

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN EDINBURGH

8-10 SEPTEMBER 2004

The Twenty-fourth EASL conference was held in the Wolfson Suite of the Main Library of the University of Edinburgh from 8 to 10 September 2004.

The meeting was chaired by Cristina Cramerotti.

Our host, Tong Shenxiao, welcomed the participants. Mrs. Sheila Cannell, Director of Library Services of the Edinburgh University Library, made a welcome speech.

During the first afternoon of the conference, a visit through the stacks of the Chinese collection of the University of Edinburgh was organized, followed by a visit to the Playfair Library Hall and a reception in the Raeburn Room of the Old College, where the Head of Asian Studies, Dr. Peter Graves, welcomed us by a speech.

Furthermore, on Thursday a visit was organized to the beautiful and sunny Royal Botanic Garden and to its library, with special emphasis on the archives of [George Forrest](#).

On Friday afternoon, we visited the Royal Museum of Scotland, where Dr. David Caldwell and his colleagues showed us some precious Chinese books, and where we received a guided tour through the Chinese and Japanese collections. That last evening, a farewell dinner was organized in Rainbow Arch Chinese Restaurant, which was offered by Mrs. Scarlet Sijia He of Beijing Founder Electronics Co.

Present were:

Charles Aylmer, Cambridge University Library

Inga-Lill Blomkvist, NIAS Library and Information Centre, Denmark

Hiroko Brittain, Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa

David Cornwell, Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa

Cristina Cramerotti; Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris

Katarina Feriancikova, Charles University, Prague

Thomas Gaiser, Universität Tübingen

Gill Goddard, East Asian Studies Library, University of Sheffield

Peter Graves, School of Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh

He Scarlet Sijia, Beijing Founder Electronics Co.

David Helliwell, Dept. of Oriental Books, Bodleian Library, Oxford

Huang Xiyi, University of Leeds

Jiao Yang, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corp.

Matthias Kaun, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

Hanno Lecher, Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden University

Liu Dingfei Danny, Wanfang Data co.

Lu Ying, East Asian Studies library, University of Sheffield

Bonnie McDougall, School of Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh

Meng Xiangjie, China International Book Trading Corporation

Andreas Mixius, East Asia Department, Universität Hannover

John Moffett, Needham Research Institute

Nathalie Monnet, Division des Manuscrits Orientaux, Bibliothèque Nationale de France

Inga Nyman, Asian Library, Stockholm University Library

Bent Pedersen, Kongelige Bibliothek, Denmark

Stewart Robertson, Oriental Section, British Library, Boston Spa
Sue Small, SOAS, University of London
Delphine Spicq, Bibliothèque orientale, Collège de France, Paris
John M. Streffer, East-Asia Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Richard Teschke, Institut für Ostasienkunde, LM University München
Tong Shenxiao, Edinburgh University
Annie Troedsson, Asia Library, Lund University
Benedicte Vaerman, Oost-Aziatische Bibliotheek, Catholic University of Leuven
Anja van Hoek, Brill Academic Publishers
Wang Tong, China International Book Trading Corporation, Beijing
Frances Wood, British Library
Zhang Ying, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation, Beijing

ACTA

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the 23rd EASL conference were accepted with the following corrections:
Huang Xiyi announced that Leeds has received books from the HANBAN organization (in stead of Li Xiaowei)

SOAS has bought the I-Sinolaw database

Katarina Feriancikova noted that a Theatre Festival was held in Prague, with some participation from China.

2. Introduction and notices of members:

- Cristina Cramerotti explains the BULAC plans: the new library should be open in 2008, construction will start in 2005. The work on the multiscript catalogue (Millenium silver version) is going on right now.

The Bibliothèque interuniversitaire des langues orientales lacks personnel, also due to the system of 10-months contracts.

- Charles Aylmer says that in Cambridge the conversion of China Marc records to Marc 21 and the display of them via Voyager is continuing, and now in the process of conversion to Windows XP.

- Annie Troedsson tells that in the Asia library of Lund University, the amount of visitors has doubled last year

- Gill Goddard says that the government decided that the English-language books of the Great-Britain – China Centre will go to Sheffield: about 4000 books

- Hiroko Brittain explains that their center has started since July with Aleph. It works well for the monographs, not very well for serials.

- Matthias Kaun explains that the China Academic Journals database was bought in Berlin and that they offer free remote access to the database to other German libraries.
The Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Ostasien will start in November-December 2004.

- Sue Small tells that the acquisition budget of SOAS increased, although there is no time to spend it. There is an administrative restructuring going on. The library has been nicely upgraded. The Beida law database and the database of the *Fuyin baokan ziliao* are running in SOAS. There are plans to acquire the *Gujin tushu jicheng* database.

- Huang Xiyi explains that there is a project to digitalize the Chinese card catalogue of Leeds by scanning in the title and then making a title index available.

- Nathalie Monnet has been working on the marvellous exhibition at the Bibliothèque Nationale: "Chine, l'empire du trait: Calligraphies et dessins du Ve au XIXe siècle", and its catalogue.

- Hanno Lecher tells that Leiden also acquired the CAJ database. However, Leiden did not stop buying journals but has them send bound and fixed in China: much cheaper. In 2004, conversion from Windows 98 to XP. Pica will be changed to Aleph. Chinabase in Pica will continue for a while, although it is no more updated. Chinabase should be imported to Aleph in 2005, Marc 21 will be used. Hanno wants aggregated and separated pinyin in the database, both searchable.

Hanno continues his Heidelberg project on the Digital Archive of Chinese Studies: maybe next year results will be shown.

3. Reports on conferences, meetings:

- Katarina Feriancikova attended a bookfair in Prague and presented some new publications, mostly of Chinese books in Tsech translation.

- Cristina Cramerotti reports on the BULAC workshops and raises the question of aggregation in view of harmonization.

A short discussion on the problem of pinyin aggregation followed.

4. Treasurer's report:

The arrangement stays as it is: Martin Hanke has an account with EASL money, with 1764,25 Euro on it, plus a surplus for one year of 42,81 Euro, totaling 1807,06 Euro.

5. EASL Online resources:

5.1 EASL homepage:

It is again stressed that every member is urged to check if the data on his/her library are still correct and to make regular updates.

Just send your Emails with corrections and addenda to Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

5.2 Entry of libraries

Since most of the information is outdated and most libraries now have their own websites, what is needed here are only links. Please provide them to Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

5.3 Discussion List EASL-L

Members wish that the EASL-discussion list is maintained.

Members are urged to subscribe to the list. Please contact Matthias Kaun: kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

6. IT demonstrations and discussions:

6.1 Library collaboration for support of Chinese studies, a Scotland approach

Presented by Tong Shexiao.

6.2 Demonstration of the Unicode test release of Voyager

By Hugh Croll, University of Edinburgh

6.3 David Helliwell discusses the use and utility of the *Gujin tushu jicheng* database

A consortium was made with 5 libraries for the acquisition of the *Gujin tushu jicheng* database. Each paid 2600 USD, only once. Anyone else can join this, it is hosted by Eastview.

6.4 Demonstration of the Wanfang database

Introduction to the database by Danny Dingfei Liu. Unique is the fact that it is possible to subscribe to individual journals. There are no plans for the inclusion of pre-1997 journals. The meeting thinks this is however essential.

A free 1-month trial can be offered upon request.

6.5 Matthias Kaun presents a new catalogue for the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

By using a portal access, different catalogues are integrated in this new Opac.

6.6 Cataloguing of Chinese *congshu*

Richard Teschke reports on his work. 18.500 analytic titles in 25 *congshu* have been catalogued during the last year. The website is under construction.

6.7 Demonstration of the Apabi eBook and Digital Library

By Scarlet Sijia He. www.founder.com.cn

7. Acquisition of databases, books, periodicals, CD's

There was a discussion about acquisition of databases, consortia and about long-time prospects for databases. John Moffet announces there will be a conference about internet resources related to Asian Studies: he will inform members.

David Helliwell wants to know if anyone has experience with the full-text searchable *Renmin ribao* (1946-2003): 20.000 USDollars.

The *sibu congkan* is available as an E-database, but is it still interesting if your library already has the *Siku quanshu*? Richard Teschke says it is.

Zhang Ying of CNPITC says they can offer the *Sibu congkan* on the web.

Charles Aylmer wants to know which libraries collect Cd's or Dvd's: Heidelberg, University of Westminster, Soas does in the department, not in the library.

Siku quanshu cunmu will also be released as a database, but not full-searchable, only as an image.

Charles announces that a project of digitalizing all *difangzhi*, fully searchable, has been started, more about this in a few years...

8. Elections

No changes

9. Next year's conference

The place was already fixed: Berlin.

Michael Streffer and Matthias Kaun will be our hosts.

Date fixed: 14-16 September 2005

2006: Cristina Cramerotti will find out if there are any possibilities for a meeting in Venice

The Twenty-fourth EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Tong Shenxiao and his colleagues for their excellent arrangements.

Benedicte Vaerman

EASL Secretary

Leuven, January 13, 2005