Renovation Begins

By Ellen Hammond

The East Asia Library renovation is underway!

Many of the spaces on the second floor of Sterling, including the main Reading Room, Periodical Reading Room, and all staff offices, are currently in various stages of deconstruction: the ceiling in the corridor has been opened up to receive air conditioning ducts, the old radiators have been removed pending the installation of a new heating system, and wood shelving units are being dismantled for reinstallation in new locations. The demolition is nearly complete and will be followed by refurbishment of the entire area. If all goes well, we will have the main reader space ready for occupancy in December.

During this first phase of construction, the East Asian reference and periodical collections are available in Room 222 (former home of Old Yale class Fv books), with some reading space next door in Room 221. When these collections are returned to renovated spaces late in the year, these rooms will in turn be refurbished, with completion of the entire project scheduled for January. I think the future space will be both reassuringly familiar (for example, the reference collection will still reside in the two tiers of stacks in Room 219) but also excitingly new ... and comfortable. The architects have done a wonderful job with furniture selection and design. The result will be an atmosphere appropriate to the "old Yale" style of Sterling, with some suggestions of "East Asian" influence, as well.

Thank you for your forbearance during these months of fall semester when collections and staff are scattered to temporary locations. My staff and I look forward to welcoming you to the new space early in 2007. In the meantime, please take a look at the final floor plan (on page 2).

Librarians Attend the IFLA Conference

By Sarah Elman

Curator Ellen Hammond and Associate Curator Sarah Elman attended the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) 2006 Pre-Conference in Hangzhou, China, as well as the World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA General Conference in Seoul, Korea, in August. They were joined by Alice Prochaska, University Librarian, Ann Okerson, Associate University Librarian, and other librarians from Yale during these events.

The Pre-Conference was devoted to "Chinese written and printed cultural heritage and library work." Eleven papers focusing on the history of printing and paper making in China were delivered by scholars from China and abroad. Two field trips were also provided by the conference organizers and included visits to the Ancient Chinese Paper-making and Printing Village, the Tianyi Ge Ancient Library, the Jiaye Tang Ancient Library, as well as the Hubi Chinese Traditional Writing Brush Museum.

(Please see IFLA on page 4)
New Chinese Acquisition Highlights
By Chi-wah Chan

The academic year 2005–2006 was a year of strong acquisitions of Chinese materials, with total of 4,883 titles in 9,379 volumes added to the collection. In April, the East Asia Library also received a gift from the President of China, Hu Jintao, which consisted of 567 titles in 1,346 volumes of books in Chinese and English. These books cover art, literature, law, politics, classics, history, and science and fill gaps in the East Asia Collection.

The acquisitions contribute to the strength of the Chinese collection in the fields of history, literature, religion, art, and social sciences. Among the important acquisitions are reprints of archives of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911), including Qing gong nei fu zao ban chu dang an zong hui 清宮內府造辦處檔案總匯 (55 vols.), Qing dai jun ji chu dian bao dang hui bian 清代軍機處電報檔案編 (40 vols.), Da Qing wu chao hui dian 大清五朝會典 (22 vols.), and Jing bao 京報 (163 vols.). The Library also collected a number of archives of Man tie 滿鉄 (Manzhou Railway) and the Republican government. With the acquisition of two different editions of the Buddhist canon, namely Qisha da zang jing 磚砂大藏經 (120 vols.) and Pin qie da zang jing 頻伽大藏經 (200 vols.), the East Asia Library now holds all major editions of the Buddhist canon compiled in the history of China. Other important acquisitions include a set of Li dai ri ji cong chao 歷代日記叢鈔 (200 vols.) and Zhongguo di fang zhi ji cheng 中國地方志集成.

In the last academic year, I aggressively collected materials on the following subjects: the history of the Chinese Communist Party in different provinces and cities, the social and political changes of China since Deng Xiaoping’s rise to power, the legal history of China, Ming–Qing vernacular literature, the historical documents of Dunhuang and Xixia, and modern Chinese popular culture, particularly Chinese cinema.

To strengthen our electronic resources for Chinese studies, four new electronic databases were acquired: Wanfang China Online Journal (full text database of journals published in China), Wanfang Dissertations of China (full text database of dissertations -- master’s and doctoral – from major universities in China), Wanfang Policies and Laws of China (full text database on documents of policies and laws of China), and China Data Online (database of statistical data of China).

New Japanese Acquisition Highlights
By Haruko Nakamura

This year the Japanese collection added many different types of resources including online databases, CDs, other electronic resources, and microfilm collections. For instance, we purchased the 24 DVD set Shōwa Nippon Ichiku-nisenmannin no Eizō (昭和ニッポン一億二千万人の映像). For electronic resources, we added Jitsū (字通), an online character dictionary, which provides various search functions, including the character readings, meanings, idioms, ancient letters, old pronunciation, etc. While we maintained the highest quality in acquisitions in conventional subject fields such as literature, history, and religion, the types of subjects represented in the Japanese collection expanded significantly to support new courses offered this year in film study, popular culture, minorities and sexuality in Japan. For instance, we have begun to acquire ephemera offered by donors in the field of Japanese film and have started investigating ways to collect GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) related primary source documents and secondary sources in relation to the Larry Kramer Initiative. These subject areas are not yet well represented in libraries in the United States and Japan, and these planned acquisitions will make Yale’s Japanese Collection unique. Below are other notable titles we acquired last year.

Kokushi Taikei (国史大系) – Authoritative historical dictionary of Japan. Due to missing volumes in the old sets held in the library, we purchased a new edition.
(Please see Japanese Acquisition on the back cover)
On the way from Hangzhou to Seoul, Alice, Ellen and Sarah stopped in Shanghai to visit Fudan University and to interview Kwok Library Fellow candidates at Fudan University Library. The Kwok Library Fellowship is a visiting librarian program sponsored by the Kwok Foundation of Hong Kong in which librarians from China are invited to Yale to engage in training as well as library research projects for up to one year. The first two librarians (Ms. Xuyu Zhou and Ms. Weiqing Qiu) from Zhongshan (a.k.a. Sun Yat-sen) University, Guangzhou, China, completed their term in July 2006. Mr. Dong Feng, also from Zhongshan University Library, is in residence now. He will complete his term at Yale in July 2007.

Arranging the Periodicals: Survey Results Are In

By Ellen Hammond

Thanks are due to all those who responded to our questionnaire last spring concerning the shelving of East Asian periodicals. There was actually a lot of interest in this issue, with a high response rate (33 faculty and graduate students) and a large number of fervently held opinions! The shelving options included the following.

1. Keep the status quo: English, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean journals shelved separately, with all in alphabetical order.

2. Keep the language division but shelve the journals by Library of Congress (LC) classification within each language.

3. Eliminate the division by language and shelve the journals by LC classification.

The first two options had the most support with very few in favor of option 3. Those in favor of option 1, the status quo, (5 faculty, 6 grad students) cited the ease with which each title could be found (since the call number does not have to be looked up in Orbis). Those in favor of option 2 (7 faculty, 11 grad students) argued that a classified arrangement offered them the best way to browse journals in their field (since, for example, all Chinese journals in history would be grouped together on the shelf).

Taking all of the comments into account, we have decided to move toward a periodical collection divided first by language and then classified within each section — but with two caveats. First, we will retain the status quo for at least a year as we work through the issues associated with the reclassification of the periodicals into LC classification and the policy changes required at upper levels in the library to achieve this. Second, even after the periodical collection is re-shelved in classified order, we will keep a print list of all titles near to hand so that those who prefer alphabetical look-up can still find the sought after title (without having to go online to check Orbis.)

Thank you so much for your feedback! I hope the above solution will be acceptable to all.

A total of 33 faculty and Ph.D. students in East Asian Studies participated in the survey.
Collection Notes

A team from the University of Tokyo Historiographical Institute (Shiryo Hensanjo) visited Yale the second week of September to undertake the digitization of pre-modern Japanese manuscripts in the Yale Association of Japan (YAJ) Collection in the Beinecke. The materials included calligraphy, documents related to temple management, government edicts, sutras, and other pre-1600 works. All of the images will be added to Beinecke's digital image database along with bibliographic information compiled by East Asia Library staff. Yale (along with the Library of Congress and Harvard) has one of the very few collections of early Japanese documents extant outside Japan. The Hensanjo will be providing links from their database to the images mounted at Yale, making these materials better known in their country of origin. (E.H.H.)

Korean works acquired in the 1930s as part of the Yale Association of Japan Collection have recently excited the attention of outside scholars. A researcher from the Korean Institute of Cultural Heritage viewed a number of items in May and will pay a repeat visit with a larger team this November. A curator from the Metropolitan Museum of Art came with two colleagues during the summer to view the illustrated books in the collection. While the Korean component of the YAJ Collection is small, it includes an interesting range of publishing formats and of calligraphy, printing, and illustration styles. (E.H.H.)

The East Asia Library has begun to collect books, periodicals, pamphlets, and ephemera related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer history and culture in China in support of the Kramer Initiative in the Library’s Manuscripts and Archives (MSSA). Zhou Dan, a Shanghai lawyer who works with Yale’s China Law Center and is an activist involved in GLBTQ issues, has agreed to assist us with this project. He has already generously donated a number of print materials to the collection. (E.H.H.)

A new East Asian Rare Book Use Policy is currently under discussion within the EAL and will be made available for input and discussion during the fall. We hope to have a final policy in place by the time the rare books are accessible again in the newly renovated space. Due to heightened concern about security throughout the University and the Libraries, we have had to reassess procedures for using these collections, which consist primarily of the following: Chinese books published prior to 1797, Japanese books published prior to 1868, and special collections, such as the Jen Yu-wen Collection (described below). The new policy will require supervised use of these materials in the Manuscripts & Archives Reading Room in SML, with exceptions allowed in some cases (for example, prior arrangement for display or use in teaching). (E.H.H.)

Mr. Jen Yu-wen, an authority on the Taiping Revolutionary Movement (1851–1866), donated his research collection on the history of the Taiping Movement to Yale in the 1970s. The Jen Yu-wen Collection includes not only monographs, documents, manuscripts, and relics such as coins, official seals, stone rubbings, etc. but also memorabilia of Feng Yuxiang (1882–1948), a warlord who dominated much of north China in the 1920s. This Collection has not been fully organized and cataloged for users. With the help of Mr. Dong Feng, the Kwok Library Fellow, the East Asia Library is compiling a finding aid for this rich research collection. This project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2007. (C.W.C.)

A new procedure for creating bibliographic records for on-order Chinese materials was implemented in the summer of 2006. Previously, only romanized bibliographic data were entered when brief records were created at time of ordering. Starting from this summer, data in Chinese scripts have been added to brief records. This new procedure helps library catalog users identify bibliographic information more rapidly. (S.E.)

Factiva is a newspaper database available at Yale that contains the fulltext of articles from hundreds of publications. The database now provides many important newspapers in Japanese, including Mainichi Shimbun (10/19/1992 –), Sankei Shimbun (1/21/1997 –), Chunichi Shimbun (1/21/1997 –), Tokyo Shimbun (5/1/2003 –), and Yomiuri Shimbun (both Tokyo edition and local editions, 1/1/2002 –). (H.N.)
Japanese Acquisition from page 3

*Bakumatsu Meiji Zainichi Gaikokujin, Kikan Meikan – Japan Directory* (幕末明治在日外国人・機関名鑑－Japan Directory) – This 48-volume set is a reprint of directories of foreigners and foreign businesses in Japan in the early Meiji period (1861–1912). During this era in Japan, foreigners lived and worked in protected zones such as Yokohama and Kobe. This primary source assists scholars of this period interested in these concessions and the foreign residents and their activities and businesses.

*Keijō Nippō* (京城日報) – Reprint of Japanese language newspaper originally published in Korea during the Japanese Colonial period. The library purchased the reprint edition of this newspaper and we are also working on acquiring online access.

*Shinchō* (新潮) – One of the most important modern Japanese literary journals. The microfilm set is a reprint of this journal from its inception in 1904 to 1945.

*Chiteki, Shintai Shōgaisha Mondai Shirō Shūsei* (知的・身体障害者問題資料集成) – A collection of primary sources on Japanese people who are mentally and physically challenged.

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