

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN BERLIN

14-16 SEPTEMBER 2005

The Twenty-fifth EASL conference was held in the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Haus Potsdammer Strasse, from 14 to 16 September 2005.

The meeting was chaired by Cristina Cramerotti.

Dr. Rainer Krempien, head of the East Asia Department, made a welcome speech in which he explained the history of the Chinese collections in Berlin.

During the first afternoon of the conference, a visit to the Haus Potsdammer Strasse, and to the Haus Unter den Linden was organized, followed by a nice reception with speech by Dr. Barbara Schneider-Kempf. The reception was sponsored by Apabi E-books..

On Thursday a visit was organized to the Berlin Dahlem Museum of East Asian Art. Friday evening, a farewell dinner brought us together in the traditional Berliner Mittmann's Restaurant. Cathy Thoelen speeched lyrically for John Michael Streffer, who has retired recently.

Present were:

Charles Aylmer, Cambridge University Library
Inga-Lill Blomkvist, NIAS Library and Information Centre, Denmark
Barabara Bonazzi, EFEO Paris
Hiroko Brittain, Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa
Sasha Chen, Qinghua dongfang, Beijing
Cristina Cramerotti, Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris
Patrick de Vries, Ostasiatisches Seminar, Zürich
Katarina Feriancikova, Charles University, Prague
Lars Fredriksson, Ostasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm
Thomas Gaiser, Universität Tübingen
Jason Han, Superstar Digital Library
He Scarlet Sijia, Beijing Founder Electronics Co.
David Helliwell, Dept. of Oriental Books, Bodleian Libray, Oxford
Huang Xiyi, University of Leeds
Jiao Yang, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corp.
Matthias Kaun, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Uwe Kotzel, Institut of Asian Affairs, Hamburg
Martin Kroher, Universität Würzburg, Lehrstuhl für Sinologie
Hanno Lecher, Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden University
Liu Dingfei Danny, Wanfang Data co.
Lu Ying, East Asian Studies Library, University of Sheffield
Andreas Mixius, East Asia Department, Universität Hannover
Inga Nyman, Asian Library, Stockholm University Library
Lucia Obi, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München
Bent Pedersen, Kongelige Bibliothek, Denmark
Kira Rhode-Liebenau, vormal's Bochum, Ruhr-Universität
Friederike Schimmelpfennig, TNZB Univ. Erlangen, as repr; for Sinology Erlangen

Renate Schmidt, SBB Berlin
Silvia Sian, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Sue Small, SOAS, University of London
Delphine Spicq, Bibliothèque Orientale, Collège de France, Paris
Renate Stephan, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München
John M. Streffer, East-Asia Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Tao Jian, Freie Universität Berlin
Cathy Thoelen, Ostasiatisches Seminar, Zürich
Tong Shenxiao, Edinburgh University
Benedicte Vaerman, Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven
Anja van Hoek, Brill Academic Publishers
Christine Vidal, BIULO, Paris
Wang Haining, China International Book Trading Corporation, Beijing
Frances Wood, British Library
Mark Ulyanov, Russian State Library, Moscow
Zhang Ying, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation, Beijing
Zhang Yuzhi, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München
Zhao Fenghua, Qinghua dongfang, Beijing
Zhu Min, CIBTC, Beijing

ACTA

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the 24th EASL conference were accepted

2. Introduction and notices of members:

- Mark Ulyanov reports that the Russian State Library has finished the renovation of the building and that the books have been moved to the new building. The Chinese collection comprises 168.500 books, including about 65.000 rare books. A catalogue of the Japanese collection has been made. The Russian State Library invites EASL for the September meeting of the year 2006 in Moscow.
- David Helliwell says that tendencies like the redundancy of the Sinological Librarian in SOAS are at work in many other libraries and that it is important to counter them. He proposes EASL to write a joint letter during the meeting. The chairman is asked to draft a common EASL-letter.
- Charles Aylmer says that in Cambridge the conversion to Unicode is completed.
- In Edinburgh also Chinese records have been converted to Unicode. Tong Shenxiao also reports that he bought Apabi E-books.
- Hiroko Brittain reports that she is satisfied with the Wanfang database she has acquired.
- Sue Small explains that 19 academics have resigned their administrative posts in support of the redundancy of the area-specialist librarians.
- Martin Kröhe reports that their data have been included into the Bavarian Union Catalogue.

- Frederike Schimmelpfennig explains the situation of the sinological library in Erlangen.
- Hanno Lecher says that the Leiden University Library wants to include the Chinese library into its management.
- The catalogue in Bochum is being digitized says Silvia Sian
- John Michael Streffer announces he has retired from office and was replaced by Matthias Kaun.
- Cathy Thoelen explains that due to lack of space, books of the Ostasiatisches Seminar are being stored in a garage. Patrick Devries explains that Allegro has been put on their intranet, so that they can work with different people at the same time on the catalogue.
- Kira Rhode-Liebenau (retired) sends the meeting Michael Schutte's greetings
- Renate Stefan confirms the tendency of library management to provide funding for acquisitions but not for personnel.
- Frances Wood also complains that the support to scholars is getting worse, although there are a lot of China-oriented activities going on everywhere
- Delphine Spicq says she will be appointed in 2006
- Andreas Mixius declares that he is also happy with the acquisition and use of the Wanfang database
- Huang Xiyi explains that the card catalogue of Leeds has been digitized. The collection of the Royal Asiatic Society remains at Leeds now (about 60.000 titles). 5000 photographs of the period 1970-1980 will be digitalized.

3. Reports on conferences, meetings:

- John Michael Streffer informs the meeting that Claudia Lux, a former EASL member is now general secretary of IFLA.

4. Treasurer's report:

The arrangement stays as it is: Martin Hanke's account with EASL money grew from 1807,06 Euro with an interest of 8,92 Euro, totaling 1815,98 Euro.
The meeting has asked that Martin Hanke continues this task.

5. EASL Online resources:

5.1 EASL homepage:

It is again stressed that every member is urged to check if the data on his/her library are still correct and to make regular updates.

Just send your Emails with corrections and addenda to Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

5.2 Entry of libraries

Since most of the information is outdated and most libraries now have their own websites, what is needed here are only links. Please provide them to Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

5.3 Discussion List EASL-L

Members wish that the EASL-discussion list is maintained.

Members are urged to subscribe to the list. Please contact Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

6. IT demonstrations and discussions:

6.1 Demonstration of the Apabi eBook and Digital Library

Tong Shenxiao explains that Edinburgh has bought about 4.600 titles, and how his library uses them.

Scarlet Sijia He explains the development of Apabi e-book and www.founder.com.cn

6.2 CNKI development explanation

By Zhao Fenghua, CNKI. Concerning CAJ (China Academic Journals) database: for data before the year 2004; a project is running.

Free trial at www.cnki.net/index.htm , EASL consortium proposed

6.3 Superstar Digital Library

Explanation of the developments by Jason Han. www.ssreader.com

6.4 Demonstration of the Wanfang database

Explanations of the developments of the database by Danny Dingfei Liu.

www.wanfangdata.com

6.5 BULAC multiscript online catalogue

Cristina Cramerotti explains the projects for Paris' new BULAC library. She shows the Bulac catalogue online (millennium) <http://catalogue.bulac.fr>

2. Notices of members (continuation)

-The letter addressed to SOAS is accepted and undersigned by EASL members.

6.6 DACHS "Digital Archive of Chinese Studies"

Hanno Lecher explains the reasons for DACHS, which selects and archives certain internet resources for long-term preservation.

By now, the archives are password protected (for copyright reasons), but you can ask a free password.

Leiden works with topics, assigned to specialists who do the following up of that specific item on the Chinese Internet. The project director is R. Wagner. Heidelberg concentrates more on English-language resources.

DACHS has financial problems, money is needed for personnel. Expansion is the aim, also through inclusion of similar other projects.

More information on <http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/dachs/leiden/>

6.7 Online catalogue of the East-Asian Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

Matthias Kaun uses Allegro through web cataloguing interface, to avoid problems with the Window's version of Allegro.

They use a 'rectest' database, which includes the arrived books which are not yet catalogued.

Nacsis database records are imported in their database, as well as ChinaMarc records, which can be searched on.

This results in a remark by David Helliwell, who states that Marc21 is unsuitable for Chinese records. He says you should follow the solution of the National Library in China, where a Western-language database is made in Marc21 and a Chinese-language database in ChinaMarc, and both are simultaneously interrogated through one search. Working with Marc21 is more easy for Japanese than for Chinese, says David.

6.8 Project Digital Library East and Southeast Asia

Matthias Kaun introduces his project: "Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Ost Asien" aims to permit libraries in charge of special collections to integrate electronic sources into their collection. No other virtual library in Germany offers yet access to databases.

7. Acquisition of databases, books, periodicals

7.1 Access to databases (Germany, Leiden)

Matthias Kaun says he tries to offer the databases Berlin acquires to all users of the *Blaue Leihverkehr* in Germany.

Hanno introduces the Leiden-Leuven CAJ consortium project, which permits 8 other European libraries to enjoy the use of the *Siku Quanshu* almost for free.

David Helliwell says he pays 5.600 GBP to Tao Huang for access to the *Renmin Ribao*. CIBTC's price is probably more reasonable, he says.

Charles Aylmer says he thinks *Guoxue baodian* is not very expensive. They do not have a list, but Charles made an approximate list.

Hanno stresses the need for European common buying of databases. Matthias is asked if he can expand his (German) policy to the rest of Europe? John Michael Streffer stresses that 1 person always has to do the job. Cooperation can only be achieved if someone is ready to offer something, under the condition that everyone will accept.

8. Any other businesss

It is decided that from now on vendors will be invited to the EASL meeting for 1 day maximum. They will also be invited to join the visits and the dinner, and can have a presentation boot outside to show their products.

Hanno Lecher asked if the meeting could agree to change the day for the traditional EASL Farewell Dinner from Friday to Thursday night, because some people have to leave Friday night. But members voted to stick to Friday night.

9. Elections

No changes. Benedicte Vaerman and Cristina Cramerotti inform the meeting they will resign from their duties in 2006.

10. Next year's conference

There are two invitations: Moscow and Lund.

Lund's invitation stays also valid for the year 2007.

Therefore, Moscow is preferred in 2006. Marc Ulyanov will be our host.

Date fixed: 13 to 15 September 2006

The meeting wishes John Michael Streffer all the best with his retirement and thanks him for his commitment to EASL.

The Twenty-fifth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Matthias Kaun and his colleagues for their excellent arrangements.

Benedicte Vaerman

EASL Secretary

Leuven, February 21, 2006