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East Asian Library Newsletter

News from the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library

<https://east.library.utoronto.ca/eal-newsletter>



Inside this issue:

- Connecting Collections and Community: Programs and Community Engagement at the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library
- Notable Acquisitions



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LIBRARIES

CHENG YU TUNG EAST ASIAN LIBRARY

CONNECTING COLLECTIONS AND COMMUNITY: PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT THE CHENG YU TUNG EAST ASIAN LIBRARY

By Hana Kim, Director, Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library

As we begin 2026, the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library reflects on a season of vibrant engagement and discovery. In the second half of 2025, we hosted the student-curated exhibition *Chinese Art Masterpieces in Print: History, Lineage, Legacy*, created with items from our collection, and celebrated *the Lobsang P. Lhalungpa Tibetan Pecha Collection*. We also engaged meaningfully with the local Tibetan Canadian community through hands-on printing and papermaking initiatives.

We welcomed and supported new students through our annual General Library Orientation for East Asian Studies and the Tibetan Studies Library Orientation; co-sponsored the thought-provoking film series *Cinematic Witnesses: Documenting Survival in East Asian Democracies*; and supported teaching and learning in East Asian Studies and Asian Canadian Studies through our collections, special collections access, and the faculty-collaborative digital exhibition *Images of China: Illustrations by Zhang Ming-ming*.

These programs highlight our continued commitment to scholarship, cultural exchange, and creative dialogue, which guides us as we enter a new year of learning, connection, and discovery.

Chinese Art Masterpieces in Print: History, Lineage, Legacy

The East Asian Library proudly opened its latest exhibition, *Chinese Art Masterpieces in Print: History, Lineage, Legacy*. The exhibition showcases the enduring beauty and cultural significance of Chinese art through facsimile prints.

This exhibition is the culmination of a unique collaboration between faculty, students, and the East Asian Library, spanning three iterations of the University of Toronto's FAH465: Exhibiting China course (2020, 2023, and 2025). Curated by students under the guidance of Professor Jennifer Purtle (Department of Art



Above: A visitor closely examines a traditional Chinese landscape facsimile featured in the exhibition *Chinese Art Masterpieces in Print: History, Lineage, Legacy*

(Image credit: The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)



Above: Students from FAH465: Exhibiting China discuss their curatorial experience at the East Asian Library's exhibition opening

(Image credit: The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

History) and Rose Ting-Yi Liu (Ph.D. Candidate/Instructor, Department of East Asian Studies), it features works from the East Asian Library's special collection of Chinese art facsimiles, offering a window onto centuries of artistic tradition and scholarly interpretation.

The journey to this exhibition has been inspiring. Despite interruptions caused by the pandemic, the course's vision endured. This year's exhibition highlights the creativity, insight, and dedication of our students, as featured in the U of T Libraries' publication, *Noteworthy Fall 2025*. Originally on view from June 26 to December 23, 2025, the exhibition has been extended due to popular demand, and will remain open until April 2026. Its selections and presentations demonstrate the value of hands-on learning and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Visitors can explore these masterpieces in person and engage with instructors' and students' reflections. (H. Kim)

Celebrating the Lobsang P. Lhalungpa Tibetan Pecha Collection

On September 30, 2025, the East Asian Library hosted a celebration of the life and contributions of Lobsang P. Lhalungpa, a distinguished scholar, translator, and collector. The event highlighted his remarkable engagement with Tibetan texts, including his translations of *The Life of Milarepa*, his assistance with translating key works to advance Tibetan studies, and his translations from English into Tibetan. Central to the occasion was a showing of his extensive personal collection of Tibetan printed books (pecha), recently donated to the University of Toronto (U of T), along with a personal thangka painting, both of which will be preserved and made accessible for research and learning.

The East Asian Library welcomed distinguished guests, members of the Tibetan Canadian community, including Geshe Jampa Khedup (Former Umze/Chant Master of Sera Monastery; Former Head of Sera Jhe



Above: A traditional Tibetan pecha from the Lobsang P. Lhalungpa Collection, carefully wrapped in vibrant cloth covers

(Image credit: The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)



Above: Presentation of commemorative framed artwork recognizing the generosity and contributions of the Lhalungpa family (Left: Larry Alford, Chief Librarian, U of T Libraries; centre: Samphe Lhalungpa; right: Tenzin Lhalungpa, sons of Lobsang P. Lhalungpa)

(Image credit: The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)

Buddhist Centre, Toronto), who attended to give a blessing, and Bhutila Karpoche, Former Member of Provincial Parliament for Parkdale-High Park, 2018-2025, as well as faculty, students, and family members of Mr. Lhalungpa.

Opening remarks were delivered by Larry Alford, Chief Librarian of U of T Libraries, Hana Kim, Director of the East Asian Library, and Samphe Lhalungpa, the donor, and son of Lobsang P. Lhalungpa. The library recognized the key contributions of collaborators who helped in bringing the collection to Toronto and preparing it for long-term preservation. These included Eleanor Caponigro, a long-time associate of Lhalungpa; Kristina Dy-Liacco of Columbia University; and Thinley Gyatso, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of the Study of Religion and former Graduate Student Library Assistant at the East Asian Library, who worked on the detailed inventorying of the collection.

The celebration featured remarks from Eleanor Caponigro; Rory Lindsay, Assistant Professor, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto; and Kristina Dy-Liacco. Reflections were also offered by Deki Nangchok Shukla, President of the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre (TCCC). Other representatives, including Tsering Dhundup, Vice President of Programs, and Dechen Dorjee, Principal of the Tibetan Language and Culture School at TCCC, also participated. The program included a keynote address by Gray Tuttle, the Leila Hadley Luce Professor of Modern Tibetan Studies at Columbia University, and was moderated by Frances Garrett, Associate Professor of Buddhist Studies and Tibetan Studies at the University of Toronto. Topics covered the significance of Lhalungpa's translations, the stewardship of his pecha collection, and the role of Tibetan printed works in supporting scholarship and community engagement.

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)



Left: Professor Gray Tuttle delivers a keynote presentation titled *Lobsang Lhalungpa: A Life Told through Books*, exploring the life and legacy of Lobsang P. Lhalungpa

(Image credit: The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)

The formal program concluded with the presentation of library appreciation gifts to Samphe and Tenzin Lhalungpa, featuring a framed image of the Lhalungpa Collection designed by the library, followed by the taking of a group photo of the donors, speakers, and organizers. Attendees also received tote bags featuring the library's logo for the Lhalungpa Collection. The event drew members of the U of T community, scholars, students, and the local Tibetan Canadian community, reflecting the broad interest and enduring impact of Lhalungpa's work. (H. Kim)



Left: Group photo taken during the event honouring the legacy of Lobsang P. Lhalungpa, featuring participants gathered around a commemorative framed artwork

(Image credit: The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

Traditional Knowledge Workshop: Tibetan and Himalayan Papermaking and Printing

On September 28, 2025, the Mellon Foundation-funded project *Hidden Stories: New Approaches to the Local and Global History of the Book* at the University of Toronto organized a hands-on workshop titled *Traditional Knowledge Workshop: Tibetan and Himalayan Papermaking and Printing* at the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre (TCCC) in Etobicoke. The event was co-presented and co-sponsored by the East Asian Library and supported by the TCCC, which generously provided its space for this unique cultural program.

The workshop introduced participants to traditional Himalayan knowledge systems through papermaking, ink-making, and prayer flag printing, practices that are increasingly endangered as modern materials replace traditional techniques. These activities were designed to foster cultural exchange and strengthen connections between the U of T Libraries and the Tibetan Canadian community.

The program began with opening remarks from community leaders and scholars, as well as Larry Alford, Chief Librarian, U of T Libraries. Presentations were given by two renowned experts: Dr. Kalzang Dorjee Bhutia, an Indigenous knowledge keeper and scholar from Sikkim, who shared insights into traditional ink-making and prayer flag printing, emphasizing sustainable practices; and Jim Canary, Head of Conservation at Indiana University's Lilly Library, who demonstrated Himalayan hand papermaking and discussed his decades-long work revitalizing traditional techniques across the Himalayas.

Hands-on sessions allowed participants to experience these traditional crafts firsthand. Attendees printed prayer flags from historic woodblocks and made paper from Himalayan fibers, while learning about the



Above: Workshop participants' practice prints created using traditional Tibetan and Himalayan woodblocks during the *Traditional Knowledge Workshop: Papermaking and Printing* at the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre

(Image credit: Hana Kim)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)



cultural and environmental significance of these practices and their role in supporting sustainable community development.

Over 120 Tibetan children from the Tibetan Language and Culture School attended, along with their parents, language teachers, and members of the TCCC community. The workshop created a lively atmosphere of learning and cultural exchange. The program concluded with a community lunch, offering further opportunities for dialogue between scholars, librarians, and community members. This gathering exemplified the East Asian Library's commitment to collaboration, cultural preservation, and inclusive scholarship, strengthening ties between the University and the Tibetan Canadian community. (H. Kim)

Left: Dr. Kalzang Dorjee Bhutia demonstrating traditional ink-making practices from Sikkim during the workshop. The process involves stirring natural ingredients in a large metal pan over an outdoor heat source, showcasing sustainable techniques rooted in Himalayan cultural heritage. (Image credit: Hana Kim)

Cinematic Witnesses: Documenting Survival in East Asian Democracies

From September to October 2025, the East Asian Library proudly co-sponsored the thought-provoking film series *Cinematic Witnesses: Documenting Survival in East Asian Democracies*. This series explored compelling narratives of resilience, memory, and social transformation across East Asia through the lens of documentary cinema.

The series was organized by graduate students Juwon Kim, Sijin Paek, and Eilis Price-Peyroux, all from the Department of East Asian Studies. The screenings brought together filmmakers, academics, and audiences to examine how cinema serves as a powerful medium for witnessing and preserving memory. Each film offered a unique perspective on survival and resistance, sparking meaningful dialogue on the intersections of history, identity, and democratic transformation.

KIM-GUN	CLOSE TO THE BONE	UNTOLD HERSTORY
SEPTEMBER 13 TH 7PM INNIS TOWN HALL	SEPTEMBER 27 TH 7PM INNIS TOWN HALL	OCTOBER 24 TH 3PM WILLIAM DOO AUDITORIUM
DISCUSSANT: MICHELLE CHO (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, EAST ASIAN STUDIES)	DISCUSSANT: TAKASHI FUJITANI (PROFESSOR EMERITUS, HISTORY)	DISCUSSANT: ERIN Y. HUANG (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, EAST ASIAN STUDIES)

Above: Poster for the film screening series *Cinematic Witnesses: Documenting Survival in East Asian Democracies*

(Image credit: Courtesy of Event Organizers, *Cinematic Witnesses: Documenting Survival in East Asian Democracies*)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

Featured films:

- * **Kim-Gun** (Kang Sang-woo, dir., 2019) – September 13 at Innis Town Hall
Discussant: Michelle Cho, Assistant Professor, Department of East Asian Studies
Moderator: Eilis Price-Peyroux, Ph.D. Student, Department of East Asian Studies
- * **Close to the Bone** (Okuma Katsuya, dir., 2024) – September 27 at Innis Town Hall
Discussant: Takashi Fujitani, Professor Emeritus, History
Moderator: Sijin Paek, Ph.D. Student, Department of East Asian Studies
- * **Untold Herstory** (Zero Chou, dir., 2022) – October 24 at William Doo Auditorium
Discussant: Erin Y. Huang, Assistant Professor, Department of East Asian Studies

This collaborative effort highlighted the East Asian Library's role in supporting programs that advance scholarship and foster dialogue on pressing global issues.

The series was co-sponsored by several U of T departments and institutes, including the East Asian Library, the Department of East Asian Studies, the Cinema Studies Institute, and the Asian Institute. (H. Kim)

Supporting Teaching and Learning

This fall, the East Asian Library actively supported faculty and students in teaching and learning through its collections, services, and programming.



Above: Students in EAS213: Korean Language in Media and Pop Culture explore Korean media and pop culture through *Ch'ijū in tō t'uraep* in a dynamic language-learning session

(Image credit: Sunyoung Ahn)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

Professor Sunyoung Ahn from the Department of East Asian Studies incorporated East Asian Library materials into her course EAS213: Korean Language in Media and Pop Culture, featuring *Ch'ijū in tō t'ūraep* (치즈인더트랩) [*Cheese in the Trap*], 34 volumes (PN6790 .K63 S863 2012; PN6790 .K63 S8632 2013; PN6790 .K63 S8633 2016; PN6790 .K63 S8634 2017), available at the East Asian Library. *Ch'ijū in tō t'ūraep* is a South Korean manhwa originally serialized as a webtoon on Naver Webtoon from 2010 to 2017 and later published in print, beginning in 2012. To recreate the experience of a Korean *manhwabang* (comic café), the library provided Korean snacks during the final session to allow participants to engage with the material in a rich immersive setting.

In addition, the East Asian Library supported a Korean Reading Club led by Professor Hyeyoon Cho by providing access to its extensive reading collections throughout the fall term. The library also supported faculty use of special collections in courses such as Professor Nathan Vedal's EAS335: Introduction to Manchu Language and History and EAS1541: A Comparative History of Reading in East Asia and Beyond, offering students hands-on access to rare and unique materials.



Above: Screenshot of the virtual exhibition *Images of China: Illustrations by Zhang Ming-ming*
(Image credit: The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)

Over the past year, a team of East Asian Library staff, including librarians, Graduate Student Library Assistants (GSLAs), and a Toronto Academic Libraries Internship (TALint) student, supported the creation of the online exhibition *Images of China: Illustrations by Zhang Ming-ming*. This digital exhibition extends the physical exhibition held at the East Asian Library from September to December 2023 and presents all original drawings, including those that could not be displayed in the physical space. Curated by Professor Yanfei Li, Coordinator of the Chinese Language Program in the Department of East Asian Studies, the online exhibition also features an expanded selection of student essays and opinion pieces, offering broader perspectives on its themes. Developed in collaboration with Professor Li, the exhibition will be used as a teaching resource for Chinese language courses beginning in 2026. (H. Kim)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

Conversation with Award-Winning Author and Translator Lin King

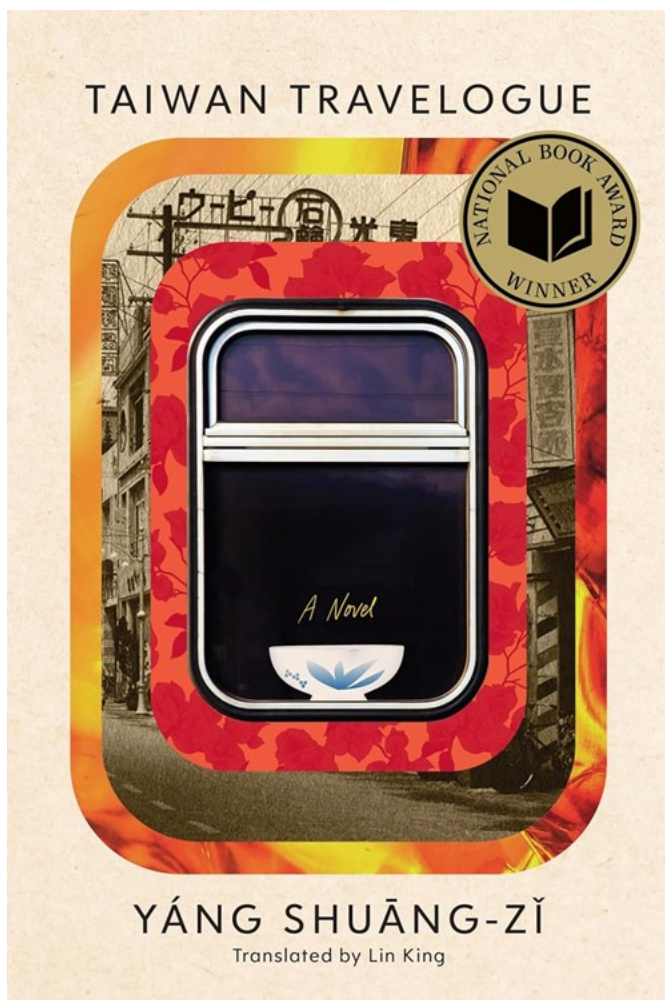


**Above: A conversation with Lin King (right) and moderator Matthew Mucha (left) at the Culture Centre of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Toronto
(Image credit: Courtesy of the Culture Centre of the TECO in Toronto)**

On November 2, the East Asian Library co-presented a conversation with Lin King (金翎), an award-winning author and translator, in collaboration with the Culture Centre of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Toronto, the Taipei Cultural Center in New York, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Global Taiwan Studies (GTS) Initiative at the Munk School, University of Toronto. The special talk took place at the Culture Centre of TECO in Scarborough and was moderated by Matthew Mucha, sessional lecturer and Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. He is also co-editor of *The Taiwan Gazette*, a publication affiliated with the Global Taiwan Studies Initiative at the University.

The East Asian Library collaborated on this event to highlight the importance of cross-cultural literary exchange and to provide our community with an opportunity to engage directly with contemporary Taiwanese literature and its translation into English.

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)



Lin King is a highly regarded writer whose works bridge languages and cultures. Her writing is celebrated for its nuanced storytelling, literary elegance, and deep insight into the human experience. In addition to her original works, she has translated literary texts, bringing diverse voices to a wider audience. Her English translation of *Taiwan Travelogue* (臺灣漫遊錄) by Yáng Shuāng-zǐ (楊双子; literally “twins”), the pen name of novelist and manga artist Yang Ruoci (楊若慈), originally used jointly with her late sister Yang Ruohui (楊若暉), was published by Graywolf Press and won the 2024 National Book Award for Translated Literature as well as the 2024 Baifang Schell Book Prize for Outstanding Translated Literature in Chinese. Lin King was also a featured guest at the 2025 Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA).

Taiwan Travelogue is available at Robarts Library under call number PL2971 .S4836 T3513 2024, and the original Chinese work is available at the East Asian Library. (H. Kim)

Left: Cover of *Taiwan Travelogue: A Novel* by Yáng Shuāng-zǐ, translated by Lin King, Winner of the 2024 National Book Award for Translated Literature

(Image credit: Courtesy of the Event Organizer, Taipei Cultural Center in New York, Ministry of Culture, Republic of China (Taiwan))

Screening of *Bullet Train* (2022), co-presented by the East Asian Library and the Japan Foundation, Toronto

On October 29, 2025, the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library had the opportunity to co-present with the Japan Foundation, Toronto, the screening of *Bullet Train* (2022), a movie adaptation of the novel titled *Maria Beetle* first published in 2010 by Isaka Kōtarō (伊坂幸太郎). The plot is centred around a group of assassins on board a Japanese high-speed train (bullet train or *shinkansen*). While their missions have something in common, their objectives conflict with each other, resulting in a chain of thrilling action sequences, executed in a quirky and humorous fashion. The main character, an unlucky assassin named Ladybug, is played by Brad Pitt.



Right: (right to left) Kotaro Isaka (Author) and Brian Bergstrom (Translator)
(Image credit: Japan Foundation, Toronto)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

On the night of the screening, the author of the novel that inspired the movie adaptation gifted the audience with his presence and the delivery of opening remarks. In a relaxed and humorous fashion, Isaka, who is an avid baseball fan, joked about feeling bad for making the audience miss the Blue Jays game that night. He also said he was very pleased that Canada was the destination for his first North American visit. Isaka was in Toronto as a featured guest of the International Festival of Authors (TIFA).

Isaka Kōtarō is an internationally acclaimed Japanese author, and he is one of the most consistently bestselling authors of contemporary Japanese fiction. He is known for works that straddle the literary and entertainment genres.

His novels won him several prestigious literary awards in Japan, and his books have been translated into over 20 languages worldwide.

Several of Isaka's works are available in Japanese at the East Asian Library under call number PL871.5 .S33. (F. Rocha)



Above: (right to left) Noriko Yamamoto (Japan Foundation, Toronto, Executive Director), Brian Bergstrom (Lecturer and Translator), Kōtarō Isaka (Author) and Fabiano Rocha (Japan Studies Librarian, University of Toronto)
(Image credit: Japan Foundation, Toronto)

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

CHINESE RESOURCES:

Jin dai yue du shi liao hui bian

近代閱讀史料彙編

Call number: Z1003 .J635 2023

We are delighted to share that the East Asian Library has recently acquired the complete 近代閱讀史料彙編 (*Jin dai yue du shi liao hui bian*), a 45-volume set published by the National Library Press of China. This remarkable compilation brings together a wide range of firsthand materials that document reading practices and print culture during the late Qing and Republican periods.

Materials in this set include original documents from local reading societies and community organizations, reader correspondence, periodicals devoted to reader questions and commentary, as well as guides on reading and study. These sources offer vivid insight into how reading was practiced, debated, and shaped by ordinary readers, literati, and institutions during a time of profound social change. For scholars working on the history of reading, book and periodical culture, intellectual life, or modern Chinese society, this acquisition creates new opportunities to engage closely with primary sources that allow for comparative work across a wide range of materials.

This new acquisition adds depth to our primary source collections while supporting the evolving work of faculty and graduate students. We look forward to seeing the new scholarship it will inspire. (A. Ip)



Above: Cover of *Jin dai yue du shi liao hui bian*

JAPANESE RESOURCES:

Chinki Monogatari

珍奇物語(1872)

[*Tales of Strange Things*]

Call number: GN495.6 .A65 1875

The East Asian Library has acquired a rare copy of *Chinki Monogatari* (珍奇物語), roughly translated as *Tales of Strange/Curious Things* (1872), written by Aoki Sukekiyo. It has two volumes bound in one, *Chinki Monogatari Dōmō Benwaku. Shohen, jō, ge* (珍奇物語 童蒙辯惑 初編 上・下).

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS



Above: Title page, *Chinki Monogatari*

Chinki monogatari is a Japanese illustrated book written for children or general audiences for educational purposes. The illustrator is Kawanabe Kyōsai, an artist whom we introduced in the July 2025 issue of the *East Asian Library Newsletter*, in the piece about *Kyōsai's Pictures of One Hundred Demons* (*Kyōsai Hyakki Gadan*, 曉齋百鬼画談), the illustrator's masterpiece that is also among our library's holdings.

Aoki Sukekiyo (青木輔清), active between 1871-1906, was a prominent Japanese scholar and publisher during the Meiji period specializing in pedagogy and language education. Many of his works between 1874 and 1890 were published by Dōmeisha (同盟舎). There is speculation that he may have been an employer or owner of the publishing house. According to Sekiba Takeshi's (関場武) research, a vast number of dictionaries were published from the early to mid-Meiji period. Aoki published over 80 titles, out of which approximately 30 were considered dictionaries or encyclopedias, primarily related to kanji or Chinese characters. He also worked as a professor at the Oshi-han *Yōgakkō* (忍藩洋学校), an educational institution of the Oshi Domain (current Gyōda, Saitama) established under the Tokugawa Shogunate to educate male members of the samurai class. That may explain why among the list of dictionaries published, there were also a couple of English-Japanese dictionary titles.

The first part of the book, *Chinki Monogatari Dōmō Benwaku. Shohen, jō* (珍奇物語 童蒙辯惑 初編上), contains a variety of random stories with either supernatural or philosophical themes, such as "Theory of Ghosts" (*Yōkai no setsu*, 妖怪の説) and "About the Human Spirit" (*Hitodama no Koto*, 人魂の事), or scientific themes, such as "About Rainbows" (*Niji no Koto*, 虹の事).

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)



Above: Figure 1. Illustration of *Niji no Koto*

In Figure 1 shown above, the text available on the left explains how the water droplets are like mirrors, letting the sunlight through them, and how the sunlight is bent inside the droplet and reflected to the human eye creating the beautiful appearance of seven colours.

The second part of the book, *Chinki Monogatari Dōmō Benwaku. Shohen, ge* (珍奇物語 童蒙辯惑 初編下), describes the curious differences in the social life and customs of different countries and peoples: *Sekaijū no ifū* (世界中の異風). The text preceding Figure 2 (shown on page 16) describes in detail the differences among the Japanese geisha, Western, Indian and Chinese women. It not only provides detailed descriptions of their attires, such as western women's wearing "something like a net over their heads [a veil]" and Indian women having earrings hanging from their noses, but also societal customs such as Japanese women's shaving off their eyebrows to signal the change in their marital status, feet binding of noble Chinese women, and India's polytheistic beliefs.

Subsequent images in the book have illustrations of a wealthy Chinese family's house, the physical appearances and garments of men and women in Siam Shamu (暹羅), the lifestyles of nomadic communities in Africa and of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic - in the book referred to as Eskimos (イスクイモウス).

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)



Above: Figure 2. Illustrations of Japanese, Western, Indian, and Chinese women

As the public education system was heavily based on models from the “advanced” West, it is not surprising that the descriptions of foreigners contained in *Chinki Monogatari* carry a colonial and biased tone towards peoples of different geographical regions. Two examples of such representations are shown on page 17 in Figures 3 and 4. Cultural anthropologist Takezawa Yasuko (竹沢泰子) explains that because of the scarcity of textbooks in early Meiji period, books such as Fukuzawa Yukichi’s (福沢諭吉) *Sekai Kunizukushi* (世界國盡, *Account of the Countries of the World*, 1869) were designated as geography textbooks. The book is mostly comprised of translations of sections of world geography printed in the United States and England. It essentially divides people of the world into four categories: 1) natives, 2) barbarians, 3) half-civilized and 4) civilized. In Fukuzawa’s thinking, it was important for the children and women of Japan to acquire the knowledge of those differences and to aspire to adopt the lifestyles and temperaments of those in the civilized countries, so that Japan could also “become civilized, strong, wealthy, and ‘happy under heaven overall.’”

Chinki Monogatari is an interesting example of educational books from the early Meiji period. The book is currently housed in the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library’s PROTECTED location. (F. Rocha)

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)



Above: Figure 3.
Nomadic African communities pitching their tents



Above: Figure 4.
Scene depicting the Inuit's habitat and fishing

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NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)

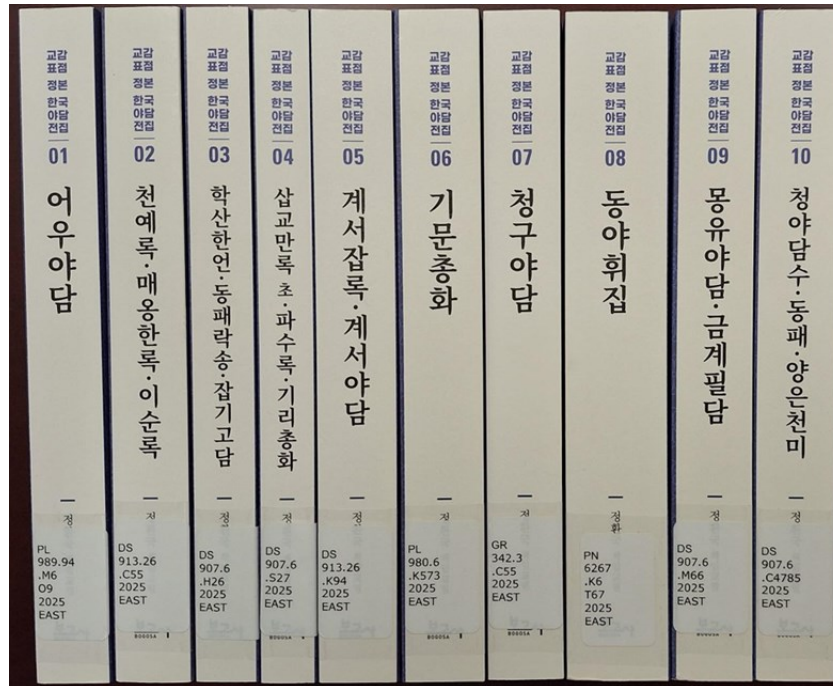
KOREAN RESOURCES:

Kyogam p'yojŏm chŏngbon Han'guk yadam chŏnjip

교감표점 정본 한국야담전집

[*The Critical Annotated Edition of Korean Yadam Collections*]

Call numbers vary



Above: 10-volume set of classical Korean anecdotal literature,
Kyogam p'yojŏm chŏngbon Han'guk yadam chŏnjip

(Image credit: Hana Kim)

The East Asian Library is pleased to announce the addition of *Kyogam p'yojŏm chŏngbon Han'guk yadam chŏnjip* (교감표점 정본 한국야담전집) [*The Critical Annotated Edition of Korean Yadam Collections*] (2025) to our library holdings.

This ten-volume set brings together twenty collections of *yadam* (unofficial anecdotal tales) from the late Chosŏn period. Carefully collated from diverse manuscript versions, it establishes an authoritative and annotated edition of these important works. Originally published in 2016 as part of the Korean Studies Foundation Project and completed after three years of revision, the series includes over 4,200 narratives, comprising about 1,000 unique tales, including 300 written in classical Chinese. The collection highlights 150 representative stories that vividly reflect the cultural life and social sentiments of late Chosŏn society.

This edition will be a valuable resource for research on Korean classical literature, intellectual history, folklore, and narrative studies. (H. Kim)

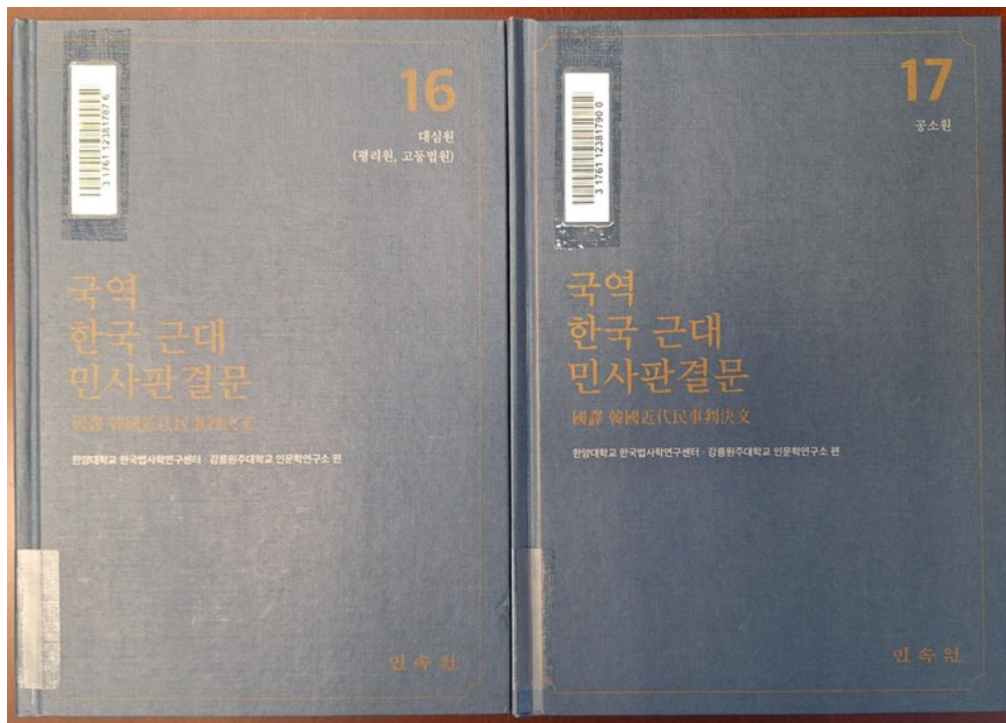
NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)

Kugyŏk Han'guk kŭndae minsa p'an'gyŏlmun Vols. 16-30

국역 한국 근대 민사판결문

[*Korean Translation of Modern Korean Civil Court Judgments*]

Call number: KPA496.5 K846 2025 (v.16-30)



Above: Volumes 16 and 17 of *Kugyŏk Han'guk Kŭndae Minsa P'an'gyŏlmun*
(Image credit: Hana Kim)

The East Asian Library has acquired volumes 16-30 of *Kugyŏk Han'guk kŭndae minsa p'an'gyŏlmun* (국역 한국 근대 민사판결문) [*Korean Translation of Modern Korean Civil Court Judgments*] (2025), published by the Korean Legal History Research Centre at Hanyang University, South Korea.

This important series presents translated and annotated collections of civil court rulings that document Korea's judicial system and legal practices during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Following the 2021 publication covering cases from 1895 to March 1908, this new set includes rulings from March 1908 to December 1909, as well as earlier cases from 1889 onward issued by the Japanese Consulate, the Residency-General, and related legal institutions. The original materials are held by the Supreme Court's Judicial Archives and have been carefully transcribed and translated to facilitate public access.

The current volumes primarily feature cases from Seoul, Gyeonggi, and Incheon, along with some from Gangwon, Chungcheong, and Hwanghae Provinces. They provide valuable insight into the legal and social transformations that took place during the transition from the Korean Empire to the colonial period. The rulings reflect how traditional Korean legal concepts and customs encountered and often clashed with

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)

Western and Japanese legal systems.

Topics covered include land and property disputes, ancestral grave conflicts, sales and tenancy of houses, debt and credit relations, promissory notes, and tenancy contracts. Together, these materials illuminate everyday legal life and the evolving notions of rights and ownership in modern Korean society.

This collection will be a useful resource for research on modern Korean legal history, colonial administration, social customs, and the development of legal modernization in East Asia. (H. Kim)

T'aesŏ munye sinbo

태서문예신보 (泰西文藝新報, 영인본)

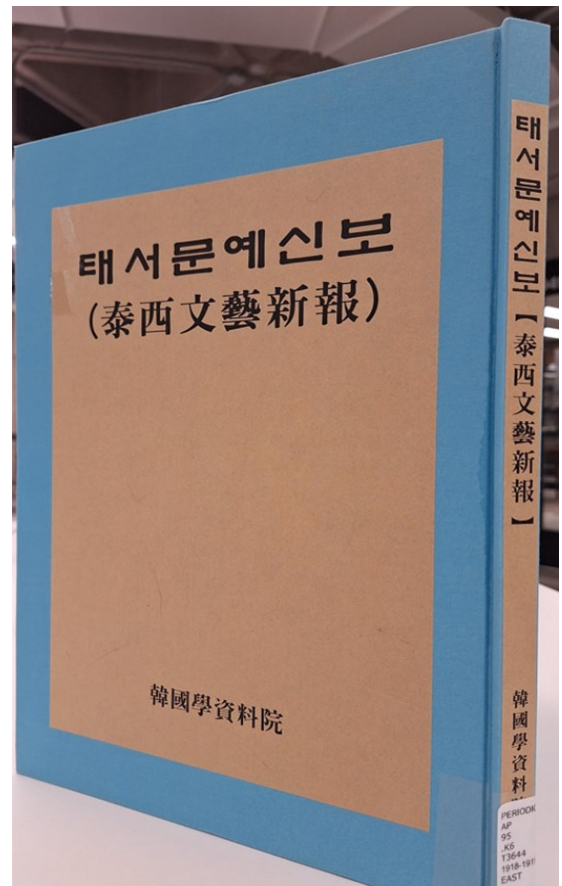
[*Taeso Literary News, facsimile edition*]

Call number: AP95 .K T3644

The East Asian Library is pleased to add *T'aesŏ munye sinbo* (태서문예신보) [*Taeso Literary News*], a weekly literary magazine first published in September 1918 by Kim Ŏk, Yi Il, and Chang Tu-ch'öl. Recognized as Korea's first weekly magazine, it ran for 16 issues until February 1919.

Originally a general interest magazine, it quickly became literature-focused, featuring original and translated poetry, short stories, and essays on foreign literature and literary trends. The magazine played a key role in introducing Western literary ideas to Korea and shaping modern Korean poetry. Kim Ŏk's translations and original poems, in particular, influenced the development of Korea's first poetry collections.

While it included art and music, the magazine was largely poetry-centred, publishing 38 original poems alongside translations and literary criticism. *T'aesŏ munye sinbo* is an essential resource for studying the early formation of modern Korean literature and cross-cultural literary exchange. (H. Kim)



Above: Reprint of the historic Korean literary magazine, *T'aesŏ munye sinbo*
(Image credit: Hana Kim)

Source Consulted:

"*T'aesŏ Munye Sinbo* (태서문예신보, 泰西文藝新報)." *Encyclopedia of Korean Culture*. <https://encykorea.aks.ac.kr/Article/E0058962>. Accessed October 23, 2025.

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)

Hanbit [facsimile edition]

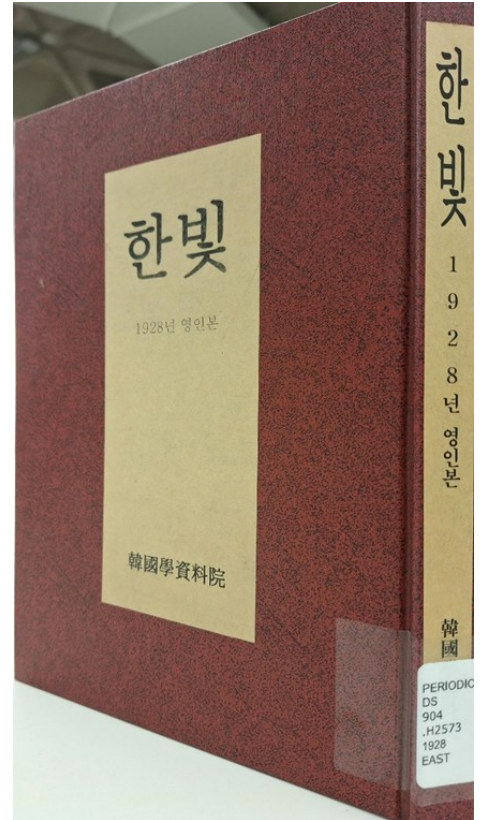
한빛 (영인본)

Call number: DS904 .H2573

We are pleased to add *Hanbit* (한빛), a 1928 magazine devoted to Korean history, geography, and language studies. Edited and published by Yi Yun-jae (李允宰), the magazine offers a glimpse into early 20th-century Korean scholarship and popular writing.

Originally planned for early 1927, publication was delayed due to manuscript confiscation, making Volume 2, Issue 1 the official first issue. Early issues ran about 30 pages, expanding to 60-70 pages in later editions. *Hanbit* featured scholarly articles, essays, and poetry, with content aimed at young readers rather than strictly academic audiences. Notable contributors include Ch'oe Nam-sŏn (崔南善), Mun Il-p'yŏng (文一平), Kim Kyo-hŏn (金教獻), Han'gyŏl Kim Yun-gyŏng (한걸 金允經), Kim To-t'ae (金道泰), Yi Chung-hwa (李重華), and Yi Nŭng-hwa (李能和).

The magazine also covered traditional games, folklore, ethics, historical sites, and literary criticism, blending scholarly interest with popular appeal. Publication ceased with Issue 15 on August 1, 1928. Its editors emphasized introducing purely Korean heritage, including history, geography, education, and the arts, through articles that were informative yet accessible, aiming to engage young readers. (H. Kim)



Above: Facsimile edition of the 1928 publication, *Hanbit*

(Image credit: Hana Kim)

Source Consulted:

"Hanbit (한빛)." *Encyclopedia of Korean Culture*. <https://encykorea.aks.ac.kr/Article/E0061659>. Accessed October 23, 2025.

Pukchosŏn sillok: yŏnp'yo wa saryo Vols. 201-210 (21st batch)

북조선 실록 : 년표와 사료

[*Veritable Records of North Korea: Chronological Tables and Source Materials*]

Call number: DS930.6 .K56 2018

We are excited to add *Pukchosŏn sillok: yŏnp'yo wa saryo*, Vols. 201-210 (21st batch), a landmark chronological collection of primary sources on North Korea. Compiled during more than 20 years through extensive collaboration, this collection presents carefully edited and annotated materials, including photographs and

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS (CONT.)



Above: *Pukchosŏn sillok: yŏnp'yo wa saryo* – Volumes 201–210 (21st batch), covering entries from 1957
(Image credit: Hana Kim)

footnotes, in order to provide accurate and reliable historical records. Each volume covers a specific period in 1957:

- **201:** April 28 - May 11
- **202:** May 12 - May 23
- **203:** May 24 - June 2
- **204:** June 3 - June 14
- **205:** June 15 - June 24
- **206:** June 25 - July 5
- **207:** July 6 - July 17
- **208:** July 18 - July 26
- **209:** July 27 - August 6
- **210:** August 7 - August 19

This collection is the first of its kind in the world, providing a “chronological warehouse” of sources for understanding North Korean history from a factual and documentary perspective. While the editors ensured consistent selection and annotation of materials, interpretation and historical judgment remain in the hands of the user.

The East Asian Library already holds Vols. 1-200, covering August 15, 1945, through April 27, 1957. With the addition of Vols. 201-210, researchers now have access to a continuous historical record from the immediate post-liberation period through mid-1957.

Pukchosŏn sillok is an invaluable resource for researchers in Korean studies, political history, and contemporary East Asian affairs. (H. Kim)

The East Asian Library Newsletter is published twice a year. Please send comments and questions to:

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The image of the front cover page: A pecha from the Lobsang P. Lhalungpa Collection of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, taken in September 2025

