

Chinese Collections of Top East Asian Libraries on the East Coast of the United States

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Abstract

To have better understanding of the Chinese collections from top six East Asian libraries on the East Coast, the authors did some researches and also conducted interviews with librarians of those libraries. This article is the framework of the information gathered and the focus is on the following aspects, 1. Historical background, 2. Overview of the development, 3. Subject strengths, 4. Special collections, 5. Internet resources. Meanwhile, the conclusion summaries the current problems and what the future holds for the development of Chinese collections at East Asian libraries in the U.S.A.

Keywords : *East Asian libraries—East Coast—United States; Chinese collections; Sinology studies—United States*

Introduction

Chinese American culture is an integral part of “American quilt”, so cultural diversity could serve as the key to promote racial integration and channel Chinese Americans into American mainstream. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in sinology studies at university campuses in the States, inspired by the expanding trade relations with China and the continuous influx of Chinese immigrants. Courses in Chinese history and culture have been added to the curricula of many universities, forming the nucleus of their Asian studies programs. Accordingly, the importance of Chinese collections in East Asian libraries are also being recognized, as they provide the core of resources for academic studies and scholarly research on China and the Chinese. Since each individual collection has its own strengths and specialties, it would be very helpful for users to have a general picture of the landscape.

The following study presents introductions to Chinese collections of six prominent East Asian libraries on the East Coast, and it is our hope that this

paper will inspire more comprehensive writing at this respect to serve the information needs of the general public.

Libraries surveyed in this paper by alphabetical order are: C.V. Starr East Asian Library of Columbia University; Wason Collection on China and the Chinese of Cornell University; Harvard-Yenching Library; Library of Congress; East Asian Library and the Gest Collection of Princeton; East Asian Library of Yale University.

It goes without saying that each library holds a mountain of treasures; however, due to the scope of this paper, only a precise description of each collection could be presented here. Meanwhile, depending on the information we gathered, descriptions for some libraries are more detailed and involved than others, though their importance carries same weight on our scale.

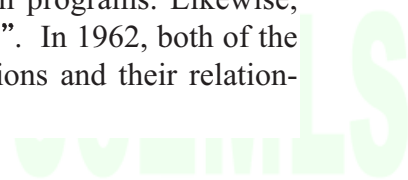
*C. V. Starr East Asian Library
Columbia University
300 Kent Hall
1140 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10027*

Historical background

Chinese studies and Chinese collection are like hands and legs of a body. They are actually separate but closely connected units. The growth of East Asian Library and Chinese studies at Columbia tells a story about this theory.

In 1901, \$100,000, donated by General Horace Walpole Carpentier and \$12,000, coming from his friend Dean Lung became the seed money of establishing a department of Chinese at Columbia. In 1902, Frederick Hirth was appointed as the first Dean Lung professor of Chinese Department, and was also the first curator of Chinese collection. For the first two decades after its beginning, the collection development was at a slow pace, but the growth has been very steady since mid 1920's because the financial support from the university administration has been very strong. In addition, private donations and grant monies kept coming to make impressive achievements possible.

In 1950's, the Department of Chinese was expanded to the Department of East Asia with the addition of Japanese and Korean programs. Likewise, Chinese library was renamed as "East Asian Library". In 1962, both of the Department and the Library moved to present locations and their relationship has remained close over a century.



In 1983, the name of “East Asian Library” was changed to “C.V. Starr East Asian Library” as a token of appreciation with the long term monetary contributions from Starr Foundation.

Overview of development

Dr. Amy Henrich, an expert in Japanese literature, is currently the Library director, and has been with this Library since 1987.

As of 2001 total Chinese collection was: Monographs—342,000 volumes; serials and newspapers—50 titles; microforms—17,800 reels. The quantity and the quality of the Chinese collection have made this Library a leading research center of Chinese studies.

Approximately 98 percent of the holding information is available on Columbia online catalog-CLIO. For the remainder, the card catalog has to be consulted.

There are two pressing problems the Library is facing. One is the shortage of shelving space. What has come up to solve the problem is the ReCap project which means sharing the storage of old materials at the Princeton University campus with Princeton and New York Public Library. Those materials will be available upon messenger service. The other is the vacancy of Chinese bibliographer, which has made quality service unavoidably compromised.

Subject strengths

1. The collection is particularly strong in Chinese literature, history, local gazetteers.

2. The extensive collection of genealogy related to China is the second best in the world, only next to the Shanghai University Library.

Special collections

1. 5044 volumes of *Tu Shu Ji Cheng*(圖書集成), the great Qing encyclopedia. These books were given to Columbia President Seth Low as a gift by the empress Dowager of China.

2. Oracle bones(甲骨文). These bones demonstrate the earliest form of Chinese.

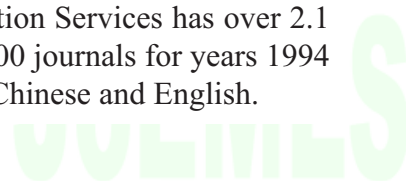
Electronic resources

A. Database subscriptions

The following databases are available to Columbia faculty, staff and students only:

1. China academic journals

This database provided by Eastview Information Services has over 2.1 million full text and/or full image articles from 1,700 journals for years 1994 through the present. Interface is available in both Chinese and English.



2. Siku Quan Shu (四庫全書)

This searchable full text database published by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Digital Heritage Publishing Ltd. Contains 3460+ titles of the Wenyuange edition of the Siku Quan Shu and other useful reference books.

B. Digital projects

A few digitization projects are in progress. Digitizing *Ling Lung Women's magazine*(玲瓏) is just finished and available to the general public from the Library home page.

Ling Lung was published from 1931 to 1937 in Shanghai and is the treasure of Chinese social history during that period of time, so is a highly demanded publication by scholars and students interested in this respect. Columbia is the only library outside China, which owns a nearly complete set.

Wason Collection on China and the Chinese

Carl Kroch Library

Cornell University Library

Ithaca, NY 14853

Historical background

It has been known that alumni contributions play a big share at the success of some prestigious universities in the U.S.A. This was a factor for the birth of Chinese collection at Cornell University.

In 1919, Charles William Wason (1854-1918), a Cornell graduate in 1876, donated \$50,000, along with his own 9,000-volume collection of English books on China and the Chinese to the University. His collection includes 500 manuscripts bound in 55 volumes; 750 pamphlets bound in 120 volumes; issues of 37 journals and newspapers published in China; 62,000 article clippings on China, etc. These donations triggered the beginning of Chinese collection, which has been named after him and also laid the foundation for future success.

It was around 1930's when Wason collection began to grow rapidly with Mr. Wason's monetary donation, University budget allocations and outside grants. From 1940 until the onset of Cultural Revolution, the emphasis of collection development was placed on the acquisitions of contemporary publications of Mainland China for the period of post-1949 on all subjects. However, this effort ran into difficulty due to the restrictions during Revolution period due to China's policy. Therefore, from 1966 to early 1970's, the Library was working on closing the gap of insufficient materials

for the period 1900-1949.

Starting from late 1970's when China gradually walked out of the shadow of Cultural Revolution, the priority of collection development went back to the materials of contemporary China. Meanwhile, the acquisitions of reprints or microfilms of pre-20th century materials were also focuses. Through these diversified goals, the breath and excellence of Wason Collection have been highly recognized by scholars in Chinese studies.

Overview of development

Gussie Gaskill, also a Cornell graduate, was appointed as the first curator of Wason collection in 1927, and her tenure lasted for four decades. Needless to say, she was the one who held the rein of Wason Collection development and led the way to its excellence. The current curator is Dr. Thomas Hahn who is a Chinese historian.

As of 2001, the Chinese monograph holdings for the collection were 335,000 volumes. Besides, there are 15,000 volumes of Japanese and 30,000 volumes of European languages on China and the Chinese. With this size and many special materials, Wason Collection has been ranked as outstanding and also facilitated research in Chinese studies throughout the country.

Unlike other major East Asian libraries in the States, materials in both Chinese and Western languages are inter-shelved. While Wason collection is separately located, the bibliographies are available through integrated University online catalog.

Subject strengths

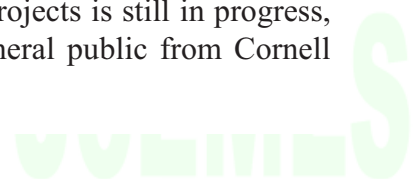
1. The comprehensive English books on China and the Chinese for pre-1918 period.
2. A few 16th- or 17th-century manuscripts of Latin, Portuguese, and Spanish languages on China.
3. Voluminous materials published in Mainland China since 1949.

Special collections

1. Five volumes of *Yung Lo Ta Tien*(永樂大典), the 15th-century Chinese encyclopedia. Out of these original 5 volumes, 3 were among Wason's donations; and the other 2 were donated by Sir Sao-ke Alfred Sze.
2. Manuscript papers relating to Macartney's embassy to China.
3. A complete set of *China Maritime Customs Services*.

Electronic resources

The construction for the following digitizing projects is still in progress, but they are already partially available to the general public from Cornell home page.



1. Chinese Historical Geography—a bibliography of reference works. Reference works on Chinese historical geography are classified as 15 categories, and a list of titles with detailed information will appear under each category.

2. Chinese gazetteers—overview of identified spatial elements. This database presents structured overview of independently treated, spatially relevant elements identified in 40 Chinese local mountain gazetteers. The element types that have been implemented are: Natural features and building types.

3. Bibliography of photo albums and photography related to China and Tibet pre-1949. It is a bibliography of quite unique albums ranging from late Qing Dynasty to the Republican period. At present, there are 198 items indexed. Under each item, the bibliography covers a variety of issues concerning the album such as author, title, year, regions, description, and biography of the photographer.

Harvard-Yenching Library
2 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02318

Overview of development

“Owning a wealth of books commands reverence just like a rich and powerful lord.” (擁書權拜小諸侯), the calligraphic scripts hanging at the entrance of the Harvard-Yenching Library fittingly describe the Library’s eminence and prestige in the Western academic world. Harvard Yenching Library is the largest university library for East Asian research outside of Asia; its holdings rank second only to the Library of Congress. The core collection of the Library consists of approximately 980,000 volumes in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese languages, plus smaller collections in Tibetan, Manchu, and Mongolian. The Chinese collection alone contains about 589,000 volumes, including 150,000 volumes of valuable rare books.

In addition to the core collection, the Library owns 5,702 of current serial titles, 32 newspapers, and 83,537 reels of microforms. For each country encompassed in the Library’s scope, the collections provides comprehensive coverage of history, language and literature, philosophy and religion, fine arts, as well as primary and secondary sources for the study of modern and contemporary periods in the social sciences. Each collection, however, also has its own unique strength and features. The Chinese collection, for example, owns a matchless rare book collection in the United States. It is also

very strong in publications concerning the history and politics of modern China.

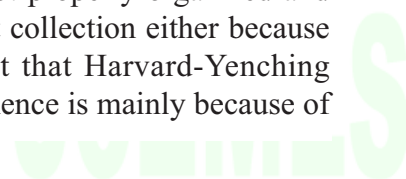
Historical Background

The origins of Harvard-Yenching Library can be traced back to 1879, when the study of Chinese was introduced into Harvard's curriculum at the suggestion of some Boston businessmen engaged in trading with China. A scholar by the name of Ko K'un-hua was invited to be the first teacher. The small collection that was bought for Mr. Ko's course comprised the original Chinese collection. A few decades later, in 1914, two Japanese professors donated several important groups of Japanese publications on Sinology and Buddhism to the Harvard College Library, forming Harvard's initial Japanese collection. These two collections formed the core of Harvard's East Asian Library. However, it was not until 1928, when the Harvard-Yenching Institute was established, that the Chinese-Japanese collections found a home of their own.

Harvard-Yenching institute was founded in 1928, through the efforts of Stuart J. Leighton, then the president of Yenching University in Beijing. The estate of the late Charles Martin Hall, the founder of the Aluminum Company of America, provided the funding. According to Hall's will, the estate was to support the establishment of an institute formed by the partnership of an American university and a Chinese university, with the dual purpose of promoting higher education in Asia and also promoting Asian studies at Harvard. Mr. Leighton persuaded Harvard to select Yenching University as the Chinese partner school, forming the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

As part of the dual-studies program, the Chinese-Japanese collections, numbering 4526 volumes in Chinese and 1688 volumes in Japanese, were transferred to the Institute in 1929. In 1931 the name was changed to Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute (this name was changed to Harvard-Yenching Library in 1965 to better reflect the expanded scope of the Library). In 1958, the Library moved to its present site. Later, as the Library continued to grow very rapidly and its budget was becoming very costly, the Institute decided to turn over the management of the Library to Harvard. The Harvard-Yenching Library was officially incorporated into the Harvard Library System as one of its member libraries in 1976. The Institute, however, still supplies part of the funding of the Library.

The original collections of the Library were not properly organized and classified. The books did not comprise a coherent collection either because they were not systematically acquired. The fact that Harvard-Yenching Library could grow and develop to its present eminence is mainly because of



the generous support of the Harvard Yenching Institute, and the dedicated stewardship of its librarians: Alfred Kaiming Chiu (裘開明), Eugene Wenjin Wu (吳文津), and the present incumbent James Kwing-man Cheng (鄭炯文).

Dr. Kaiming Chiu, a librarian educated in library schools both in China and in the United States, came to Harvard to pursue his PHD studies in 1927. He was asked to do something to organize the Japanese-Chinese Collection. He accepted this challenge and became the Collection's first Custodian, starting a stewardship of forty year. The first major accomplishment Dr. Chiu achieved was to devise a classification scheme that would be suitable for an American library and yet flexible enough to accommodate the basic requirements of traditional bibliographical practice in East Asia. The scheme, known as the "Harvard-Yenching system" (also known as the Chiu classification system), was published in 1943 and became a milestone in East Asian librarianship in the United States. It is still the preferred classification system used by many East Asian libraries today. Another cataloging innovation was to put Romanize form of author and title on the catalog card in addition to the script, making it possible for the arrangement of a dictionary catalog of East Asian publications in Western libraries. This procedure has since been firmly established as standard cataloging practice.

Besides organizing the Collection, Dr. Chiu's other formidable task was collection development. Fortunately, he was able to enlist the help of Yenching University to make duplicate purchases of many books, one copy for itself and one copy for Harvard. In addition, direct purchases were also made from the Commercial Press and Chug Hua Book Co. in China, and from bookstores in Japan. Dr. Chiu supervised the acquisitions activities and even went to China himself to collect rare books and original editions. The generous financial support from the Institute made it possible for the Library to institute a large scale, systematic acquisition program. In just a few years, the Library's holdings had increased seven and a half times.

Besides contemporary publications, most of Yenching Library's collection of rare books, including Ming and Ching's writings, ts'ung-shu (collectanea), local histories, genealogies, and various classics were all acquired during Dr. Chiu's tenure. The turmoil in China during World War II and the Civil War that followed no doubt affected the Library's acquisition activities, but Dr. Chiu still was able to acquire microfilms of rare books from the Library of Congress. After the World War II many Japanese collectors were forced to sell their collections due to financial hardship, offering wonderful opportunities for Dr. Chiu to acquire many valuable original editions and other rare items from the Ming and Sung Dynasties. Another notable acquisition in the mid 60's was a special collection of Chinese drama and novels

assembled by the famous dramatist Ch'i Ju-shan.

In the decades after World War II, subsequent expansion in Harvard's East Asian curriculum led to a similar expansion in the Library's scope. Tibetan, Mongolian, and Manchu collections were added, as well as a Western language collection about East Asia. A Korean collection was inaugurated in 1951, a Vietnamese collection in 1973. Under the stewardship of Dr. Chiu's successor, Dr. Wu Wen-jing, the emphasis of the collection also gradually shifted from a humanities collection to a collection that encompasses East Asian materials in all disciplines, especially in the social sciences.

Dr. Wu was a librarian as well as a historian. Under his leadership, the Library acquired extensive primary and secondary sources for the study of the modern and contemporary history of China. For example, in the mid 60's, Dr. Wu assembled a valuable collection of Cultural Revolution materials. A Tiananmen Archive was established in the fall of 1989. During his tenure of 32 years, the size of Library's collection doubled, with strong holdings not only in humanities but also in the social sciences.

While Dr. Chiu and Dr. Wu were renowned bibliophiles, the current librarian, Cheng Kwing-man, is ready to lead the Library into the electronic age. One of his goals is to digitalize part of the collections and put them on the Internet for access. Besides the full-text databases from Academia Sinica, the Library is now developing a large scale visual arts database which will include collections of old photographs, the Joseph Rock collection, women's writings, and GIS maps. As to the Library's services, Mr. Cheng plans to completely automate its acquisition system and circulation system to expedite the workflow of technical services and to make collection access simpler and more efficient. In collection development, Mr. Cheng plans to expand acquisition activities from central cities like Beijing and Shanghai to provincial cities where books of local characteristics can be collected. In addition, he is also interested in collecting self-published books in China. Since space is becoming a very serious problem, Mr. Cheng plans to re-define Harvard-Yenching as a purely research and scholarly library, moving items of popular culture to another public library site.

Although to describe and analyze Harvard-Yenching's Chinese collection could fill many voluminous books, the scope of this paper only allows a brief introduction of some of its most distinguished characteristics. The bibliography attached should be helpful to readers interested in learning more about the Collection.

Subject strengths

The Chinese Collection is most acclaimed for its 150,000 volumes of

rare book holdings that encompass a great variety of items, including manuscripts; original editions in different types of prints; classics; local histories; government documents; genealogies; ts'ung-shu (collectanea); correspondences and writings of individuals in the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties; polite literature; drama; and novels. The Collection is also very strong in materials on the history and politics of modern and contemporary China. Social science publications were given increased attention during the tenure of Dr. Eugene Wu. Acquisitions in this area has grown so much that the entire collection that was once predominately humanistic has gradually evolved into a collection that encompasses almost all disciplines. Recently, the collection also added many full text databases from Academia Sinica and a number of electronic newspapers and journals.

Harvard-Yenching Library published its first Chinese book catalog in the 1930s as a means to provide bibliographical access to the Library's collections. Although the project was interrupted by World War II and was never completed, several bibliographies based on parts of the Library's collections were published after the War. From 1984 to 1986, the entire Chinese and Japanese card catalogs were photographically reproduced in 72 volumes. The Library began its on-line catalog in 1989, using the OCLC CJK system. All machine-readable records are available on the OCLC CJK database and on RLIN. They are accessible through HOLLIS (Harvard On-Line Library Information System) on the Internet.

Special features

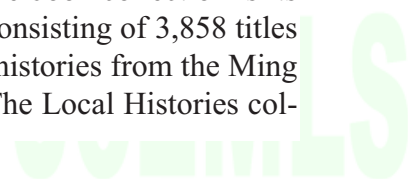
1. Rare Book Collection

The most distinguished characteristic of Harvard-Yehching is its Rare Book collection, one of the best rare book collections in the world. The Collection spans one thousand years of history, from the 12th to 19th centuries. Its holdings contain many rare and valuable imprints from four great dynasties at the peak of the Chinese civilization: Sung (960-1279), Yuan (1280-1368), Ming (1368-1644), and Ch'ing (1644-1911). Among them, there are about 1450 block prints from the four dynasties; a number of multi-color prints; movable copper prints; gigantic encyclopedia sets, collectanea, manuscripts; manuscripts containing authors' original hand written drafts (稿本), and rubbings.

Special Collections of the Rare Book Collection

A. Local histories (方志)

One of the most noted features of the Library's rare book collection is its extensive assortment of local histories (Fang Chih), consisting of 3,858 titles in 35,000 volumes. Among them, two original local histories from the Ming Dynasty are the only existing editions in the world. The Local Histories col-



lection is particularly strong in histories printed in Kang-hsi, Yung-cheng, and Ch'ien-lung periods of the early Ch'ing Dynasty. In comparison, the Library's local histories collection is about 46% of the total number of local histories owned by China, comprising 59 % of the total number of volumes.

B. Manuscripts

The manuscript collection of Harvard-Yenching ranks first in the United States, containing over 500 extremely valuable items. Among them, there are unique samples of the two great Imperial Manuscript Libraries, the *Yung Lo Ta Tien* (永樂大典, 1403-1408), of which Harvard has two original volumes, and the *Ssu-ku ch'uan shu* (四庫全書, 1773-1787), of which Harvard has one work from the *Wen Lan Ko* (文瀾閣) set and another work from the Hanlin Academy draft copy. The manuscripts also contain a large amount of government documents on taxation, land system, local court papers, and color maps. Such documents are the primary sources for the study of local government and economic history of China. Another valuable source for studying Chinese history is the personal correspondences of eminent officials of the time, such as the letters of the famous Ming general Ch'i Chi-kuang (戚繼光). To study family history, the Library's genealogy collection ranks only second to Columbia University, containing about 150 items.

C. Classics

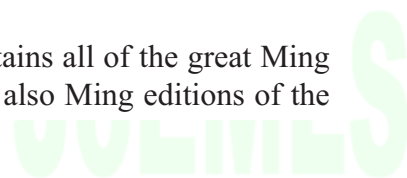
The Classics collection contains all the major repertories in original editions, such as the 1815 edition of the "Thirteen Classics and Standard Commentaries". For commentaries by Sung and Yuan scholars there is the *Tung-chih-t'ang ching-chieh* (通志堂經解) published in 500 volumes in 1675. For commentaries of the Ch'ing dynasty, there are the *Huang Ch'ing ching-chieh* (皇清經解, 1860), with its supplement (1888). Besides these standard collectanea, the Library also has many separate commentaries published by individual author.

D. Polite Literature, Drama, and Novels

Polite literature contains about 50,000 volumes, embracing all the usual repertories of prose and poetry. In addition, there is also an assortment of collected literary works of individual scholars. Most unique among the Far Eastern Collections in the West is the Library's collection of Chinese drama and novels, based upon the acquisition of the private collection of the famed dramatist Chi Ju-shan (齊如山). Most of these plays and novels are of Ming editions, and some are banned books due to their amorous nature. A few of them, like the *Tao hua yin* (桃花影), may be the only copy in the world.

E. Reference Works

The collection of Chinese reference works contains all of the great Ming and Ch'ing encyclopedias in original editions, and also Ming editions of the



Tang, Sung and Yuan encyclopedias. One item particularly worth mentioning is the enormous set *Ku chin t'u shu chi ch'eng* (古今圖書集成) in 5020 volumes, published in 1726.

F. Rubbings

In addition to the large quantity of rubbing reproductions, the Library also owns over a hundred original rubbings, which are most valuable for the study of Chinese calligraphy and for comparing classical and existing historical texts in books.

2.Modern Collection

Due to large scale and systematic purchases, Yenching's holdings of publications in modern and contemporary times are very extensive, covering all disciplines and are especially strong in humanities and social sciences. Several special collections most valuable to the study of current Chinese history include: 1. Primary and secondary sources for the study of the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party; 2. Collections of personal papers; 3. Archives of the trustees of Lingnan University in Canton; 4. Cultural Revolution collection, containing wall posters, news bulletins of the red guards, handbills, photographs and reprints; 5. Tiananmen Archive, containing handbills, petitions, pamphlets, eyewitness reports, photographs, and videotapes.

Electronic resources

A. Databases in Chinese:

The Library has 5 full-text databases of Chinese classics from Academia Sinica: Han chi tien tzu wen hsien (漢籍電子文獻); Twenty-Five Dynastic Histories (二十五史); Wen hsin tiao lung (文心雕龍); Fo ching san lun (佛經三論); Fu SSu-nien Library Rarebook Database (傅斯年善本資料庫). From the National Central Library, the Library subscribes to a number of ROC government databases. The other two full-text databases the Library subscribes besides the above are the UVA Electronic Text Center, and the CHANT Database.

B.Electronic Newspapers and Journals

Harvard-Yenching subscribes to the China Academic Journals database and to also about 10 major newspapers published in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan in the electronic format, including: China News Digest, China Times, Ming Pao Daily News, People's Daily, Sing Tao Electronic Daily, United Daily News, Wen Hui Daily, World Journal, Gateway Service Center of Chinese Academic Journal Publications, HKINChip (香港中文期刊論文索引).

C. WEB Resources

Yenching is connected to many East Asian studies WEB sites, accessible

through the Library's home page. Some of the more important ones include: The Internet Guide for China Studies, Orientation (Asia's Web Directory), Chinese-Language Related Information Page(a comprehensive source page for all types of Chinese resources), China Internet Information Center; Resources for the Study of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism, The National Palace Museum, Taiwan WWW Virtual Library, JSTOR Journal storage Web site (access to full text Asian studies journals in English).

The combination of strong leadership and rich resources has made, and will continue to make, Harvard-Yenching Library a great research institution. Before ending this survey, the second important characteristic of the Library must not be overlooked: its accessibility. Unlike many Sinology research libraries in China where access to collections, especially to rare book collections, is extremely difficult, Harvard-Yenching is open to scholars from all over the world. Users from Harvard as well as outside visitors can use the Library's resources without bureaucratic restrictions; and procedures of its services, from reference inquiries to searching catalogs to registration to getting the material, are all convenient and flexible. As Mr. Cheng points out: "books are valuable because they can help people to expand their knowledge. If we collect books but wouldn't allow people to read them, what's the point of collecting?"

*The Chinese Collection of the Library of Congress
East Asian Reading Room, Thomas Jefferson Building
The Library of Congress*

Overview of development

Outside of China, the largest, most comprehensive and accessible Sinology library is no doubt the Chinese Collection of the Library of Congress. The Collection boasts a total of 850,000 volumes of books, manuscripts, and miscellaneous publications. In addition, it also contains over 12,000 periodical and 1,200 newspaper titles. Currently, the Library receives about 45 Chinese language newspapers published in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, United States, and other parts of the world. The Library also has extensive microfilm/microfiche collection to supplement the historical holdings of newspapers and journals.

The Chinese Collection contains a wealth of resources covering almost all subjects except clinical medicine (housed in the National Library of Medicine), agricultural technology (housed in the National Library of Agriculture), and law (housed in the Far Eastern Law Division). It is especially strong in humanities (40%) and social sciences (40%). Besides these

two major disciplines, the rest of the collection consists of general works, science and technology works, bibliographies and other miscellaneous items.

The Collection has long been established as one of the greatest Sinology research centers in the world. Besides offering its resources for scholars to explore, the Library also presents a host of diverse activities on Chinese matters, including special displays, exhibits, lectures, and conferences. Through intricate computer networks, the Library collects electronic resources on China and Asia, making them easily accessible to the West. The cataloging data of the collection, distributed through cards, books, and electronic formats, provide access and information about the collection's contents to users not only in the United States but also around the world.

Historical background

The Chinese Collection started with a rather humble beginning. In 1869, Emperor T'ung-chih of the Qing Dynasty presented 10 works in 933 volumes to the Library of Congress as a gift. A decade later, in 1879, the Library purchased a collection of 237 titles (2,500 volumes) from Caleb Cushing, the first American envoy to China. Cushing originally collected these Chinese books during 1844 when he negotiated the first U.S./China treaty in Macau. The Cushing Collection, although not large, laid the foundation of the Chinese Collection and remains as one of the most valuable special collections in the Library of Congress. Cushing, being a scholar himself, had a better understanding and also a deeper appreciation of Chinese culture and learning than the average foreigners at that time. The books he chose were rich in works on history, medicine, classics, poetry, ethics, essays, and dictionaries. Among them there were some very rare materials, including ten titles in ten volumes of books printed in the Taiping Rebellion, Chinese works written by Jesuits, and some outstanding books in Manchu, the official language of the Qing Dynasty. Cushing studied Manchu, and the books he selected form the core the Library's fine Manchu collection.

Other notable acquisitions during this early period included the Rockhill Collection of 6000 volumes in 1901-2, and the gift of the Chinese government of 198 works in 1,965 volumes in 1904. By 1912, the Collection had grown considerably, to about 16,900 volumes. At about this time, the work of classifying and cataloging the collection also began. Many prominent sinologists participated in this initial project. Subsequent developments continued to expand the scope of the Collection. Dr. H.K. Fung acquired 17,208 volumes for the Collection in 1913; W.W. Rockhill presented 6,000 volumes in 1915. In 1928, 12,819 volumes were transferred from the

John Crerar Library in Chicago; and in 1929, the family collection of Wang Shu-an, consisting of 22,100 volumes, was acquired by Andrew W. Mellon for the Library of Congress.

Between 1913 and 1937, following the policy of the Librarian of Congress, Herbert Putman, large scale and wide-range collection effort was carried out by Walter T. Swingle, who made numerous trips to Asia and bought tens of thousands of volumes. In 1937, a collection of 1,070 of local gazetteers was acquired through Joseph F. Rock. In 1934, an acquisition trip to China by Arthur W. Hummel, a China specialist and the first chief of the Library's Division of Chinese Literature, resulted in the addition of 7,721 volumes. During his 26 years of tenure at the Library of Congress, Hummel presided over the growth of the Library's Asian collection to true world-class status.

Throughout the 20th century, additions to the Collection were continuously being made through acquisitions of private collections, as well as direct purchases from Asia. Exchanges from major libraries and gifts also brought substantial additions to the Collection. Currently, the Collection continues to expand through exchanges and gifts, and through large and extensive purchases. Most of the purchases of the Division now are made through the supplies of several blanket-order dealers in Beijing, Taipei, and Hong Kong.

Subject strengths

The Chinese Collection is strong in its diversity and its comprehensiveness. Not only virtually all subjects of value to scholarly pursuit and general interests are included, the collection is also well known for its many rare items and special collections. The afore-mentioned Cushing Collection, for example, offers invaluable primary sources for the social/ historical study of the late Qing Dynasty. Other notable special collections are listed below.

Special collections

1. Chinese Rare Book Collection: Consists of about 2000 titles, including 11 Song, 1 Jin, 14 Yuan, 1518 Ming, and 70 early Qing imprints. There are also about 140 original manuscripts and 93 miscellaneous items. (For bibliographic information see "A Descriptive Catalog of Rare Chinese Books in the Library of Congress", originally compiled by C.M. Wang and revised by T.L. Yuan in 1957).

2. Chinese Local Histories: Present holdings are estimated to have about 4000 titles. Most of them are printed in the Qing Dynasty, with especially strong holdings on such provinces as Hebei, Shandong, Jiangsu and Sichuan. (For bibliographical information about the original collection, see "A Catalog of Chinese Local Histories in the Library of Congress" by S.C.

Chu, 1942).

3. 一切如來(*Buddhist Invocation Sutra*): Printed in 975 AD, this Buddhist invocation sutra was buried under The Thunder Peak Pagoda (雷鋒塔) for about a thousand before it was excavated in 1924. It is one-of the oldest printed works owned by the Library of Congress.

4. *Yongle da dian* 永樂大典(Great Encyclopedia of the Ming Emperor Yongle): The earliest and largest encyclopedia. The Library has 41 of the surviving volumes.

5. *Gu jin tu shu ji cheng* 古今圖書集成 (Imperial Encyclopedia of China): The second largest Chinese encyclopedia, printed in 1728 in 5040 volumes. The Library owns two sets.

6. Gamble Collection: From the 19th century American missionary printer. Includes Christian publications in Chinese and translations of Western works.

7. The Naxi Collection: The Library has a unique collection of 3,337 pictographic manuscripts from the Naxi (Moso) minority group of the Yunnan province. These documents are not only rare but also are extremely important in anthropology research because they reveal the religious history of a little known ancient tribe still living in modern China. The Library's collection of Naxi 納西 manuscripts contain many unique examples of the living pictographic language in the world today. Recently, in 2002, a detailed annotated catalog describing the collection, compiled by Professor Zhu Bao-Tian from the Yunnan Provincial Museum, has been completed and is available in manuscript form in the Asian Division.

8. Manchu Collection: An extensive collection of 400 titles covering a variety of subjects, such as, language and literature, philosophy, religion, politics and the Chinese classics, etc., including 45 items in manuscript form. (For Bibliographical information see "A Catalogue of Manchu Books in the Library of Congress", by J. Matsumura, in the *Toyo Gakuho*, v. 57, nos 1- 2, Jan. 1976).

9. Mongolian Collection: Consist of 80 items, most of them uncataloged (3 manuscripts, 77 xylographs). The categories are: Canonical works; ritual and devotional works; philosophy; biography; history; language; medicine; and collectanea. (For Bibliographical information see "A Description of the Mongolian Manuscripts and Xylographs in Washington, D.C.," by D. M. Farquhar in *Central Asiatic Journal*, v. 1, no. 3, 1955).

Current trends

Since the United States re-established relationship with China in the 1970's, there has been a very rapid growth in the Library's Chinese Collection. A formal exchange agreement with the National Library of

Beijing was signed in 1979, and between then and now, the Collection increased from 400,000 volumes to about 850,000 volumes. A number of “gray literatures” (unpublished tracts from Hong Kong and Taiwan) has been acquired, along with a collection of modern day county gazetteers and statistical yearbooks on subjects such as international trade. In 2000, the Library received a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to collect contemporary publications throughout China. The Library’s China specialists make trips to China regularly every year to select books supplied by special dealers. Five areas of concentration are being emphasized: international relations; history of the Communist Party; American Studies in China; and military affairs.

As the Library is entering the electronic age, its new focus is on introducing digitalization into the Collection’s contents, services and programs. At present, the Library has WEB links to in-depth and authoritative information resources about China, and subscribes to the China Academic Journals, a comprehensive database provided by Eastview Information Services that contains over 2.1 million full text and/or full image articles from 1,700 journals, dating from 1994 to present.

Since the Library of Congress is under the auspices of the Congress and is the recipient of generous grants and gifts, the development and growth of the Chinese collection is unlimited. At present, like many large Sinology libraries, space is becoming a serious problem. The Library has shifted many of its less frequently used collections to off site locations, to be retrieved on request. Digitalizing some of the older collections is another way of space conservation.

Location: The Chinese Collection is available in the Asian Division Reading Room, Thomas Jefferson Building, The Library of Congress.
www.loc.gov/rr/asian

The East Asian Library and the Gest Collection
Princeton University
33 First Campus Center
Princeton, NJ 08544

Historical background

In 1929 a joint effort of acquiring a book collection, which was also known as Gest Collection, from McGill University in Montreal, Canada by the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and Rockefeller Foundation paved the road for the establishment of East Asian Library at Princeton University. In 1937, the Gest Collection, named after the founder Guion

Moore Gest (1864-1948), which included 75,000 volumes was transferred to Princeton University Library. Along with this transfer were 27,000 volumes sent from Peiping by I.V. Gillis, who was Mr. Gest's purchasing consultant in China. The total of 102,000 volumes formed the frame of the Gest Oriental Library, and both Mr. Gest and Mr. Gillis were considered as its founders.

The Gest Library suffered financial difficulty for the first two decades after the founding because it was still not part of University libraries and received no monetary support from the University. Until 1950's when the University established East Asian programs the Gest Library was officially under the umbrella of University libraries and started to pick up the speed for development. In 2000, the Library name was changed from the Gest Oriental Library to the East Asian Library and the Gest Collection.

Overview of development

Nancy Lee Swann, the first woman of Chinese studies in the West, was the first curator of the Gest Library. After her retirement, Hu Shi 胡適, the famous Chinese scholar, succeeded her in 1950, and managed this Library for 2 years. The current director is Dr. Tai-Loi Ma 馬泰來, a renowned scholar in Chinese classic literature.

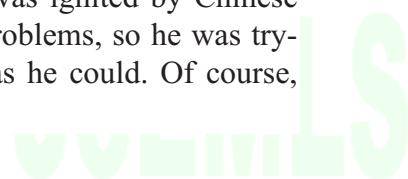
As of 2001, the total monographs were 425,000 volumes; microforms were 23,000 reels. Besides, there are huge collection of western-language books and serials which are related to Chinese literature, language and culture. With this size and quality of the collection, this Library is ranked as the third largest research center in sinology studies in the U.S.A. Chinese materials cataloged post 1984 and all the Western language materials can be accessed through the library online catalog, and those which are not available online can be looked up at the card catalogs. A retrospective conversion project is underway and is expected to complete within next 3 years.

The collection has been increasing rapidly, and, meanwhile, a renovation of the building took away some bookshelves for safety measure, so the Library has the serious problem of crowdedness. As mentioned at Columbia section, a cooperative storage in the Princeton campus has been operational to house those pre-1984 materials, and they are available to the patrons upon request by messenger service.

Subject strengths

1. Traditional Chinese medicine

Mr. Gest's interest in collecting Chinese books was ignited by Chinese medicine which did "magic" on his lingering eye problems, so he was trying to acquiring as many Chinese medicine books as he could. Of course, this category became the strength of Gest collection.



2. Works on literature, history, philosophy, Buddhism, and classics are also very comprehensive.

Special collections

Roughly speaking, near 40 percent from the original Gest collection can be classified as “special collection”. The following is some unique items in the world.

1. Books printed from wood blocks cut in the years A.D. 1232-1322 (Sung and Yuan Dynasties)
2. 1544 edition of Sima Guang's (司馬光) historical compilation
3. Ming manuscript of Han Yu's (韓愈) literary work
4. Original copy of *Zi Zhi Tong Jian* (資治通鑑)
5. *Qisha Da Zang Jing* (大藏經), dated from Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1271-1368) Dynasties

It is understandable that the above-mentioned are only a small corner of their treasures. For detailed descriptions of their special collection, the following two books are the best resources: 1. 中文善本書志, 屈萬里著; 2. 舊籍古書目錄(1644-1911), 昌彼得著.

Electronic resources

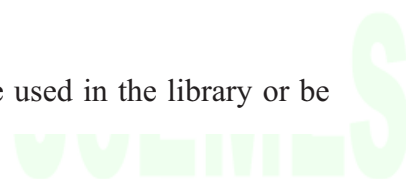
A. Database subscriptions:

The access is limited to valid Princeton IP addresses.

1. Chinese academic journals (for the description see the item under Columbia)
2. Siku Quan Shu (see the item under Columbia)
3. Renda Fuyin Baokan Ziliao databases (複印報刊資料)
It contains 2 sets of databases: a. Fuyin baokan ziliao “suoyin” zonghui — a selected index to articles for the years 1978-2001; b. Fuyin baokan ziliao quanwen shuju(廣文書局) — a full-text set for the articles from 1995 to the present
4. Quanguo baokan suoyin databases (全國報刊索引)
It contains 150,000 entries covered in 7000 current journals and 200 newspapers.
5. Zhongguo jindai qikan pianmu shujuku(中國清代期刊編目書籍庫)
It contains some 400,000 entries from 535 titles in subjects of politics, economics and diplomacy for the period 1857-1919
6. Chinese Ancient Texts databases (CHANT)
The databases, divided into a. pre-Han & Han(漢), pre-220 A.D.; b. Six Dynasties (六朝, 581 A.D.), contains 30 million characters of full-text access to traditional Chinese literature

B. CD-ROMs

There are quite a few CD-ROMs which can be used in the library or be



checked out with valid IDs.

*East Asia Library
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520*

Historical background

This library has a history of over 120 years, and, same as Cornell, its origin was the contribution of alumni. In 1878, Yung Wing, a Yale graduate in 1854 and the first Chinese major graduate in the United States, donated a great part of his own Chinese collection to Yale, and laid the foundation of this notable collection. In 1877, Samuel Wells William was appointed as professor of Chinese and also responsible for collecting related materials.

Yale also experienced a slow start. In fact, steady progress in collection development was not noticeable until 1960's after Council on East Asian Studies (CEAL) was established at Yale in 1961. The function of CEAL is to promote Asian studies in many American universities with generous funding. The money coming from this organization during this period has tremendously enhanced the Chinese collection at Yale.

Based on that boost, for the past thirty five years, Chinese collection has tripled its holdings and therefore fulfilled well its primary goal of supporting research and teaching sinology studies at Yale University.

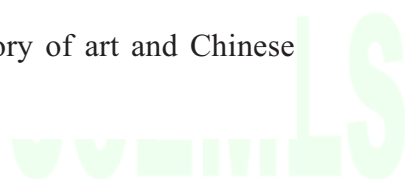
Overview of development

In 1906, Kanichi Asakawa, a Japanese scholar, was appointed as the first curator of the Chinese and Japanese collection. His tenure spanned for 42 years, and his contributions were mainly on Japanese materials. The current director is Ms. Ellen Hammond who is also a Japanese expert.

As of 2001, the holdings for Chinese collection were: 414,000 volumes of monographs; 1600 serials; 8000 reels or sheets of microforms. A majority of these materials are inter-shelved with Yale collection at the stacks of Sterling Memorial Library and Mudd Library. Current Chinese periodicals and major reference books are located at East Asia Reading Room; Some special collections are housed in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The bibliographies for Chinese collection are fully automated and can be accessed through Yale University online catalog, ORBIS.

Subject strengths

1. Chinese literature since 1919
2. Archaeology, Buddhism, modern history, history of art and Chinese economics.



Special collections

The materials housed at The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library are considered special collections. Among them, the most valuable ones are:

1. Jen Yu-wen collection on the Taiping Revolutionary Movement(太平天國運動)
2. Sixty titles (in 1000 volumes) of Ming Dynasty rare books
3. Tibetan collection which includes Kanjur collection (100 volumes) (大藏經庫倫版)and biographies of Dalai Lamas(達賴喇嘛) (394 volumes)

Electronic resources

A.Database subscriptions — valid IP addresses only

Chinese Academic journals (for description, see the item under Columbia)

B.Database links — free access

The library put together quite a few databases available at Internet. Click on the following link:<<http://www.library.yale.edu/eastasian/hsu/workshop.htm>> a wonderful world of Chinese information is open in front of you.

C.Web pages

The Library also grouped web sites concerning China and the Chinese. Starting from this url: <<http://www.library.yale.edu/eastasian/eaststu.htm>> and enjoy the treasure hunt.

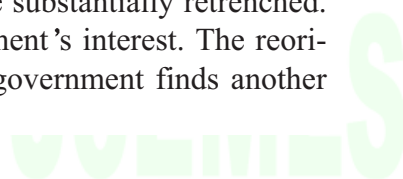
D.CD-ROMs

There are some CD-ROMs which are available for the library use.

Conclusion

The Chinese collections examined in this survey encompass more than half of the total Sinology resources available in the United States. Although their value to Chinese studies is immeasurable, they face some problems in common that are difficult to resolve and may impede their future growth and development. Some of these issues are discussed below:

Funding: Funding of a highly specialized collection depends on institutional support, federal aid, and private endowments. When there is an interest in Sinology studies on campus, the university generally is willing to provide ample funds to support the maintenance of a Chinese collection. However, should there be a shift in priorities of the curriculum, or when the institution suffers budgetary cuts, funding could be substantially retrenched. Similarly, federal aid also depends on the government's interest. The reorientation of federal money is very possible if the government finds another



language area of concentration. On the other hand, the infusion of grants is of a temporary nature and offers no guarantee for future development.

Space conservation: Due to large scale acquisition activities in the past few decades, most Chinese collections have more than doubled their original sizes. New and innovative ways to conserve space must be found. Many libraries have resorted to off site storage of lesser used materials. They can be retrieved and delivered to the library at user's request. This arrangement allows the library to move many large sets of rare books off site, saving precious space but at the expense of the user's convenience. Another way to save space is to use compact shelving, which, although a little cumbersome to operate, is a practical way to economize space. Digitizing is a new technique of the computer age, but it is often very costly and difficult to execute.

Preservation: Preserving East Asian a very difficult task. Hundreds of thousands of rare items and old printed editions need special care or restoration, requiring highly specialized and very costly techniques in which very few people in this country are experts. New materials also deteriorate easily, since most of them are paperbacks. As with space conservation, there seems to be no perfect solution to the preservation problem. Microfilming the rare books is one alternative, but most users do not like to use microfilms. Digitizing special rarity materials is a new approach; however, the technology is very expensive and must be done by professionals.

Collection management: In collection management there is a need for more coordination and cooperation among the collections. For example, more efforts should be made toward achieving efficiency and economy in costs through cooperative acquisitions and cataloging. Special attention should be given to unifying the romanization systems of Chinese characters. At present, some libraries have adopted the Pin-ying system; while others are still using the Wade-Giles system. Sharing resources is another excellent option to save cost, space, and preserve rare materials. For example, by combining resources, libraries can afford to put more digitized collections on-line, saving space while expanding access.

East Asian librarianship: To be the custodian of a large Sinology collection, one needs extensive knowledge in many specialized fields. Besides being a trained librarian and a scholar of Chinese studies, he or she must also be a curator of rare books, a historian, as well as an antiquarian. Historical bibliography is a major discipline in East Asian scholarship, but it is not taught in American library schools.

The rich contents of the Sinology collections represent many centuries of distinguished accomplishments of the Chinese civilization. In the field of Sinology, it is of vital importance that these collections be preserved and

be allowed to grow and expand. The difficulties discussed above are formidable, but through better coordination and cooperation among libraries, feasible solutions could be reached. Above all, the need to train qualified librarians to manage these collections must be recognized. The Chinese collections must remain strong and must continue to flourish, but they can only do so under strong and dedicated stewardship of able librarians.

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