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THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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Report from the European Association of Sinological Libraries.

Meeting in Cambridge, July 3-4, 1982.

Participants: From Denmark: Kirsten R. Lauridsen, from France: Monique Cohen and Danielle Li, Germany: Kira Rohde-Liebenau, Zhong Weijie, Korinna Hana-Richter, Weng-onn Loke and Jane Hwang. From the Netherlands: John Ma, from Norway: Elisabeth Eide, from Sweden: Hwang Tsu-yu and Lars Fredriksen, from UK: Chin Foo-Kune, Helen Spillett, Howard Nelson, Frances Wood, Beth McKillop, David Helliwell and Anthony Hyder. Observer: Penny Herbert (from Taiwan).

Agenda: Discussion of constitution.
Discussion of Union list of ts'ung shu
Discussion of Union list of Chinese serials
Discussion of Central Research Library for Chinese studies in Europe
Discussion of prospects for catalogue automation within Sinology
Elections
Other business

1. At the Cambridge meeting we decided to form an European Association of Sinological Libraries within the European Association of Chinese Studies (EACS), and we decided to ask the EACS at the General Assembly to consider certain additions to their charter. (At the Board meeting of the EACS these proposals were discussed and generally accepted.)
2. We discussed a report by David Helliwell (Oxford) on the compilation of a union list of ts'ung shu in European Libraries. We concluded the discussion along lines suggested by Helliwell: that a compilation of a ts'ung shu would be too complicated at present, but that we hoped the individual librarian would pursue his interests within this field and inform others of his findings.
3. We discussed Howard Nelson's (London) proposal for an updated European Union list of Chinese serials. The discussions went along practical lines:
 - estimates on the scope of increase from the previous list
 - how large a staff was needed
 - how could this collection of data most easily be obtained and achieved
 - which transcription system to choose
 - where should the information centre be locatedWe decided to ask the EACS to consider this proposal, and a small committee of Nelson, Streffer (Berlin) and Cohen (Paris) should consider further changes if necessary.
4. We discussed the draft proposal from John Ma (Leiden) on a Central Research Library for Chinese studies in Europe. We much welcomed the idea of a central library in Europe, but decided that instead of establishing a new library we would recommend the development of one of the existing libraries in Europe.

This library should then provide a central information service for all the other European libraries. We all agreed that Leiden would be the most likely candidate for such a function. John Ma should develop his proposal further along these lines with the help from a small committee. The proposal will then be put forward at a later stage.

5. We received a report from Penny Herbert on Library Automation on Taiwan, and we discussed a note by Howard Nelson on prospects for catalogue automation in European Sinological Libraries. In view of the fact that the only project for Chinese library automation in Europe so far has been cancelled (the British Museum project) we agreed that the wisest course now was to wait and watch developments overseas. In any case it is clear that progress will now have to be on a European and not a national scale. We shall submit a proposal for library automation when appropriate.
6. John Ma was unanimously elected as Chairman for one two-year period. Elisabeth Eide was elected as secretary for one two-year period on the strict condition that she was not a candidate for re-election.
7. We decided to meet next year, and Paris was chosen as the suitable (and desirable) location. The meeting should preferably be held from July 4th to 7th-8th 1983, and several participants desired to spend some time in the Bibliothèque Nationale, The Bibliothèque Guilmét and the Institut des Hautes Études. In addition we felt the need to discuss more practical problems related to our library work.
Will those interested in participating in the Paris meeting kindly make up their minds if they can attend or not as soon as possible. In my next letter I may have to receive firm confirmation about participation because of booking problems. (I hope you have now gathered that this is not the final letter from me.) More to follow later.
8. We discussed the possibility of going as a group to China on the condition that we ourselves (or our institutions) paid the travel to/from China, and China paid within China. Would you also inquire about these possibilities so as to be prepared when the final questionnaire comes.

With best wishes to all of you, those who attended in Cambridge, and those who were unable to attend. I hope to see you in Paris. If any of those who up til now have received my letters would like to be crossed off the list, please let me know.

Elisabeth Eide