



## Season's Greetings

# Best Wishes and Happy Holidays!

*Staff of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library*



## Historic Photographs Digitization Project



The Cheng Yu-tung East Asian Library receives unique and very special materials from time to time through donations. The current digitization project involves two historic photograph collections relating to the Russian and German people who resided in two Chinese cities in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The project is conducted by two graduate students from the Faculty of Information Studies for their practicum program under the supervision of the China Studies Librarian, Stephen Qiao. Both Amanda Barhelt and Anita Streicher have helped to make this research and digitization project possible.

### *The Berladsky Collection*

The Russian photograph collection was generously donated by Professor Thomas Lahusen. This collection fo-

cuses largely on a Jewish family named Berladsky. It includes 250 photographs and 25 documents. About one third of the photos are the portraits of Dr. Klara Iskovlevna Berladsky and her family members. Many of the documents trace Dr. Berladsky's life in Russia, Harbin, Shanghai and later in the United States. In particular, they relate to her medical training and work on a military medical train during World War I and the Russian revolution. The majority of photos were taken in Russia and Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, China, and the others were taken in places as distant as Italy, Egypt, and Hawaii. They are all black and white photographs in fairly good condition.

The Russo-Manchurian treaty of 1897, granted Russia the concession to build the Chinese Eastern Railway and Harbin then became its administrative center. From 1903, Russian Jewish families began to settle down in Harbin. They had the approval of the Czarist government that was interested in developing the area as rapidly as possible. They started with farming and gradually established businesses as shopkeepers and contractors.

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The Jewish community grew dramatically as it received Jewish refugees from the Russian revolution during WWI. It reached its peak, 10,000 - 15,000, in the early 1930's. In 1928, when the Chinese Eastern Railway was handed over to the Chinese, an economic crisis broke out and many Jews left Harbin. Some went back to the Soviet Union, others to Shanghai, Tianjin and other Chinese cities. This situation got worse with the Japanese occupation of Manchuria and the establishment of the Manzhou guo regime. Many Jews left Manchuria before the outbreak of World War II and after, emigrating to the U.S., Australia, Brazil, and other countries. The history of Russian Jews in Harbin ended with the establishment of The People's Republic of China.



In addition to the photos of Berladsky and her family members, there are pictures of military battles between the Red Army and the Whites. These photos document Berladsky's involvement of the war as a medical doctor to serve her duties on the military train, no. 211. They also show scenes of the Chinese landscape and people. The whole collection provides us with new materials on the study of local history of Harbin and the Russian Jews in the Far East.

**The Matz Collection**

The collection on Germans in Qingdao (Tsing-tao) was donated by Mr. Moritz Valdermar Matz and relate to the life of his father, Erich Edmund Hermann Ernst Matz (1879-1954). The collection

contains photographs taken in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century depicting the city of Qingdao, the conflict between the Germans and the Japanese, (in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century China), and the Sino-Japanese conflict prior to WWI. Two Japanese publications also highlight those conflicts with printed photographs.

Germany controlled Jiaozhou Bay in Qingdao after the Qing Empire was defeated by the major Western powers following the Boxer Rebellion in 1900. Qingdao became a colonial city with German administrative planning and construction. The city also served as a trading and naval post as well as a regional business center. Many Chinese in the surrounding areas also moved into the booming town. Japanese troops occupied Qingdao and the Jiaozhou Bay in 1914 after several months of fighting with the German troops. German colonial rule in China ended with the transport of German soldiers to Japan as prisoners of war. Qingdao came under Japan's colonial rule until 1922.



The Matz collection includes portraits of German officers and soldiers and the German military facilities in Qingdao, and portrays scenes of the city of Qingdao itself. Images of Japan, Japanese

traditional culture, and the prisoner-of-war camp where Matz spent five years, are also part of the collection. The donation to the library consists of an album containing a collection of Erich Matz's personal documents (e.g. birth and marriage certificates, baptism papers, military honors, etc.), photographs of himself and his family members, and unique wooden postcards from Japan. Once again, the collection sheds new light on the study of "the siege of Tsingtao" in 1914 and the German-Japanese and Sino-Japanese relations at that time. Upon completion of the digitization of all original materials and creation of metadata database by our FIS practicum students, the library will further process the data to build up the related online da-

tabase in order to provide first hand resources for scholarly research.

#### References:

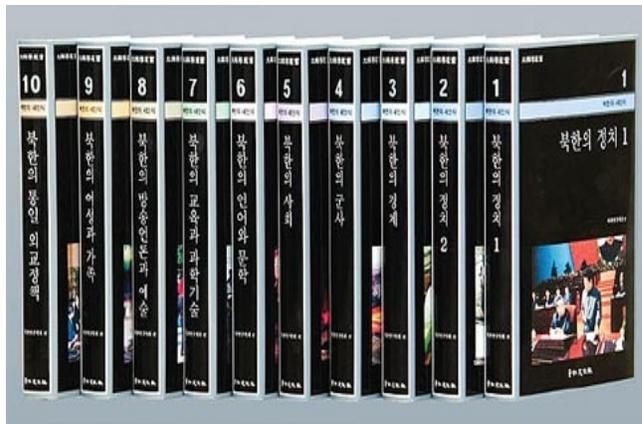
Vladimirovsky, Irena: "*The Jews of Harbin*" from the database of Jewish Communities, created by the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv University, Israel.

Goldstein, Jonathan: "*The Jews of China*", New York: M.E. Sharpe, c1999-c2000. The web site for the exhibition: "*Tsingtao - A chapter of German colonial history in China. 1897 - 1914*" held by the German Historical Museum in Berlin, March, 27 - June, 23 1998.

## \* \* \* Notable Acquisitions \* \* \*

### Korean Titles

#### Rediscovery of North Korea by the Association of North Korea Studies (Pukhan Yongu Hakhoe)

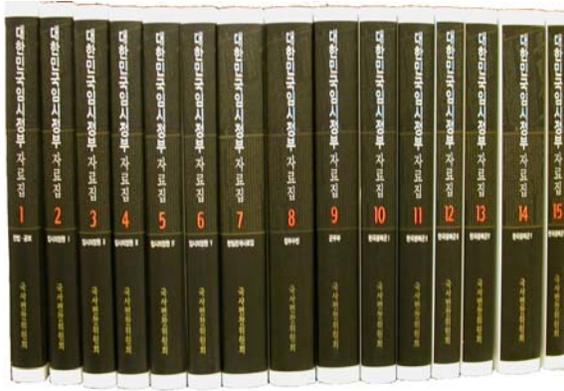


Newly released by the Association of North Korea Studies, and the largest of its kind in Korea, *The Rediscovery of North Korea* (a complete set of 10 volumes) is a unique research collection illuminating the North Korea that has recently undergone significant changes in a number of ways.

This collection is certainly a major work not only in scope but also in authority. Based on 10 years of extensive research by the leading scholars and experts in the field, it is a very comprehensive reference source that explores practically every aspect of the *changing* society such as politics, economy, military affairs, language, education, arts, families, foreign policies, etc.

The purely pragmatic and objective approach is another great strength of this work.

Taehan Minguk Imsi Chongbu charyojip by the National Institute of Korean History  
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This collection is a compilation of the constitution, official reports and other important documents of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, the historical records on Korea-Japan relation, and copies of *Tongnip Sinmun*, etc. Fifteen volumes have been released so far. Sets of all 50

volumes are expected to be completed by 2009.

Among others, the official documents of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea told a very sad history: Some papers were seized by imperialist Japan; some went missing during the Korean War; and many were destroyed by fire in the 1970's. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of those Japan-seized documents is still unknown, and only rough lists of them are available.

This resource is the successful end product of years of hard work to collect whatever original documents that have remained - despite all kinds of difficulties. It is now the long-term goal of the publisher to create and maintain an electronic database so that eventually the information online will be made accessible to everyone.



## New Japanese Guide to Reference Materials

A new guide to finding Japanese biographical information [**Guide to Reference Materials : Japanese Biography** : 伝記・日本] is now available at the East Asian Library. It is divided into three different sections: 1) Special Groups, 2) Historical Periods and 3) Online Resources. Section 1 has a selection of dictionaries that deal with groups of people with common characteristics, skills or professions. There is one entry for each of the following categories: actors & actresses, authors & writers, philosophers, politicians, and women. Section 2 lists biographical dictionaries with specific historical periods from ancient (古代) to current (現代). Lastly, in Section 3, there are a couple of entries for electronic resources.

The first one is **Japan Knowledge** with which users are able to search for biographical information simultaneously in the following sources: *Nihon Daihyakka zensho*, *JK Who's Who*, *Nihon Jinmei Daijiten*, and *Encyclopedia of Japan*. The second one is **Nichigai Who II**, which is a biographical information database of Japanese writers, critics, essayists, scholars, researchers, journalists, etc. This guide is also available online under Resources à Japan Studies à Resource Guides. Please feel free to contact the Japan Studies Librarian at 416-978-2300 or by email at [fabiano.rocha@utoronto.ca](mailto:fabiano.rocha@utoronto.ca) if you have any questions or need any assistance with using any of these resources.

## \* \* \* *Staff Activities* \* \* \*

### Academic Research Projects

Our library's China specialist George Zhao's revised Ph.D. thesis entitled *Marriage as Political Strategy and Cultural Expression: Mongolian Royal Marriages from World Empire to Yuan Dynasty* has been accepted for publishing by Peter Lang Publishing Group in New York, USA. His book addresses the topic of Mongolian royal marriages from the World Empire (1206-1279) to the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368) in Asia. It focuses on the inter-marriages between the Mongolian imperial house and its allies, including the Onggirat, the Oirat, and other Mongol peoples as well as the Uighur state and Korea in East and Central Asia. It investigates the various aspects of the marriage strategies of the Mongol royal family and the political implications of the Mongol royal marriages. It also throws light on the short life-spans of the Mongol royal family members and concludes that it was a result of consanguineous marriage and inbreeding caused by the two-clan preferential marriage system adopted by the Mongolian royal family, and suggests that genetic factors also made an important contribution to the collapse of the Mongol dynasty.

George has also nearly completed a personal translation project of Morris Rossabi's classical work *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times* (《忽必烈汗的生平与时代》) which will be published by Chongqing Publishing Group in China. This is a serious study of Kublai Khan and a scholarly portrait of the culture and politics of 13th-century Asia. "Khubilai Khan is much more than a biography. It is a comprehensive treatment of the cultural and political dimensions of the 13th century in both China and Central Asia." (Pamela Crossley, *New Republic* magazine). "Khubilai Khan will probably stand for many years as the best account of Khubilai available. Rossabi, his scholarship, a patient accretion of details, provides us with a fascinating portrait of a restless nomad chieftain seen mainly through the eyes of the sedentary popula-

tions over which he ruled." (Timothy H. Barrett, *London Review of Books*). But the author has admitted in his preface for the Chinese version that "If I could add to my book, I would draw greater attention to the dark side of Khubilai's and the Mongols' rule. About twenty years ago, to counteract the image of the Mongols as marauders and barbarians, I and other Mongol specialists focused on some of the Mongols' positive contributions. However, we did not intend to overlook the considerable loss of life and destruction brought about by the Mongols' invasions. Yet popularizers and non-specialists have gone beyond our nuanced interpretations and have issued books portraying Chinggis Khan as a democrat and as instrumental in the making of the modern world and depicting the Mongol empire as almost entirely beneficial to civilization. I would have attempted, in a revised edition of my book, to counteract their distortion of Khubilai's career and Mongol history and sought a more balanced view."

### UC Berkeley Conference on Over a Hundred Years of Collecting

Anna U, the Director of the East Asian Library, was invited and participated both as guest and presenter in a Conference on the History of East Asian Collections in North America, held at the University of California at Berkeley in October, to celebrate the grand opening of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library and the Chang-Lin Tien Center for East Asian studies at the University of Berkeley.

This was a collaborative conference involving both faculty and librarians. Library heads representing 25 selective big, medium and small collections in North America were invited, and 21 heads of East Asian libraries were there to present papers and assisted in the celebration. There were 5 concurrent conferences set up for the special occasion. Both the conferences and the dedication ceremony were held over 3 days. The Provost opened the sessions.

The dedication speech was delivered by the keynote speaker, Pauline Yu, President of the American Council of Learned societies.

She talked about the University of California at Berkeley as the world university creating a network of international scholars.

The Conference on the history of collecting was divided into 3 long panels with themes from particular historical periods, beginning with pre-WWII to the present. Each panel also has several parts as follows:

**Panel I: From “the Orient” to “the Far East: East Asian Collections through the 1940s.**

The Panel includes papers on the following themes:

*Part 1: Collecting for the Nation: East Asian Book Diplomacy*

*Part 2: There at the Beginning: Supporting Oriental Studies*

*Part 3: Boundaries Redrawn: Collecting for Far Eastern Studies*

*Part 4: Transition to the Postwar Era: The UCLA Experience*

**Panel II: The Cold War Era: East Asian Collections between 1945 and the Collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s**

The Panel includes:

*Part 1: The Far East Connection*

*Part 2: Collecting in Times of War and Peace*

*Part 3: The Rise of the State Institutions: Development of East Asian Collections under NEDA*

**Panel III: Globalization: The State of East Asian Studies and East Asian Collections from the Early 1990s to the Present**

The Panel includes:

*Part 1: Regional Cooperation*

*Part 2: Separate and Growing: New Initiatives in Collection Development*

*Part 3: C.V. Starr East Asian Libraries: Facing the Future.*

Each panel was opened by a scholar with a historical introduction into the period. Anna U of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, delivered a paper on the early history of the East Asian Library for Panel I, Part 3.

The dedication ceremony of the C.V Starr Library took place in the open with speeches from the chancellor, the chief librarian, the East Asian Library director, the architects and a representative from the C.V. Starr Foundation. The grand affair was also accompanied by music and a dragon dance. All the invited guests, the 1,200 donors and their families were on hand to assist in the celebration.

The grand event marks the beginning of an era that

brings in the first free standing building of an East Asian Library in North America.

All the conferences and activities were extremely well organized and successful. No doubt, they must have left an indelible impression on all who were present.

## Visiting Librarian from Keio University

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Kayo Sakemi. She is the fourth visiting librarian from Keio University, Tokyo, Japan. Her interests include cataloguing, digitization and institutional repositories. During her 6-month stay at the University of Toronto Libraries, Kayo will be visiting several departments. She will be spending a couple of weeks at the East Asian Library in early February and will be learning about the East Asian Library collections and operations. She will also be assisting the Japan Studies Librarian with a couple of special projects. We wish Kayo a pleasant stay at the University of Toronto Libraries.

## Library Staff Update

### Best wishes to...

Jack Leong,— East Asian Information Services Librarian. Jack moved on to take the position of Director, Richard Charles Lee Canada Hong Kong Library

The EAL Newsletter is published twice a year.

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