

The East Asian Library News

Welcome to the first issue of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library's very own newsletter!

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Newsletter Guidelines

- **Purpose**

This newsletter aims to inform faculty and students about news and updates on services and resources available from the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library at the University of Toronto. It strives to provide timely information in support of teaching, learning, and research.
- **Format**

Brevity typifies the format of the East Asian Library News. Each issue will focus on a few information items.
- **Focus**

The content of the East Asian Library News covers both print and electronic resources, as well as new services.
- **Frequency**

The East Asian Library News will be published on an irregular basis, whenever sufficient news and information warrant.
- **Distribution**

The East Asian Library News is available:

 1. In Electronic format via email to faculty and graduate students at the Department of East Asian Studies
 2. As an HTML document from the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library's homepage (<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/east>)
 3. In paper format in the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library
- **Comments and Suggestions**

Please direct all comments and suggestions to the editor, Victoria Chu (chu@library.utoronto.ca)

Fall Library Hours

Beginning 4 September 2000...

Circulation Services are available during the following library opening hours:

Monday through Thursdays	9:00 am to 7:30 pm
Fridays	9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturdays	12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
Sundays	Closed

Reference Services are available:

Mondays through Fridays	10:00 am to 6:00 pm
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Fall Library Orientation Tours of the East Asian Library

We are offering information tours of our library this Fall for the weeks of September 18 to 22, and September 25 to 29. There will be two tours per day, Mondays through Fridays, at 11 am and 4pm. These tours aim to provide information on our library's collection, layout of our library and location of materials, PC workstations in our library, and brief information on other libraries on campus. Please drop by and join us for an information tour of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library.

In addition to the basic information tours mentioned immediately above, our subject specialists and librarians are planning to offer secondary tours that follow subject lines. If you are interested in more in-depth information on our collection and services, please fill out a form at the Reference Desk indicating your name, topic(s) of interest, and contact information.

Featured Article

University of Toronto - Royal Ontario Museum THE H.H. MU CHINESE LIBRARY *A Brief History*

Contributed by Jack Howard, Librarian, H.H. Mu Far Eastern Library, ROM

The 1920's and 1930's were a troubled time in China. There was a sense of impending catastrophic events that lead many to try to get treasures out of China before they were lost or destroyed. Such may have been the case when the family of a former Secretary to the German Legation in Beijing sought to sell a valuable collection of the Chinese classics to an interested foreign university. Bishop William Charles White (1873-1960), the first Anglican Bishop from Canada to be stationed in Henan province between 1901 and 1934, and subsequently the first keeper of the ROM's Chinese collections, heard of this collection and judged that it would be an important asset to the new department of Chinese studies that was envisioned for the Royal Ontario Museum and the University of Toronto.

Betty Kingston, librarian in the Far Eastern Library from 1943 to 1985, in her article in the July/August 1982 issue of *Canadian Collector : A Journal of Antiques and Fine Arts* (v.17, no. 4, pp. 80-82) sums it up:

"Since the revolution of 1911, western countries had been eyeing China as a trading partner and western scholars were taking a renewed interest in Chinese language and culture. Chinese libraries were being established all over America, often having as their nucleus the collection of some distinguished scholar. ... Dr. Cody, President of the University of Toronto, who was planning to establish a programme of Chinese Studies in the University, consulted his friend, William Charles White, then Bishop of Honan [Henan], and asked his help in obtaining books for the support of such studies. Bishop White was fortunate in hearing of the library of a Mr. Hsüeh-hsün Mu [Mu Xuexun], former secretary of the German legation in Peking, which was up for sale after the death of Mr. Mu in 1929. The library which he had put together over the years was well known and respected among scholars. His sons, wishing it to be kept intact in an institution of higher learning as a memorial to their father, were quite willing to let Bishop White have it at a fraction of its value provided these conditions were met."

The collection was being offered for the equivalent of \$40,000 in Canadian funds. An enormous sum in those days, but this represented an incomparable opportunity to secure an exceptionally valuable research collection that included the best of traditional Chinese scholarship over the ages. Most of the collection consisted of Qing dynasty printed books; there were also some Ming dynasty manuscripts. The Mu library numbered 3,500 Chinese t'ao [tao] or binders, containing about 40,000 individual ts'e [ce] or volumes.

Ms. Kingston continues: "It was necessary, of course, to find funds. Generous donors came forward in the persons of Dr. Sigmund Samuel, a member of the Board of the Museum, Sir Robert Mond, already a benefactor of the Museum, Bishop White, and Dr. J.C. Ferguson, who each contributed a quarter of the cost. It was decided that the library should be housed in the Royal Ontario Museum, but crates on the basement floor were hardly a fitting environment for so prestigious a collection. Dr. Samuel and Sir Robert again came forward and provided funds for the beautiful room which was to house the Mu library from 1937 until 1961 when it was removed to the Department of East Asiatic Studies Library of the University of Toronto."

When the Mu library collection was divided up in 1961 the bulk of the collection went to the newly formed East Asiatic Studies Library. Books on art and archaeology remained in the Far Eastern Library of the ROM where they were deemed to be most useful to the ROM curators in their study of China's arts.

The development of the Asian library collections of both the East Asian Library of the University and the Far Eastern Library of the Museum are based on the requirements of the curriculum (for the University) and the research interests of the curators working on the Museum's world-renown collection of Asian, especially Chinese, artefacts.

The University's East Asian Library has grown considerably over these past forty years, benefiting especially from the abundant funding available during the 1960's and 1970's for Asian studies. The Far Eastern Library, depending on a smaller budget, has not grown so rapidly. However, given the narrower focus of its collection mandate, it has been able to build-up an excellent Asian art and archaeology collection, more than adequate for the research interests of the Museum's curatorial staff and for students in the Asian art courses at Universities Toronto and York.

The collections of both libraries well complement each other, creating at the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum one of the richest research collections in Asian studies in North America.

(September 2000)

Library Brochures

New brochures have arrived and you may want to browse around and pick up a few. For example, the following may be of some interest to you:

Within the East Asian Library...

East Asian Library History
East Asian Library Services
Shelving Guide for Reference Area
Newspapers List
Map of East Asian Library
User Guides (C, J, and K)
Undergraduate "How to find" Series

Beyond the East Asian Library...

Find it! Fall 2000
Using Pine E-mail
Remote Access to the Library's Electronic Information Resources
Information Commons: General Services
Information Commons: Digital Studio

Robarts Library: Tours and Instruction Classes

Some highlights to which we would like to bring your attention:

- **Robarts Library Tours**

September 5 to 30

Mondays through Saturdays, 1:10 to 2:00 pm

October 3 to December 5

Tuesdays, 1:10 to 2:00 pm

Please check with the **Find it!** brochure (p.2) for tours of the Gerstein Science Information Centre, the Audiovisual Library, and the Engineering Library

- **Class: Finding humanities and social sciences books in the library**

This 1-hour hands-on introductory class is held in Robarts Library Room 4055

Please check with the **Find it!** brochure (p.3) for session availability

- **Class: Finding journal articles in the humanities and social sciences using online indexes**

In this 90-minute hands-on introductory class is also held in Robarts Library Room 4055

Please check with the **Find it!** brochure (p.4) for session availability

- **Class: Finding full-text journal articles**

A 90-minute hands-on introduction to using full-text electronic journals in the humanities and social sciences

Offered on Monday October 16, 2:00 to 3:30 pm, and Wednesday October 25, 2:00 to 3:30 pm in Robarts Library Room 4055

Please see details regarding registration p.4 of the **Find it!** brochure

- **Internet Classes**

Web I: Navigating the Net

Web II: Searching the Net

Communicating on the Net

Email classes

These classes are held in Robarts Library Room 4055, and they are limited to U of T faculty, staff, students, and alumni with valid library cards

Please see details regarding sessions and registration pp.4 to 5 of the **Find it!** brochure

URLs of Interest

In each issue of our newsletter, we will list a few web sites with URLs which we think will be of interest to you.

First and foremost, of course, is our library's homepage at

<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/east>

You can find information on...

- History of the library
- Library collections
- Circulation services
- Hours of operation
- CJK Internet resources
- Undergraduate finding aids

- CJK search engines
- East Asian libraries
- East Asian studies departments
- General and CJK subject links
- And many more

So why not pay us a visit, both physically and virtually!

Technology Updates

Additional computer workstations have arrived at our library. Altogether we now have 22 PCs and they all have CJK (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) web browsing capability as well as Global IME which allows one to input CJK characters. All but 7 of these workstations have MS Office 2000 installed, hence allowing one to input CJK characters using programs within the Office Suite.

Furthermore, in addition to the public printer located in the Book Stacks section 1, we now have a new printer located at the P2 section, in the Current Resources Centre, next to Room 8022. One can choose where s/he wants to retrieve the print job.

Staff Updates

Coming

We are happy to welcome Ms. Rosina Leung who joined our library in mid-September as our Chinese Resources Librarian. Rosina obtained her MLS degree from the Faculty of Information Studies, the University of Toronto, and she will play an active role in our library's involvement with the Pinyin Conversion Project. This project is spearheaded by the Research Library Information Network (RLIN), Library of Congress, and Online Computer Library Center (OCLC).

And Going

Four of our library's Assistant Library Technicians are leaving us this Fall in pursuit of their careers. Jamie Chow and Dugald MacLean completed their undergraduate degrees at the University of Toronto, and they have accepted teaching positions in Tianjin, China. Neil Kopek, who is a third year medical student at the University of Toronto, will leave us in order to concentrate on professional studies. Lastly, Yan Zhonghu will also leave us to prepare for doctoral level comprehensive exams. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

*Please direct all comments and suggestions to the editor at The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library
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