

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The twelfth annual conference of EASL was held at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, from 10th to 12th September 1992. An opening address was given by the Administrateur-Général, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie. The meetings were chaired by Thomas Hahn.

Present were:

Rita Baldegger (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)
Katharina Thölen (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)
Monique Cohen (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
Nathalie Monnet (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
Christine Derrien (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
Chang Ming Janin (Centre Chine, Paris)
Monique Abud (Centre Chine, Paris)
CHENG Ying (Centre Chine, Paris)
Marie Hélène Métailé (Université Paris 7 - UFR Asie Orientale)
Vincent Durand-Dasties (Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire des Langues Orientales, Paris)
Nicole Resche (Bibliothèque de l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Chinoises, Paris)
Diane Strobl (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Thomas Hahn (Sinologisches Seminar der Universität Heidelberg)
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Helga Keller (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
W. Andreas Mixius (Universitäts- und Technische Informationsbibliothek, Hannover)
Ina Asim (Institut für Sinologie der Universität Würzburg)
Kira Rohde-Liebenau (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Imme Zacharias (Ostasien-Institut, Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Düsseldorf)
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)
William Liu (Edinburgh University Library)
Bing Sum LAU (University of Westminster, London)
Tony Hyder (Oriental Institute Library, Oxford)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
Elisabeth Eide (Univerisitetets 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)

Observers:

Eva Schrepf (ex Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Heinrich Allers (Universitätsbibliothek Oldenburg: ALLEGRO specialist)
CHENG Zhen (National Library of China, Peking)
Maureen Donovan (Ohio State University: Chairperson of CEAL)

1. Notices

- 1.1 J-M Streffer announced that the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek and Staatsbibliothek PK in Berlin had now been formally united, with the new name Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. The post vacated by Claudia Lux had been filled by Renate Schmidt, who is responsible for periodicals.
- 1.2 Maureen Donovan drew our attention to a number of matters: the IFO conference to be held in Hong Kong, 22nd-28th August 1993, for which papers are being solicited; the US union list of Japanese serials, which is available from Nihoko Miki at UCLA; and the CEAL directory, which may contain European data in future issues. Maureen Donovan also has information on which US libraries offer international interlibrary loan.
- 1.3 Elisabeth Eide announced the completion of the Oslo catalogue of old Chinese books by Donald Wagner, which would be published in autumn 1992 with the help of the Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation. She also announced that she would shortly leave the profession to become one of the three directors of the new Norwegian national library.
- 1.4 Hilary Chung also announced her departure from the profession in order to take up a research fellowship at Edinburgh University. Both she and Elisabeth Eide hoped to continue to support EASL by attending future conferences as observers.

2. EASL visit to East Coast Libraries of the USA

- 2.1 Thomas Hahn reported on this highly successful visit to five major East Coast sinological libraries in the USA. A short outline of the visit had been produced by the Secretary and is available to members on request, and various pieces of printed information which had been gathered during the course of the visit were available from Helga Dressler at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.
- 2.2 Members were able to express their unreserved thanks directly to Maureen Donovan, and also to Thomas Hahn, for their considerable efforts in arranging this visit. Thomas Hahn undertook to convey our thanks to librarians who had entertained us with such hospitality.

3. Constitution and conferences

- 3.1 The possibility that EASL might seek registration as a corporate body was discussed, but it was felt that its existing constitution provided a secure framework for all current activities. The matter would be reviewed at the next conference.
- 3.2 The possibility that EASL might hold funds and elect a Treasurer was again discussed, but it was resolved that EASL should only proceed to this when specific needs arose. Any expenses incurred

in the arrangement of conferences would be defrayed by the participants on an ad hoc basis.

- 3.3 Members did not seek any closer relations with EACS than have existed hitherto. The chairman or his deputy would continue to make a report of the conference proceedings at either the plenary session or at a special session of EACS. The chairman would discuss the shape of our relations with the new EACS secretary.
- 3.4 It had not proved possible for either the automation or the periodicals subcommittees to meet during the coming year. In view of the lack of any specific task that could not be handled satisfactorily during the general meetings of the annual conference, the two subcommittees were disbanded.
- 3.5 Members expressed general satisfaction with the current shape of EASL conferences, which would continue as established.

4. Automation

- 4.1 There was much discussion of a general nature on this familiar theme. ALLEGRO-C had been configured for use in Berlin, Heidelberg and Oxford, regrettably in quite different if not uninterchangeable ways, and demonstrations were given of all three configurations. A statement from Alfons Dufey was read out, regarding the current state of automation at Munich: 3000 CJK locations had been entered into the RLIN database, and delivery of the local TOTALS system was expected in November.
- 4.2 It was agreed that information on automation matters should be made available to members through Thomas Hahn, who undertook to set up a special automation mailbox accessible through data networks, and also to act as "automation sub-editor" of BEASL, into which he would channel the more important communications on this vital subject.
- 4.3 The absolute necessity that all EASL members should have personal access to data networks from their own desks was stressed repeatedly. It was evident that at present only a small minority of EASL members benefitted from this facility. To assist members in persuading their institutions to secure them a connection, the secretary was asked to circulate a letter from EASL outlining the reasons for this necessity, which they might use in support of their applications.

5. EDOCS

- 5.1 The holdings of Germany, Sweden, and Great Britain (as contained in the China Library Group union list) had now been entered into ZDB in their entirety, and J-M Streffer distributed current microfiche output of the database to those present. Data from other locations was now invited, and it J-M Streffer pointed out that it was incumbent on each participating library to ensure that its own holdings statements were kept up to date.
- 5.2 J-M Streffer agreed to examine the possibility that participating EASL members might have free online access to ZDB for the purpose

of searching the database, and also that they might have authority to alter their own holdings statements.

6. BEASL

- 6.1 Owing to the preoccupation of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin with problems arising from the unification of the two Berlin libraries, it had not proved possible to print and circulate the 6th issue of the bulletin as planned. Members decided unanimously that it would be better to produce BEASL commercially in future.
- 6.2 Charles Aylmer circulated a sample of camera-ready copy for BEASL 6 which, exceeding his brief as editor, he had produced to an excellent standard. He agreed to continue as editor, to incorporate new material into BEASL 6, and to produce new camera-ready copy for this issue. Thereafter, the arrangements would be reviewed. The editorial deadline was fixed at 31st October.
- 6.3 Thomas Hahn had obtained estimates from a local printer in Heidelberg of the cost of printing BEASL, which members considered reasonable. He undertook to have the camera-ready copy printed, and to circulate the finished product to members. This would be done by the end of November.
- 6.4 Benefitting from the CEAL experience as outlined by Maureen Donovan, it was agreed that the costs of printing and circulating BEASL should be recouped by relying on the inherent honour of member institutions. Each member library would receive BEASL 6 together with an invoice for the equivalent of US\$15, a sum which given a reasonable degree of participation was estimated to be adequate to covering the cost of at least one issue. Thereafter, the matter would be reviewed.
- 6.5 It was suggested that the (British) China Library Group might advance the initial cost of financing the first issue from a small bank balance in its name, representing profits from a previous bibliographical venture. As further progress in this direction could not be made until the China Library Group met in October, it was agreed that all subsequent discussion on this matter should be handled outside the meeting by informal liaison between the CLG treasurer, Tony Hyder, the chairman and secretary of EASL, and the editor of BEASL. One or two other possibilities for the initial financing of BEASL were proposed, which the chairman would examine if the CLG initiative failed.

7. Statistics

The non-appearance of BEASL 6 had set back the process of informing members of reporting procedures and gathering data. This would be undertaken soon in light of the improved prospect that BEASL 6 might shortly appear.

8. Exhibition

Monique Cohen and Nathalie Monnet guided members around their exhibition "Impressions de Chine", which runs in the Galerie Colbert until December 6th. The exhibition is a stupendous display of printed treasures from the Bibliothèque Nationale, illustrating Chinese printing in all its aspects, and is accompanied with a most professionally produced catalogue. Members congratulated their two colleagues on this fine achievement.

9. Relations with other associations

9.1 The possibility was raised that EASL might enter into more formal relations with the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), the East Asian Library Resources Group of Australia, and the newly-formed "European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists".

9.2 It was agreed that such relations might include a regular exchange of bulletins, and an invitation to these bodies to send representatives to the annual EASL conferences. An investigation of interlibrary loan possibilities among member libraries might also be advantageous.

10. Elections

Thomas Hahn and David Helliwell were re-elected chairman and secretary respectively for the next year.

11. Thirteenth annual conference

It had proved impossible to arrange the thirteenth conference in Prague, owing to work on the relocation of the institute there. As agreed previously, the meeting would therefore be held at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Vittorio Emanuele II in Rome, from Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th 1993. The fourteenth conference would be held in Prague.

The twelfth annual conference closed with an expression of thanks to Monique Cohen and Nathalie Monnet for their excellent arrangements.

David Helliwell
Secretary

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