

2. CONFERENCE REPORTS

a) Conference on Chinese Libraries and Librarianship.

The Conference was organized by the Chinese University of Hong Kong in conjunction with the large scale Chinese book exhibition held on 9-10 December 1985.

Apart from a few delegates from Beijing and Taipei, all overseas participants were from the United States except one from Canada and one from Australia. It was no surprise that Dr. Wang Chi, the new University Librarian of HKCU was from L.C. and the participants were going to see the Chinese book exhibition anyway.

The Conference was organized into the following panels:

Publishing trends in China.
Collection Development Policy in Academic Libraries.
Automation and the Chinese Libraries.
Future prospects and problems for Chinese libraries and Chinese Librarians.

Of all these four panels, the first one was disappointing as some of the speakers only mentioned the size of their collection without even casual remarks on the trend. On the automation, reports also failed to depict beyond what had already been known, mainly the RLIN and OCLC networks.

The other two panels were more interesting especially regarding the future prospects for Chinese librarians.

Y. S. Chan represented ANU to participate and join the second and third panels. He described the ANU's collection building policy and also the problem of automating East Asian language script in a country outside the main U.S. network.

After the Conference, at the request of the participants, a special meeting was organized to discuss the Chinese publishing with the official Chinese Publishing Delegation headed by Mr. Bian Chu quang, the Chief of the Publishing Bureau. China's current export restriction and publishing policy was severely criticized by many overseas librarians.

The Chinese Book Exhibition was the largest ever held. About five hundred publishers of all levels exhibited their publications totalling approximately 29000 titles. Some of these had not been exported before. However, since most of the titles were available for sale, all hard-to-find items disappeared after the first day. It was subsequently learnt that three quarters of the books were sold and it reflects the potential of the Chinese book market in Hong Kong.

(Y.S.Chan)

2. b) Asian-Pacific Conference on Library Science

The 2nd Asian-Pacific Conference on Library Science sponsored by the Cultural and Social Centre for the Asian and Pacific Region and the Central National Library of the Republic of Korea was held on 20-24 May 1985 at Seoul, Korea. A total of 40 people from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, The United States and Korea attended the Conference. Australia was represented by S.W. Wang of the National Library of Australia.

The theme of the Conference was "Co-operation in East-Asian Bibliographic Information Interchange". The following subject areas were discussed:

a) cataloguing rules for East-Asian publications; b) development in automated systems of Chinese, Japanese and Korean character codes; c) establishment of East-Asian MARC system.

In accordance with resolutions of the conference, a working committee on library co-operation in East Asia was set up. It will be responsible for the working out and making recommendations of the following :

a) East-Asian MARC format; b) a common CJK character set; c) standards for romanizations, and d) standards for cataloguing.

(S.W. Wang)

2. c) National Conference of the Association of People Interested in Asia, ANU, 5-7 December 1985

The Association of People Interested in Asia (APIA) was founded in 1984 in Canberra by academics, school teachers, librarians and others concerned with teaching about Asia in Australian schools. Sixty participants from the ACT and interstate attended the APIA Conference. The Keynote address was delivered by Senator Susan Ryan, Minister for Education, who strongly supported the inclusion of Asian content in Australian school courses. Papers of particular interest included Elaine McKay's "The turn of the tide: revitalizing teaching about Asia in the school social studies program", Trevor Hay's "Educational tourism in China", and Professor Jamie Mackie's "The educational purposes of Asian Studies courses in Australian schools". The Conference urged that teacher training programs should include Asian content; education authorities promote the production of teaching resources with an Asian content; annotated bibliographies of teaching resources on Asia be updated and entered into the Australian Curriculum Information Network (ACIN); and that a National Schools Asian Resource Centre be established.

(A. Gosling)

2. d) Sino-Australia Relations 1972-1985 Conference, Griffith University, Brisbane, 10-12 July 1985

This was the first conference which has attempted to assess the relationship between the People's Republic of China and Australia in its many aspects, including the political, economic, sci/tech, legal, cultural and media areas. About 100 people attended, most being academics, public servants and businessmen. Forty presentations were given, providing a remarkable wealth of information on the wide range of activities involved in our relationship with China. The proceedings are to be published.

(A. Gosling)

2. e) Chinese Rare Book and Preservation Workshop

The International Workshop on Authentication and preservation of Rare Chinese Materials, sponsored jointly by the Library Association of China, the National Palace Museum and the National Central Library in Taiwan was held in Taipei from 19 November to 8 December 1984. A total of 30 persons representing Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, USA and West Germany attended the workshop.

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