

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The eleventh annual conference of EASL was held at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna, from 5th to 7th September 1991. An opening address was given by the General Director, Frau Magda Strebl. The chairman thanked both Frau Stebl and Basilia Fang for their hospitality and excellent arrangements. Rarely had EASL convened in such magnificent surroundings.

Present were:

Roland Altenburger (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)
Katharina Thölen (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)
Monique Cohen (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
Nathalie Monnet (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
Ying CHENG (Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur la Chine Contemporaine, Paris)
Monique Abud (Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur la Chine Contemporaine, Paris)
Hubert Delahaye (Instituts d'Extreme-Orient, Collège de France, Paris)
Alfons Dufey (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Diane Strobl (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Thomas Hahn (Sinologisches Seminar der Universität Heidelberg)
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek PK, Berlin)
Claudia Lux (Staatsbibliothek PK, Berlin)
W. Andreas Mixius (Universitäts- und Technische Informationsbibliothek, Hannover)
Barbara Hoster (Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin)
Ina Asim (Institut für Sinologie der Universität Würzburg)
Kira Rohde-Liebenau (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Basilia Fang (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien)
Laura Rivkin (Great Britain-China Centre Library, London)
Hilary Chung (East Asian History of Science Library, Cambridge)
Charles d'Orban (School of Oriental and African Studies Library, London)
David Arrandale (Brotherton Library, University of Leeds)
Charles Aylmer (Cambridge University Library)
Raghu Char (Durham University Library)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
Frances Wood (British Library, London)
Jana Srajerová (Oriental Institute, Prague)
Olga Lamová (Department of East Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague)
Elisabeth Eide (Univerisitets Biblioteket i Oslo)
Bent Lerbæk Pedersen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek, København)
Benedicte Vaerman (Chinees-Japanse Bibliotheek, Leuven)
Nathalie du Chastel (Institut Belges des Hautes Etudes Chinoises, Bruxelles)
Marina Battaglini (Biblioteca Nazionale, Roma)
Joyce Wu (Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden)

Observers:

Byron P.Y. Chang (Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, Taipei)
Eva Schrepf (ex Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Minh CHUNG (Teikyo University in Durham)
Jutta Verdino (Institut für Japanologie, Wien)
Hans Siebenhandl (Institut für Sinologie, Wien)
Helga Natschläger (Institut für Sinologie, Wien)
Gudrun Alber (Institut für Sinologie, Wien)
Erich Pilz (Institut für Sinologie, Wien)

1. Constitutional changes and elections

- 1.1 Owing to the increasing size of EASL, evidenced by both the scale of its conferences and the range and influence of its activities, it was agreed that the offices of chairman and secretary should henceforth be divided, and no longer combined.
- 1.2 David Helliwell resigned as chairman, and was unanimously elected secretary of EASL, and Thomas Hahn was unanimously elected chairman.
- 1.3 It was agreed that both should assume their offices with immediate effect, and Thomas Hahn took the chair.

2. Notices

- 2.1 In Stockholm, there was now a machine readable catalogue of periodicals in Scandinavian libraries, including holdings in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.
- 2.2 The Monumenta Serica Library had adopted the Harvard-Yenching classification.
- 2.3 J-M Streffer drew the attention of members to a reproduction in limited edition of a manuscript collection of dramatical works and stories formerly in the possession of the Juwangfu in Peking, which was currently being offered by China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation (CNPITC) for the sum of US\$90,000.
- 2.4 Heidelberg had a complete run of the periodical *Shijie jingji daobao* for the year 1989, a microfilm of which is available from Thomas Hahn for the sum of US\$45.
- 2.5 Jana Srajerová read a paper on the Chinese collection at the Oriental Institute in Prague, which it was agreed should be published in the next issue of the bulletin.
- 2.6 David Helliwell announced that the Bodleian Library had acquired a recently published facsimile of the detailed maps of China produced by the Japanese during their occupation of the mainland. The reproduction is entitled *Chūgoku tairiku chizu shūsei*, and is published by Kagaku Shoin.
- 2.7 Olga Lamová announced that her library had a number of periodicals duplicates dating from the 1950's for disposal in exchange. Please apply directly to her for the list.
- 2.8 Claudia Lux announced that she had been appointed director of the Senatsbibliothek Berlin, and would therefore shortly leave us. Though sorry to lose such a faithful supporter of EASL, members wished her every success in her new position.
- 2.9 Charles Aylmer spoke of two matters that had arisen during the course of the visit to Cambridge - arranged and hosted by Hilary Chung at the Needham Research Institute - of Zhuang Weifeng, Vice President of Swatow University. The first concerned the national automated cataloguing project, of which Charles Aylmer would give a

full description in BEASL 6. The second concerned the possibility that a union list of Chinese gazetteers in European libraries might be compiled with her support. Whilst expressing doubts as to the feasibility of such a project, members agreed to look favourably on any suggestions she might have as to how it might be conducted.

3. EDOCS

- 3.1 The absence of J-M Streffer on an extended visit to China had resulted in a lack of progress on the EDOCS project. Output had therefore been postponed until early in 1992, when the latest microfiches would be posted to all EASL members.
- 3.2 It appeared possible that EASL members may have online access to ZDB for the purpose of searching the database. J-M Streffer would notify members of how this might be achieved in the next issue of the bulletin.
- 3.3 In order to give a more formal shape to the EDOCS project, a periodicals subcommittee was elected as follows:

J-M Streffer (Chairman)
Hilary Chung
Nathalie Monnet
Bent Lerbæk Pedersen

The task of the subcommittee would be (1) to draw up a detailed work plan for the continuation of the project; (2) to identify sources of funding for one full-time operative; (3) to submit a progress report to the chairman by the end of 1991.

4. EASL visits to China and elsewhere

- 4.1 EASL members continued to support in principle the idea of a delegation to China, but agreed that as nothing had changed since June 1990, such a visit should be postponed *sine die*. However, the matter would be regularly reviewed at EASL conferences.
- 4.2 It was suggested that EASL should make a group visit to sinological libraries in the United States of America. The chairman agreed to arrange an itinerary for a visit to certain East Coast libraries, with such assistance from the secretary as he may require. The visit should not exceed one week, and should take place in the spring of 1992. Details would be posted to all EASL members as soon as possible.
- 4.3 Charles Aylmer announced that a conference entitled *Shantou daxue guoji tushu qingbao xueshu jiaoliuhui* would be held in Swatow in the 4th quarter of 1992, and that the presence of EASL members there would be appreciated.

5. Statistics

- 5.1 David Helliwell and Charles Aylmer apologised to members for having failed to gather the statistics of Chinese holdings in European libraries as discussed at the last conference, and agreed to proceed immediately.

- 5.2 Members were reminded of the object of the exercise: to produce an annual report, which would be published in the bulletin, modelled on the *Current status of East Asian collections in American libraries*, a special report which appears annually in the *Committee on East Asian libraries bulletin* (ISSN 0148-6225). The report consists of five simple tables listing the number of accessions, annual expenditure, staffing and so forth of the various American libraries with East Asian holdings.
- 5.2 Charles Aylmer undertook to coordinate this exercise, and would accept reports from individual members. He and the secretary would draw up a questionnaire which would be circulated to members, and would define the reporting criteria (for example, what should be considered a volume). Members would conform with the EASL norm as far as they were able, briefly noting the nature of any departure from it in their reply. It was agreed that incomplete reporting would be better than no reporting at all, and that members should attempt to supply at least some data, however vague.

6. Bulletin

- 6.1 The 5th issue of the bulletin had been written, produced and circulated directly from Berlin, Charles Aylmer and Lars Fredriksson having been thrust into a somewhat marginal role in its production. Material which had been written, submitted and edited for BEASL 5 had therefore not been included. It was accepted that BEASL 5 should more properly have been entitled a *waihao*.
- 6.2 BEASL 6 would be produced according to the following agreed procedure: contributions should first be sent to Charles Aylmer in Cambridge for textual recension, and preferably in machine readable form; the edited material would then go to J-M Streffer who would produce the camera-ready copy, and have it printed and mailed.
- 6.3 An attempt would be made to produce two issues of BEASL before the 12th conference. Material should be submitted to Charles Aylmer by the following deadlines: BEASL 6, 15th October; BEASL 7, 15th April.
- 6.4 It was felt that the secretary should prepare the current EASL membership list for publication in BEASL 6, together with the acta of the 11th conference.

7. Automation

- 7.1 There was much discussion on the nature and importance of formats, and members were firmly of the view that a standard EASL format should be drawn up for the exchange of data. It was agreed that the model should be UNIMARC, suitably abridged for EASL use. Whatever formats individual EASL members might elect to use in their own institutions, it was their responsibility to ensure that they would be compatible with the EASL standard.
- 7.2 The problem of different character codes was addressed at some length, together with its implications for the exchange of data. To those contemplating automation in the near future, the advice was given to input Chinese data using either the GB or Big 5 character codes.

7.3 A new automation subcommittee was elected as follows:

J-M Streffer (Chairman)
Monique Cohen
Hubert Delahaye
Hilary Chung
Marina Battaglini

The task of the subcommittee would be to produce the digest referred to in 7.1 above of UNIMARC, as defined in *UNIMARC manual*, ed. Brian P. Holt (London: British Library Bibliographic Services, 1987). The digest, which would be the EASL standard, would be published in BEASL 7.

7.4 Several members announced their intention to automate their catalogues in the very near future. Alfons Dufey gave an outline of the TOTALS system, which the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek was about to purchase. Hubert Delahaye described ASIA, a system which had been developed by him and Richard Schneider, and which was already in use in the Institut d'Extreme-Orient du Collège de France (Paris) and several other centres. Thomas Hahn described the possibilities of ALLEGRO C, which had already been configured for use in Heidelberg and which would also be used in Oxford quite soon. A full account of all these developments would be published in this year's issues of BEASL. In an adjoining room, there was a demonstration of ASIA and ALLEGRO-C. Ina Asim demonstrated SPRING, a Chinese text system developed in Würzburg and in use there.

8. Visits

Basilia Fang took members to view the old imperial library of the Hofburg, a room of indescribable magnificence, the treasury containing the Austrian crown jewels, and an exhibition of Mozartiana. Her husband, Dr Fang Bing, arranged a truly cornucopian Chinese banquet at the Bei Hai Restaurant, for which our sincere thanks are due.

9. Twelfth annual conference

The twelfth annual conference of EASL will take place at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, from Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th September 1992, immediately before the EACS conference. Should it prove impossible to arrange the conference at that time, it will take place immediately after the EACS conference, from Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th September. The thirteenth annual conference will take place in Prague in September 1993, or failing that, in Rome.

10. Presentations

The eleventh annual conference closed with presentations to the outgoing chairman, and to Basilia Fang, which were very much appreciated.

David Helliwell
Secretary

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