

Minutes - Twenty-first annual conference of EASL

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The Twenty-first EASL conference was held in the Royal Library of Copenhagen from 5 to 7 September 2001. The meeting was chaired by Cathy Thoelen. Our host, Bent Pedersen, welcomed the participants to Copenhagen and gave a short opening address.

During the course of the conference, a visit to the Royal Library was made to the new and old buildings of the Royal Library, "Den Sorte Diamant", guided by Bent Pedersen. Another visit was arranged, to the Museum of Decorative Arts, including its library. On Friday evening, a final conference dinner was held at the House of Korea, where discussions went on while eating a nice "Bulgogi".

Present were:

Charles Aylmer, Cambridge University Library
Inga-Lill Blomkvist, NIAS Library, Copenhagen
Hiroko Brittain, Oriental Section, British Library
Christina Cramerotti; Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris
Vincent Durand-Dastès, Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris
Lars Fredriksson, Östasiatiska Biblioteket, Stockholm
Nicholas Gorelov, Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg
Martin Hanke, Seminar für Sprache und Kultur Chinas, University of Hamburg
David Helliwell, Dept. of Oriental Books, Bodleian Library, Oxford
Bénédicte Héraud, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre Chine, Paris
Matthias Kaun, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Anne Labitzky-Wagner, Landesspracheninstitut NRW, Bochum
Hanno Lecher, Sinologisches Seminar, Universität Heidelberg
Nathalie Monnet, Dépt. des manuscrits, div. Orientale, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
Inga Nyman, Asian Library, Stockholm University Library
Bent Pedersen, Orientalisk og Judaistisk Afdeling, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen
Jens Petersen, Københavns Universitet Asien-Instituttet, Copenhagen
Michael Schütte, Fak. für Ostasienwissenschaften, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum
Sue Small, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
John M. Streffer, East-Asia Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Aleks Stypa, Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin
Mantimyn Sunuodula, Middle East and East Asian Studies Library, Durham University
Cathy Thoelen, Ostasiatisches Seminar, Universität Zürich
Annie Troedsson, Asia Library, Lund University
Benedicte Vaerman, Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven
Mark Ulyanov, Oriental Center, Russian State Library, Moscou

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1 Chairman's address:

Cathy Thoelen stressed the importance of getting more recognition for EASL and put her replacement as the chairman of EASL on the agenda.

2, 3 Agenda, Minutes:

The minutes of the 20th EASL conference were accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

4 Notices of Members:

Mark Ulyanov tells us that the renovation of the Russian State Library is going on. The Oriental Center will open in 2002. He passes the magazine *Oriental Collections*, in Russian, to the meeting, and mentions that articles in any language are welcome.

Nathalie Monnet explains that the Oriental Section of the Manuscript division will receive new storage space and a new reading room. Monique Cohen has become director of the Département des Manuscrits. Nathalie Monnet is working on a catalogue of rubbings, 3000 titles will be included.

Nicolas Gorelov explains that the Chinese collection of the Library of the Russian Academy of Science was not damaged by the fire that destroyed 1/3 of the collection 15 years ago. The collection on European materials on China, however, was destroyed. They are working on a catalogue of Chinese-Russian relations since the 18th century. A catalogue of translations from Chinese into Russian was completed (including the lost books) Chinese books are mainly received as donations by Chinese scientific academies, with an average of 1000 new books each year. The collection includes about 800 magazines.

Sue Small reports that the INOPAC system in CJK, in Unicode, is doing quite well. 5,000 books have been catalogued in Chinese, the rest is still in pinyin. The SOAS library received more money to strengthen its collections on modern Chinese language and law.

Hiroko Britain reports that her library had to cancel all the journals that have not been asked for during the last ten years because of lack of funding.

Inga Nyman explains that the Asian library of the Stockholm university library keeps only reference works. Other books concerning China are held at the Östasiatiska Biblioteket of Stockholm.

Annie Troedson explains that the Asian library of Lund university collects mainly books on Chinese language and literature. History and economics are recently also focused. The largest part of the collection is in English.

Bénédicte Héraud, Vincent Durand-Dastès and Christina Cramerotti explain the new French project to build a huge non-occidental library by the year 2004. There is also a nationwide French project for a unified catalogue, which would include CJK. La Maison de l'Asie has adopted a common cataloguing system, Agathe, which is being implemented.

Matthias Kaun explains that he is currently studying Library Information Science at Cologne University.

John M. Streffer reports that his colleagues Keller and Song have retired. He has been cataloguing the Beijing Tripitaka, and informs members that those who wish can download the data (on the web after October 2001).

Furthermore, the Staatsbibliothek has cut budgets, lots of magazine subscriptions will be interrupted, less books are acquired.

David Helliwell informs us that Minh Chung has replaced Tony Hyder in the Institute for Chinese Studies Library at Oxford University.

Charles Aylmer informs us that Cambridge University Library has received a large donation of the *Zhuanshi zangshu*.

Lars Fredriksson was very pessimistic about his library, which he called completely under-staffed and under-budgetted.

Hubert Delahaye, who was not present, asked to read a paper, mentioning that recent acquisitions of the Institut des Hautes Etudes Chinoises have just been published in Vol. XIX, 1-2 of Etudes Chinoises.

5 Reports on conferences, meetings, workshops:

In September 2000, Benedicte Vaerman and Vincent Durand-Dastès attended a two-week course at the University of Prague, sponsored by the Jiang Jingguo Foundation. Professor Pan Meiyue, of Taiwan University, taught about the history of the Chinese book.

Sue Small attended the Taiwan meeting on Chinese resource sharing in October 2000. More information about the meeting in the National Central Library Newsletter, vol. 33 nr 1 (July 2001), pp. 4-8.

Hanno Lecher reported on the AAS meeting, in conjunction with CEAL, in spring 2001, mentioning mainly the CORE project of OCLC, which does preliminary data harvesting. Hanno also organized a panel on library matters for the International Convention of Asian Studies, held in Berlin in August 2001. Cathy Thoelen asks members to make more announcements if interesting meetings, conferences or workshops are organized.

John M. Streffer comments on the meeting, dated May 2001, under the title: German CJK libraries on their way to German union catalogues.

(<http://www.duei.de/ifa/aktuelles/Workshop/Onlinetext.php>)

6 Treasurer's report:

A statement of accounts prepared by Tony Hyder was presented and unanimously accepted. Tony Hyder asked David Helliwell to convey the meeting that he really wants to resign. He was thanked for his work during all these years. The meeting decided that the money will be transferred to the country and the bank of the new treasurer, who will be elected later during the meeting.

7 EASL Online resources:

7.1 EASL homepage

Matthias Kaun was thanked for his continuing work on the EASL homepage. He explains that he will shift EASL homepage from html/text basis to a database solution which should combine EASL resources with

IGCS of Hanno Lecher. A test version can be used here: <http://ead.sbb.spk-berlin.de:8080/ogea/index.html>

7.2 Entry of libraries

It is again stressed by the chairman that every member is urged to check if the data on his/her library are still correct and to make regular updates. It is suggested that a letter would be sent out to all members on this purpose.

7.3 Discussion List EASL-L

A discussion was going on about the use of the EASL-discussion list. It was concluded that no commercial announcements are accepted, but members can announce their own or their institute's publications.

8 IT demonstrations and discussions:

8.1 Introduction to and demonstration of the European Center for Digital Resources in Chinese Studies, <http://chinaresource.org> by Hanno Lecher.

8.2 David Helliwell introduces and demonstrates RSLP (UK) Chinese union catalogue, <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/rsllpchin/> He suggests that he would be happy to forward this database to an eventual European Union Database.

8.3 Cathy Thoelen reports on the meeting of the German *Congshu* project. The project will start by cataloguing *congshu* of Zürich, Tübingen and München. Later on, it will be opened to other libraries.

8.4 A discussion was going on about the requirement of a serials union catalogue. Hanno Lecher mentioned that there is no money to continue updating SSELP, the remaining funds will be used to consolidate the actual database, which will have a cut-off date (1999?).

8.5 Bent Pedersen says he will write to Shanghai and ask if he could receive free access to *Quanguo baokan suoyin*. Subscription for individual libraries seems too expensive.

8.6 Only Zürich uses the Allegro order module. Interested people can contact them.

9 Collecting CD-Roms and other NBM:

Some information was exchanged on particular publications.

10 Buying books and periodicals:

Zhang Zhexiong introduces himself in replacement of Zhang Aizhen as the Manager of the Library Service Department of CIBTC. He proposed several booklists.

11 Relations to other institutions:

11.1 EACS: There was an unstructured discussion about EASL-EACS relations and the need to be represented at EACS. It was decided that any proposals would be discussed through the EASL discussion list.

11.2 It was proposed that if any EASL member would attend next year's AAS meeting in Washington, or any other big meeting, he/she would inform other members.

12 EASL trips:

Cathy Thoelen proposes to organize a trip to China when she will not be EASL chairman anymore. There was not much response for such an eventual trip.

13 Elections:

Cathy Thoelen would like to be replaced as a chairman. As no successor could be found, she accepted to be re-elected for another year.

The secretary was re-elected.

Tony Hyder will be replaced as a treasurer by Martin Hanke.

14, 15 Others, Time and place of next conference:

The invitation by the Maison de l'Asie in Paris was accepted. The next EASL conference will be in Paris, from 18 to 20 September 2002.

The Twenty-first EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Bent Pedersen for his excellent arrangements.

Benedicte Vaerman
Secretary
Leuven, 29 October 2001