

THE CHINESE COLLECTION IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

S W Wang, National Library of Australia

The East Asian language collection in the National Library of Australia totalled 268,451 volumes of books, 7,600 titles of serials and 12,380 reels of microfilm in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, Mongol and Manchu in December 1981. Of these, 151,405 volumes of books, 2,600 titles of serials and 6,100 reels of microfilm were in Chinese.

The Chinese collection has been built up in cooperation with the Australian National University Library. As early as 1956, the National Library entered an agreement with the Australian National University. Under this agreement, the National Library was responsible for principal collections, mainly in the following fields: General history, in the case of China after 1912, social sciences, government publications, periodicals; and microfilm.

During the 1960s, the interest of the University gradually turned to contemporary China and it decided in 1970 to build up its own collection on modern China after receiving a special grant from the Ford Foundation. At the request of the ANU Library, a meeting was called in September 1973, and an agreement regarding the acquisition of Chinese material was then revised.

Under this new agreement, the National Library is responsible for materials on archaeology, fine arts, newspapers, government and party documents, reprint projects for general series and audio-visual materials and the ANU Library is responsible for materials on history and language and literature. The agreement mentions nothing on Chinese classics, philosophy, religion, anthropology, biography, social sciences, science, technology, and agriculture, but states that "both institutions would continue to acquire materials to serve the present and future needs of their own clientele according to the scale of priorities which they judge to be appropriate, regardless of any other agreements or arrangements which may be arrived at for various reasons". This statement indicates that both libraries can collect any materials on subject areas which are not mentioned in the agreement and both libraries can also continue to collect materials on subject areas which they were then responsible for in the previous agreement. In order to fulfill its responsibility of providing materials for the Parliament, government departments and the general public, the National Library, according to the provisions in the agreement, has since continued to collect materials on Modern China and Social Sciences and also started to acquire materials on Science Technology, Agriculture, Anthropology, Medicine, and Military Science which were neglected by all East Asian collections and identified by surveys conducted by Miss J Waller in 1965, Miss E Bishop in 1970, and the National Library in 1977.

The National Library has placed blanket orders with the China Publications Centre in Peking since 1974 for publications issued by Chinese national publishers; with the Joint Publishing Company in Hong Kong since 1974 for publications issued by Chinese provincial publishers; with Chiao Liu Publications Service in Hong Kong since 1965 for Hong Kong publications (before 1974, it also supplied mainland China publications); with the Chinese Materials Centre in Taipei for publications issued in Taiwan since 1966.

Direct orders have been sent to Taipei, Tokyo, Washington, D.C., Geneva, and Singapore for retrospective materials and reprints. Most back numbers of serials and big sets of series either on microfilm or in reprint were obtained this way.

In the past 20 years, the National Library has purchased a number of valuable formed collections after successful negotiation. They include the famous libraries of Walter Percival Yetts on Chinese archaeology and fine arts, of Fang Chao-Ying on modern Chinese history, of the London Missionary Society on the Taiping Uprising, 1851-1864 and Christianity, of Earnest Julius Walter Simon on Chinese language and literature, and Otto van der Sprenkel on Chinese history.

Exchange programs were established with the National Central Library in Taipei in 1954, and with the National Library of China in Peking in 1940. The National Library also has exchange relations with 36 libraries and institutions in China, 20 in Taiwan and 3 in Hong Kong.

Gifts from individuals and institutions have also been received from time to time. Here are a few examples: Hsu-tzu-chih t'ung-chien kang-mu (Supplement to Chu Hsi's shortened version of the general history of China by Ssu-ma Kuang) presented by Professor Otto van der Sprenkel; and, a valuable dictionary in 35 volumes entitled Chung-wen ta tzu-tien (Encyclopedic dictionary on the Chinese language) presented by the National War College in Taipei.

The methods and practices adopted in organising the East Asian language collection in the National Library have already been mentioned in Miss White's paper. These are on the Japanese collection. Miss White also mentioned union catalogues.

The Union Catalogue of East Asian Monographs (UCEAM) and The Union List of East Asian Serials (ULEAS) maintained in the National Library started in 1956. The Union Catalogue of East Asian Monographs consists of author and title entries in Chinese, Japanese and Korean, while The Union List of East Asian Serials contains only title entries. A big step forward was made in 1971

when New Zealand's East Asian collections were included for the first time. At present The Union Catalogue of East Asian Monographs comprises about 220,000 entries, and The Union List of East Asian Serials about 6,000 entries. About 7,000 entries are in the Pinyin system of romanization and the rest of them are in the Wade-Giles system of romanization. These entries have been contributed by 24 libraries in Australia and New Zealand, including 19 to UCEAM and 22 to ULEAS. The Union Catalogue of East Asian Monographs was microfilmed on 4 reels in 1978. The Library has just completed microfilming the second edition on 6 reels. It will be made available to other libraries soon. Catalogues of East Asian materials published by the National Library include: Research Materials on Contemporary China in the National Library of Australia; East Asian language Newspapers in the National Library of Australia (1973); Chinese Serials in the National Library of Australia (1976); Japanese Serials in the National Library of Australia (1977); Korean Serials in the National Library of Australia (on microfiche) (1980); three Area Studies Current Awareness Bulletins; Chinese language materials; Japanese language materials; and Korean language materials. These current awareness bulletins are selective lists of materials received in the National Library. They are issued irregularly and are free on request.

The Oriental Studies Reading Room in the National Library is open to the public from 9.30 am to 4.50 pm Monday to Friday. At times when the Reading Room is closed, readers may use the East Asian materials in the National Library's Main Reading Room by prior arrangement.

All materials in the East Asian collections are available for inter-library loan except rare items, reference works, and serials in hard copies. Requests received by the East Asian Section are not only for inter-library loans, but also for information made in person, by telephone, letter, and telex. The users of the Chinese collections can be roughly divided as follows:

Academic Staff, Post-graduate students Undergraduate students	30%
Parliament & government Department's officials	30%
Professional men, Researchers, Journalists, artists and diplomats and their dependants in Canberra	25%
General Public, including School teachers and students	15%

The Chinese collection is strong in the fields of archaeology, fine arts, modern history (after 1840), biography, local history, politics and government, foreign relations, economics, law, sociology, religion, philosophy, medicine and newspapers, and periodicals.

Materials on Chinese archaeology gained strength from the acquisition by the Library of the late Professor Walter Percival Yetts. Efforts have been made to obtain every new title published in China and Taiwan. Apart from a good coverage on inscriptions on oracle bones, bronzes and stones and their identifications, interpretations and studies, the National Library holds also books on other relics and reports on numerous excavations. Among those on bronzes are two early editions of Hsuan-ho po-ku t'u-lu (Illustrated Chinese bronzes compiled in the Hsuan-ho period, 119-1125) published in 1528 and 1600 respectively, and the 1794 Ch'ing Palace edition of Hsi Ch'ing ku chien (Illustrated Chinese Bronzes in the Palace of the Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1911). Notable recent acquisitions are Chia-ku wen-pien (Collection of inscriptions on oracle bones) in 15 volumes, compiled by Kuo Mo-jo, and reports and studies on relics found in a Han tomb unearthed at Ma-wang-tui, Changsha, Hunan, China.

Yetts also contributed to the strength of the Chinese fine arts collection. Many new works on Chinese painting, calligraphy, porcelain, sculpture, architecture and handicrafts have been published in China since 1949 and in Taiwan since 1945. The National Library has obtained most of them, particularly reproductions of Chinese paintings bound in book form or mounted on scrolls including collected works of individual painters, past and present, and collections of reprints from various museums. Among the most notable ones are: Ku-kung ming-hua san-pai chung (Three hundred masterpieces of Chinese painting in the palace museums) in 6 volumes published in Taipei; Chung-kuo li-tai hui-hua (Famous paintings through the ages from the Palace Museum), vols. 1-2, published in Peking; Su-chou ku-tien yuan-lin (Chinese classical gardens in Su-chou), published by China Building Industry Press in Peking; Ku-kung tsang tz'u (Porcelain of the National Palace Museum) in 34 volumes, published in Taipei; and Chung-kuo ku-tai fu-shih yen-chiu (A study of ancient Chinese costumes), compiled by Shen Ts'ung-wen and published by the Commercial Press in Hong Kong. Two very fine prints of early Chinese paintings which should be mentioned are Nu-shih chen tu (Admonitions of the instructress of the ladies in the palace), attributed to Ku Kai-chih, 344-405, published by Asahi Shimbun, and Huang-ho wan-li t'u (The one thousand miles Yellow River), by Chou-wei, fl. 1368.

The Fang collection forms the foundations of holdings on modern China. It has been further strengthened by the acquisition of a large number of new publications from China and reprints of

retrospective materials from Taiwan, including about 1,500 titles, so far received, of Chin-tai Chung-kuo shih-liao ts'ung-k'an (Modern Chinese history series) series 1 and 2.

Material on the Taiping Uprising, 1851-1864, is particularly strong. The National Library possesses almost all available materials on the subject, as well as two original proclamations issued by the leaders, Yang Hsiu-ch'ing, Wei Ch'ang-hui and Hsiao Chao-kuei in 1853 and a number of original documents and books published by the Taiping Regime in Nanking.

Holdings on the Republican Period, 1912-1949, and on the People's Republic of China since 1949 have developed greatly in the last 15 years. The 1911 Revolution, the May 4th Movement, 1919, the Northern Expedition, 1926-1928, the Kiangsi Soviet Republic, 1931-1934, the Sino-Japanese Conflict, 1937-1945, and the Civil War, 1945-1949, are now well covered.

The coverage of the ancient and medieval periods has gradually become better. More important items dealing with various dynasties are held. A few sets which should be mentioned are: Erh-shih-ssu shih (The twenty-four dynastic histories) having 7 editions, including the Pai-na pen erh-shih ssu-shih (The patched-up editions of the twenty-four dynastic histories) published by the Commercial Press in Taipei; the Piao-tien pen erh-shih-ssu shih (The punctuated edition of the twenty-four dynastic histories) published by Chung-hua Bookstore in Peking; and complete sets of Ming-shih lu (Veritable records of the Ming dynasty, 1386-1644) in 170 volumes, and Ch'ing-shih lu (Veritable records of the Ch'ing dynasty, 1644-1911) in 94 volumes, both reprinted from manuscripts compiled by editorial boards appointed by the governments of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties respectively. These are supported by several thousand titles of collective and individual biographies, particularly those in the period from 1911 to 1976.

In the past 15 years, over 1362 titles in 3128 volumes of Chinese local histories were acquired and holdings on historical geography have been built up as a result of several reprint projects carried out in Taiwan. Future such publications are covered by standing orders. The rarest amongst the National Library's maps of China is a manuscript of the Verbiest map of 1674.

The National Library has given special emphasis to Social Sciences. Holdings on Government, Political Parties, Foreign Relations, Social Conditions, Economic Development and Law have considerable strength. Important publications on the Chinese Government, like Shih t'ung (the ten encyclopedias), and the Hui yao (compilations of state regulations and records) of which the National Library holds several editions; Government

Gazettes published under the last two emperors of the Ch'ing dynasty; gazettes issued by the central governments and various provincial governments in the Republican period; and a nearly complete set of Hsin-hua yueh-pao (New China monthly) issued by the People's Republic of China since 1949 are now accessible in the National Library. A rare item among books on government is the Wen-hsien t'ung k'ao (Encyclopedia of Political Social and Cultural matters of China) in 120 volumes published in 1524.

Materials on the Nationalist and Communist Parties in China have reached some strength. A considerable number of these materials have been recently added to the National Collection as both political parties have stepped up their publishing activities.

The National Library holds good materials on Chinese foreign relations. Apart from various collected works of treaties and documents relating to the foreign relations of the Ch'ing dynasty, including Ch'ou-pan i-wu shih-mo (A complete account of the management of barbarian affairs, 1836-1874), Ch'ing-chi wai-chiao shih-liao (Historical documents relating to the foreign relations in the latter part of the Ch'ing Dynasty, 1875-1908, and Chung-kuo chin-tai shih shih-liao hui-pien (Collections of historical materials on modern China, 1840-1920), the National Library is also in possession of a large number of books on Sino-Russian, Sino-Japanese, Sino-French, and Sino-American relations.

Works on Chinese social customs, economic history, developments of industry and agriculture, modernization of communication and transport, public finance, and salt monopoly have been built up in some depth. Important books in the above categories include various series on Chinese customs among social groups and in various regions compiled by the Oriental Culture Press in Taiwan: Chia shih-i's Min-kuo ts'ai cheng shih (History of Chinese public finance since the founding of the Republic of China in 1912); Chou Ch'ing-yin's Yen fa t'ung shih (History of the salt monopoly in China); P'eng Hsin-wei's Chung-kuo huo-pi shih (History of the monetary system of China); The People's Bank of China, Chung-kuo chin-tai huo-pi shih tzu-liao (Historical sources on Chinese currency, 1840-1911); Sun Yu-t'ang and others, Chung-kuo kung-yeh shih tzu-liao (Source materials on the history of China's modern industry, 1840-1914); P'eng Tse-i's Chung-kuo chin-tai shou-kung-yeh shih tzu-liao (Source materials on the history of the handicraft industry in modern China, 1840-1949); and Li Wen-chih and Chang Yu-i's Chung-kuo chin-tai nung-yeh shih tzu-liao (Source materials on China's modern agricultural history, 1840-1937).

The law collection is strong in criminal codes by various authorities since the T'ang Dynasty, 618-906, and statutes issued in

the Republican period and after 1949. We may also list among the law books a rare title, the illustrated Huang-Ming chu-ssu lien-ming ch'i-p'an kung-an chuan (Stories from the Ming Court Cases), published in 1498.

The Library has reprints of four different editions of the Ta tsang-ching (Chinese Tripitaka), including the Chi-sha edition, and the Chia-hsing editions, and a part of the Chin (1115-1234) Chao ch'eng editions; as well as a complete set of the Cheng-t'ung Tao-tsang (Taoist canon) in 1120 volumes.

Among books from the London Missionary Society are more than 60 editions of translations of the Bible, published in the Ch'ing Dynasty and the early Republican period, including those in literary style, in colloquial style and in local dialects, translated by English, Scottish, American and other missionaries in China. Since most of these editions are no longer in use and many copies in China are believed to have been destroyed, some of these translations have now become rare.

Books written by or about important philosophers, and critical essays and books on philosophers written by scholars in China, particularly during the cultural revolution, are reasonably well covered. Notable acquisitions on this subject in recent years are Lun-yu chi-cheng (Collection of works on the Analects of Confucius) in 308 volumes; Meng-tzu shih-shu (Collection of works on Meng-tzu) in 42 volumes; Lao-tzu chi-cheng (Collection of works on Lao-tzu) in 160 volumes; Mo-tzu chi-cheng (Collection of works on Mo-tzu) in 46 volumes; Chuang-tzu chi-cheng (Collection of works on Chuang-tzu) in 72 volumes; Hsun-tzu chi-cheng (Collection of works on Hsun-tzu) in 49 volumes; and Lieh-tzu chi-cheng (Collection of works on Lieh-tzu) in 12 volumes. All of them were compiled by Yen Ling-feng and published by Yee-wen Publishing Company in Taipei between 1965 and 1977.

By agreement with the Australian National University, the National Library leaves the principal responsibility for language and literature to the university. However, the National Library does hold useful material in these fields. This was greatly strengthened by the Simon and the Giles Collections. Works on Chinese etymology, phonetics, semantics and grammar, by early as well as modern scholars, are well represented, and include studies of Shuo-wen (Etymological dictionary of the Chinese language) written by Hsu shen in A.D.100. The National Library holds a number of editions of Shuo-wen the earliest published in 1664. The National Library also holds a number of books on the teaching of the Chinese language, on Chinese language reform, and on the languages of various minority nationalities; among them is a set of Yu-wen hui-p'ien (Studies of the Chinese language series) published by the Lung-man Bookstore in Hong Kong.

The National Library's collection of Chinese traditional novels has some strength. Among them are 59 Ming and Ch'ing editions. The earliest one is Lo Mon-teng's Hsi-yang chi (Voyage to the western ocean: the story of the eunuch Admiral Cheng Ho's expeditions) published in 1497. Next to the above is a banned novel, Chin-p'ing mei (The golden lotus) published in 1695. Other famous traditional novels, like Hung-lou meng (Dream of the red chamber), San-kuo yen-i (Romance of the Three Kingdoms) Tung-chou lieh-kuo chih (Story of the Feudal States of Eastern Chou, 770-247 B.C.), Shui-hu chuan (The water margin), Chin-ku ch'i-kuan (Strange tales, new and old), Hsi-yu chi (Monkey), and Feng-shen yen-i (Investiture of the gods) are represented by 12, 12, 7, 5, 3 and 3 editions respectively. Most of them came from the Giles Collection. In recent years, the National Library acquired a number of reprints of rare editions of Hung-lou meng and Chin-p'ing mei published in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. These just fill gaps in the National Library's collections of different editions of the abovementioned two novels.

Holdings of books on Chinese classics in the National Library are excellent. The following may be mentioned: Huang-ch'ing ching-chieh (Collection of commentaries on the classics) in 40 volumes and its supplement in 20 volumes; T'ung-chih-t'ang ching-chieh (Collection of the classics with commentaries) in 40 volumes; and four extensive series of modern Chinese classics. Ssu-ku ch'uan-shu chen-pen (Selections from the complete collection of the four categories of Chinese literature) series 1-12 in 4,800 volumes selected and published by the Commercial Press in Taipei; Ssu-pu ts'ung-k'an (Series of the four categories of the Chinese literature) in 3,121 volumes; Ssu-pu pai-yao (Important works in the four categories of Chinese literature, in 2,501 volumes; and Pai-pu ts'ung-shu chi'cheng (Collections of one hundred series) in 7,950 volumes. The earliest publications in the National Library is Kung-yang chu-shu (The commentary of Kung-yang Kao on Spring and Autumn Annals).

The National Library has a strong collection of Chinese newspapers and periodicals. The numbers of them which the National Library holds have reached 172 and 2,600 titles respectively. In the last two decades, the National Library has successfully acquired 12 complete sets of Chinese newspapers published in China before 1949, 3 complete sets published in Taiwan, 2 complete sets published in Singapore, and 1 complete set published in Malaysia. In addition to these, more than 55 provincial and municipal newspapers published in China between 1950 and 1959 microfilmed by the Union Research Institute in Hong Kong have been received.

Holdings of most ceased periodicals are very incomplete. A project to acquire microfilms and xerographic copies to fill gaps has been carried on for the last 15 years. So the National Library holds at least 200 complete sets published before 1949.

Current newspapers received include: 34 from China, 8 from Taiwan, 6 from Hong Kong, 2 from Singapore, 2 from Malaysia, 4 from Bangkok, 1 from Manila, 1 from India, and 1 from Mongolia.

Current periodicals received amount to 1,100 titles. Of them, 562 are from China. Ninety-nine per cent of these have been made available for foreign readers in the last 3 years. The sudden increase in the number of Chinese periodicals has brought to almost every East Asian library in western countries a big headache during this time of financial restraint.

總場
十一月三日
陪

