

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS (EASL)

Minutes of the thirty-seventh Annual Conference Olomouc,  
6-8 September 2017

The thirty-seventh EASL conference was hosted by the Department of Asian Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, from 6 to 8 September 2017. The meetings were chaired by Maja Fuchs.

During the conference, three library visits and a reception were organised by the local host. The reception was held at the Department of Asian studies (Historical gardens of Palacký University) on Wednesday evening. On Wednesday afternoon, there was one visit to the Research library (Bezručova 659/2; Historical Collections). On Thursday afternoon a visit to the Archbishop's Chateau including the library and gardens was arranged. On Friday afternoon a visit to the Library (Armoury) of Palacký University Olomouc was organised. The farewell dinner took place on Friday evening at the Atmosphere restaurant.

**Present members**

Inga-Lill BLOMKVIST (NIAS, Copenhagen)  
Sara CHIESURA (East Asian Collections, The British Library, London)  
Veronika DANESOVA (Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Science, Prague)  
Maja FUCHS (Library of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)  
Jarmila FIURASKOVA (Department of Asian Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc)  
Marc GILBERT (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries)  
Emma GOODLIFFE (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London)  
Cordula GUMBRECHT (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)  
David HELLIWELL (Bodleian Library, Oxford)  
Kerstin HERELIUS (Uppsala University Library)  
Olivier HÖHN (Stockholm University Library, Asia Library)  
Amir KAHANA (Freie Universität Berlin)  
Matthias KAUN (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)  
Øystein Johan KLEIVEN (University of Oslo Library)  
Anne LABITZKY (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University)  
Hanno LECHER (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University)  
Fung On LUI (University Library Frankfurt am Main)  
Imke MEES (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne)  
Joshua SEUFERT (Bodleian Library, Oxford)  
Cathleen PAETHE (The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)  
Line PATTYN (Faculty Library Arts and Philosophy, Gent)  
Helena SEDLACKOVA (Director of Palacký University Library)  
Thomas TABERY (Bavarian State Library)  
Shenxiao TONG (Edinburgh University Library)  
Bénédicte VAERMAN (East-Asian Library, Leuven)  
Marc WINTER (Chinese Library, University of Zurich)

**Vendors**

Catherine BERRY (Adam Matthew)  
Jason DAI (Wanfang Data)  
Jessica GAO (CEPIEC)  
Sophie HAN (CNKI)

Albert HOFFSTÄDT (Brill)  
Jing LAN (CNPIEC)  
Zhangling LI (Zhonghua shuju)  
Mingdi LIU (CEPIEC)  
Huanglei LÜ (Superstar)  
Mei PENG (Shanghai library)  
Michael PETERS (Eastview)  
Xiaosen WANG (China Data Center)  
Peijuan WU (Shanghai library)  
Bo XU (Beijing Zhenben Technology)  
Aizhen ZHANG (Superstar)  
Guifang ZHANG (Beijing Zhenben Technology)  
Hao ZHANG (Zhonghua shuju)  
Zhen ZHAO (CIBTC)  
Mingdi ZHU (CIBTC)

### **Apologies**

France BESSON-GIRARD (Université de Genève - Faculté des Lettres)  
Carina ENESTARRE (Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Lund University)  
Katarina FERIANCIKOVA (Charles University, Prague)  
Tavian HUNTER (British Museum, Department of Asia)  
Dat-wei LAU (Bibliothèque de l'Ecole française d'Extrême Orient, Paris)  
Soline LAU-SUCHET (BULAC, Paris)  
Xiaowei LI (University of Westminster)  
Linna LU (East Asia Department of German National Library of Science and Technology)  
Nathalie MONNET (Bibliothèque nationale de France)  
Mia NILSSON (Asia Library, Lund University)  
Vaclav PASTEKA (Charles University, Prague)  
Miriam SEEGER (State Library of Berlin)  
Delphine SPICQ (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises)  
Chia-hsun WU (University of Zurich, Chinese Library)  
Ruili ZHANG (University of Manchester Library)

### **ACTA**

#### **1. Chairman's address and welcome speeches by the host institution**

Maja Fuchs opened the conference by thanking the local host for organising the conference, followed by welcome speeches by Dr. František Kratochvíl (head of the Department of Asian Studies) and Ondřej Kučera (head of the Chinese section of Department of Asian Studies, also vice-rector of UP for organization and development).

Maja Fuchs then extended her warm welcome to all the participants and especially to the new members who joined the conference for the first time.

#### **2. Minutes of the previous EASL conference and member reports**

The minutes of the 36th EASL conference were approved.

#### **3. Treasurer's report**

Anne Labitzky presented the Treasurer's report. There was a donation of 120 Swiss francs and an increase of €0.64 in the form of interest for 2016. The total balance is €1,928.04.

#### 4. News from EASL members' libraries

Inga-Lill BLOMKVIST (NIAS, Copenhagen): Bent Lerbaek Pedersen retired from The Royal Library, Copenhagen, but has not been replaced. The Japanese specialist also retired and there are currently no Asian studies specialists left at Copenhagen University Library. At the Royal Library/University Library, the service functions are being merged with those from the Aarhus Library and the Parliament Library and most likely also other libraries in Denmark will join. At the Business School Chinese studies are being closed down and the students are transferred to Copenhagen University. NIAS continues its activities, now also with support of Fudan University for Chinese databases. However, a new budget cut may come in 2018 and the future of NIAS remains unclear despite the strong support from the universities.

Sara CHIESURA (East Asian Collections, The British Library, London): Emma Goodliffe will present on Friday the retro-conversion and cataloguing projects of the British Library. The retro-conversion for the catalogues of the pre-1912 collection and the digitization of the collection of imperial manuscripts is being done thanks to the library's own budget. These documents will be freely accessible online. A new Chinese cataloguer joined the team and works 3 days a week. The British Library has developed its learning platform in Chinese ([britishlibrary.cn](http://britishlibrary.cn)) and is also using Weibo and WeChat in Chinese. About the International Dunhuang Project, the Board of directors is studying the migration and upgrade of the existing data from the current servers to a more stable environment.

Veronika DANESOVA (Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Science, Prague): Veronika works alone and is the first full-time librarian appointed since 10 years. The collection counts 60.000 books. Cataloguing, retro-cataloguing, digitization are among the main tasks that need to be fulfilled: The number of premodern materials is difficult to estimate since most of the records are on paper cards. If enough material can be found, a catalogue could be published by Zhonghua shuju.

Maja FUCHS (Library of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna):

The library started to catalogue with RDA and uses now MARC21 format. Since the 21<sup>st</sup> of August Alma is being used instead of Aleph but the Austrian union catalogue is still in Aleph. The records produced by the library have to be sent out and some data are lost when the information comes back. Other libraries will start using Alma in April 2018.

Marc GILBERT (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries): The former East Asian Library closed down in March 2017 and the Asian Library opened (the official inauguration will take place on September 14<sup>th</sup>) in the main library building. All the collections on Asia are now available in the same building and are circulated there within 20 minutes. Several kilometers of materials are available in open shelves and a reading room for Asian studies was opened. It includes a cinema room, a semi-private room for visiting scholars and two seminar rooms. Extra budgets are allocated to enrich the Asian collections (references, audiovisual materials, new research fields, special collections). The Library acquired a collection of translations in Western languages of the Daodejing who belonged to professor J.P. Gumbert. The nearly 1.400 titles are currently being processed.

David HELLIWELL (Bodleian Library, Oxford): David will retire at the end of September 2017 but hopes to keep working as a volunteer, especially on the Serica project, with a view to catalogue and make the premodern collection accessible. This work must be done in a Chinese way while most of the catalogues in the West use a different system despite the fact that it is difficult to produce an acceptable form with MARC records. One sentence of classical Chinese cannot be reconstructed in a MARC record. One difficulty of this project is to identify the material and to

present it in the right way. For the catalogue to be published by the Zhonghua shuju, the data will be provided in a Chinese way. An important budget is available for digitization but cannot be spent due to the lack of in-house infrastructure and interest. Zhonghua shuju will publish facsimiles of two navigation Ming maps.

Jarmila FIURASKOVA (Department of Asian Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc): the reconstruction of the Library started last year since the place was humid and dusty. A modern collection on Asia is being built and the cataloguing is done with the help of the central library. A new director was appointed as head of the Department of Asian Studies.

Kerstin HERELIUS (Uppsala University Library): The Library will be renovated and both the offices and the collections are being moved. The process will take two years and the cataloguers are currently involved in the recataloguing. At the moment, limited services are offered in the library. The number of first year students for Chinese studies is going down: only 7 students. The first PhD student was accepted this year. Digitization is being done in cooperation with other universities in Sweden and a database is being developed. This project initially started with Uppsala's old materials, but Chinese and Japanese materials are being included. Cataloguing of those documents will be needed.

Olivier HÖHN (Stockholm University Library, Asia Library): The future of the physical Asia library is unclear. Investigation was postponed after a new administrative director was appointed. It is probable that all branch and department libraries will be shut down in the future. For example, the Library for Astronomy and Physics is now closed to the general public and is only accessible for the researchers, teachers and students belonging to these departments. If and when collections are moved to the main library, a storage capacity problem will occur. In that case there is a potential risk that most of the books that have not been borrowed for the last 5 years could be weeded. Our Japanese cataloguer in charge of our Chinese, Japanese and Korean collections will retire soon and she is already working part-time. A new associate professor arrived from Germany, she is currently working on translation studies and has a particular interest in the cultural and political relations between China and Europe.

Øystein Johan KLEIVEN (University of Oslo Library): The authority records remain a challenging problem. The library provides access to 2 new databases.

Anne LABITZKY (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University): there was a major change within the groups in charge of the German OPAC. Two groups will merge their database. Heidelberg data will be included in their database. Delay is to be expected and the deadline remains unknown.

Hanno LECHER (East Asian Library, Heidelberg University): The building of the new library goes according to the schedule, the moving should take place at the end of 2018 or early 2019. The communication between the library and the faculty is good.

Fung On LUI (University Library Frankfurt am Main): The library is still using Pica and difficulties with OCLC remain: only the transcriptions can be seen, not the original scripts. A possible use of Alma is being considered. The number of uncatalogued items is still important and external cataloguing appears like a possible solution for monographs. Congshu and archival materials are not catalogued.

Imke MEES (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Cologne): Imke takes great pride of her collection and is aiming at a romantic kind of librarianship from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Joshua SEUFERT (Bodleian Library, Oxford): Wai Hing Tse has retired from SOAS. [Update October 2017: Her post has been advertised.]

At the Bodleian, the Japanese Librarian, Izumi Tytler, will retire at the end of September. Her post already has been advertised. The Chinese section of the library received major donations from the private collections of Prof Glen Dudbridge (Oxford), Prof Delia Davin (Leeds), Prof Li Ruru (Leeds) and Sir Robin McLaren, former British ambassador to China. The Library has established a close working relationship with the China Publishing Group and its publishing houses. A workshop on how to be published in China was organized for the postgraduate students and young scholars. The analytic cataloguing of Guangzhou dadian has been finished. The budget situation for Chinese has stabilized and is much more secure than in previous years. With philanthropic support the library was able to buy several collections of baojuan over the last year. At the China Centre Library a new Reader Service Librarian with Chinese language skills will start in September.

Cathleen PAETHE (The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science): considering that 3 professors are working there since February, including a sinologist, the Chinese collection should increase. It counts only 3000 uncatalogued items for the time being. There was no librarian for Chinese studies before. The Library plans to outsource the cataloguing process to China and considered changing from DDC to LCC.

Line PATTYN (Faculty Library Arts and Philosophy, Gent): the collections from different departments were combined but “difficult” collections such as the Chinese one are still in the hands of departments. The moving of the Chinese collections will take place in 2018. All the books from the East Asian collection have been catalogued in the past 2 years. The library is interested in developing access to electronic resources.

Helena SEDLACKOVA (Director of Palacký University Library): all the items from the old collection were catalogued. The Chinese records are included in the national catalogue and visible worldwide.

Thomas TABERY (Bavarian State Library): The Library budget has slightly increased thanks to the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung. Two part time cataloguers are currently working for the Library. All the titles catalogued in CJK are searchable, but a problem existed with indexing and word segmentation. The search index has therefore been rebuilt to recognize word bounding, and keywords are now searchable. The Library undertook discussions with Cadal to provide them with digital images. In financial collaboration with CASS and the Sun Yat-sen University, the Library is listing and digitizing folkloric items (including Naxi and Yao manuscripts) for an online platform. The premodern collections of the Library could be included in a catalogue published by Zhonghua shuju.

Shenxiao TONG (Edinburgh University Library): Because of Brexit and the decreasing value of the British Pound, the Library lost 18 to 20% of the purchasing power with its material budget. Over the past year, we have managed to acquire several China e-resources: Series A, B, C, D, and E of China Academic Journals which gives us complete access to this database; full access to Shanghai Library’s Republic period journals; and the Database of Contemporary Chinese Political Movements. There has been good progress with cataloguing thanks to the part-time East Asian cataloguer, though there is still a backlog of nearly 10,000 Chinese items waiting to be catalogued. There is very little space for collection growth within the East Asian Collection, therefore some weeding is necessary. Further growth of the East Asian Collection may have to use the Library’s offsite storage, but items need to be catalogued first.

Bénédicte VAERMAN (East-Asian Library, Leuven): The Library was merged with the Faculty of Arts last year and receives a bigger budget. The faculty is now in charge of the administration.

Contacts with the faculty are good and the help of a part time cataloguer is a big relief. Move and rebuild are to be expected.

Marc WINTER (University of Zurich, Chinese Library): 16.000 Swiss francs were donated by the Chinese embassy in Bern to acquire databases. 50.000 Swiss francs were also offered by the foreign minister under the condition that a Zhonghua tushu zhongxin would be opened and an official ceremony organized on the very day Xi Jinping came to Switzerland. This amount has to be spent within 5 years. After Katharina Thoelen retired in December 2016, work is being reorganized. The retro-cataloguing process is going smoothly. The library records will be integrated in the national platform which system remains unknown..

Delphine SPICQ (Collège de France, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises) sent the following message:

As I had told you last year, our library, along with the rest of the libraries of the Far Eastern Institutes of the Collège de France (China, Korea, India, Japan and Tibet), moved to a new, temporary location situated just outside Paris on the south-eastern edge of the Bois de Vincennes, in Nogent-sur-Marne. The whole process took longer than expected, almost a month and a half. The location is in the middle of a pleasant park, but it is a bit of a challenge to get there on the RER commuter train A line. Perhaps worst of all, we have only 45% of our collection with us due to limited storage capacity. Not surprisingly, the former numbers of readers don't come: We used to have between 30 and 40 people a day at the Cardinal Lemoine location, and now we are overjoyed when four readers come in the same day! That does, however, badly impact the staff spirit... We are supposed to return to the renovated location on the Rue du Cardinal Lemoine in 2019. The work is well underway, and the schedule shouldn't be delayed.

Our current budget remains the same, but it was reduced a couple of years back, and we can't buy as many publications as we used to. Last year we asked, for the second time, for a special subsidy to buy collections of recently published *Jiapu* (genealogies) and received it. The current digitization of our rare book collection is still under way. All our rubbings (about 1,500) have been digitized, too, and will soon be available for consultation on Salamandre, the digital archives site of the Collège de France. Our small collection of oracle bones (some 15 pieces) has been repaired, cleaned and repacked and will soon be digitized and available online for public consultation as well.

Since many readers don't come any more, we may not be able to keep all of the staff we have. Two new stack attendants were recruited to help with the move. They are still here but probably won't be next year, even though one stack attendant retired this year in July. The process of moving our online catalogue from Aleph to SUDOC hasn't started yet. We have to negotiate with ABES, the institution in charge of SUDOC, about many parameters, the use of standard characters for one thing, and it will take some time.

## 5. Presentations

### Members

- **Marc Winter** (University of Zurich, Chinese Library): "How the image of the Giraffe traveled from China to Europe and back"
- **Marc Gilbert** (Asian Library, Leiden University Libraries): "The Gumbert collection: a way of collecting the Dao"
- **Anne Labitzky** (Institute of Chinese Studies Library, Heidelberg University): "heiBIB – a short introduction"
- **Emma Goodliffe** (Chinese Collections, The British Library, London): "Retro-conversion"

- and Cataloguing Projects in the British Library”
- **Matthias Kaun** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin): “FID Asia – latest developments”
- **Cordula Gumbrecht** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin): “The first Chinese in Germany. Fung Asseng 亞星(1792/3-1889) and Fung Ahok 馮亞孝 (1798-1877) and their translations of the Luther Bible into Chinese”

## Vendors

- **Tammy Ziegler** (Eastview): “*New & Noteworthy Electronic and Print Resources from East View*”
- **Lü Huanglei** (Superstar): “*SUPERSTAR Journals Database and Resources Platform*”
- **Liu Mingdi / Jessica Gao** (CEPIEC): “*Ta Kung Pao Full Text Database (大公报全文检索数据库)*”
- **Sophie Han** (CNKI): “*Database*”
- **Peng Mei** (Shanghai Library): “*Database Name: Chinese Newspaper of Modern China – Sin Wan Pao*”
- **Catherine Berry** (Adam Matthew): “*Digitising the Past: China: Trade, Politics and Culture, 1793-1980*”
- **Albert Hoffstädt** (Brill): “*Presentation*”
- **Zhang Hao** (Zhonghua shuju): “*Overseas Chinese Ancient Books Catalogue*”
- **Zhang Guifang** (Beijing Zhenben Technology): “*China Studies System*”
- **Zhu Min** (CIBTC): “*The new founction of CIBTC online selection platform ‘OSPOL’*”
- **Jason Dai** (Wanfang Data): “*Update on EPS China Statistics*”
- **Wang Xiaosen** (China Data Center Michigan): “*What is Unique about China Data Online*”

## 6. Elections

The meeting unanimously reappointed Maja Fuchs, Anne Labitzky and Marc Gilbert as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

## 7. Next conference

Katharina Thölen and Johann Michael Streffer expressed their friendship and appreciation for the founding member David Helliwell at the end of the conference.

Thanks to Michael Leibold’s invitation, the thirty-eighth annual EASL conference will be held Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th September 2018 at the Würzburg University, Germany.

For 2019, there were invitations from Oslo and Cologne; for 2020 from Heidelberg.

The thirty-seventh EASL conference closed with an expression of thanks to Jarmila Fiuraskova and Helena Sedlackova for their excellent arrangements.

Marc Gilbert EASL Secretary, December 2017, Leiden