

## CEAL / ASA MEETING 2002 IN WASHINGTON

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I visited Washington D.C. in the United States from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of April to participate in two meetings, which were held together. The first was the *Council on East Asian Libraries* (CEAL) annual meeting and the second was the *Association for Asian Studies* (ASA) 54<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

A short review of the trip follows.

From 1-2 April, just before the annual meeting of CEAL started, CEAL provided two full days of special training sessions on cataloging held at the Library of Congress and I participated in both sessions.

The details of the sessions were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> day      Chinese and Japanese rare book cataloging sessions (held separately) and Korean Romanisation session;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> day      East Asian art cataloging workshop

In all, over 50 librarians participated from all over North America. The sessions started at 8 a.m. and finished at 5 p.m. and were very well organized, intensive and interesting.

From 3-5 April, the actual sessions of the CEAL annual meeting were held in the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, which was also the venue for the ASA annual meeting.

After the plenary session, all committees held meetings and reported on what had been on the agendas, the details of discussions and what had been acted upon.

The names of the committees are: the Materials Committees for Chinese, Japanese and Korean, Library Technology Committee, Public Services Committee, and Technical Processing Committee.

A CJK breakout dinner and CEAL Fellowship dinner were arranged on different evenings and were very well organized. These were good occasions to get to know the other librarians.

On 5 April, in the morning, there was an RLG East Asian Librarians Forum, an RLIN CJK user discussion group meeting, and OCLC suite meetings, all held in the Library of Congress.

In the afternoon, there was a special event on the "Gordon W. Prange Collection" along with a North American Coordinating Council on Japanese

Library Resources (NCC) open meeting. Both were held in the library of the University of Maryland (UM).

UM is 20-30 minutes away from Washington D.C. by car or metro, and is well known among Japanese libraries because it houses the famous "Prange Collection".

Eiko Sakaguchi, the East Asian Librarian and the curator of the Prange Collection in the McKeldin Library of UM, organized this event along with the NCC coordinators.

For the NCC meeting, there were about 60 participants and the two main topics were as follows:

- 1) The plan for an NCC Junior Japanese Studies Librarians Professional Training Seminar, which is being planned for this August.
- 2) A panel on issues relating to contracts on CD-ROMs and On-line subscriptions.

These are very topical issues which we are also facing in Australia, and the speeches were very informative.

The NCC meeting was followed by the Prange Collection event. There were organized tours, exhibitions, an introduction to the reference materials, and two talks.

The event was very stimulating, showing how rich the collection is.

The Prange Collection is a comprehensive collection of publications from Japan gathered during the Occupation from 1945 to 1949. During this period there was strict censorship of Japanese publications. Even in Japan, it is hard to find a collection equivalent in size and coverage.

Most fortunately, I was given the chance of touring the collection with Eiko Sakaguchi for about three hours with even some hand-on, earlier, just after I arrived in the US.

The collection is very extensive, including many first editions of famous literary works, as well as very small periodicals published for a limited numbers of readers, and all the translated works from the Western world, which were prohibited during the war. To see the traces of censorship carried out by the Occupation army is very interesting. The records of the translators' notes and the comments of the US army were all kept there as if it had happened just yesterday.

The collection's serial index is completed and published already in book form and the contents of all the serials are available now on microfilm. We only need to wait for the other parts of the collection (monographs, posters, etc.) to be available soon.

As part of my individual plan, (not related to the CEAL/ASA meetings), in the afternoon of 2 April, I visited Ms Akiba in the Japanese Collection at the Library of Congress. She showed me the materials in the reading room and explained about the service they provide. The meeting took over two hours and I am very thankful to her for spending her precious time with me.

Because of other commitments, I could not stay longer and so I did not have much time to go to the sessions of ASA, which was a great pity. I only attended ASA on the morning of Friday 5 April. There were about 230 sessions, with 21 sessions concurrently at any one time. There were no particular keynote speakers and every day there was one session called "Border-crossing session", for topics covering more than one region of Asia.

In the exhibition area, there were about 130 booths for publishers from all over the world and most provided special editions of their catalogues for this conference.

Overall, on this trip I met many East Asian librarians in North America and had a chance to see what they are doing and catch up with the most up-to-date information on East Asian Studies library issues. It was a short but fruitful trip for me.

I would like to thank Ms. Eiko Sakaguchi for encouraging me to attend and for offering accommodation as well. I would like to thank all the CEAL participants for greeting me as a special visitor from Australia and providing the chance to meet with them and share their experiences.

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Please contact me if you would like to know more detail on the texts and contents of the two cataloging sessions. E-mail: [mshinoza@nla.gov.au](mailto:mshinoza@nla.gov.au)