

Trends in Collection Building for East Asian Studies in American Libraries

Among the many non-Western language area collections in American libraries, the East Asian collection was the earliest to be established. Its growth during the last two decades has been especially rapid and spectacular. Today some 100 individual collections contain nearly eight million volumes in exclusively indigenous languages with numerous editions written or printed centuries ago. With the increasing interest in the study of world civilizations, these once exotic materials have become an integral part of many research collections in American libraries and are of national and international significance.

THIS PAPER attempts to summarize some of the highlights and point out certain special features that characterize the collection development of East Asian-language materials in North American libraries at different stages during the last 100 years or so.

Briefly, the time from the first arrival of Chinese books in 1869 to the end of World War I in 1918 may be called the pioneer period, as a few collections began to grow accidentally in that era. The time between the two world wars from about 1920 to 1945 was a period of systematic development parallel to the growth of academic interest in the study of East Asia. From the end of World War II in 1945 to the present, it has been a period of rapid expansion with a tremendous increase in the number of collections as well as accelerated growth of the resources. Although from the year 1970 on-

ward some signs of stagnation and retrenchment have appeared, the general trend of overall growth continues but has gradually been shifted from individual toward collective concerns among the East Asian library community.

THE BEGINNINGS OF EAST ASIAN COLLECTIONS, 1869-1919

The first large acquisition of Oriental books by an American library occurred in 1869 when some 1,000 Chinese volumes were "presented to the government of the U.S.A. by His Majesty the Emperor of China." This was not exactly a gift but an exchange, which took some two years of negotiations and involved at least three agencies of the U.S. government.

The Smithsonian Institution initiated the exchange in 1867 when the Congress passed an act to provide fifty copies of U.S. government documents in exchange for official publications of other countries. A year later the U.S. Department of Agriculture requested information about Chinese agriculture, and on this occasion a special commissioner traveled to China, taking with him a collection of American plant seeds and some books on agriculture, mechanics, mining, and maps and surveys of the Pacific

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Railroad—all in the hope of exchanging them for similar materials from the Chinese side.

While the Chinese Foreign Office awaited instructions on what kind of materials to send, the U.S. commissioner of the General Land Office in 1869 further requested information on Chinese census and revenue data. The Chinese government responded by sending to the U.S. government some Chinese plant seeds and books, which included ten titles in 937 volumes on Confucian classics, philosophy, rituals, mathematics, agriculture, medicine, and acupuncture. These books are still on the shelves at the Library of Congress.¹

In subsequent years, several major gifts of materials in Chinese and other languages were added to the Library of Congress. These included the 2,500-volume collection of Caleb Cushing (1800–1879), added in 1879, and the 6,000-volume collection of William W. Rockhill (1854–1914) in 1901–2; both men were American ministers to China. Also included were a gift from the Chinese government of 1,965 volumes from China's exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held at St. Louis in 1904; a 5,040-volume set of the Grand Encyclopedia, *Ku chin t'u shu chi ch'eng*, in 1908 in acknowledgment of the American return of the Boxer Indemnity Fund; and some 300 volumes of books and maps in 1909.

During the next decade, Walter T. Swingle (1871–1952), a botanist at the Department of Agriculture, collaborated with the library in acquiring more than 23,000 volumes on Chinese agriculture, collectanea, encyclopedias, and especially local history—a collection that has since become the largest outside of China.

The books received earlier at the Library of Congress were mostly in Chinese, but there were also some in other Far Eastern languages. Included in the Cushing collection were thirty-five volumes of dictionaries, literature, and a translation of the Bible in Manchu; and in the Rockhill collection were 730 volumes of mostly Buddhist texts, some dictionaries, biographies, and medical and divinatory materials in Manchu, Mongolian, and Tibetan.

The library did not acquire Japanese materials systematically until 1906, when

Kanichi Asakawa of Yale University selected a good working collection of 9,027 volumes on Japanese literature, history, and institutions, which was reported to be unequaled outside of Japan. Also, a year earlier Crosby S. Noyes presented a large collection of Japanese prints to the library's Fine Arts Division.²

After the arrival of Chinese books at the Library of Congress, other libraries also began to acquire materials in Chinese. In 1878 Yung Wing (1828–1912), the first Chinese graduate of Yale University and then a Chinese associate minister to Washington, presented to his alma mater a 5,040-volume set of the Grand Encyclopedia.

A year later Yale appointed Samuel Wells Williams (1812–84), who was chargé d'affaires in the Peking Legation when the first exchange of publications was arranged, as its first professor of Chinese language and literature; but records indicate no students enrolled in his courses. After his death in 1884, Yale acquired his private collection. It was supplemented by further gifts from Francis E. Woodruff; Addison van Name, curator in 1890; and Kanichi Asakawa, who acquired 1,350 volumes in Japanese and brought the initial Japanese collection at Yale to 3,578 volumes before he became its curator in 1907.

In 1879, the same year that Yale first offered Chinese language, Harvard College secured the service of a Chinese scholar, Ko K'un-hua (d. 1882), for Chinese instruction. The arrival of Ko and his family in Cambridge was hailed as a memorable event in linking the Old World with the New. Harvard acquired a small collection of Chinese books at that time, and after his death three years later the university acquired the books Ko brought with him from China. In 1914 two Japanese scholars, Hattori Unokichi and Anesaki Masahara, contributed some important Japanese works. These materials formed the initial Chinese-Japanese Collection at the Harvard College library.³

On the West Coast, increasing business contacts with Asia necessitated some action by the University of California to supply needed training. In 1890 the university established the Jean Agassiz professorship of Oriental languages and literatures but did

not fill the position until 1896 when it appointed a British educator, John Fryer (1839-1928), who had served as an instructor at the Tung-wen College and as a translator at the Kiangnan Arsenal in China. Fryer brought with him his own library and the entire collection of Chinese translations of Western works then produced at the Kiangnan Arsenal. These constituted part of the early Chinese collection at Berkeley.

Fryer served at Berkeley until 1915 when a Chinese scholar, Kiang K'ang-hu, and later Edward Thomas Williams succeeded him. Kiang donated his own collection of some 13,000 volumes to the library in 1916. All the pioneer teachers of Chinese, in addition to Michael Hagerty, who served as curator from 1916 to 1932, contributed to the original collections at Berkeley, making a total of 22,541 volumes at the end of the early period.⁴

Columbia University established the Dean Lung professorship of Chinese in 1901 in memory of a Chinese employee, Dean Lung (Ting Liang), whose patient and faithful work had won the high praise of General Horace W. Carpenter (1824-1918), a Columbia alumnus who became prosperous during the gold rush and later from his real estate business in New York.

It was told that Carpenter had a hot temper and one day argued with Dean Lung and discharged him. Next day when Carpenter got up, he found Dean had gone but the servant had prepared his master's breakfast. Carpenter was moved by the loyalty of his servant and apparently by the Chinese culture that he exemplified. In recognition of Dean's service, he made a donation of \$200,000 to his alma mater, and this was supplemented by a gift of \$12,000 from Dean Lung himself, for the promotion of Chinese studies.

In conjunction with the teaching program, the university established a Chinese library in the following year, using a portion of the income from the Dean Lung Fund for acquisitions. Also, the university received from the Chinese government a 5,040-volume set of the Grand Encyclopedia, valued at \$7,000 in 1902. This acquisition was initiated by university president Seth Low (1850-1916), who expressed his belief that China and the United States

were destined to be thrown into closer touch with each other in the near future.

In the Midwest, there was the leadership of Berthold Laufer (1874-1934), who served at the Field Museum of Natural History beginning in 1908 and acquired a large collection of materials in all Far Eastern languages for three libraries in Chicago during his travels in the Far East in 1907-10. He returned with 12,819 volumes of works on social and natural sciences for the John Crerar Library, which were transferred to the Library of Congress in 1928; 21,403 volumes of Chinese classics, philosophy, history, belles lettres, and art for the Newberry Library,⁵ which were acquired by the University of Chicago in 1944; and some 5,000 volumes on archaeology and anthropology for the Field Museum, where the original collection is still kept intact. All these three collections made Chicago one of the major centers for East Asian studies at the beginning of this century.

Similar interest in East Asia was also reflected in the teaching programs and library development at Cornell University during this early period. Cornell pioneered in Chinese-language instruction in the 1870s and added other course offerings in such fields as history and international relations toward the end of the century. Library development began with gifts of some 350 books in Chinese by Chinese students in 1912 and 1,500 volumes in Japanese by the Reverend William E. Griffis in 1916.

The most important event at Cornell was the donation in 1918 by Charles William Wason (1854-1918) of his 9,000-volume private collection on China and the Chinese in Western languages, together with an endowment of \$50,000 for supplementary acquisitions. Wason was a student of mechanical engineering who graduated from Cornell and became interested in China during a trip to the Far East in 1903. With the help of a bookdealer in Cleveland, he began in 1909 to collect everything he could locate on China in the English language.

In eight years his collection became distinguished not only by its comprehensiveness in Western-language materials on China but also by its inclusion of such rarities as the fifteenth-century Chinese encyclopedia *Yung-lo ta-tien*, in three manu-

script volumes, and the original papers relating to Lord Macartney's embassy to China in 1792. Also included were well-kept and well-bound sets of English-language periodicals and newspapers, pamphlets, offprints, and other ephemeral materials, which are unrivaled in American libraries.⁶

By the turn of the century, materials in Chinese, Japanese, and other Oriental languages are known to have been possessed also by the New York Public Library and a few others in the United States.

Toward the end of this pioneer period, there were some ten major collections in American libraries with a total of at least 150,000 to 200,000 volumes in a variety of East Asian languages, in addition to many on the Far East in Western languages.

Generally speaking, these collections were in most cases built up accidentally without definite plans, primarily through gifts and exchanges, or collected by individuals as hobbies or for special interests. They were not much used, or used by very few; they were not systematically processed and sometimes were only briefly described by volunteer scholars.

THE PERIOD OF SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT, 1920-1945

The growth of East Asian collections during the period from 1920 to 1945, between the two world wars, marked the second stage of development. In comparison with the earlier period, collections were built in a more purposeful and systematic way to support academic programs in teaching and research, mostly in universities and colleges but a few in art museums. These new collections, in addition to those established before, made more extensive acquisitions primarily through purchases, incorporated a number of distinguished private collections, and began to devise new systems for bibliographic control.

This development paralleled the increasing interest in popular and academic fields of Asian studies in the United States. This awareness of needs was promoted primarily through the efforts of various professional organizations and institutions with the support of private foundations, especially Rockefeller and Carnegie, and of individual donors. There have existed such organiza-

tions and institutions as the American Oriental Society; the American Council of Learned Societies; the Far Eastern Association, now the Association for Asian Studies; the American Institute of Pacific Relations; the Japan Society; the China Institute in America; the Harvard-Yenching Institute; and a number of concerned agencies in the federal government. As a result, formal instruction in the languages and special subject disciplines, especially in the humanities and history, was incorporated into or expanded in the university curricula. More extensive library collections were required to support these teaching and research programs.

The establishment of the Harvard-Yenching Institute in 1928 was a significant event in the development of Chinese and Japanese studies and of the East Asian collections in the United States. Not only did it create a center for Far Eastern studies at Harvard, but the establishment of the Harvard-Yenching Library with A. Kaiming Chiu (1898-1977) as its librarian also set an example by devising new systems for processing traditional Chinese and Japanese materials. Its classification system and catalog cards printed with characters and romanized entries were influential at the time and have been adopted by most of the libraries established or existing during this period.

Some of the distinguished collections then and now began with the incorporation of private collections, which were built up by personal interests with special concentrations and strong financial backing. The Wason collection was one and the Gest collection another.

The Gest Oriental Library was founded by Guion Moore Gest (1864-1948). He was a Canadian engineer whose curiosity concerning Chinese medicine, especially the "eye medicine of the Ma family of Tingchow," which cured his glaucoma during one of his visits to China, motivated him to buy books on Chinese medicine. Over the years, the Gest collection acquired some 500 works in 2,000 volumes on this subject and now constitutes the largest such collection in the West. Gest entrusted the acquisitions to a retired U.S. Navy officer in Peking, I. V. Gillis (d. 1948). Gillis enlarged

the scope of the original collection into a general research library, amounting to some 75,000 volumes in 1926, when it was deposited at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Acquisitions by Gillis continued in Peking in subsequent years.

In 1937 the entire Gest collection was acquired by the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation. At the time of transfer, the collection consisted of some 102,000 volumes, 40 percent of which were old manuscripts, early printings, and other rare editions. Especially important was the collection of some 24,000 volumes of Ming printing, which has become one of the largest in the West.⁷

Three years later, another Chinese collection was acquired by a Canadian institution. This was the private collection of Mu Hsüeh-hsün (1880-1929), a staff member of the German Legation in Peking, whose collection of some 40,000 volumes was sold for C\$10,500 to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto after his death in 1929, through the arrangement of Bishop William C. White of the Anglican church in Honan. This collection, which consisted of 371 titles in 4,182 volumes of Sung, Yüan, and Ming editions as well as some rather rare manuscripts, remained in Peking for cataloging until 1935, when White added some 10,000 more volumes.⁸ Together with its rich collection of oracle bone inscriptions and other archaeological objects, the Toronto collection has become one of the important centers for Chinese studies in North America.

In the Midwest area, the University of Chicago introduced a program of Chinese studies in 1936, with the appointment of Herrlee G. Creel to the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures. Along with the teaching of the Chinese language and history and a project of compiling a series of Chinese-language textbooks, the university established a Far Eastern library. With support also from the Rockefeller Foundation, the collection grew rapidly at the rate of ten thousand to twenty thousand volumes annually until the outbreak of the Pacific war. With the acquisition of the Laufer Collection from the Newberry Library in 1944, the total holdings of the Chicago collection numbered about ninety

thousand volumes at the end of the war, with special strength in Confucian classics, archaeology, and works for the study of ancient China.⁹

Several circumstances made possible the rapid growth of a research collection of this size within less than a decade. The supply of materials on the book market was plentiful, and the cost was low during the time of war in China. Many rare materials, such as clan records, not available in peacetime, began to be sold by private families.

With the cooperation of the National Library of Peiping, the Peking Union Bookstore acted as an agent for several libraries in the United States, including Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, and the Library of Congress. It selected and specialized in all materials for them—local histories for the Library of Congress, Ming-Ch'ing documents and clan records for Columbia, and classics and ancient history for Chicago—thus making each a specialized concentration, in addition to a basic collection for general research. It added a small percentage for overhead to the net cost of the material and divided up the profit by acquiring additional materials for individual libraries. Its relationship with local dealers and private collectors as well as with its clientele made it a most competent and resourceful agent.

Besides the above-mentioned collections, a few other notable libraries were built up during the 1920s and 1930s. The University of Hawaii initiated its Oriental library in 1925, and it has grown steadily into one of the major collections in the Pacific. On the West Coast, the Claremont Colleges established their Chinese collection in 1933, in conjunction with a bequest of \$50,000 by James W. Porter for interpretation of Chinese culture to Americans and in promoting practical Sino-American friendliness, understanding, and mutual appreciation.

In the same year, another collection was established in Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, by William Montgomery McGovern to support his teaching and research on Japanese government, with Chinese materials added later.

In 1938, Henry Moore of Norfolk, Connecticut, presented his Chinese library of some five thousand volumes on Chinese his-

tory, art, and culture to Trinity College. This collection was transferred to Central Connecticut State College in New Britain in 1970.

At the same time in 1938, a Chinese collection was developed at the University of Pennsylvania to support its programs in Chinese studies. Under the initial direction of Professor Derk Bodde, it has grown into a well-balanced and serviceable collection in the East. Its later development, however, has not been as extensive as some other collections built around this time.

During this period from 1920 to 1945 collections doubled, to approximately twenty. These included a few in such museums as Cleveland, Field, Fogg, Freer, Metropolitan, Nelson Gallery, and the Royal Ontario. They possessed a total of more than a million volumes in East Asian languages, with an average annual addition of about thirteen thousand volumes mostly acquired during the 1930s before the outbreak of the Pacific war.

ERA OF RAPID EXPANSION, 1945-1975

The years from 1945, following World War II, brought a new era of library development, characterized by rapid expansion not only in the number of new collections but also in the size and type of new acquisitions. These resulted from the demand for more language-area specialists in both academic and professional fields and from the shift from a traditional to a new approach for the study of East Asia.

Unlike the purely academic interest in the 1930s, the postwar development created a growing awareness of practical problems focusing on the social sciences within the modern and contemporary scene of this area. This new discipline of foreign-area studies is one of the most important American contributions to postwar higher education.

The year 1958-59 saw the beginning of massive support of Asian and other area studies in the United States from the government, foundations, universities, and other institutions. This resulted in a tremendous increase in non-Western-language materials in American libraries. In 1930 there were about 400,000 volumes in a dozen collections. The total holdings had in-

creased to more than 1 million in some twenty collections by 1945, to 2 million in thirty collections by 1960, and to 6.7 million in more than sixty sizable collections (i.e., more than 10,000 volumes) by 1975 (table 1), and to probably more than 7.5 million today. The average annual additions were 45,000 volumes in 1930-45; they doubled in the 1950s and sextupled in the 1960s through the 1970s with an average annual addition of 300,000 volumes.

As pointed out in earlier surveys by this author, the year 1960 may be used as a benchmark for the development of East Asian collections in American libraries. The acquisitions made during the decade 1960-70 equalled the total number of volumes accumulated over the 100 years preceding 1960, and as many new collections have been established since then as those founded before that date.¹⁰ The growth of East Asian collections indicates a trend toward doubling in size every ten years between 1930 and 1955 and every twelve to fifteen years between 1955 and 1975. If the current rate of growth continues, the total holdings of East Asian materials will pass the eight-million mark by 1980.

During the fifteen years between 1945 and 1960, ten new collections were organized, including those in the Hoover Institution, the University of Washington at Seattle, the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and the University of Michigan, founded in the 1940s, and Virginia, Georgetown, Seton Hall, and British Columbia in the 1950s.

The East Asian Collection at the Hoover Institution was established in 1945 with emphasis on twentieth-century materials on China and Japan. Included are the notable collections of Harold Isaacs on Chinese Communism, of Nym Wales on the Chinese revolution, and of Webster on Chinese guerrillas in Malaya as well as Japanese materials on student and left-wing movements.¹¹ The total holdings at Hoover were about 100,000 volumes in 1960 and more than 235,000 volumes in 1975.

The Oriental collection at UCLA was organized in 1948, when the Department of Oriental Languages was inaugurated. Its original collection, acquired by Professor Richard C. Rudolph, is strong in art, ar-

TABLE 1
GROWTH OF FIFTEEN MAJOR EAST ASIAN COLLECTIONS IN AMERICAN LIBRARIES
(NUMBER OF VOLUMES AT END OF JUNE OF EACH FIVE-YEAR PERIOD)

Library	Year Started	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975
British Columbia	1959	—	—	—	—	—	—	70,000	86,674	147,633	185,585
California, Berkeley	1896	22,541	35,000	50,000	75,000	100,000	130,000	237,000	273,535	310,851	367,669
California, Los Angeles	1948	—	—	—	—	20,000	40,000	55,000	86,649	112,907	151,728
Chicago	1936	—	—	50,000	91,324	112,148	117,148	128,341	172,623	238,558	284,652
Columbia	1902	40,000	80,000	113,000	159,391	173,743	185,880	209,008	241,600	305,636	353,212
Cornell	1918	700	7,785	21,435	24,500	44,300	44,650	70,000	86,488	178,143	225,542
Harvard	1879	46,186	100,471	157,969	183,620	219,508	276,696	344,102	394,343	451,410	513,983
Hawaii	1925	2,000	4,000	27,670	54,713	57,207	70,029	71,458	123,834	135,041	154,311
Hoover	1945	—	—	—	—	40,000	60,000	100,500	104,277	175,683	235,271
Library of Congress	1869	148,930	183,367	232,663	249,000	624,507	702,133	777,636	842,008	964,820	1,085,198
Michigan	1948	—	—	—	—	12,538	60,694	91,480	141,707	216,887	308,491
Princeton	1926	80,000	90,000	100,000	110,000	130,000	135,451	146,644	180,452	225,053	281,631
Toronto	1939	—	—	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	53,482	80,894	111,500	104,308
Washington	1947	—	—	—	—	20,000	50,000	86,595	113,242	148,901	200,979
Yale	1878	7,000	15,000	25,000	35,000	50,000	62,608	89,781	132,879	182,795	264,400
TOTAL:											
Major collections		347,357	515,623	827,737	1,032,548	1,653,951	1,985,289	2,531,027	3,061,205	3,905,818	4,716,960
All collections		387,000	560,000	869,000	1,099,000	1,774,000	2,176,000	2,756,000	3,857,777	5,432,312	6,702,278
Percent of major collections		90	92	95	94	93	91	92	79	72	70

Sources: *Library Quarterly* 35:265 (1965); *Committee on East Asian Libraries Newsletter* 16 (1966); *Association for Asian Studies Newsletter* 16, no.3 (1971); *Current Status of East Asian Collections in American Libraries, 1974/1975* (1976), p.10.

chaeology, literature, history, folklore, and Buddhism. With the deposit of some 80,000 volumes from the Monumenta Serica collections in the 1960s, the total holdings numbered more than 150,000 volumes in 1975.

The Far Eastern Library of the University of Washington at Seattle was established in 1947. With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, it acquired two private collections from George Kerr and J. F. Rock. This library emphasizes nineteenth-century China and its border regions and is especially rich in Chinese local history of the southwestern provinces. This collection consisted of 86,000 volumes in 1960 and more than 200,000 volumes in 1975.

The Asia Library at the University of Michigan was formally organized in 1948, after the Center for Japanese Studies was established. It started mainly as a Japanese collection, with the acquisition of about 10,000 volumes from the Washington Documentation Center in 1949 and the Kamada Library in 1950. Its holdings in 1954 numbered 40,000 volumes in Japanese and 800 in Chinese.¹² With additional support during the 1960s, the growth of its Chinese collection was so rapid that by 1970 its holdings of 200,000 volumes contained more in Chinese than in Japanese. By 1975 its total holdings numbered more than 300,000 volumes. It was probably the most rapidly growing collection of all those established during the postwar period.

Along with the rapid expansion in the United States, there was similar growth in Canadian libraries. One of the most important developments was the establishment of the Asian Studies Division in the University of British Columbia at Vancouver, which acquired in 1959, with support of the Friends of the Library, the noted P'u-pan Chinese Library of Yao Chün-shih from Macao. Yao, a physician in training, with a large family fortune, built his private library in Canton and moved to Macao in 1939. At the time of transfer, the library contained about 45,000 volumes, including some 300 rare items of Sung, Yüan, and Ming printing and manuscripts and eighty-six gazetteers on Kwangtung.¹³ It was one of the most important private collections acquired after the war, when all sources of supply from China were closed. Its total holdings

grew from 70,000 volumes in 1960 to more than 185,000 volumes in 1975.

The East Asian Library at the University of Toronto has been expanded since 1953 into a general research collection by the addition of many works in modern editions. The original Mu collection at the Royal Ontario Museum, except for materials on art and archaeology and some 5,000 items of rubbings, was integrated into the new collection of some 60,000 volumes bought with the Carnegie grant. Its total holdings consisted of some 50,000 volumes in 1960 and passed the 100,000-volume mark in 1975. The nature of the library has gradually changed in recent years from that of a traditional depository to a workable research collection.

With the initiation of many private and state universities and the federal support of language-area centers under National Defense Education Act (NDEA) matching grants, more than thirty new collections were established since 1960. These included those in such private institutions as Brown, Dartmouth, Oberlin, Pittsburgh, St. John's, and Washington (St. Louis), and such state universities as Arizona, California at Davis and Santa Barbara, Colorado, Denver, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan State (East Lansing), Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rochester, Rutgers, and Wisconsin.¹⁴

A few noted collections were acquired by some of these libraries. For example, the Prauge collection of Japanese publications under U.S. occupation between 1945 and 1949, including about 13,000 periodicals, 11,000 newspapers, and 50,000 monographs, which were submitted to the Civil Censorship Detachment of the headquarters for pre- and postpublication censorship, was deposited in the East Asian Library of the University of Maryland. The private Chinese collection of Ma Kiam was acquired by the Oriental collection of the University of Virginia Library in 1964.

During this period, the expansion of some of the old collections was even more extensive than that of the newer ones, since they already had a well-established base in addition to generous support from various sources.

The most significant development in the history of the Library of Congress was probably the rapid expansion of its collection of Japanese materials. As a consequence of the Allied occupation of Japan several collections that had been gathered by Japanese military agencies were transferred to the Washington Documentation Center, from which some 300,000 volumes, mostly in the fields of economics, science, and technology, were added to the Library of Congress Japanese collection that amounted to some 50,000 volumes in 1941. With the creation of a Korean unit in 1950 and further acquisitions in Chinese and Japanese over the postwar years, the *Orientalia* Division increased its holdings in these languages from about 250,000 volumes in 1945 to more than a million in 1975, a fourfold increase in thirty years.

At Harvard, an intensive program of modern and contemporary studies of China, Japan, and Korea was added through the establishment of the East Asiatic Regional Studies program in 1946. For this program the university library has been buying books in Chinese and Japanese on the contemporary scene and the recent past. The Harvard-Yenching Library was also enriched during the postwar period by the acquisition of several private collections such as those of Henry H. Hart on Chinese literature and of Ch'i Ju-shan on Chinese drama and novels. In addition, there were those acquired earlier, such as the Petzold Buddhist collection in some 6,500 volumes and the manuscript collection of the Chi family in Nanking, which included many unpublished manuscripts and autographs, documents, examination papers, theatrical handbooks, and records of old-style business shops.¹⁵ The growth of the Japanese collection was also impressive, from 15,000 volumes in 1945 to 140,000 in 1975, a tenfold increase in thirty years.

The expansion of the East Asiatic Library at Berkeley during the postwar period was very significant. At least three major acquisitions were made in 1948-50. These included the Mitsui Bunko with diversified materials, the Murakami Library on Meiji literature in some 11,000 volumes, and the Asami collection of classical Korean materials in 4,150 volumes. The total holdings at

Berkeley increased from about 75,000 volumes in 1945 to 370,000 volumes in 1975, a fivefold increase in thirty years.

The expansion of the East Asian collection at Yale University since 1961 has been impressive. With substantial financial support from the Council on East Asian Studies under its chairman Arthur Wright, an Asian Reading Room was opened in 1963, incorporating hitherto scattered collections into one location. The total holdings increased from 35,000 volumes in 1945 to more than 264,000 volumes in 1975, a more than sevenfold increase in thirty years.

In Chicago the growth of the Far Eastern Library at the University of Chicago was rather rapid before and during the war but slowed down after the war until 1958, when the establishment of a Japanese collection and the expansion into the study of modern and contemporary China started. With substantial support of outside funding as well as the university's own resources, the collection has grown rapidly. Over the last twenty years it has built up a distinguished collection in Japanese that is especially strong in literature, history, and religion; a periodical collection of more than 5,000 titles; a collection on Chinese local history in some 3,000 titles and on local administration in 2,500 volumes; a special collection of specimens of old inscriptions, manuscripts, and early printing; and an additional rare book collection of more than 2,300 volumes of Ming prints from the private library of the late Professor Li Tsung-t'ung acquired in the 1960s. The total holdings increased from 90,000 volumes in 1945 to nearly 350,000 volumes to date, a fourfold increase in more than thirty years.

SUMMARY AND PROSPECTS

Generally speaking, the prewar period before 1945 had laid down a sound foundation for the development of East Asian collections in American libraries. Except for very few, almost all these collections have continuously grown and expanded into major centers and have played dominant roles in supporting the language-area studies programs in American higher education.

Collections since World War II have experienced unprecedented growth both in

their numbers and in the size and diversity of new acquisitions. The shift in emphasis from humanities to social sciences and from classical to modern and contemporary interests has brought about the establishment of separate collections within each collection.

The larger growth of materials in Japanese than in Chinese, immediately following the war and, during the more recent years, the establishment of Korean and other East Asian-language collections, and the inclusion of such materials in certain public libraries all indicate some new trends in collection building during the postwar period.

Most of the resources are concentrated in some fifteen major collections, which contain 4.7 million volumes, or 70 percent of total holdings at all libraries in 1975. They have acquired each from a few thousand to as many as 30,000 volumes a year with an average annual addition of 150,000 volumes, or 60 percent of the total acquisitions. With more new collections established during the last twenty years, such concentration has gradually been dispersed from over 90 percent before 1960 to over two-thirds today.

A great many rarities and specialties in East Asian languages have been built up in a number of distinguished collections. At least some thirty rare book collections and eighty large subject concentrations in individual collections are found in American libraries. Included are more than 100,000 volumes in Chinese printed in the tenth to seventeenth centuries, 13,000 manuscripts and 2,000 volumes of early and fine printing in Japanese, some 10,000 volumes of movable-type printing in Korean, and nearly 5,000 items of rubbings from stone inscriptions in Chinese and other languages. Besides, xylography and manuscripts in Tibetan, Mongol, Manchu, and Moso are also represented.

The large subject collections include almost all kinds of materials in different languages and areas on such broad or specific subjects as Confucian classics, Buddhism, genealogy, maps, local history, and science and technology, as well as sources on modern and contemporary affairs. All these are believed to be either unique or not likely duplicated elsewhere in American libraries.

The field in general has received more support since the 1960s than at any time before from individual institutions as well as outside sources. The total expenditures for 1975/76 came to \$8 million, one-third of which were for materials and supplies and two-thirds for personnel. This ratio has not changed much since the 1960s. This total includes 4 percent from the federal government and 7 percent from foundations, especially Ford, Mellon, and, more recently, Japanese sources. Although outside funding has always been around 10 percent of the total investment, the encouragement in the form of matching and developmental funds stimulated institutional initiative.

The sources of support for future developments are rather uncertain. While federal and foundation money may be available for the initial cost of some of the national programs, as the American Council of Learned Societies steering committee report indicates,¹⁶ the basic resources for long-term support of individual collections will have to come from the institutions themselves. How to use the limited support to meet the increasing needs of the academic community is an overall problem to be solved.

The prospects of the East Asian collections as a field depend upon the future needs of the academic community, the potential sources of additional support, and the cost-effectiveness for the operation of the collections. Cooperation and coordination in the field will be the keynote for future development. In other words, individual collections have to be strengthened to meet local needs. At the same time, new systems and national programs should be worked out through regional, national, and international cooperation for the benefit of all.

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