

Minutes - Seventeenth annual conference of EASL

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The seventeenth EASL conference was held in the Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven from 10 to 13 September 1997. The meetings were chaired by Katharina Thölen (main session) and Marc van der Meer (automation).

A welcoming reception was given by Professor Nicolaas Standaert, the University's head of sinology, and Jan van Impe conducted a tour of the main library. An excursion to Brussels also took place, and Nathalie Vandeperre took the group to see the Chinese Pavilion built in 1904 in the gardens of King Leopold II, together with its superb collection of Chinese porcelain.

Present were:

Marc van der Meer (Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden)
Bénédicte Vaerman (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Chan Mei-Yee (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Hanno Lecher (Universiteit Wien)
Anne Labitzky-Wagner (Landesspracheninstitut NRW, Bochum)
Klaus Gottheiner (Universität Trier)
Bent Pedersen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek, København)
Matthias Kaun (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel)
Nathalie Vandeperre (Institut Belge des Hautes Études Chinoises, Bruxelles)
Alek Stypa (Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin)
Koen Wellens (Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
Katharina Thölen (Universität Zürich)
Friederike Bertelt (SSELP, Universität Heidelberg)
Johann Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Graham Hutt (British Library, London)
CHENG Ying (Centre Chine, Paris)
Bénédicte Héraud (Centre Chine, Paris)
Lars Fredriksson (Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm)
Annette Specht (Universität Heidelberg)
Martin Hanke (China Buchservice, Seevetal)
YU Dong (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana)
Diane Strobl (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Sue Small (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)
Brigitte Auby (Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire des Langues Orientales, Paris)

Vincent Durand-Dastès (École Française d'Extrême Orient, Paris)
Hubert Delahaye (Collège de France, Paris)

Apologies for absence were received from: Michael Leibold (Universität Würzburg) Tony Hyder (Institute for Chinese Studies, Oxford) Laura Rivkin (Great Britain-China Centre, London) ACTA

1 Chairman's address

A short opening address was given by the Chairman.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the Sixteenth EASL conference were accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

3 Notices of members

3.1 A new floor has been added to the Sinologisch Instituut in Leiden, and all collections have been re-located. (Marc van der Meer).

3.2 The British Library's Chinese collections will be moved to the new building in St Pancras between April and August 1998. (Graham Hutt).

3.3 A whole floor of the new building for the library of Oslo University is to be allocated to the Chinese collections. It is expected to be complete by autumn 1998. (Koen Wellens).

3.4 Heidelberg will acquire the shisanjing zhushu 四库全书数据库 database from the Academia Sinica, but it will not be networked externally. Access to the Twenty-Five Histories will not only be maintained, but also enhanced by the provision of a WWW interface. (Annette Specht).

3.5 Andrew West has been appointed to input the contents of SOAS's Morrison Collection into the RLIN Chinese Rare Books database. (Sue Small).

3.6 The Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire des Langues Orientales will move to a site near the new Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. (Brigitte Auby).

4 Conferences and meetings

4.1 A conference on James Legge was held in Aberdeen in April to mark the centennial of his death.

4.2 A workshop on the allegro avanti server was held in Heidelberg in April.

4.3 A workshop on the forgery of Dunhuang manuscripts in the early twentieth century was held at the British Library from 30 June-2 July.

4.4 The German colleagues met at Tübingen in July and discussed among other things the adoption of a common bibliographical format. The result of their deliberations will be posted on the EASL homepage.

5 Treasurer's report

A statement of accounts prepared by Tony Hyder was presented, and unanimously accepted. He was thanked for his work.

6 Automation

6.1 The automation session was held on the day preceding the main

conference, and was chaired by Marc van der Meer, who had also assembled a large variety of relevant software for members to examine. Two networked Windows 95 PCs had been provided by Bénédicte Vaerman.

6.2 The participants in the automation session gave an outline of developments in their respective libraries.

6.3 Towards the end of the session, syllable aggregation and subject headings emerged as matters for serious discussion at the next conference.

7 EACS membership

No apparent advantages were perceived in EASL's corporate membership of EACS, and the arrangement itself appeared to be inadequately defined. It was therefore agreed nemine contradicente that formal links between EASL and EACS should be suspended, and that those with an interest in EACS should join as individual members and report to EASL on any matters of common interest.

8 Booksellers' visits

8.1 Stephen Feldmann gave a short outline of the services of Asian Rare Books.

8.2 Zhang Aizhen (CIBTC) demonstrated the following CD-ROMs: renmin ribao 人民报 and zhongguo baokan xinxi zonghui 中国报刊信息总汇.

8.3 Both booksellers set up stalls for the duration of the conference.

9 BEASL

9.1 BEASL 10 had not appeared as insufficient contributions had been received by the editor. The new deadline for publication was set at 30 October.

9.2 Arrangements for both the mailing and levying of subscriptions for BEASL will continue as before. [Since the conference, Marc van der Meer has been appointed to a new position in the central library of Leiden University. He is willing to continue with EASL work, including the publication of BEASL 10, until 1 December.]

10 WWW homepage

10.1 Under the direction of Matthias Kaun, the EASL homepage had continued to develop. He was again thanked for the considerable work that this involves, and congratulated on a most professional result.

10.2 Henceforth, the work will be shared with Hanno Lecher, and the page will be developed by both, the details to be worked out between them.

11 CJKLIB

Marc van der Meer had been informed that Heidelberg no longer wished to host CJKLIB, the EASL mailbox. Marc undertook to discuss its future with Matthias Kaun and seek an alternative host.

12 SSELP and EDOCS

12.1 A short report on the progress of SSELP was given by Friederike

Bertelt, touching on matters relating to format, data conversion, and data collection. She demonstrated the new WWW interface to the database.

12.2 J-M Streffer reported that he no longer had the resources to maintain EDOCS, and proposed the formal suspension of the project. His proposal was accepted, and thanks were expressed for the considerable period of sustained effort that he had put into it.

12.3 It was agreed that members should now participate fully in SSEL, in the expectation that it had now fully taken over both the data and services of EDOCS.

13 Election of officers

Kathy Thoelen, David Helliwell and Tony Hyder were re-elected to their respective offices of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

14 Next EASL conference

David Helliwell invited members to Oxford for the 18th conference, and this invitation was accepted. The dates of the conference were set at Wednesday 9 to Saturday 12 September 1998. [For reasons outlined in the accompanying letter, it has proved impossible to meet in Oxford next year; Munich is now suggested as an alternative.]

The Seventeenth EASL Conference closed with an expression of thanks to Bénédicte Vaermann and Chan Mei-Yee for their excellent arrangements.

David Helliwell
Secretary

Oxford: 17 October 1997