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## Meetings and Conferences

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## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

### Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (Tucson, AZ: 1987)

A library panel on "Resource Sharing: Old Topic, New Outlook for Medium and Smaller-sized East Asian Collections" was held at the Western Conference of AAS on October 30-31, 1987, in Tucson, Arizona. Three papers were presented by Gail King of Brigham Young University, Ju-yen Teng of the University of Arizona, and Ai-hwa Wu of Arizona State University; and discussed by Frederick Brady of the Genealogical Library of Salt Lake City, Mary McWhorter, formerly of the University of Arizona, and Kenneth Klein of the University of Southern California. Ms. King's paper was entitled "Networking: Its Role in Resource Sharing for East Asian Research"; Mr. Teng's was entitled "Cooperative Collection Development: Its Feasibility and Challenge for East Asian Libraries"; and Ms. Wu's, "Interlibrary Loan Service for East Asian Research: Retrospective and Prospective."

(Ai-hwa Wu)

### International Conference on Resources for Chinese Studies (Taipei: 1988)

The Center for Chinese Studies and the National Central Library of the Republic of China on Taiwan cosponsored a four-day International Conference on Resources for Chinese Studies held in Taipei, from November 30 through December 3, 1988. The conference was attended by some one hundred invited participants including twenty from foreign countries. Forty papers were presented in eleven sessions, including seven papers from the United States. This U.S. "gang of seven" consisted of Thomas Lee of Indiana University; Karl Lo of the University of Washington; Raymond Tang of the University of California at Berkeley; T. H. Tsien, formerly of the University of Chicago; Marsha Wagner of Columbia University; Weiying Wan of the University of Michigan; and Bill Wong of the University of Illinois. T. H. Tsien's paper was read by another participant in his absence.

I have some personal observations and comments on this conference:

1. Although there are various seminars and conferences on Chinese studies and on library science being held from time to time and place to place, this was the first international conference in many years devoted exclusively to the subject of library materials for Chinese studies. I appreciated the sponsors' efforts and initiative.
2. Many papers presented were summaries of current research results and findings produced by a younger generation of scholars. Due to the change of the political climate on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, a Taiwan scholar has now been able to personally consult and collect library materials both in Taiwan and on the Mainland. For example, the paper on the *I ching*, "Chin shih nien lai hai hsia liang an i hshieh yen chiu ti pi chiao" 近十年來海峽兩岸易學研究的比較, represented an excellent piece of work which was produced under these favorable new research conditions. I hope that similar scholarly undertakings by researchers from the Mainland will also be possible in the not too distant future.

3. Most papers not only presented new evidence and findings in the research, but also supported them with extensive notes and bibliographies. As a Chinese bibliographer, I felt that I was participating in an in-service training program, discovering many new bibliographic sources and materials. I feel we can therefore regard the proceedings of this conference, if published, as an updated and excellent bibliography for our library reference work.

4. One of the special features of this conference was that almost all the papers from foreign participants were delivered in Chinese, even though the papers themselves were in English. The Chinese participants were all very impressed with the high Chinese-language standards their international colleagues had maintained. In the absence of a language barrier, the interaction between the podium and the audience was particularly active and meaningful. I was very pleased to see this new phenomenon emerge in an international gathering in an Oriental city.

5. I would like to say, in conclusion, that this conference was well planned, well organized, and well conducted throughout its entire process and that it produced fruitful results. My only complaint was the number of papers presented each day—ten. It was too much information to digest in a day, although we all tried our best. In the spirit of "international cooperation," we elected CEAL Chairperson, Thomas Lee, to speak on our behalf at the closing ceremony. He emphasized the importance of library and information exchange and cooperation among nations and thanked the hosts sincerely. He also presented a plaque of appreciation with the well-known lines of the T'ang poet, Wang Po (647?-675?), to Dr. Chen-ku Wang, Director of the National Central Library and the organizer of the conference. The plaque reads: "Hai nei ts'un chih chi, t'ien ya jo pi lin" 海内存知己,天涯若比鄰.

(William Wong)

#### Symposium on the History of Chinese Books (Taipei: 1990)

A symposium on the history of books in Chinese culture will be held in Taipei, Taiwan from June 21 to 23, 1990. Topics to be taken up at the symposium include those concerned with books prior to printing and the various aspects of the development of printing. The sponsors are the National Central Library and the Center for Chinese Studies.

(Taken from a flyer sent by the National Central Library)