

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST ASIA LIBRARY AT YALE

General Information: (203) 432-1790 Web: <http://www.library.yale.edu/eastasian>

Folding Screen from Yale Association of Japan Collection returns to Japan for Conservation Treatment

Under the auspices of the Todai-Yale Initiative, an academic exchange between the University of Tokyo and Yale, the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library has sent a rare folding screen of historical documents to the University of Tokyo Historiographical Institute for conservation treatment. The screen was boxed for shipment and sent to Tokyo in July accompanied by Japanese Collection Librarian Haruko Nakamura. The 28 historical documents now attached to the screen will be removed, repaired, and separately housed to prevent further deterioration.

The screen came to Yale in 1934, part of a significant collection of over 350 works donated by the Yale Association of Japan (YAJ), a group of elite Japanese who attended Yale between the late 19th century and the 1930s. The collection was assembled by Kuroita Katsumi, a noted scholar at the very Institute to which the screen has now temporarily returned. Kuroita was a friend and mentor to Asakawa Kan'ichi (Yale Ph.D., 1904), then a Yale Professor of History and Curator of the East Asian collections. Full of cultural treasures from China, Korea, and Japan, the YAJ Collection has one of the most significant collections of Japanese medieval (pre-1600) documents outside of Japan. Many of these

Right: Professor Kondo Shigekazu of the University of Tokyo displays YAJ screen to reporters in Tokyo. (Photograph courtesy of the Institute.)

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medieval documents were fixed to the folding screen under discussion, for reasons that have not been recorded. However, it is known that Asakawa hoped for a special room at Yale to exhibit the YAJ works, and the documents may have been featured in this way to provide a convenient means of display.

The documents, dating from the early 12th to the mid-18th centuries, deal with a variety of topics, including the appointment of officials, the business affairs of Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, and inventories of estates. The most significant is a letter signed by Chōgen (1121–1206), a monk in the early Kamakura period who was instrumental in organizing the reconstruction of Todaiji, the temple in Nara featuring a *daibutsu* (Great Buddha) statue, the largest bronze statue extant today.



Chinese Collection History Revised after Discovery of Early Donation

A chance discovery made while reorganizing an East Asia Library staff area has led to the rewriting of East Asia Library history in two important ways. First, it was long thought that the Chinese Collection was inaugurated with the donation in 1878 of Yung Wing’s personal collection. The recent find, along with further archival research, indicates that Samuel Wells Williams (later to become a professor of Chinese language and civilization at Yale but then a missionary printer in Canton), was involved in the shipment of somewhat over 90 volumes of Chinese works to Yale College Library in 1849. Williams, in correspondence with the Librarian, advised that the books, purchased for Yale, had been consigned for shipment to New York and included the following works:

- Laws of China*
- Chinese Dictionary*
- Tour Books*
- Five Classics*
- Catalogue of Imperial Library*
- Plates of [Weaving] & Agriculture*

The work discovered in the East Asia Library in November was the edition of the Five Classics mentioned in this letter (title page at right). This work is also significant because it is now the earliest documented acquisition by an American university of an East Asian book. Prior to this discovery, a Japanese book donated in 1868 was thought to represent the beginning of East Asian collection development at Yale, and the U.S. *[Cont. on p. 3.]*

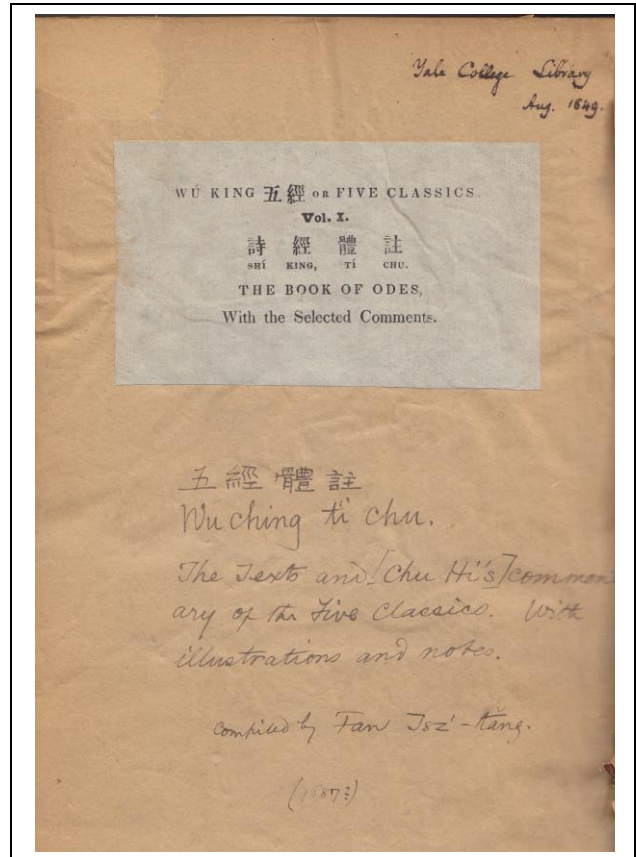
Right: *Wu jing ti zhu Fan xiang ping xuan*

五經體註 范翔評選. From the first volume of an 18 volume edition of the “Five Classics” purchased by Yale in 1849.

REMINDER RE PURCHASE REQUESTS!

The Yale University Library budget for collections suffered considerable losses as Yale coped with budget shortfalls over the past two years. While various ongoing strategies to prevent format duplication continue to free up dollars, the most recent round of cuts has required East Asia Library staff to carefully scrutinize and time the purchase of expensive items.

Our mission is still to do all we can to support current projects of researchers on campus. In order to do this best, we would appreciate it if you could let us know as soon as possible about materials you will need next year so that we can factor the costs into our planning.



Chinese Collection History (continued)

Further research on the background to this 1849 acquisition, the relationship of this edition of the “Five Classics” to similarly (western) bound Chinese books in the collection, and the typography of the title slip are still necessary [Hint to future History Department senior essay writers!]

Korean Film Council donates Materials for the Study of Korean Film

The Korean Collection has received its second shipment of books, journal articles, and films from the Korean Film Council (KOFIC), provided to Yale as a result of its successful application to join the KOFIC Library Support Program in 2009. All print materials are being processed in the library while DVDs of Korean feature films will be made available in the Film Study Center. The items coming to the library include film director biographies and filmographies, film script anthologies, statistical data on the film industry, film yearbooks, film periodicals, and other basic sources for the study of Korean film.

Significant Donations Received by the Japanese Collection

The Japanese Collection has received two important donations as a result of arrangements made by Aaron Gerow (Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the Film Studies Program) and Justin Jesty (Council on East Asian Studies Post-Doctoral Fellow 2009–2010).

Through Professor Gerow, the library has received a nearly complete postwar run of *Kinema Junpo* キネマ旬報 from Fujita Motohiko, a film scholar, poet, and author of many books such as *Nihon eiga gendaishi* 日本映画現代史. The donated issues of this long-running periodical on Japanese film run from 1946 (the year it resumed publication after the war) through July 1996. This donation allows Yale to fill out its postwar holdings of this seminal journal.

Justin Jesty was instrumental in introducing Masaki Motoi, who recently retired as Curator of the Meguro Museum of Art in Tokyo. Mr. Masaki has donated to Yale a collection of over 200 volumes on ikebana, described as a nearly complete collection of the basic print sources needed for the study of the art of flower arrangement. Included are books, journal issues, exhibit catalogs, and other materials, including a number of privately printed works.

Left: Journal Hōka 邦花, included in Mr. Masaki Motoi's donation of ikebana-related works. (Photograph Courtesy of Mr. Masaki.)



East Asia Library Summer Workshops usher in New Library Use Policy

With support from a Department of Education Title VI grant, the Council on East Asian Studies, and the Yale Libraries, the East Asia Library sponsored a series of three workshops during the summer of 2010 called “East Asian Thursdays in the Yale University Library.” The day-long sessions included:

- a) Introduction to Yale’s East Asian special collections
- b) Overview of print and online general collections
- c) Tours of selected special collections
- d) Individual consultation on research projects
- e) Free time to browse the print collections and do database searches.

Researchers and librarians from the following universities in the region participated: Fairfield University, Connecticut College, Trinity College, University of Massachusetts–Amherst, Dartmouth University and Mount Holyoke College.

The interest shown by East Asian researchers in the Northeast makes it especially welcome that a new “privileges” policy for the Yale University Library was recently decided. Formerly, researchers from smaller colleges and universities within a 100-mile radius of Yale were unable to access the stacks without paying a fee. The policy has now changed to allow both students and faculty at academic institutions to register for such privileges for free. (Borrowing privileges will still be available for purchase.)

Tibet Mirror Holdings Digitized for Online Collaborative Project

Holdings of the *Tibet Mirror*, one of the earliest and most significant Tibetan language newspapers, held in the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, have been digitized for inclusion in a consortial project initiated by

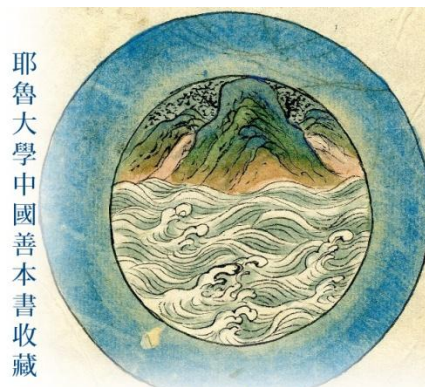


Founded by Gegen (Gergan) Dorje Tharchin, a Tibetan and pastor based in Kalimpong, the *Tibet Mirror* later became an influential voice for Tibet’s independence from China. Yale’s holdings, amounting to over 1,200 pages, are already available to Yale users through the Beinecke Digital Library: <http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/digitallibrary/tibetmirror.html>

The *Tibet Mirror* holdings from Yale and other collections worldwide will be collated and added to the Columbia website with the goal of creating a complete virtual collection. For more information about the project, see: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/eastasian/Tibetan/TharchinCollectionHome.html>

Other Announcements

- *Minguo jicui* 民國籍粹 (*Books of the Republican Period*), a reprint of 8,000 important titles published during the Republican Period (1912–1949), offering researchers unprecedented access to the scholarship of the era, has been acquired by the East Asia Library and will be fully cataloged by the spring.
- The Chinese Collection has also acquired *Duxiu* 读秀, sometimes known as the Chinese Google Scholar, a content-based database consisting of 800,000,000 full text pages of books, journal and newspaper articles, theses, conference proceedings, etc. and has a very flexible search interface. It is a useful reference tool for discovering bibliographic information, locating particular search terms within a text, and for getting a preview of texts.
- The Japanese Collection has purchased a collection of approximately 300 Japanese language works on Taiwan published during the colonial period and after. The Yale Library owns a large set of reprints of archival documents related to Japanese social services in colonial Taiwan, which complements this retrospective acquisition.
- The Chinese Collection was the beneficiary of special “project” funding for collections, made available through a competition within the library in the fall. This grant covered the start-up costs for an extensive digital archive of statistical data, the *CYFD China Yearbooks Full-text Database*, distributed by East View Information Services. This archive contains data on a full range of social, economic, and cultural activities and consists of over 300 yearbook titles.
- The East Asia Library has begun acquisitions directly from Macau through a vendor there. So far, over 200 works (primarily Chinese-language but also in English and Portuguese) have been received and cataloged. The materials relate to mainly to contemporary fiction, art, and architecture.
- The exhibit, *Scrolls to Cell Phones and Beyond: Publishing Technology and the Experience of the Written Text in Japan*, curated by Haruko Nakamura, will continue through December 19 in the corridor cases in Sterling Memorial Library (first floor). In addition, an exhibit on Chinese rare books is now on view in the East Asian Reading Room.



Chinese Rare Books in the Yale Collections
East Asia Reading Room, SML 222