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SPACE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

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

The focus of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library Space Revitalization Project involves the creation of a variety of learning and study spaces, including an open collaboration and event/exhibit area, an active learning instruction space, and quiet study spaces.

The library’s public event space, which is currently located at the far back of the library, will be moved to the front of the library near the entrance area. This space will be used as a flexible learning space where moderate noise is allowed. When the library is hosting public events, this space will be converted into a dynamic and engaging space that showcases campus teaching, learning and research and how it relates to the world, thereby fostering interdisciplinary and community engagement.

Above: New renderings show the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library’s entranceway after the revitalization
(Image credit: Karolina Grujic, Architect, U of T Design & Engineering)
This change will facilitate creation of student study spaces that will be designed to meet students’ diverse learning styles. When not in use for special events, the front area of the library will become a collaborative, independent learning zone, while the back end of the library will become devoted to quiet study spaces with posted noise-level indicators.

Also, the library’s current seminar room (Room 8051) will be redesigned in order to provide greater room configuration flexibility to integrate and support teaching and learning. This innovative space will enhance collaboration, improve knowledge transfer and engage multiple learning styles, and will be open to students for use as study space when not booked for departmental instruction or meetings.

The Space Revitalization Project will also employ design decisions that reinforce the ability of the library to adapt and evolve to meet diverse and changing needs by providing additional power outlets throughout the library, as well as task lighting for carrels. It will provide flexible and adaptable furnishings and infrastructure to serve the diverse information and programming needs of the library.

Finally, the project will enhance the connection of the East Asian Library to the campus by creating a more intuitive path to the library entrance. Under the project, the library will be given clear and attractive wayfinding from the public elevator to its entrance.

Above: A rendering of Room 8049 (Flexible Learning Space)
(Image credit: Karolina Grujic, Architect, U of T Design & Engineering)
SERVICE DURING CONSTRUCTION

The East Asian Library’s general public services will not be interrupted during construction. However, as of December 6, 2019, the Loan Services Desk and the Reference Desk have been moved to a temporary location in the library. Door 8033 is currently in use as our temporary main entrance. During construction, public access to the rare book and protected material collections are closed due to safety and security concerns.

NOISE DURING CONSTRUCTION

During the construction period, there may be times when high levels of noise may be experienced. Earplugs are available at the library’s Loan Services Desk, or users may wish to seek out quieter areas in other parts of the building at such times.

QUESTIONS?

Should you have any questions regarding the East Asian Library’s Space Revitalization Project, please direct them to Hana Kim, Director of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library (hn.kim@utoronto.ca | 416-978-7690).

Thank you for your understanding for any inconvenience during the construction period, and we look forward to offering our patrons a more vibrant and versatile space in the near future.

Above on the left: A rendering of Room 8051 (Active Learning Room/Conference Room) (Image credit: Karolina Grujic, Architect, U of T Design & Engineering)

Above on the right: Renderings of the new entrance to the East Asian Library from the public elevators (Image credit: Karolina Grujic, Architect, U of T Design & Engineering)
HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS & EXHIBITS

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

As the University of Toronto energetically swung into the 2019 fall semester, the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library was also active in hosting various public events.

Above, top left to bottom right: Asian Canadian writers Derwin Mak and Thea Lim in the LiterASIAN panel talk; Professor Lisa Mar in LiterASIAN Toronto 2019; Matsumoto Kaoru 松本薫 explaining kyōgen; librarians Hana Kim and Fabiano Rocha with Tomoko Ohyama (Japanese Consul) in the kyōgen lecture (Photo credit: Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)
2019 Fall East Asian Library Orientation

In September, we welcomed both our new and returning students and faculty. Our librarians have been busy attending various orientations and classes, conducting customized introduction sessions about library resources. We also organized our annual orientation session with new and returning graduate students who are studying in the field of East Asian Studies from the Departments of East Asian Studies, History, Anthropology, the Asian Institute, and the iSchool.

2019 Science Literacy Week

The year 2019 marked the 6th anniversary of Science Literacy Week (September 16-22) and 2019’s theme was "Oceans: Depths to Discover - a week-long celebration of science and oceans research in Canada." A number of University of Toronto libraries participated in different ways, such as book displays, tours, and panels/talks/presentations. The East Asian Library also took part in this annual Science Literacy Week by featuring a book display of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean materials on the conceptualization of oceans by Chinese, Japanese and Korean people throughout history, as demonstrated in cartographic materials and historical writings.

Above: Librarians and graduate students in the East Asian Library orientation session
Below: Book display on “Oceans: Depths to Discover” at the East Asian Library
(Photograph credit: Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)
The East Asian Library, in collaboration with the Japan Foundation, Toronto, and the Toronto International Festival of Authors, presented a special screening of The Little House (Chiisai Ouchi 小さいおうち) on October 27, 2019 at Innis College. The movie is an adaptation by master filmmaker Yamada Yōji (山田洋次) of a novel of the same title by Naoki Prize winner Nakajima Kyōko (中島京子). Taki, the protagonist of the story, is writing down in a notebook her memories of the time she worked as a house maid for the Hirai family living in a European style house with a red, triangular shaped roof in the outskirts of Tokyo. Set in the early years of the Shōwa period (1926-1989), the story provides a vivid account of complex interpersonal relationships with socio-economic and political references to the period in which Japan’s situation was becoming increasingly tense in the years leading up to World War II. The film screening was followed by a Q & A conversation with Nakajima Kyōko and Japanese Canadian author Kerri Sakamoto. At the screening, Nakajima Kyōko spoke about how she was inspired to write from the perspective of a house maid, and how her story took into account historical facts, recollections from conversations with her grandmother, and her research on articles found in women’s magazines published at the time of the story’s setting. Her previous experience working as a freelance writer and editor in a publishing firm was instrumental in the creation of her own works of fiction leading to literary achievements such as winning the prestigious Naoki Prize for Literature for her novel Chiisai Ouchi (The Little House) in 2010, followed by the Izumi Kyōka Prize for Literature for Tsuna ga shiitake data koro (When My Wife was a Shiitake) in 2014 and the Kawai Hayao Story Prize and Historical Fiction Writers Club Award for Katazuno! (One-Horn!) in 2015.

The Library was fortunate that Nakajima Kyōko took time out of her busy schedule to visit the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library prior to her return to Japan. She was flattered to see dozens of her works in the stacks. We took the opportunity to ask her to sign the library’s copy of Yumemiru Teikoku Toshokan (夢見る帝国図書館), her latest work published by Bungei Shunju in 2019. Her books can be found under Call number PL873.5 .A325.
On November 27, 2019, the library was honoured to host the second Asian Canadian literary festival in Toronto, in partnership with the Asian Canadian Studies Program at the University College and the Asian Canadian Writers’ Workshop (ACWW), to celebrate and explore Asian Canadian writing's past, present, and future.

Originally launched in 2013 and based in Vancouver BC, LiterASIAN is an annual festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian writing and a community-building initiative of the Asian Canadian Writers Workshop (ACWW). The theme for LiterASIAN Toronto 2019 was “Looking to the Future: The evolving narrative of Asian Canadian fiction”. Since the late 1700s, people of Asian origin have made important contributions to Canadian heritage and identity. Fiction written by Asian Canadian authors has evolved and diversified, ranging from the origin immigrant story, to achieving the Canadian Dream, to looking beyond into the future with science fiction and fantasy tales. The event examined how the world has changed over time, and how fiction represents these changes. Each author on the panel talked about his or her work, and how their narratives have evolved over time as the literary landscape continuously changes.

The event featured two panels, followed by discussion sessions, readings and receptions. The first panel included Arlene Chan and Carrianne Leung, and was moderated by Professor Lisa Mar, Richard Charles Lee Chair in Chinese Canadian Studies at the University of Toronto. This panel’s topic was “The Evolving Asian Narrative,” and discussion touched on the history of Asian Canadians and Female Asian Canadian perspectives of writing.

The second panel included Derwin Mak and Thea Lim, and was moderated by Professor Tania Aguila-Way, Department of English at the University of Toronto. The panelists discussed the modern works of Asian Canadian science fiction and fantasy.
HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS & EXHIBITS (FALL 2019) (CONT.)

LiterASIAN Toronto 2019 also celebrated the publication of Immersion, a book of fifteen Asian speculative fiction stories from around the world, and a collaborative project by Asian Canadian Writers’ Workshop, Ricepaper Magazine and Dark Helix Press. Editor JF Garrard introduced the book and authors Derwin Mak and Serah Louis, who read an excerpt from their short stories published in this anthology.

It was a very meaningful event for the East Asian Library, given that one of the East Asian Library’s missions is to preserve and make accessible interdisciplinary knowledge and history of Asian Canadian communities and the Asian Diaspora. This festival strived to reflect Asian Canadian storytelling in all its diversity. The planning committee of LiterASIAN Toronto 2019 included Professor Lisa Mar, Asian Canadian Studies program at University College, Professor Tania Aguila-Way, Department of English, JF Garrard, LiterASIAN Toronto Festival Coordinator, and Hana Kim, Director of the East Asian Library.

About the speakers:

1. Arlene Chan is an author, Chinatown historian, and retired librarian, and has written seven books and contributed to numerous publications about the history, culture, and traditions of the Chinese in Canada, some shortlisted for the Ontario Speaker’s Book Award, Heritage Toronto Book Award, Silver Birch Award, and Red Cedar Award.

2. Carrianne Leung is a fiction writer and educator. Her debut novel, The Wondrous Woo, published by Inanna Publications, was shortlisted for the 2014 Toronto Book Awards. Her collection of linked stories, That Time I Loved You, was released in 2018 by HarperCollins and in 2019 in the US by Liveright Publishing. It was named as one of the Best Books of 2018 by CBC, and was awarded the Danuta Gleed Literary Award 2019.

3. Derwin Mak’s story Transubstantiation won the Aurora Award for Best Short Fiction. The anthology The Dragon and the Stars, edited by Derwin Mak and Eric Choi, won the Aurora Award for Best Related Work. Another anthology, Where the Stars Rise, edited by Lucas Law and Derwin Mak, won the Alberta Book Publishers Award for Speculative Fiction.

4. Thea Lim is the author of An Ocean of Minutes, which was shortlisted for the 2018 Scotiabank Giller Prize, and longlisted for Canada Reads 2019. Her writing has been published by Granta, The Paris Review, The Guardian, The Globe and Mail, The Southampton Review and others. She holds an MFA from the University of Houston and previously served as nonfiction editor at Gulf Coast. She grew up in Singapore and now lives with her family in Toronto, where she is a professor of creative writing.

5. Serah Louis is a young Canadian writer of Indian descent. She is currently studying Biology and Professional Writing and Communications at the University of Toronto. She loves homemade biriyani and a good cup of chai and you will find her bookshelf cluttered with works ranging from J.R.R. Tolkien to Rabindranath Tagore.

Above: Arlene Chan, Carrianne Leung, Derwin Mak, Thea Lim, Serah Louis
(Photo credit: Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library)
Matsumoto Kaoru (松本薰) on Kyōgen

by Fabiano Rocha, Japan Studies Librarian

The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library hosted a lecture on kyōgen with world-renowned performer Matsumoto Kaoru (松本薰). This event was the result of a collaboration with the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto and the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies. It was one in a series of cultural events promoted by the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto, as this year marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of official Canada-Japan Foreign Relations.

Nō and kyōgen are Japanese traditional performing arts collectively known as Nōgaku. In 2008, Nōgaku was added to the UNESCO List of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Nō draws heavily on classical Japanese literature about aristocratic society. In contrast, kyōgen is a spoken comedy genre that humorously depicts every-day people of the Muromachi period (1333-1568).

Early forms of kyōgen can be traced back as far as the 14th century. In modern times, kyōgen is often performed independently of Nō plays, but historically it has always been the comic interlude played between Nō acts.
Matsumoto Kaoru is a prominent performer affiliated with the Ōkura School of Kyōgen (Okura-ryū, 大蔵流), which is represented and maintained by the Shigeyama Sengoro-ke household (Kyoto), the Shigeyama Chūzaburo-ke household (Tokyo), the Yamamoto Tōjirō-ke household (Tokyo) and others. As a young man, Master Matsumoto was once so enthralled by a performance by Sengoro Shigeyama XII (Sensaku IV), that he began following the renowned kyōgen actor from one appearance to the next. In 1974, he eventually became his student. Holding his teacher Sensaku IV as the standard to which he constantly strives, Master Matsumoto continues to study and develop his own distinct kyōgen style.

“Laughter is the central theme of kyōgen, and the objective is to have the audience join in the laughter” explains Master Matsumoto about this old traditional art form. He completely captivated the audience by not only demonstrating the types of laughter in kyōgen but also getting the audience to practice with him. He also spoke about other techniques that included body movements, and the form and use of props, such as fans that are used to represent objects and actions on kyōgen’s minimalist stage.

Following Matsumoto Kaoru’s lecture and sample kyōgen technique demonstrations, we were treated to an engaging conversation between the performer and Professor VK Preston, from which we learned more about the origin and history of kyōgen, how the tradition has been passed on through the generations, and what it is like to be a performer of such a traditional art form in contemporary Japan. Laughter is the best medicine! The Library thanks Matsumoto Kaoru for bringing much-needed laughter to the East Asian Library!

All of the above events were well-attended and received by the university and surrounding communities. The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library will continue to pursue our mandate of providing a forum for such engaging events. We welcome suggestions for further such possible talks or other events. Please contact Library Director Hana Kim at hn.kim@utoronto.ca or 416-978-7690 with your ideas.

Above: Matsumoto Kaoru (松本薫) in the talk (Photo credit: Fabiano Rocha)
The Late Qing and Republic Tabloids database is one of the components of CNBKSY (National Index to Chinese Newspapers and Periodicals platform, 全国报刊索引) developed by Shanghai Library. Its contents cover a full spectrum of social life, leisure and entertainment during the late Qing and the Republican eras, when China was undergoing huge social, cultural and political changes. As a genre, tabloid newspapers tended to catch what broadsheet newspapers missed, and hence conveyed “voices” that would otherwise have been suppressed or silenced. They unfolded panoramic scenes of life in Shanghai and other places in these periods with a distinctive cultural flavor. Famous scholars and writers contributed articles to the tabloids to form a collective memory of popular culture and ordinary people’s daily life at the time.

The Tabloids database has included important titles from late Qing and the Republic eras. Take Youxi bao (遊戲報), for example. It was published in Shanghai during the late Qing era and covered a wide variety of topics, including international and national news, local news, folklore, and civilians’ daily life and customs. The paper has been identified as one of the earliest tabloids in China. Xiao lin bao (笑林報), another local Shanghai tabloid in publication during the first decade of the 20th century, introduced a humorous tone to highlight stories home and abroad, as well as articles lampooning the current politics of the day. It was a vivid eyewitness to a Shanghai in transformation into an international metropolis, as China shifted to the Republican era with characteristics of openness and acceptance of foreign influences.
The Republican period (1911-1949) is often considered the golden age of press freedom in modern China. The flourishing of tabloids is evidence of this. The leisurely and humorous style of the tabloids of the late Qing period was succeeded in this period by an enrichment of contents in news, literature, entertainment and recreation. *Jing bao* (晶報, also known as *The Crystal*) was described as “king of the tabloids”, as the paper, first released semiweekly and then daily, enjoyed a long span of publication, for 21 years extending from 1919 to 1940. The paper carried news, editorials, knowledge-based articles, short novels, diaries, etc. It is famous for its critical commentary on current affairs and government policies, as famous writer Yuan Kewen (袁克文, 1889-1931), the second son of then Republic president Yuan Shikai (袁世凱, 1859-1916), wrote articles regularly for the paper, covering many inside stories on early Republican celebrities. *Jin gang zuan* (金刚鑽, also known as *The Diamond*) was another leading tabloid in the Republican period. Competing directly with *Jing bao*, *Jin gang zuan* was a literary newspaper intended to enrich the coverage of tabloids. *She hui ri bao* (社會日報, also known as *The Social Daily News*) claimed that the paper wanted to “go off the beaten path and blaze a new trail” to report social news and focus on political commentary. It promoted new authors to break the ice in a standoff between old tradition and a new style of literature. It pioneered among tabloids the paying of attention to the role of media in social consciousness and social responsibility.

The CNBKSY platform is an integrated database containing journals, newspapers and other resources. A search function allows users to search for articles, pictures and advertisements within a sub-database. The search results can be browsed, reviewed and downloaded as a PDF. The CNBKSY system also has a navigation function, allowing users to narrow down and browse results according to literature type, database, author, and so on. (S. Qiao)
What is RISS International?

The University of Toronto Libraries is pleased to announce its membership in Research Information Sharing Service (RISS) International version, which is a multidisciplinary and comprehensive search engine that acts as a union catalogue of South Korea’s university libraries. RISS International offers resource descriptions of over 15 million materials in English for foreign researchers, full-text download service for theses, dissertations, and research articles, as well as the International Library Loan (ILL) service for its member institutions.

Background

RISS Korean language version was first launched in 1998 with support from the Ministry of Education (MOE) of the Republic of Korea. The purpose of this open network was to create a central hub research service system, which would increase and promote research information exchange among Korean universities and enhance Korea’s research competitiveness in the world. The following year, Korea Education & Research Information Service (KERIS) was established under the MOE to further develop and maintain RISS, and more broadly, to incorporate e-learning in South Korean education through Information and Communications Technology (ICT). By 2003, 100% of South Korean universities had become members of RISS, and in 2006, KERIS launched RISS International to extend their services to foreign universities.

Highlighted features

As RISS International members, University of Toronto faculty, students and staff have search and downloading options for theses, dissertations, reports and journal articles from this platform, including those from subscription databases such as DBPIA and KISS. KERIS uses dCollection, a collaborative digital repository, to harvest research outcomes from all partnering Korean universities and research institutions, and those research outcomes are then made searchable through RISS.

In RISS International, the level of detail that is available for a single item is quite robust. For a scholarly article, users will be able to find information about title, author, abstract for most articles, and even related subject keywords in both Korean and English. The article information page includes options to e-mail the bibliographic record, print the page, add the article to “My List”, and
store a maximum of 30 articles for seven days.

The distinguishing feature of RISS International is the International Library Loan (ILL) service. RISS updates a bibliographic record of a new item within 24 hours of publication, as well as a list of university libraries and institutes in the Republic of Korea that hold the new book. If this book is part of the ILL service, there will be a button at the top and bottom of a record called “RISS Int’l ILL.” University of Toronto users may use this function to request a document delivery service (DDS) and receive the document in PDF file. However, due to copyright restrictions, users are permitted one-chapter per ILL request, and a chapter title or page numbers must be specified in the note section of the ILL request for a successful transaction. RISS International provides table of contents (TOC) notes for many publications, and this information will help users ascertain the most valuable chapter for their research before making the request. Lastly, it is important to note that an ILL request should only be made for an item that is not available at the University of Toronto Libraries.

**Interface and search options**

This year, RISS International launched a new user-friendly interface that requires no login. This intuitive interface employs more icons and less text to avoid crowding the page, and uses a large, simple search box accompanied by an advanced search option. Below that on the screen, are the latest statistics of total materials available through RISS by format, such as articles, theses, books and serials. Below these numbers, users will find several guides to assist them with searching the database and using the ILL and full-text download services. While the interface is intuitive and easy to navigate, the advanced search option and search filters in RISS International need to be improved.

This database will be handy for those who know exactly what they are looking for, but the experience may be overwhelming for users who want to browse publications under a specific subject. The advanced search page includes search options for title, author, publisher, keyword, ISBN, and ISSN. Users can conduct searches for different types of publications such as articles, theses, books, serials and research reports. However, the advanced search page for these formats remains the same, and search options are not tailored for each material format. Although RISS provides a “search within” function to narrow down a large search results, more filters such as subject, subject time period, genre, and publication year may be necessary to help users facilitate effective searches.

**Who will benefit from RISS International?**

RISS International was created to serve researchers pursing studies on Korea, and it remains a powerful search engine that provides the latest research outcomes and allows a federated search of multiple disparate repositories from South Korean research institutes and universities. As RISS International offers over 90% of theses and dissertations produced in a year and updates information about new materials within 24 hours of publication, researchers will be able to find the latest research trends and publications in their subject area of interest. (J. Chun)
LIBRARY UPDATES

Relocation of Library Collections

In preparation for the space renovation project of the East Asian Library, the reference collection has been downsized and permanently moved onto Shelves #1-3, the first three shelving units in the open stack area. Low-use and outdated reference materials have been de-selected and moved to the University of Toronto Libraries’ off-site storage facility located in Downsview. Once processed, they will be available for online requests and borrowing. Please speak to the reference staff of the East Asian Library if you need help in finding a reference book or requesting a de-selected reference book from our offsite storage site.

Due to these changes, library books that were originally shelved on Shelves #1-3 (call number range AC5 .E7717 – BJ1588 .J3) have been temporarily relocated to library storage. To request their retrieval, please consult our staff at the East Asian Library’s Loan Services Desk. The Extensive Reading Collection has been retained, but has been moved to the end section of Shelf #3.

During the renovation project, access to our rare book and protected materials collections (Protected and Restricted, Oversize, newspapers) is closed. (H. Tang)

Library Staff Update

The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library is pleased to report that Ms. Cordelia Shan has joined the Library’s team as our new Senior Access Services Generalist as of November 18, 2019. Cordelia graduated from Capital Normal University (Beijing) and Trinity Western University (Langley, BC), both with a BA in English. She also received a Library and Information Technology Diploma from Langara College (Vancouver, BC) in 2018. She has worked as a library assistant and a library technician in academic, corporate, and museum settings (Columbia College, Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, IBI Group Library). She was most recently employed at the Art Gallery of Ontario as a development coordinator. Our library team is thrilled to have her join us. (H. Kim)
The East Asian Library Newsletter is published twice a year. Please send comments and questions to:

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If you would like to learn more about the library and its upcoming events please visit or follow us at:

https://east.library.utoronto.ca  
https://facebook.com/UofTEastAsianLibrary

The cover image is taken from Liu ren tu xiang (六壬圖像) in the Mu Collection (慕氏藏書) of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library (Photo credit: Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library).