of current Chinese periodicals were: about 2,000 titles in Peking Library, 2,000 titles in Chechiang University Library. These figures are much bigger than those mentioned in the two newspaper articles.

When I was in China, I did question Chinese librarians why libraries outside China could only receive 267 out of 1,500-2,000 titles published in China. Their answers were that Chinese periodicals were normally classified into four categories: those for overseas distribution, those for domestic distribution, those for internal distribution, and those not-for distribution. Publications marked not-for distribution were limited editions which were printed for special purposes, or only distributed among high ranking officials. Materials for internal distribution mean that they were published by certain organizations and circulated among their staff members only. Most of them contained confidential information. The majority of periodicals classified under the category of domestic distribution were "Wen-i" by various provincial authorities

and scientific and technological information journals by various levels of institutes of scientific and technological information. Some of these periodicals or their reproductions have appeared in the Hong Kong market and fetched as high as HK\$45-HK\$120 per issue. Shen-chou t'u shu kung-ssu (Sun Chau Book Company) in Hong Kong in its Booklist No. 22 lists the following two items: (13)

K'o-chi ching-pao kung-tso, 1979 Nos. 7,9. HK\$50.00 each.
(Scientific and Technological Information Work)

Kuo-wai she-hui k'o-hsüeh lun-wen, 1979, No. 1. HK\$65.00
(Index to Foreign Literature on Social Sciences)

The former was marked "Domestic Distribution Only" and the latter was an "Internal Distribution" periodical.

We also found that many formerly limited distribution publications are now available for overseas distribution. The best examples are Hsin-hua yüeh-pao (New China Monthly) Ch'üan-kuo hsin shu-mu (National Bibliography) (14) and some University journals which were much sought after a year ago and now should be in every East Asian Library in Western countries.

The number of periodicals and newspapers increased substantially in the year of 1980. According to San Lien's announcement dated September 1980, 401 periodicals were listed (15). Their subjects areas are as follows:

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Subject Areas</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
121	Science, Technology and Agriculture.	30.2
15	Culture, Recreation and Athletics	3.7
66	Language and literature	16.5
44	Philosophy and Social Sciences	11.0
19	History and Geography	4.7
11	Young People and Children	2.7
50	Fine Arts	12.5
42	Medicine	10.5
33	Pictorials and General Knowledge	8.2
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401		100

But the number of periodicals available from the Peking Post Office was 702 (16).

The number of periodicals available for subscription in 1981 announced by San-lien shu-tien and the Peking Post Office were 509 (17) and 990 (18) respectively. The subject areas of those mentioned in San-lien's list are:

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Subject Areas</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
163	Science, Technology and Agriculture	32.0
15	Culture, Recreation and Athletics	2.9
74	Language and Literature	14.5
66	Philosophy and Social Sciences	13.0
20	History and Geography	3.9
12	Young People and Children	2.4
61	Fine Arts	12.0
53	Medicine	10.4
45	Pictorials and General Knowledge	8.9

Comparing the two lists issued by San-lien in early 1980 and in early 1981, we find that 250 (509-253=250) titles were added, an increase of 118.5%. However the San-lien's figure (509) is only a little more than a half of those listed by the Peking Post Office. In other words, only about 50% of the Peking Post Office's number is available outside China.

According to Che-chiang jih-pao (Chekiang Daily), 6 September 1980, the number of periodicals distributed by the Post Office system was more than 1700 (19). So the number of periodicals for overseas distribution is less than 30% of those handled by the Post Office systems.

Numbers of newspapers mentioned in San-lien's announcements were 20 in 1980 and 19 in 1981 (20) and those mentioned in the Peking Post Office's list were 31 in 1980 and 72 in 1981 (21).

The following 15 daily newspapers are now available for foreign readers:

Jen-min jih-pao (People's Daily)
Kuang-ming jih-pao (Kuang-ming Daily)
Pei-ching jih-pao (Peking Daily)
Pei-ching wan-pao (Peking Evening News)
Chieh-fang jih-pao (Liberation Daily)
Wen-hui pao (Wen-hui Daily)
Tien-chin jih-pao (Tientsin Daily)
Kuang-chou jih-pao (Canton Daily)
Nan-fang jih-pao (South China Daily)
Hsin-hua jih-pao (New China Daily)
Ssu-ch'uan jih-pao (Szechwan Daily)
Ta chung jih-pao (Mass Daily)
Fu-chien jih-pao (Fukien Daily)
Che-chiang jih-pao (Chekiang Daily)
Kung-jen jih-pao (Workers Daily)

From the above five statistical tables, one can see that China has published more journals on science and technology than those on other areas. The last statistical table shows that 42.4 percent of the periodicals available outside China are on science and technology. But those on the humanities and social sciences are only 30.4 percent and 27.2 percent respectively. It is apparent that the humanities and social sciences have not been treated as seriously as science and technology. This conclusion also applies to the acquisition programmes carried out by Chinese libraries which I saw during my visit.

FOOTNOTES

1. Chung-kuo hsin-wen (Hong Kong), 11 September, 1979.
2. San-lien shu-tien, Chung-kuo k'o-hsueh ch'i-k'an chung-wen pan ting-fei piao (Hong Kong, 1973)
3. San-lien shu-tien, 1978 nien chung-kuo pao-k'an ting-chia ting-fei piao (Hong Kong, 1978)
4. This classification scheme is adopted from 1980 nien Chung-kuo pao-k'an chieh-shao issued by San-lien shu-tien, Hong Kong.
5. Shen-chou shu-k'an (Hong Kong), II: 3-5, 1974.
6. San-lien shu-tien, 1979 nien Chung-kuo pao-k'an ting-yüeh chia-mu piao (Hong Kong, 1979).
7. Kuo-chi shu-tien, Chung-wen pao-k'an ch'üan-nien chia-mu piao, Parts 1-2 (Beijing, 1980)
8. San-lien shu-tien, 1980 nien Chung-kuo pao-k'an ting-yüeh chia-mu piao (Hong Kong, 1980)
9. Ibid.
10. Chung-kuo hsin-wen (Hong Kong), 27 February 1979, 4-5.
11. Ta-Kung pao (Hong Kong), 3 December 1979, 1.
12. Shang-hai chiao-tung ta-hsueh hsien-sh'i ch'i-k'an mu-lu (Shanghai, 1980)
13. Shen-chou t'u shu t'ung-hsin (Hong Kong), No. 22.
14. San-lien shu-tien, 1980 nien chung-kuo pao-k'an ting-yüeh chia-mu piao (Hong Kong, 1980)
15. San-lien shu-tien, Chung-kuo pao-k'an chih-nan (Chinese Magazine Directory) (Hong Kong, 1980)
16. Peking Post Office, 1980 nien pao-k'an mu-lu (Peking 1980)
17. San-lien shu-tien, Chung-kuo pao-k'an ting-yüeh shou ts'e (Subscription Guide to Chinese Periodicals 1981), (Hong Kong, 1981)
18. Peking Post Office, 1981 nien pao-k'an mu lu. (Peking, 1981)
19. Che-chiang jih-pao, 6 September, 1980, p.1.
20. Peking Post Office, 1980 nien pao-k'an mu-lu and 1981 nien pao-k'an mu-lu.

