

The Resources of the East Asian Library, UC Berkeley

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The East Asian Library was established as a branch of the University Library in 1947; but the collection goes back to the deposit of the John Fryer Chinese Library in 1898. Mr. John Fryer is the one who established the Dept. of Chinese Language and culture at Berkeley more than a century, and is the University's first Chinese professor.

At present, EAL has about 730,000 volumes of books and serials, of which about 350,000 vols are in Chinese, 320,000 vols in Japanese, 52,000 in Korean, and the remainder are in Manchu, Mongolian and Tibetan. The collection is expanding in the rate of 12,000 vols of books annually.

Our collection is particularly strong in humanities and social sciences, but it also collects reference works in science and technology, and the standard and major interdisciplinary scientific & technological titles. In recent years, our acquisition includes major electronic databases such as the full-text database of 25 dynasties histories, NACSIS, Nikkei Telecom. Since 1950, Berkeley was designated as a West Coast depository Center of Japanese government publications.

The fact, East Asian Library at Berkeley is also recognized as one of the major East Asian collections in the Western world, is not only for its comprehensive East Asian holdings, but for its special collections, and some of them can only be found in Berkeley. I would like to concentrate my talk today on a number of noteworthy special collections in EAL.

The first special collection I would like to introduce is the John Fryer Chinese Library. It includes 2,000 volumes, collected by Prof. John Fryer in his 30 years (from 1867-96) as a Ching dynasty Official at the Kiang-nan Arsenal (江南造船厂) in Shanghai. The collection is distinguished by its many Chinese translations of Western scientific and technological works and his Chinese vocabulary work books of names and terminology (中英辞典) in geography, mathematics, botany, astronomy, chemistry, electricity, automobile, medicine, steam engine, light, heat, x-ray, etc. built on the work done by the Jesuits of the Ming period (1368-1644). The

collection's importance lies in its documentation of the early influence of Western science on Ch'ing China.

Now, the Rare book room collection. It contains mostly Chinese imprints before 1795, and Japanese imprints before 1660.

Chinese rare book collection consists of about 1000 titles. Its oldest Chinese xylograph is a miniature dharani (Buddhist charm) prayer scroll dated 975. The oldest title is a four-volume Tang manuscript of Buddhist sutra. There are 6 titles dating back to Sung dynasty, and 10 titles to the Yuan dynasty. 356 Ming, and 603 Ching editions. There are probably more Ming & Ching editions in our general stacks. We are adding them to the rare book collection when we found them at the time of retrospective conversion.

Chinese rubbings collection

EAL has over 3,000 pieces of Chinese rubbings. It is one of two largest and best collections in the West. The rubbing collection represents the entire range of Chinese epigraphy to record important events with inscriptions made on bronze, tile, brick, ceramics, wood, jade, and especially on stone. They often provide historical information unavailable elsewhere, and a good resource for the study of the history of writing and calligraphy.

With a special grant, The rubbing collection has been cataloged and a database built. Currently, we are working a project to digitalize the Chinese rubbings. Our goal is to make the collection available on-line to the scholarly public. A preliminary report about this project is right now given next door.

The Japanese Rare Books

Mitsui Collection of (100,000 volumes):

The collection was acquired in 1952 from the Mitsui family in Japan. It was the most important purchase in the history of EAL.

1) Edo period printed books. There are approximately 5,000 titles, over 18,000 volumes of woodblock-printed books from Edo or Tokugawa period (1600-1867). It is believed to be the largest collection of Edo editions outside Japan. The subject

coverage are comprehensive, includes general works, Shinto and national learning, Buddhism, languages, literature, music and theater, history , geography, government and law, economics, education, science, medicine, military, and Chinese studies. A book catalog titled "Edo Printed Books at Berkeley" was published in 1990.

2) The collection of Early Japanese maps. There are a total of 2,500 maps, of which 726 are from Edo period (1600-1867). They are most woodblock printed maps. 1,677 sheet maps are made between 1868-1920 (Meiji maps). The city maps and tourist maps are particularly predominant in both groups. The collection is cataloged in RLIN in romanized form.

3) 7,000 vols of Japanese manuscripts from the Edo or Tokugawa (1600-1867) or pre-1600 periods. The greater number constitutes of literary works, poetry and prose, but there are also historical and legal materials, and work on tea and arts. A checklist of the collection was available for consultation.

Another sub-collection of the Mistui Library devoted to Chinese poetry and prose by Japanese authors published after 1869 in Meiji period.

Another Japanese special collection is Murakami Library:

Approximately 11,000 vols, primarily first editions of Japanese literary works from the Meiji period. It represents virtually all major and minor Japanese authors during that time, almost unrivaled even in Japan

Let's turn our attention to two Korean special collections:

1) Asami Library of Korean manuscripts and woodblock printed books

It consists of 4,300 volumes (900 titles) of Korean rare books in woodblock-print, movable-type and manuscripts written for the most part in classical Chinese. It affords materials of great value for the study of Yi dynasty (1392-1910), also of movable-type Korean printing of the period.

2) The Korean Tripitaka

EAL has one of 6 sets of original xylographic edition printed in 1960's from the original blocks (81,258 woodblock plates) of 1236-1251A.D., preserved by the

Haein Temple in Korea. It contains 1,512 titles in 1,341 folio volumes. It has been called the most textually accurate edition of the Chinese version of the Buddhist canon. A descriptive catalog of this Canon by Prof. Lancaster is published in 1979.

Another special collection that is worth to mention is the Ho-Chiang collection of 110 Chinese, Japanese, and Korean manuscript and printed editions of Buddhist scriptures, dating from the 8th to the 18th century.

In addition to CJK materials, the East Asian Library has about 10,000 volumes in Tibetan, Mongol, and Manchu. Noteworthy among East Asian Library holdings is a rare set of xylographs, the Rin-chen-gter-mdzod, printed in Tibet before 1949. This is a corpus of Tantric texts of the Nying-ma-pa Sect, a work which spans ten centuries of composition. The collection also contains a set of the 18th century Nathang edition of the Kanjur, which together with the Tanjur forms one of the two component parts of the Tibetan Buddhist canon. Other holdings include the Cone Tanjur on microfiche, and various non-canonical works.

There are 130 volumes in our Mongol and Manchu collections with an exceedingly rare Manchu title, *Tai sang-ni acabume karulara bithe*, from 1673.

Finally, the Center for Chinese Studies Library, a branch of the East Asian Library, houses one of the premier research collections on contemporary mainland Chinese affairs. It consists of 63,000 volumes of books, 562 current serials, 4,500 reels of microfilms, 1744 videotapes including daily news and programs from Beijing. The most notable holdings is the collection of the history of the Chinese Communist party and the political movements; new local gazetteers, yearbooks, and wen shih tzu liao series including several hundred volumes not available elsewhere.

All these collections are meant to be used to their full value, although you may have to follow some special guidelines when using them.

Since you are here now, you are most welcome to visit our libraries (EAL located at Durant Hall; and CCSL) and we will be glad to give you a tour.