EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the Thirty-sixth Annual Conference Zürich, 7-9 September 2016

The thirty-sixth EASL conference was hosted by the University of Zurich, Bibliothek des Asien-Orient-Instituts, from 7th to 9th September 2016. The meetings were chaired by Maja Fuchs.

During the conference, two library visits, a visit to the Museum Rietberg and a reception were organised by the local hosts. On Wednesday afternoon, there were tours of the two sites of the libraries of Asien-Orient-Institut; the reception was held at the Asien-Orient-Institut on Wednesday evening.

On Thursday afternoon a visit to the Oechslin Bibliothek in Einsiedeln was organised. On Friday afternoon a visit to the Rietberg Museum was arranged including a guided tour of the East Asian collections. The farewell dinner took place on Friday evening at the Uniturm of the University.

Present

• Members

France Besson-Girard (Université de Genève - Faculté des Lettres - Bibliothèque de Chinois) Inga-Lill **Blomkvist** (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Copenhagen) Sara Chiesura (Chinese Collections, British Library, London) Carina Enestarre (Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Lund) Jarmila Fiurášková (Department of Asian Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc) Maja Fuchs (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna) Emma Goodliffe (The British Library, London) Roger Greatrex (Lund University) Cordula Gumbrecht (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford University) Kerstin Herelius (Uppsala University Library) Olivier **Höhn** (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library) Matthias Kaun (State Library of Berlin) Øvstein Johan Kleiven (University of Oslo Library) Anne Labitzky (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University) Hanno Lecher (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University) Fung On Lui (University Library Frankfurt am Main) Claudia **de Morsier-Fritz** (Zentralbibliothek Zürich) Mia Nilsson (Asia Library, Lund University) Lucia **Obi** (Internationale Jugendbibliothek, München) Václav Pasteka (Univerzita Karlova – Knihovna Ustavu Dalneho, Praha) Bent Lerbaek Pedersen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek / The Royal Library, Copenhagen) Helena Sedláčková (Palacký University Library, Olomouc) Joshua Seufert (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford) Delphine Spicq (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Paris) Renate Stephan (München) Thomas Tabery (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Orient- und Ostasienabteilung, München) Katharina Thölen (Bibliothek des Asien-Orient-Instituts, Universität Zürich) Shenxiao **Tong** (Edinburgh University Library) Wai-hing Tse (School of Oriental and African Studies Library (SOAS), University of London)

Bénédicte Vaerman (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) Marc Winter (Bibliothek des Asien-Orient-Instituts, Universität Zürich) Wu Chia-Hsun (Bibliothek des Asien-Orient-Instituts, Universität Zürich) Zhang Ruili (University of Manchester Library)

Vendors

Jeff Strandberg (Eastview) Jason **Dai** (WanFang Data) Johnny **Fu** (Vista Goosuu) Linda Empringham (Brill) Claire Feng (CNKI) Gu Qing (Zhonghua Shuju) Han Sophie (CNKI) Hao Mei (Shanghai Library) Li Qian (CNPIEC, London) Lu Ming (CNPIEC, London) Lü Huanglei (Superstar) Lan Jing (CNPIEC, Beijing) Man Yue (CIBTC) Pan Li (Beijing Zhenben) **Shan** Shan (CIBTC) Wang Ruiling (Zhonghua Shuju) Wang Xiaosen (China Data Center) William Wong (Wisers) **Zhang** Aizhen (Superstar) Zhang Guifang (Beijing Zhenben) **Zhang** Hongling (Shanghai Library)

Guests Jiang Shuyong (University of Illinois) Jiang Guocheng (Air University, USA)

Apologies

Marc Gilbert (Asian Library, Leiden University) Alice De Jong (Leiden) Katarína Feriancikova (Charles University, Prague) Dat-wei Lau (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient, Paris) Soline Lau-Suchet (BULAC, Paris) Nathalie Monnet (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris)

ACTA

1. Chairman's address and the welcome speech by the host institution

Maja Fuchs opened the conference by thanking the local hosts for organising the conference, followed by a welcome speech of **Prof. Dr. Raji Steineck**.

Maja Fuchs then extended her warm welcome to all the participants, especially to the new members who joined the conference for the first time and to the guests.

Marc Gilbert has taken up a new role in Leiden and was not able to join the conference. Joshua Seufert was asked to act as interim secretary for this conference.

2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference and member reports

The minutes of the 35th EASL conference were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Anne Labitzky-Wagner presented the Treasurer's report. There was an increase of $\notin 1,19$ in the form of interest for 2015. The total balance is $\notin 1.908,27$. The members unanimously agreed that Anne Labitzky-Wagner should reclaim the $\notin 5,00$ deposit that was used for opening the account.

4. Sponsors for the EASL conference in Zürich

The local hosts expressed their gratitude to the following sponsors:

- Stadt und Kanton Zürich
- Jerg-Legat-Stiftung der Universität Zürich (<u>http://www.researchers.uzh.ch/static/fnf/stiftungen/stiftung.php?id=35</u>)
- CNKI China
- Hanban Schweiz
- Eastview

5. Report on conferences

Inga-Lill Blomqvist and Wai-hing Tse attended the Shanghai International Library Forum in July 2016 and joined workshops organised by the Committee on Chinese Materials (CCM) of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL). They also attended the CNKI International Conference on Chinese Digital Publishing and Digital Libraries. They reported that Huadong Shifan Daxue offers grants for professors interested to work with their collection of Cultural Revolution material. Wai Hing Tse is able to provide further details.

Jiang Shuyong (Illinois) invited the European colleagues to join the next CEAL meeting in March 2017 in Toronto. She also introduced the Society for Chinese Studies Librarians SCSL http://www.scslweb.org/ and its Chinese language journal. She expressed the hope that a joint event of American and European colleagues could be organised during the 2017 EASL conference in Olomouc.

An invitation by Prof. Liu (Airusheng) to hold an EASL meeting in China with expenses covered was discussed: the reasons against such a decision prevailed.

Jarmila Fiurášková introduced Olomouc as the meeting venue 2017.

For the forthcoming years, several suggestions were discussed (Norway? Spain? Madrid? Barcelona? Poland? St. Petersburg?) but in most cases contacts would have to be established first.

The issue of growing numbers of participants and vendors' representatives was raised and discussed; it was decided that there should be no limit set.

5. News from EASL members' libraries

• **France Besson-Girard** (Université de Genève - Faculté des Lettres - Bibliothèque de Chinois): Currently the library is facing a time of centralisation. Student numbers for Chinese have recently been going down by as much as 50%. The Chinese library recently has started a new website.

• Inga-Lill Blomkvist (NIAS, Copenhagen)

The four years' funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers will end in 2017 but hopefully the financial support will be reorganized. Still there is no decision what will happen to NIAS from 2018 onwards. After huge budget cuts in 2014 the services, now only digital, are upheld by Inga-Lill Blomkvist and three part-time students for all of Asia. A new version of the AsiaPortal was released in June, emphasis lies on e-resources.

• Carina Enestarre, Roger Greatrex and Mia Nilsson (Lund University)

Centralisation has also reached Lund, the Asia Library will move to a new location; the new library will be smaller and a large proportion of the collections will be housed in closed stacks in another building 500 m away. There is a growing law collection and more rare books. Roger Greatrex will retire shortly and is very interested in closer inspection of the Manchu collection. Lars Frederikson sent regards, he resides most of the year in a Zen-Buddhist monastery in China and spends five months every year in South India, being the living example that there can be a vibrant life after the end of librarianship.

• Jarmila Fiurášková and Helena Sedláčková (University of Olomouc)

The New Asia Library has opened and consists of about 4-5,000 volumes in Czech, Chinese and English. The institute for Asian Studies has moved to a new location in a renovated building. Currently Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies are taught and the institute plans to open Indonesian Studies as well.

• Maja Fuchs (Library of East Asian Studies / Sinology, University of Vienna)

Vienna has started cataloguing according to RDA rules since 2016, will switch to MARC21 format in 2017 and will introduce ALMA in August 2017.

• Emma Goodlife and Sara Chiesura (The British Library)

STAFF

Sara Chiesura remains in post as Lead Curator, East Asian Collections (Chinese). Emma Goodliffe (Curator, Chinese collections) has been given a temporary promotion, effective from 1 July 2016 until 28 February 2017, in order to manage the Chinese section's retro-conversion and cataloguing projects.

Eleanor Cooper (Curator, Manchu and Mongolian collections) has had her contract extended until the end of February 2017. Ching Yuet Tang (Cataloguer, Chinese collections) started work at the British Library on a 12-month, full-time, fixed term contract and will be working on improving the pre-1912 catalogue records before adding them to the online catalogue.

PROJECTS

The DCMS-funded project centred on the British Library's collection of Shang dynasty **oracle bones** was concluded in March 2016 and has received very positive feedback both internally and externally.

Key benefits included further deepening of the British Library's relationship with the National Library of China, as well as other UK institutions, and the use of digital technologies (2D, 3D and micro-CT scanning) to improve awareness and accessibility of the collection. For more information, see the oracle bones project page, available at: <u>http://www.bl.uk/projects/chinese-oracle-bones</u>

As part of a collaborative project on the British Library's **non-Stein Chinese manuscripts**, we hosted Mr Wang Ke, a cataloguer from Shandong University, for four months. During this time, basic metadata for approximately 750 items was created.

A new three-year project has been launched in April, funded by the UK Treasury, in which sets of **UK literary icons** from the British Library's collections will be sent to China for a series of touring 'popup' exhibitions. Although not a Chinese section project, Sara Chiesura (Lead Curator, East Asian Collections (Chinese)) is working closely with two newly recruited Chinese-speaking members of staff. Further recruitment has been taking place in other departments to support this project, including one new loans registrar and two web content developer posts (also with Chinese skills).

The project is multi-faceted, with plans to support and promote the exhibitions through various tie-in events and skills exchange activities. The project will create a wealth of opportunities for building relationships with Chinese partners as well as strengthening cross-departmental collaboration within the Library. For example, free beginner's Chinese classes have been offered to British Library staff and were received with overwhelming enthusiasm.

The Chinese catalogue retro-conversion projects are progressing well:

- Over 4000 records for the pre-1912 material have been received so far from the National Central Library in Taipei and will be enhanced and made available over the next year.

- Since its launch in June last year, LibCrowds, the British Library's 'convert-a-card' crowdsourcing platform, has received a total of 31852 contributions to 14 projects (5 of which are Chinese) by 672 volunteers, located at least 45 different countries [data correct as of 29/09/2016]. This has resulted in the completion of the first four drawers of post-1949 items from our pinyin card catalogue (post-1966 acquisitions), and a total of 3554 Chinese item records being uploaded to the catalogue so far.

ONLINE RESOURCES

As a result of the projects above and day-to-day cataloguing work done by Chinese section staff, more and more resources are becoming available to search via the **British Library online catalogues**. This includes 274 Manchu manuscripts, which have been catalogued over recent months and are now available on 'Explore Archives and Manuscripts'.

484 oracle bones from the British Library's Couling-Chalfant collection have been digitised in 2D and are available via the British Library's Digitised Manuscripts page

(http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/). 3D and micro-CT images have also been produced for selected bones and are in the process of being made available on the British Library website.

24 volumes of the Yongle dadian (digitised last year) have been made available via our Digitised Manuscripts page, with facsimiles produced by the NLC Publishing House due to be published later this year.

The British Library **collection webpages** have recently been redesigned with all collection-specific information now taking the form of collection guides that feature on pages dedicated to each section ('East Asia' in the case of Chinese collections). Further information regarding navigating the collection and other general finding aids are now provided as a 'How To' guide. Current collection guides include an overview of the Chinese collections, oracle bones, Chinese propaganda posters, etc. and we hope to add more and more each year.

• David Helliwell and Joshua Seufert (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford)

In recent years the budget for the Chinese collections is much lower than before 2012. In April 2016 the Bodleian Libraries signed a memorandum of understanding with the China Publishing Group (CPG), China's biggest publishing group, consisting of more than 45 individual publishing houses, including major publishing houses such as Zhonghua Shuju (中華書局), Shangwu Yinshuguan (商務印書館) and Sanlian (三聯出版社). As part of the cooperation the Bodleian Libraries and CPG will investigate the possibility of joint publishing projects such as facsimile of rare Chinese books and Special Collection Catalogues.

As part of the collaboration with CPG a resource centre for publications of the China Publishing Group was set up at the China Centre Library. In the future, the resource centre will annually receive major publications of the China Publishing Group. The first batch included more than 400 volumes of Chinese reference material.

In May 2016 the Publishing House of the National Library of China has published a facsimile of all the 19 volumes of Yongle Dadian that are in the collection of the Bodleian Library (牛津大學博德利圖書館藏永樂大典). The images for this publication were supplied free of charge under the terms of the memorandum of understanding with the National Library of China. An article by David Helliwell on Holdings of Yongle Dadian in European Libraries was published in English and Chinese as part of the facsimile. (Holdings of Yongle Dadian in European Libraries / 歐洲圖書館所藏永樂大典綜述).

The Chinese version of the article was also published in the academic journal "The Documentation 文獻" 2016.3 of the National Library of China.

Facsimile of other manuscripts are planned with Zhonghua Shuju as well as a printed catalogue of the pre-1912 collections of the Bodleian.

For David Helliwell it might be the last EASL conference as a working member as he will retire at the end of September 2017, but will stay at the Bodleian as a volunteer.

• Kerstin Herelius (Uppsala University Library)

For Chinese electronic resources the library is heavily reliant on the NIAS Asia Portal. Sweden is also going to switch to RDA from January 2017. The library faces a time of more centralisation. At the same time renovation is going on and the Karin Boye Library where Chinese resources are located will only be able to grant limited services over the next two years.

• Olivier Höhn (Asia Library, Stockholm University Library)

Inga Nyman sends her greetings to the conference. In July 2016 the library moved to the open source library system KOHA. Administratively the library of Stockholm University has now become part of the administrative department of the university. It seems that the university library is no longer interested in having a stand-alone Asia Library and plans are being drawn up to integrate the Asia Library into the main library. For Chinese electronic resources the library is heavily reliant on the NIAS Asia Portal.

• Matthias Kaun and Cordula Gumbrecht (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

The East Asia Department and CrossAsia were characterized by great changes during 2015. The old Special Collection Zone system (SSG) has ended and the DFG (German Research Foundation) has established a new funding line called Specialised Information Services (FID). Crossasia has been widened to cover South-Asia as well, this part is managed from the Library of the University of Heidelberg. The *Blaue Leihverkehr* will continue as before. For the readers not much has changed, but it is unclear how long the new FID system will be in place.

Martina Siebert returned to the East Asia department and is working on Crossasia and the electronic resources. Miriam Seeger who joined the EASL conference in Stockholm is now also working at the East Asia Department. A new colleague Dr. Hou-Ieong Ho with Portuguese / Macau background has joined the East Asia department and will concentrate on supporting the IT of the department.

A facsimile of the volume of Yongle Dadian at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin has been published by the publishing house of the National Library of China. The volumes held by the museums of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz probably will be published later this year.

• Øystein Johan Kleiven (University of Oslo Library)

Alma has been used since November 2015. Many of the problems that the library faced with the introduction of the new system have already been addressed.

• Hanno Lecher and Anne Labitzky-Wagner (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)

The library has recently expanded its staffing by two additional Chinese cataloguers for three years, with the possibility of making one of the positions permanent. The new library building is still under construction and will take until 2019 to be finished. The library will be located in the heart of Heidelberg and comprise the Chinese, Japanese, South Asian, Anthropology and Asian Art Collections under one roof. Four of the stories of the library will be located below the river Neckar. Anne Labitzky-Wagner plans to retire in 2020 therefore this would be a good year to host EASL in Heidelberg.

• Fung On Lui (University Library Frankfurt am Main)

Centralisation has a negative effect on the Library of the Institute of Sinology. Books have to be catalogued in the main library system where Chinese characters still cannot be displayed. Due to lack of qualified cataloguers large parts of the annual intake cannot be catalogued and the backlog is growing. Alfred Forke's library was bought but the Chinese books have never been catalogued, there are numerous Ming and Qing Dynasty editions of novels in very good condition, but the size and importance of the collection is not known.

• Lucia Obi (Internationale Jugendbibliothek, Munich)

Lucia Obi has a new role at the International Youth Library. The library has a collection of 650.000 vols. youth literature in 50 Asian languages, among them about 1,000 Korean, 3,000 Chinese (only partly catalogued) and 20,000 Japanese books. The library offers a number of fellowships each year.

• Václav Pasteka (Univerzita Karlova – Knihovna Ustavu Dalneho, Praha)

The personal library of Milena Doleželová-Velingerová (1932-2012) has been received and is currently being catalogued.

• Bent Lerbaek Pedersen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek / The Royal Library, Copenhagen)

Bent Pedersen will retire in February 2017. It is currently unclear if there will be a replacement for his position. Bent has recently published some catalogues on East Asian collections, among them a catalogue published with NIAS Press of the 37 Yao Manuscripts held at the Royal Library. These are special because they date from 1917. A catalogue of the Tibetan collections is also forthcoming.

• Delphine Spicq (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Paris)

Asian collections are currently moving to a building near Bois de Vincennes where they will stay for three years, but the books will remain available to the readers. No budget problems, more staff have been hired for moving.

• Thomas Tabery (Bavarian State Library, Munich)

The re-cataloguing and digitisation of Chinese rare books is continued. The largest part of the pre-Republican collection (about 25.000 vols.) has now been fully digitized. Meetings with researchers from China are currently being held about how to catalogue the Yao manuscript collections, of which app. 1/3 has been catalogued.

• Shenxiao Tong (Edinburgh University Library)

The new library systems Alma and Primo which were launched last summer have been running smoothly. Library funds are no longer allocated to the subject level; instead, they are now allocated by resource types at the level of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. In theory there is no cap on purchasing Chinese books, but all journal and database subscriptions will need to go through a committee. There is pressure on both the library material budget and collection space.

Most Library and Information Services staff are now based in Argyle House at the foot of the Castle so that several hundred extra study spaces have been created in the Main Library.

Both the East Asian Studies Collection and the Asian Studies Department are 50 years old this year. Beijing Publishing Group has donated over 400 books to the Confucius Institute Library. The books are mostly about Beijing and may eventually be incorporated into the East Asian Studies Collection when space allows. A "Chinese Writers in Residence" project will be launched this September which would hopefully bring more interest in contemporary Chinese literature and the relevant resources. Our major acquisition of Chinese e-resource over the past year is Shenbao newspaper digital archive.

• Wai-hing Tse (School of Oriental and African Studies Library (SOAS), University of London) There have been many colleagues leaving reader services at SOAS library recently. For the centenary of SOAS library some collections have been digitized and an exhibition in the library was curated for which some manuscripts of the Morrison collection and an edition of the *San cai tu hui* were chosen. Additionally, SOAS has arranged a lecture series on Sir Reginald Fleming Johnston.

• Bénédicte Vaerman (Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) As part of a drive to centralisation the Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek is now part of the Library of the Humanities. A possible move of the East-Asian library is currently being investigated, but has not yet been decided.

• Marc Winter, Katharina Thölen (Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zürich); Claudia de Morsier-Fritz (Zentralbibliothek Zürich)

The Western language section of the library of the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies moved into a new building in July last year, merging with Indian and Islamic Studies libraries. RFID system is used in the new library. Katharina will be retiring by the end of 2016.

The Central Library Zurich is a university and public library which holds about 6 million items. The library catalogue of ETH and Central Library have been unified in the 1990s, since 2015 the holdings of the various libraries of university institutes have been added to this catalogue, so that there is now a unified catalogue for all academic libraries of Zurich. All of the East Asian Nonroman script collections have been given to the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies Library, but there is a Western language collection on East Asia available in the Central Library.

(was not mentioned during conference but requested to be added to minutes: "After intense schooling, Zurich has started cataloguing according to RDA standards in January, and uses the GND authority files.")

• Zhang Ruili (University of Manchester Library)

The library is still undergoing its redevelopment project. The funds for Chinese are healthy and stable. Recently there has been a long term trial of the CNP Reading e-book platform. There are some Chinese Special collections of the John Rylands Library (medical books, drawings and paintings, one original from Yuanmingyuan, more than 20 Miao drawings, digitized and available online).

6. Presentations

Members

- Sara Chiesura (British Library): "Digitising the Library's oracle bones collection: an international cooperation project"
- Zhang Ruili (Univ. of Manchester): "Three-month trial of the CNP e-reading book platform report"
- David Helliwell (Bodleian Library): "Jinling kejing chu"
- Roger Greatrex (Lund Univ.): "Who read the Yongle Dadian in the Ming dynasty?"

- Inga-Lill Blomkvist (NIAS): "The Fudan Social Science Data Repository"
- Jiang Shuyong (Univ. Library, Illinois): "Chinese American librarian collaboration"
- Bent Lerbæk Pedersen (Royal Library, Copenhagen): "Look at me and learn. Informative Chinese posters from the 1970s"
- Matthias Kaun (Staatsbibliothek Berlin): "FDI the new Crossasia funding model and its consequences

Vendors

Lu Ming (CNPIEC): "New electronic products including e-books and databases"

Wang Xiaosen (China Data Center, Univ. Michigan): "The administrative boundary maps of China 1949 - 2014"

Lü Huanglei (Superstar): "Superstar's Chinese Resources Platform"

Jeff Strandberg (East View): "New digital resources: <u>difangzhi</u> (gazetteers) from the National Library of China, and the forthcoming archive of China Daily from 1981"

Jason Dai (Wanfang Data): "China Statistics Service"

Zhang Guifang (Beijing Zhenben Technology): "Sourcing trends of overseas Chinese Academic libraries"

Sophie Han (CNKI): "CNKI Journal Translation Project"

Lan Jing (CNPIEC): "New electronic products including the new e-reading platform"

Wiliam Wong (Wisers, HK): "Wiser research by Wisers technology"

Gu Qing (Zhonghua Shuju): "Overseas Chinese Ancient Books Catalogue"

Linda Empringham (Brill): "Update on Brill's Chinese Studies publishing programme"

Shan Shan (CIBTC): "CIBTC's new online service platform for overseas libraries - OSPOL"

9. Elections

The meeting unanimously reappointed Maja Fuchs, Anne Labitzky and Marc Gilbert as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

10. Next conference

Renate Stephan, David Helliwell and Marc Winter all expressed their friendship and appreciation for the founding member Katharina Thölen at the end of the conference.

Thanks to Jarmila Fiurášková and Helena Sedláčková's invitation, the thirty-seventh annual EASL conference 2017 will be held Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th September 2017 at the Asia Library in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

For the conference in 2018 Oslo, Warsaw could all be considered. Hanno Lecher offered to host EASL 2020 in Heidelberg.

The thirty-sixth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Katharina Thölen, Marc Winter and Wu Chia-Hsun for their excellent arrangements.

Joshua Seufert Interim EASL Secretary Draft 19th September 2016, Oxford With additions by Maja Fuchs, corrections by Marc Winter, Katharina Thoelen and Emma Goodliffe (5th December 2016) Marc Gilbert EASL Secretary 17th January 2017, Leiden