

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

FAR EASTERN COLLECTIONS IN LIBRARIES IN GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, HOLLAND AND GERMANY¹

by E. B. CEADEL

The following report attempts briefly to describe the present condition of the collections of Far Eastern books in libraries of Great Britain, France, Holland and Germany. Various librarians and scholars, whose names are listed in the acknowledgement below, have generously provided me with information about the libraries with which they are connected or of which they have knowledge.

This survey is only a general outline, and although it is hoped that the details it contains are accurate, I am aware that it may suffer from a number of defects. Firstly, I am personally acquainted with only a few of the libraries mentioned. Secondly, it has been difficult to estimate the relative importance of the various collections. (The figures given of the numbers of volumes² must in many cases be mere guesses, and even the word "volume" may have been used in different meanings by different librarians: similarly, in the totals of Chinese *ts'ung-shu* holdings, it is likely that some of the libraries include under this heading various collectaneous works not so included by other libraries.) Thirdly, although it is hoped that all valuable collections in

¹ This report was originally prepared in March 1952, at the request of Professor Charles H. Brown, of Iowa State College, at that time Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Far Eastern Association and the American Library Association, was read at the Joint Meeting of the Far Eastern Association and the American Library Association at Boston on April 4, 1952 (see *Far Eastern Quarterly*, XI/4 (August 1952), p. 516), and was privately circulated to American libraries in December 1952 in the mimeographed Proceedings of the Joint Meeting. Professor Brown has kindly given permission for its publication in *Asia Major*, and the opportunity has been taken to make small corrections and to add paragraphs about the libraries of the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art, the Courtauld Institute of Art, the John Rylands Library of Manchester, and of the Oriental section of Durham University Library.

² In any case a bare statement of the number of volumes naturally gives no clue to the quality and importance of the books in a collection.

the four countries have been mentioned, it is possible that some important library may have escaped notice.¹

Nevertheless, in spite of these weaknesses, this survey may be of some help to scholars who may wish to know of other sources of the material they need for reference or research, and it may serve as a basis for a more systematic and fuller investigation by someone else in the future.

At the present time, when it is very difficult to obtain books from China, and when the prices of books in Japan are rising steeply, it is clearly advisable that the best possible use should be made of collections already in these European libraries. Unfortunately there is very little, if any, official machinery for the exchange of books and information between these libraries. For instance, there is nothing comparable to the excellent co-operative card-catalogue system used by American libraries for Chinese and Japanese books. The main reason is that many of the European libraries have insufficient funds, with the result that they are badly understaffed, preferring to spend their meagre resources on the purchase of new acquisitions. Of the British libraries described, only that of the School of Oriental and African Studies is well staffed by the standards of American libraries: in at least one of the other University libraries the professors and teaching staff responsible for teaching Far Eastern subjects have been left with the unpaid and additional task of cataloguing and arranging the Chinese and Japanese books.

Although a co-operative scheme for a union list of all Far Eastern books in these European libraries would be impracticable, the making of union lists of all their *ts'ung-shu* and *sōsho* (and *zenshū*) holdings would not be an unduly difficult undertaking, and preparations are now in fact being made to compile them. Such lists would, with the assistance of the Chinese and Japanese indices to the contents of *ts'ung-shu* and *sōsho*, often help scholars rapidly to discover where they could refer to the texts they require.

GREAT BRITAIN

Oxford, Bodleian Library, Chinese Collection

This collection is built round a nucleus formed in the seventeenth century, and with the acquisition of the Alexander Wylie library in 1879 and of the Backhouse library between 1913 and 1920 it began to be one of considerable size. Most branches of Chinese studies are fairly well covered. The printed books occupy rather over 2000 feet of shelving, and the manuscripts number nearly 200 items.

¹ I have not included libraries with only small Far Eastern collections, even though these collections may be of interest, e.g. the library of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, which has the Japanese books formerly belonging to B. H. Chamberlain, the library of the Warburg Institute, London, and Manchester University Library, which contains about 2000 books formerly belonging to E. H. Parker.

The collection has been described by E. R. Hughes, *Bodleian Quarterly Record*, Vol. VIII, No. 91 (1936), pp. 227-33, supplemented by A. F. L. Beeston, *Bodleian Library Record*, Vol. III, No. 32 (1951), pp. 198-200.

The Bodleian Library contains only a small number of Japanese books.

Oxford, Chinese Faculty Library

This valuable library, built up by Professor H. H. Dubs since 1949, contains texts for the use of students, many reference works, both in Chinese and in European languages, and, most important of all, a total of about 300 *ts'ung-shu*, including both the *Tao-tsang* and a Chinese edition of the *Fu-tsang* and its supplement, the *Hsü-Fu-tsang*. It also contains one of the best collections in Great Britain of Chinese books on Chinese palaeography and the decipherment of the oracle-bone script.

Cambridge, University Library, Far Eastern Collection

Chinese Collection. The Chinese collection was started by the presentation in 1886 by Sir Thomas F. Wade of his private library. This library, containing 883 items in 4304 volumes, is of great importance, as it is rich in manuscripts and includes many early editions of Chinese texts. Its scope is wide, but it is specially strong in political and legal works. A catalogue of its contents by H. A. Giles was published in 1898; it gives an idea of the value of the books, but unfortunately contains numerous inaccuracies.

In 1908 there was a further accession of over 1000 volumes of Chinese books, believed to come from E. Backhouse, and further gifts were received from Dr. F. Sanger, who had been a missionary in China. In 1922 a large part of the library of Bishop G. E. Moule was presented, and in 1939 Professor A. C. Moule (who had held the Chair of Chinese from 1933-8) gave the greater part of his own library.

Professor A. C. Moule (who was the first to undertake systematic buying) and the late Professor G. Haloun before and during the war endeavoured to buy books in so far as limited financial resources permitted, and during this period several essential works such as the *Ssü-pu ts'ung-k'an* were added.

In 1946 the Faculty of Oriental Languages in the University purchased for the University Library a set of the microfilms (1070 rolls, totalling 116,000 feet of microfilm) of the rare books deposited in 1941 by the National Library of Peking in the Library of Congress, thereby in one stroke vastly increasing the research material available. The originals from which the microfilms were photographed comprised Sung, Yüan and Ming prints and manuscripts, about 2800 titles in 40,000 volumes.

Two years later the Faculty purchased and presented the Chinese books of the late Sir James Stewart Lockhart, totalling 4223 volumes of books and 908 of periodicals. These, fortunately, fill some of the gaps between the time when the Wade Library ended and methodical purchases started after 1933.

In 1949 a special grant¹ of £6000 was made to the Faculty by the University Grants Committee for buying Far Eastern books for the University Library, and considerable purchases of Chinese books were made by Professor Haloun in the same year in China and Japan. The University Library in 1952 purchased Professor Haloun's own collection, which was notably rich in some fields.

During Professor Haloun's professorship (1939-51) the Chinese collection was trebled in size; and although there are still many gaps it is perhaps the best Chinese collection in Great Britain.

The Wade Library contains many Manchu books, and as a result of recent purchases in China and Japan small collections of Mongol, Manchu, and Korean books have been built up.

Japanese Collection. The Japanese collection began in 1912 with the presentation by the scholar-diplomat W. G. Aston of his rich library of about 1900 items in 9500 volumes, nearly all being Tokugawa period editions of Japanese literature, as well as a number of manuscripts. Aston's library covers a wide range of subjects, but is especially strong in those subjects in which he was himself most interested.

Smaller, but useful presentations of similar material came from Baron Heinrich von Siebold in 1911 and Sir Ernest Satow in 1913. In view, however, of the fact that until 1947 there was no teacher of Japanese in the university, these books remained uncatalogued until very recently, and from 1913 until 1947 there were no accessions of Japanese books except for a few miscellaneous presentations.

The purchases made personally in Japan in 1949 by Professor Haloun and in 1950 by the present writer totalled 2543 items in 13,653 volumes. In these purchases an attempt was made to obtain as many as possible of the latest dictionaries, reference works, critical editions, *sōsho* and *zenshū*. The money available was limited, and nothing like completeness could be aimed at in any branch of Japanese studies; but most branches are now provided with at least a proportion of the latest standard works.

The collection is noteworthy for the large stock of back numbers of Japanese periodicals. Complete sets of almost 100 of the main literary, historical, and learned periodicals have been obtained and thirty-five current subscriptions have been placed.

Since the present writer's appointment in 1947 the Japanese collection has almost trebled in size; and in spite of a number of gaps, it is the best Japanese library in Great Britain or Europe except for its counterpart in the S.O.A.S., to which it is approximately equivalent in size and importance.

¹ The grants made by the University Grants Committee for the purchase of Far Eastern books by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London were consequent upon the increase in the teaching staffs in Far Eastern subjects in these universities which was brought about after the acceptance of the Scarbrough Report in 1947.

Cambridge, Oriental Faculty Library, Chinese and Japanese Collections

The Oriental Faculty Library is housed in the Institute of Oriental Studies, Cambridge. The Chinese room contains about 3000 volumes, the Japanese room about 2000. There are also about 300 Mongol and Manchu books. These small collections are intended for teaching purposes only, to provide basic texts and works of reference for undergraduates.

London, British Museum

The Chinese collection contains about 50,000 printed books and over 8000 manuscripts. 7000 of these manuscripts are accounted for by the Stein Collection, a detailed catalogue of which, prepared by Dr. Lionel Giles, is now in the press. All the chief aspects of Chinese literature, law and administration down to the end of the Ch'ing dynasty are represented. Of special interest is the unique collection of material on the T'ai-p'ing rebellion.

The Japanese collection contains about 7000 volumes, mostly Tokugawa period books, similar in nature to the Aston Library at Cambridge. There have been very few additions in the last fifty years, and the books have unfortunately never been in the charge of a Japanese expert.

London, S.O.A.S., Main Library, Chinese and Japanese Collections

Chinese Collection. This is a general collection of Chinese printed books and manuscripts, excluding, apart from purely linguistic purposes, modern technical and scientific literature; it has been brought together both for teaching and for research.

It was originally formed by combining the Chinese books from University College, King's College, the University Library of London University, and other sources. From University College came the Chinese library which the missionary Robert Morrison had brought back with him from China in 1824, with the purpose of arousing interest in Chinese studies. This covered a wide range of subjects apart from the official Confucianist literature. Another early collection was the Marsden Library originally bequeathed to King's College in 1835. The Mr. F. Anderson Collection was bought in 1921 with a sum of money presented by Anderson and two Chinese friends. These collections contain a number of rare and early printed editions.

During the period between the two wars, among the most important accessions were the *Ts'ung-shu chi-ch'eng*, *Tao-tsang*, *Ssū-ku ch'üan-shu*, *Ssū-pu ts'ung-k'an*, and the Sung and Taishō editions of the Chinese Tripitaka. After the last war, Professor W. Simon bought extensively in the Far East, and doubled the existing holdings. The number of *ts'ung-shu* was brought up to about 425; a list of these is now in preparation. Modern Sinological literature as well as the older literature on which this is based was strengthened (it is now well represented) and the stock of modern

literature was built up. A recent acquisition was an (incomplete) copy of the second edition of the *Ssü-pu p'ei-yao*.

A further important addition to the library, now being incorporated, was the bequest of a former professor, Sir Reginald Johnson. He was in close contact with representatives of the declining Manchu dynasty, and his books include many Palace editions and works on the reigning house. His main interest was Buddhism.

No accurate statistics exist of the number of Chinese books. Very roughly one may say the collection is the equivalent on the shelves of some 25,000 to 30,000 European volumes. Attempts are being made to fill gaps as far as is possible in the present circumstances.

A smaller collection of Manchu books and manuscripts, mainly of linguistic interest, is in the possession of the Library.

Japanese Collection. Before 1949 there were no more than about 3000 Japanese volumes in all. It is difficult to estimate the present total with any precision, but in all probability it is now in the region of 15,000 volumes, due to the large purchases in Japan by Professor Simon and Mr. F. J. Daniels during 1949-51, from a grant from the University Grants Committee.

The subjects principally covered are Japanese literature and language, history, religion, philosophy, and the social sciences; there is also an important section on Japanese contributions to the field of Sinology, containing many Chinese texts printed in Japan during the Tokugawa period. There is a large number of *sōsho* and *zenshū*, mainly of a literary nature but also covering the collected writings of Buddhist sects.

No attempt has been made to specialize in either classical or modern literature and history, or in the works of any particular period. The collection is general in scope, though it contains a good deal of material in certain specialized fields such as art, archaeology, and calligraphy.

Subscriptions have been placed for about twenty-five current Japanese periodicals, and complete or nearly complete sets of such periodicals as *Shigaku zasshi* and *Kokugakuin zasshi* have been secured.

London, S.O.A.S., Far Eastern Departmental Library

This library consists mainly of reference works and important texts for the use of students. It contains several thousands of both Chinese and Japanese books.

London, S.O.A.S., Library of the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art

This library of the Percival David Foundation, opened in 1952, contains about 6000 volumes, dealing mostly with the art and culture of China and of the surrounding countries, including reproductions of Chinese and Japanese art, text-books, reference books, gazetteers, and about thirty-five *ts'ung-shu*, as well as a range of periodicals relating to Chinese and Far Eastern Art.

London, Courtauld Institute of Art, Chinese Department Library

This library, housed in rooms separate from the General Library of the Institute, specializes in Chinese art and archaeology. There are about 1750 *pên* of Chinese books, mainly on archaeology, epigraphy, and bronzes, but also dealing with painting. There are also Japanese books on archaeology, including catalogues of the great collections, and long runs of the periodicals *Kokka* and *Bijutsu kenkyū*.

Manchester, John Rylands Library

The Chinese collection of about 8000 *pên* was originally built up by the 25th Earl of Crawford, and contains many early and rare works. The Japanese collection of about 1000 volumes consists mainly of Tokugawa period prints, many of them illustrated.

Durham, University Library, Oriental Section

The Chinese and Japanese collection in the Durham University Library, Oriental Section, comprises approximately 4600 volumes of Chinese (and 2200 parts of periodicals) and 900 of Japanese (and 800 parts of periodicals), the majority of which came from the library of the late Herbert John Cant which was bought and presented to the University in 1952 by Dr. H. N. Spalding. It includes the *Ssü-pu ts'ung-k'an*, *Ssü-pu pei-yao*, numerous reference works, and a fine range of Chinese archaeological works. In addition the European works on the Far East exceed 2200 volumes.

FRANCE

Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale

The Chinese works number about 20,000 (about 125,000 fascicles), including the old collection going back to acquisitions made by the missionaries from the 17th and 18th centuries onwards (catalogued by Maurice Courant from 1902 onwards), acquisitions made by Pelliot and others, and through exchange (with the National Library of Peking, etc.) after the time of Courant's catalogue (for the acquisitions made by Pelliot in 1908-1909, cf. "Répertoire des 'Collections Pelliot A' et 'B' du fonds chinois de la Bibliothèque Nationale", *T'oung Pao*, XIV, pp. 697-781), the personal library of Pelliot acquired after his death, and recent acquisitions from Hong Kong. To these must be added the Tun-huang manuscripts ("Fonds Pelliot chinois", 2709 numbers), important epigraphic rubbings (about 2000), and collections of Japanese, Annamese and Korean books in Chinese. The stock of Japanese books in the Bibliothèque Nationale is not very large.

Paris, Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Université de Paris

This library, which contains 7614 Chinese works (about 70,000 fascicles) and a small collection of Japanese works, some of which are important (especially in archaeology and Buddhism), is particularly rich in *ts'ung-shu* (about 200), and is an excellent working library, even though

circumstances have prevented it from being kept properly up to date during the last fifteen years.

Paris, École Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes

Here there are about 3300 Chinese works (about one half acquired in the latter quarter of the nineteenth century, the rest more recently, although acquisitions could not be made systematically during the last twenty years). There is also a valuable Japanese library (rather old) and a collection of Annamese and Korean books, of Moso manuscripts, etc.

Paris, Société Asiatique

The Société Asiatique possesses an excellent working library of about 2000 Chinese works, 300 Japanese works, and 220 Annamese works (in Chinese), including the entire Chinese collections of Édouard Chavannes and Henri Maspero, bequeathed by them. Maspero's collection of Annamese books is very valuable.

Paris, Musée Guimet

In the Musée Guimet is the largest library of Japanese books and periodicals (2500 items) in Paris. It is kept well up to date, particularly as regards archaeology, history of art, and Buddhism. There are also about 650 Chinese works.

Collège de France

There are some Chinese and Japanese books in the library of the Collège de France.

HOLLAND

Leiden, Sinologisch Instituut

This library was founded in 1931, at which time a small stock of Chinese books in Leiden University Library (of which a brief hand-list had been made by Schlegel) was transferred to it. Since 1931 the library has been systematically developed by Professor Duyvendak. It contains a set of the microfilms of the rare books in the National Library of Peking, which, apart from the set in the University Library, Cambridge, is the only one in Europe. There is also a smaller but useful collection of Japanese books.

GERMANY

Berlin State Library

The whole stock was dispersed during the war and only part has been returned. Most of the Chinese and Japanese collections formerly in the Library are now at Marburg in the U.S. zone, being part of the Westdeutsche Bibliothek. At Marburg there is much material on Chinese, Mongol, Manchu, and Tibetan, but the central catalogue is still in Berlin. The library of the Oriental Reading Room of the Berlin State Library (about 10,000 volumes) is also in Marburg.

Berlin, University Library

This library did not suffer much during the war and is in use.

Berlin, Sinological and Japanological Seminars

Both of these collections have been destroyed in the war.

Leipzig, East Asiatic Seminar (Eastern zone)

This library, including the Wilhelm Grube collection, was lost by bombing. Professor Erkes' private library is being used by students.

Halle, Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (Eastern zone)

The Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft collection, which started about 1850 and contains a good stock of Chinese books, is completely intact.

Hamburg, Chinese and Japanese Seminar Libraries

The Chinese library is good and was recently increased by part of the library of the late Professor Otto Franke. It suffered no losses and was put in order soon after the end of the war.

Göttingen, Sinological Seminar Library

This excellent library, built up between 1931 and 1938 by the late Professor Haloun, was lost in September 1945 by an explosion in a mine where it had been stored. Some Chinese books from the University Library of Göttingen are now on loan to the Sinological Seminar Library.

Frankfurt, China Institute

The fairly good library, built up by Richard Wilhelm, was destroyed in 1944.

Bonn, Oriental Seminar Library

This library covers most Oriental subjects, and the Chinese collection is not large. It was built up under Professors Kahle and Schmitt from 1927 onwards. The section on Japanese Buddhism is comparatively strong.

Cologne, Museum of Far Eastern Art

The collections of Far Eastern art objects and the accompanying library have been preserved and are the best material for Far Eastern Art in Germany.

Munich, Bavarian State Library

The Chinese books date back to about 1830, and it is now a large library. There is no adequate catalogue and no access to the books at present, since they were evacuated during the war and are still accommodated in storing cases.

Munich, East Asiatic Seminar Library

This contains a small working collection of Chinese books.

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London, S.O.A.S., Library of the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art: Miss B. Martin.

London, Courtauld Institute of Art: Mr. S. H. Hansford.

Durham, University Library, Oriental Section: Mr. R. Dawson.

France: Professor P. Demiéville.

Holland: Mr. P. van der Loon.

Germany: Professor H. Franke of the University of Munich.