

EAST-ASIAN LIBRARY NEWS

Asian Studies Librarian's Retirement

After serving the Australian National University Library for twenty-six years, Enid Bishop retired in April 1984.

Enid, who is affectionately known amongst her colleagues as the "Mother" of Asian librarianship in Australia, had a distinguished career. She first took over the Asian (then called Oriental) Collection at ANU when it was a very modest collection of old Chinese and Japanese books with one assistant. At the time of her retirement, there were twenty-eight full-time and part-time staff in the Asian Studies Division servicing a collection of over 200,000 volumes which had enjoyed international recognition for many years.

Enid was one of the founding members of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians and editor of its Newsletter for many years. In addition, she organized many international conferences and participated actively in a wide variety of other library activities especially those related to Asian librarianship. Enid's charming personality, her understanding and patience are well-known not only to her Australian colleagues but also to many colleagues overseas. Due to her hard work and foresight, the ANU Library's Asia Collection has grown healthily and steadily. Her retirement is a loss to Asian Studies at the ANU in particular and to Australian librarianship in general.

Enid was married shortly after her retirement and is now known as Enid Gibson.

Shiraiwa Report

In order to review the strengths and weaknesses of its Japanese Collection, the Australian National University Library requested the services of Mr Kazuhiko Shiraiwa, visiting librarian from Japan's National Diet Library to Orientalia, NLA for two months during February and March 1984 to make a thorough investigation of the Japanese Collection. His findings, together with lists of desiderata, are documented in a report. In his survey, Mr Shiraiwa used standard reference works and bibliographies to assess the library's holdings. Taking into account the cooperative agreement between ANU and NLA in regard to collection-building in specific subject areas, he concluded that the combined collection of ANU and NLA "comprises as a whole a collection comparable to those of Princeton and UCLA".

In order to further strengthen the Japanese Collection, the ANU Library is planning to implement the survey with special emphasis on filling the gaps. The cooperation of users will be sought. During Mr Shiraiwa's secondment to the ANU Library, Dr L W Li was seconded to Orientalia at NLA. This marked the first step in staff interchange between ANU and NLA. The result was well received on both sides.

First Western Librarian working in a Chinese Library

Ms Susan Prentice, Senior Librarian responsible for East Asian Area Studies in the Australian National University Library, will be the first librarian outside China to work in the National Library of China in Beijing since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

The invitation from China has come as part of a long established exchange programme of staff and material between the ANU Library and libraries in China. Over the last ten years the Library has enjoyed cordial relations with many educational institutions in China and much assistance has been given by the Chinese to build up the Chinese Collection in the Library. During the last four years, eight librarians have been sent by Chinese libraries to receive further training in the Library.

The invitation from the highest Chinese Library authority is regarded as an honour for the ANU Library and as recognition of its contribution to the Chinese Library world. In 1983, Mr Colin Steele, the University Librarian, was invited by the Ministry of Culture to visit China together with the Director-General of the National Library of Australia and two other senior staff each from both institutions. The continuing visits by both sides and the willingness of China to send librarians to the ANU Library is an indication of the very close library cooperation that exists between Australia and China.

Ms Susan Prentice will leave for China towards the end of April and spend six months attached to the Chinese Acquisitions and Cataloguing Department of the library - an area of library operations which is not normally open even to foreign librarians making brief visits to the library. During her stay, it is expected that Ms Prentice will also visit other major libraries to strengthen exchange relations between the ANU Library and libraries in China.

Visiting librarians from China

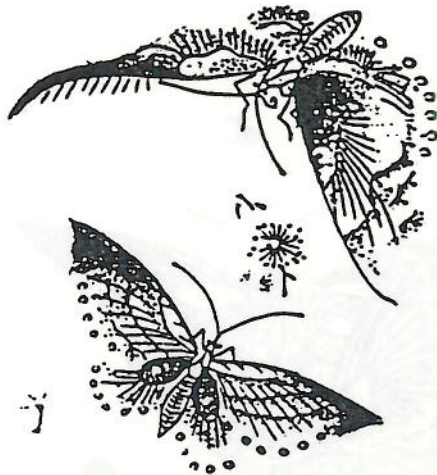
Mr Tan Jinkai of the National Library of China and Mr Shi Shikang of Nanjing University Library returned to China in December 1984 after a year's training and work experience in the Australian National University Library. They also spent some time in the National Library of Australia and paid official visits to

libraries in Sydney and Melbourne as well as to other libraries in Canberra. The most recent visiting librarian from China, Mr Huang Dengpei of the National Library of China, arrived in March. Mr Zhu Xiling of the East China Normal University in Shanghai is expected in April.

Entering the computer age

The Australian National University Library is planning to automate the processing of its East-Asian language materials later this year. It is intended initially to enter acquisitions and cataloguing data into the automated system in romanized form only. During this interim period a title entry manual record containing full bibliographical details in the original script will be maintained in the East-Asian card catalogues pending our ability to enter East-Asian scripts into the automated system. Meanwhile, the Library is investigating various systems for handling East-Asian scripts. Further developments will be reported in future issues of this Newsletter.

Y S Chan
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The editor apologizes for the delay in the publication of this issue.

The articles on automation were originally papers presented at a regional panel on East-Asian library services held during the Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia held in Adelaide in May 1984. The cover and illustrations are again taken from the Australian National University Library's copies of K'ang Ch'ien pan hua chi and Shih chu chai chien p'u (A history of Chinese woodcuts). The collection was published in 1940 as a limited edition of 200 copies. The Library's copy is number 92.

The editor wishes to thank all the contributors to this issue as well as her colleagues at the ANU Library for their help and support in finally getting this issue to press.

The new editor of the EALGA Newsletter is Andrew Gosling. Contributions to the next issue are welcome and should be sent to:

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