

**CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY PROVISION FOR
ASIAN STUDIES**

11th July 1969 Report

CONFERENCE ON
LIBRARY PROVISION
FOR ASIAN STUDIES

11 July 1969

report



SCONUL

Sub-Committee of Orientalist Libraries

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NOTE

In June 1967 and July 1968 the first two 'Conferences on the acquisition of library materials from Asia' were held at the School of Oriental and African Studies. These proved so useful to librarians and library users alike that it was felt desirable that a third Conference should be held to continue the work so well begun, to consider any new developments in the oriental and library field, and to receive reports from the various Library Groups which had been established as a result of resolutions at the first Conference. The organisation of this third Conference was undertaken by the SCONUL Sub-Committee of Orientalist Libraries and it took place at the British Museum on 11 July 1969.

The present publication contains the text of the reports submitted by each of the Library Groups, which were circulated in advance and therefore only briefly introduced at the Conference, and summarises the discussion on them. In addition it contains reports of a talk by Dr. C. R. Bawden on 'A Proposal for the formation of a Central Asia Library Group' and of a talk by Mr. J. D. Pearson on 'International co-operation among orientalist libraries'.

The Sub-Committee records its gratitude to the speakers at the Conference, the compilers of the Group Reports and the reporters of the discussions on each session.

Eileen M. Dimes

Secretary,

SCONUL Sub-Committee of
Orientalist Libraries

Conference on Library Provision for Asian Studies

Lecture Theatre, British Museum, Friday, 11 July 1969

PROGRAMME

11.15-
12.45

First session. Chairman: Mr. J. D. Pearson

Report on the Middle East Library Group by Dr. D. Hopwood
Report on the South Asia Library Group by Mr. S. C. Sutton
Report on the South-East Asia Library Group by Miss B. Moon

LUNCH

2.15-
3.30

Second session. Chairman: Dr. M. A. N. Loewe

Report on the China Library Group by Mr. W. Brugger
Report on the Japan Library Group by Professor G. Bownas
Proposal for the formation of a Central Asia Library Group
with an introductory talk by Dr. C. R. Bawden

TEA

3.45-
5.0

Third session. Chairman: Mr. K. B. Gardner

Talk by Mr. J. D. Pearson on 'International co-operation
among orientalist libraries' followed by a discussion

PARTICIPANTS

- Miss B. Aitken, Institute of Oriental Studies, Cambridge
- Mr. A. Allardyce, National Central Library
- Dr. J. S. Bastin, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Mr. W. M. Batchelor, The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Dr. C. R. Bawden, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Mr. R. Bidwell, Middle East Centre, University of Cambridge
- Miss E. Bishop, Oriental Studies Librarian, Australian National University, Canberra
- Professor G. Bownas, Director of the Centre of Japanese Studies, University of Sheffield
- Mr. W. Brugger, Contemporary China Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Mr. P. W. Carnell, The Library, University of Sheffield
- Mrs. A. Castro, The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Mr. D. Chibbett, The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Mr. R. A. Christophers, State Paper Room, British Museum
- Professor C. D. Cowan, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Mr. C. V. Datar, The Library, Office of the High Commissioner for India, London
- Mrs. R. Datta, Centre of South Asian Studies, Cambridge
- Mr. A. Davies, Deputy-Librarian, University of Leeds
- Mrs. R. Davies, British Museum
- Miss E. M. Dimes, India Office Library
- Mr. D. Duncanson, University of Kent
- Mr. C. F. Foo Kune, National Lending Library
- Miss L. E. Forbes, The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Mr. I. J. C. Foster, Keeper of Oriental Books, University of Durham
- Mr. S. Francis, School of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic
- Mr. K. B. Gardner, Keeper of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts, British Museum
- Mrs. A. Gaur, British Museum
- Dr. J. R. de Groot, Librarian, Bibliotheek der Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden
- Mme. M. R. Guignard, Conservateur, Departement des Manuscrits Orientaux, Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris
- Mr. D. Hall, Editor of the Union Catalogue of Asian Publications, School of Oriental and African Studies
- Dr. P. Hardy, School of Oriental and African Studies

Professor A. T. Hatto, Queen Mary College, University of London
 Mr. K. G. Helou, University of Minnesota
 Mr. L. G. Hill, Centre for South East Asian Studies, University of
 Hull
 Mr. R. Hill, British Museum
 Mr. B. Hook, Department of Chinese Studies, University of Leeds
 Mr. R. F. Hosking, British Museum
 Mr. A. Hyder, Oriental Institute, Oxford
 Dr. J. C. Jackson, Department of Geography, University of Hull
 Miss R. Lehmann, Librarian, Jews' College, London
 Mrs. J. M. Leonard, Librarian, Selly Oak Colleges Library
 Dr. T. H. Ling, University of Leeds
 Dr. M. Lings, British Museum
 Miss O. M. Lloyd, India Office Library
 Mr. A. Lodge, The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies
 Dr. M. A. N. Loewe, Queens' College, University of Cambridge
 Mr. J. Lust, The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies
 Mr. J. H. St. J. McIlwaine, School of Librarianship and Archives,
 University of London
 Dr. D. N. MacKenzie, School of Oriental and African Studies
 Mr. Mahmud Qazi ul-Haq, British Museum
 Dr. G. E. Marrison, British Museum
 Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Maurer, University of Hawaii
 Mr. G. Meredith-Owens, British Museum
 Dr. D. E. Mills, Caius College, Cambridge
 Miss B. E. Moon, Deputy-Librarian, University of Hull
 Dr. J. Muth, Bibliotheksassessorin, Sudasien Institut, Heidelberg
 Dr. J. Noorduyn, K. Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde,
 Leiden
 Professor P. G. O'Neill, School of Oriental and African Studies
 Mr. J. D. Pearson, Librarian, School of Oriental and African Studies
 Miss C. Raczynska, The Library, School of Oriental and African
 Studies
 Dr. I. M. P. Raeside, School of Oriental and African Studies
 Mr. S. V. Raghavendra Char, The Library, University of Durham
 Mr. A. J. N. Richards, Secretary-Librarian, Centre of South Asian
 Studies, Cambridge
 Mr. S. Roberts, Deputy-Librarian, University of Manchester
 Mr. M. Rogers, Librarian, Institute of Development Studies, University
 of Sussex
 Dr. J. Rosenwasser, British Museum

Mr. N. C. Sainsbury, Keeper of Oriental Books, Bodleian Library
Mr. G. Schofield, The Library, School of Oriental and African Studies
Professor S. R. Schram, Contemporary China Institute, School of
Oriental and African Studies
Professor J. B. Segal, School of Oriental and African Studies
Dr. W. Seuberlich, Chief Far Eastern Department, Staatsbibliothek
Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Marburg/Lahn
Mr. P. H. Sewell, Library Adviser, Department of Education and Science
Miss A. Sheeby, Central Asian Research Institute
Mr. E. H. S. Simmonds, School of Oriental and African Studies
Miss S. Skilliter, Newnham College, University of Cambridge
Mr. K. D. Somadasa, Librarian, University of Ceylon
Mr. S. C. Sutton, Librarian, India Office Library
Miss P. Tankard, Institute of Commonwealth Studies
Miss N. Titley, British Museum
Mr. J. Wall, Bodleian Library
Mr. C. A. W. Ward, The Library, University of Kent
Miss J. Watson, India Office Library
Professor W. Watson, Percival David Foundation
Miss A. Williams, University of Aberdeen

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON 11 JULY

Mr. K. B. Gardner, Keeper of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts at the British Museum, welcomed the Conference on behalf of the British Museum and spoke briefly of the achievements of the two previous conferences. It was clear that an opportunity for librarians and university teachers to meet and discuss common problems was much appreciated and deserved to be extended in the future. The Dainton Report had laid great emphasis on the importance of co-operation among libraries while criticising libraries in the humanities for their shortcomings in this respect and it was therefore particularly valuable that the Conference should make more widely known the extent of existing co-operation among orientalist libraries and the developments planned for the future.

FIRST SESSION. CHAIRMAN: MR. J. D. PEARSON

1) REPORT BY DR. D. HOPWOOD ON THE MIDDLE EASTERN LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

- (a) The Committee has held two further meetings since the last SOAS conference in July 1968 at the Universities of Leeds and St. Andrews. Its membership has remained the same; namely, representatives from SOAS, the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Leeds, Manchester, Edinburgh and St. Andrews. Emphasis has again been laid on the close co-operation between teachers and librarians and usually both have attended from each university. An easy atmosphere of informal co-operation has now developed which has made significant progress possible. Much of this has stemmed from a close community of interests. Apart from obviously tangible results, more intangible benefits have come from the regular meeting of those responsible for the development of Middle Eastern studies in the United Kingdom, meetings which had not taken place until the formation of the Committee. An additional and pleasant bonus has proved to be the visits to member universities.
- (b) The Committee has again taken as its field of reference the modern Middle East - all Arab countries, and Turkey, Persia, Malta and Afghanistan. The 1968 Conference suggested that Israel should also be included and this has now been agreed. It was suggested, however, that a separate Committee of those interested in Central Asia could well be formed.
- (c) All of the projects mentioned last year have continued to ripen and in some cases have borne fruit. Information on all developments is fed back to the secretary who produces union lists.
 - (i) Efforts are being made to obtain government and other official and semi-official material on the basis of area specialisation. Lists of such material have been circulated and although much remains to be done, it is clear that greater coverage has already been achieved. Of course, even within the Middle East itself, some countries present greater problems than others.

(ii) Newspapers

There are some forty current subscriptions from members of the Committee, which is 50% increase over the last two years. Runs of back numbers on microfilm are being purchased in consultation. Twelve such films have been purchased and several more are under consideration.

(iii) Periodicals

These present a greater problem numerically and no decision has yet been reached on new subscriptions. Several sets of back numbers have been bought, however, and these are announced at meetings. The risk of duplication is less here as complete sets are often rare or unique.

(iv) Index Islamicus

Co-operative work is proceeding on this project.

(v) Index Arabicus

Again much progress has been made on this index of Arabic periodical articles. The sheer volume of the material and a lack of finance hinder greater progress. However, help is being given in Cairo, London, Cambridge and Oxford and by pruning the number of periodicals to be indexed we hope to complete the project in the not too distant future.

- (d) The application to the U.G.C. for funds to finance some of the co-operative schemes has been made. Although money is not immediately available, the application would be regarded favourably if further money were to become available towards the end of the present quinquennium. Individual universities have made certain money available specifically to be used in co-operative schemes. Such money is only to be spent by the university concerned, but can be used to purchase material which is available on loan to other universities.
- (e) The two last meetings of the Committee have been enhanced by the presence of outside guests. Mr. Khalil Helou, a visiting American librarian, has spoken on the problems and achievements of American libraries in the Middle Eastern field and our minds have boggled to hear of their budgets. Dr. Mahmud Sheniti, Egyptian Under-Secretary for Libraries and Archives, has spoken of recent developments in the Egyptian library world and has promised help in obtaining Egyptian official material.
- (f) It is proposed to hold a two day conference during the Christmas vacation under the auspices of the Committee to consider the problems encountered in the setting up and running of a library for Islamic studies.

Summary of Discussion

In the absence of Dr. Hopwood the Report was introduced by Mr. R. Bidwell. He emphasised that in spite of the difficulty of obtaining material from some countries in the Middle East the system by which each centre in the Group concentrated on obtaining material from a different area was working well. It had been agreed that the Group should extend its terms of reference to cover Israel and a Sub-Committee, with members from Manchester, Leeds and Durham had been formed to consider how this could best be put into practice. Mr. Bidwell gave further details of the Conference which the Group planned to hold during the Christmas vacation on the problems encountered in setting up a new library for Arabic or Islamic studies. Lists of essential books would be prepared; for instance, 40 books would be chosen which every library must have, then another 100 suggested which would be very useful, and information given on bibliographies which would enable a further selection to be made. The compilers would give reasons for their choice to the conference. Information would also be given on microfilms and theses.

In answer to a question Mr. Bidwell said the Group would continue for the present to limit its interest to the modern period, i.e. from 1898 onwards.

Mr. Pearson announced that Dr. S. Mahmud el-Sheniti, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture in the U.A.R. hoped shortly to invite members of the Group to a Bibliographic Conference in Cairo, with expenses in the U.A.R. paid, to celebrate the opening of the National Library of the U.A.R.

2) REPORT BY MR. S. C. SUTTON ON THE SOUTH ASIA LIBRARY GROUP

I. The South Asia Library Group (SALG) consists of British libraries with some degree of specialisation in South Asian studies. South Asia in this sense covers Ceylon, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Tibet. (Afghanistan falls within the sphere of the Middle East Libraries Group.) The aims of the Group are to bring together librarians and others concerned in the acquisition and use of printed books and other forms of documentation in South Asian studies; to investigate the bibliographical needs of study and research; to compile lists and union catalogues; and, if it should seem desirable, to co-operate in acquisition policies.

II. SALG comprises the following libraries:-

- Bodleian
- British Library of Political and Economic Science (L.S.E.)
- British Museum
- Cambridge University Library
- Centre of South Asian Studies, Cambridge
- Durham University Library
- Faculty of Oriental Studies, Cambridge
- India House Library
- India Office Library
- Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London
- National Lending Library for Science and Technology
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- School of Oriental and African Studies
- Sussex University Library

The Chairman is Mr. S. C. Sutton and the Secretary Miss O. M. Lloyd, both of the India Office Library. They hold office until the end of the 1969-70 academic session.

III. Four meetings have been held: at the India Office Library, Sussex University Library, and Cambridge in 1968, and at Durham University Library in March 1969. In future the Group will meet twice a year; the next meeting will be held in October at the British Museum.

IV. SALG is co-operating in three projects:-

1. The improvement of British holdings of Pakistan official publications

- (a) A survey by a SALG Working Party has shown that about two-thirds of the Central Government publications are held in one or other of the libraries of the Group, but only about one-tenth of the publications of East Pakistan and of West Pakistan. A list of the publications not to be found in any SALG library is being compiled, and an effort will be made to procure copies, perhaps on microfilm.
- (b) During a visit to Pakistan at the end of 1968 the Chairman raised with the Pakistan Government the possibility of improving the supply of Pakistan official publications to this country (i) by arranging reliable channels of supply, (ii) by the monthly issue of complete lists, cumulated each quarter or each year, of all official publications. In subsequent correspondence the Pakistan Government have stated that they are setting up a network of bookshops in Pakistan for the sale of Government publications, and will open branches abroad if the prospects are encouraging. They have already opened such bookshops in Rawalpindi, Dacca, and Karachi. They are also examining the broad question of entering into agreements with foreign governments for the exchange of official publications; and they are looking into the possibility of producing a monthly catalogue of their publications, with quarterly or annual cumulations.

2. The improvement of the British coverage of current South Asian newspapers.

- (a) The Group consider that existing British coverage of South Asian newspapers, especially those in the languages of South Asia, is so inadequate as to handicap British research in regional studies if not quickly improved. The School of Oriental and African Studies have now decided to subscribe to eight vernacular newspapers on microfilm, and the India Office Library to a further six vernacular newspapers, also on microfilm. Both Libraries will lend microfilms to other libraries as required.
- (b) The India Office Library is maintaining a central record of current newspapers subscribed to (whether in original or on microfilm) by libraries of the Group.
- (c) A union list of SALG newspaper holdings, including back issues, is being prepared.

3. A union catalogue of serials

SALG libraries are compiling a union catalogue of their current acquisitions of serials from South Asia in all languages (excluding, in general, official serials). The catalogue, now nearly complete, is being compiled at SOAS. It is proposed to use the catalogue as a means of extending British coverage of South Asian serials, and it is hoped to print it in due course.

V. Other projects

1. A Bibliography of Bibliographies

Dr. G. E. Marrison of the British Museum is preparing a Bibliography of Bibliographies for South Asia. The Group will consider later whether this can in some way become a co-operative project within the Group.

2. Union catalogues of manuscripts in South Asian languages

The Group are considering the possibility of preparing for publication union catalogues of manuscripts in particular languages held in British libraries on the model of Blumhardt and MacKenzie's Catalogue of Pashto Manuscripts in the Libraries of the British Isles which the British Museum and the India Office Library published jointly in 1965.

VI. The acquisition of printed books from India

1. The Group is concerned at the great disparity between the intake of current Indian publications by North American libraries and by British libraries. In brief, twenty American libraries are acquiring the entire worthwhile research output of the Indian presses (about 8,000 titles a year, out of some 18,000 titles); and the Canadians have lately set up a parallel scheme, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, of which one purpose is to supply the same choice of printed material to the University of Toronto, and a selection of it to three other libraries. Both the American and the Canadian schemes are largely financed from counterpart rupee funds which their Governments have accumulated in India. No such funds are available to this country, and the intake of British research libraries is on a very much smaller scale. It is certain that if the situation is not soon remedied, our bibliographical inferiority must before long begin to handicap British research in both classical Indology and modern South Asian studies.

2. The Group have considered the possibility of establishing a British buying office in Delhi. Only the IOL and SOAS, however, are satisfied that the fairly heavy cost of a local British office would be justified, other SALG libraries considering that the advantages to them would be too marginal.

3. Recently an alternative suggestion has been considered, namely that British libraries might order the same selection of books direct from the dealers who are supplying the Americans and the Canadians, and make use of the lists and catalogue cards which the Library of Congress supply. In this way they would get the main advantage of bulk orders, i.e. certainty of supply (an important consideration in India); and since most of the booksellers in the American scheme specialise in supplying books in particular languages, any British library could if it wished decide to buy

the American-Canadian intake in some languages but not in others. The only cost of this scheme would be the cost of the books and freight; but to ensure success it might prove necessary to open a small office staffed by one or two people locally recruited in Delhi. It is possible that the Canadians would agree to the use of their office for this purpose.

4. As a preliminary to investigating this new suggestion the IOL is arranging for a statistical survey of the SALG intake of Indian publications in recent years, classified by language. It is then proposed to seek the support of heads of South Asian departments at the universities for an approach to Government for funds.

Summary of Discussion

Mr. Sutton emphasised some of the practical achievements of the Group; for instance, the Pakistan Government which has now opened bookshops in Pakistan for the sale of government publications is considering the possibility of producing regular catalogues of these. The British coverage of current South Asian newspapers had also been improved. Mr. Sutton stressed the need for the production of more union catalogues of manuscripts in various languages. He suggested that useful lists could be prepared without the use of Asian scripts and without giving such detailed information as was customary in 19th century catalogues. The purchase of books from India was also considered; economies might be made by purchasing copies of the books selected for supply to the libraries of the USA and Canada and by using the Library of Congress cards which could be delivered with the books. The cost of these books would be about £8,000 a year. The possibility that Germany or Australia might be interested in joining in this project was also suggested.

3) REPORT BY MISS B. E. MOON ON THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA LIBRARY GROUP

When a report was given on the South-East Asia Library Group last year at the Conference on the Acquisition of Library Materials from Asia, the Group was only three months old. It is now well established, and has held two meetings during the past year - at S.O.A.S. in September 1968 and at Hull in March 1969. In addition it was possible for some members of the Group to meet at S.O.A.S. in January 1969 to hear Professor Van Niel of the University of Hawaii speak about the South-East Asia Microform Project, a co-operative scheme for filming South-East Asian books and archives.

Membership of the Group has increased. The five institutions mentioned in the last report have been joined by the British Library of Political and Economic Studies, the India Office Library, the University of Kent, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (University of London), the Centre de Documentation et de Recherches sur l'Asie du Sud-est et le Monde Indonesien (Paris), the University of Leiden Library, the Abteilung Thailand Burma Indochina of the University of Hamburg, the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Geography of the Free University of Amsterdam, and the East-West Center Library (University of Hawaii).

The problem of acquisition of library materials from South-East Asia continued to be one of the Group's main concerns. The practice whereby staff visiting the region will buy books on behalf of other libraries has been generously established by S.O.A.S. in offering Mr. Lodge's services in this way during his book-buying mission to the Far East.

The Group conducted a survey of library resources for South-East Asian studies, covering member libraries and others known to be interested, in Europe, America, Australia and South-East Asia. The results, though somewhat haphazard and very incomplete, were issued as a loose-leaf booklet. It is intended to maintain this with regular sheets of additions and amendments. Thirty three libraries are included at present.

The Group has also produced a Newsletter which appears twice yearly and helps to bridge the gap between meetings. This is now circulated to about a hundred librarians and scholars in eleven countries.

The main task before the Group at present is the compilation of a union list of periodicals on South-East Asia in British libraries. At the meeting on 19th March 1969 the general scope and arrangement of this were agreed. It is hoped that funds can be found for the services of a temporary research assistant for this project, but as in all such undertakings the good will of individual libraries will be essential for the success of the list, and the Group would most warmly appreciate any help that can be given.

Further information about the South-East Asia Library Group is available from the Secretary (Brenda E. Moon, the Brynmor Jones Library, The University of Hull).

Summary of Discussion

Miss Moon spoke of the expansion of the Group and of the fact that its membership included many overseas institutions. The Group's newsletter, issued twice a year, was now circulated to about a hundred librarians and scholars in eleven countries. The Group's loose-leaf booklet surveying library resources for South-East Asian studies was already in need of revision.

Miss Moon reported that work on the union list of periodicals on South-East Asia in British libraries was being hampered by lack of funds. It was suggested that a request for funds for such a purpose could most appropriately be made by a university and the Conference was reminded that the British Association of Orientalists had proposed that an association of nominees from universities and library committees should be formed, which could approach foundations for funds on behalf of all the institutions it represented.

Miss Moon thanked SOAS for making available the services of Mr. A. Lodge during his recent book-buying tour of South-East Asia. Mr. Lodge afterwards gave an account of his tour, during which he had purchased books on behalf of SOAS, LSE and Hull, and answered questions on matters of detail. He spoke of the importance of visiting small towns as well as capital cities; often more could be done by personal contacts than by working through official organizations. He also spoke of the mutual benefit of exchange agreements with libraries in South-East Asia. It was reported that the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal- Land- en Volkenkunde of Leiden had an office in Djakarta and was about to set up a book-buying centre there. No British centre had yet been established. Australian libraries would also be interested in such a project. It was suggested that it would be useful to know more of the precise needs of research workers in the South-East Asian field and how far these needs are met at

present. It was also suggested that the Group should be responsible for ensuring that expensive projects or purchases were not duplicated among the libraries in this country.

Replying to a question Mr/ G. Meredith-Owens, Hon. Librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society, said that although the Royal Asiatic Society was not represented on any of the Library Groups, he himself represented the Society on the co-ordinating SCONUL Sub-Committee of Orientalist Libraries.

SECOND SESSION. CHAIRMAN: DR. M. A. N. LOEWE

1) REPORT BY MR. W. BRUGGER ON THE CHINA LIBRARY GROUP

At a meeting at the Contemporary China Institute in March 1969 the China Library Group was formally constituted with P. van der Loon as Chairman, William Brugger as Secretary and A. Hyder as Treasurer. At least one academic and one library representative was invited from all institutions engaged in China studies in the United Kingdom. The group took the following decisions.

- (1) To explore the possibility of convening a seminar on historical and technical aspects of Chinese bibliography. A sub-committee was formed for this purpose, and this sub-committee has conducted preliminary discussions.
- (2) The preparation of Chinese Periodicals in British libraries Hand List No.4. The Contemporary China Institute assumed responsibility for this and made an initial grant of £200 for the employment of a temporary assistant to engage in research on this project. The basic work is now complete, and the task of editing this Hand List is shortly to be commenced. It was found that the most comprehensive Hand List to date (Hand List No.1 1964) was not only out of date but also inaccurate. Hand List No.4 aims at an equal degree of comprehensiveness and a somewhat higher degree of accuracy. The British Museum has undertaken responsibility for its publication. In the meantime, the British Museum will publish Chinese Periodicals in British libraries Hand List No.3, which is a more up to date version of the selected list (Hand List No.2) compiled last year. Hand List No.3 is only conceived of as a stop gap measure pending publication of Hand List No.4. It does not include the substantial acquisitions of the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Contemporary China Institute during the past year. Its most valuable contribution will be the publication of a Union list of microfilm holdings. This list will be about one year out of date, but nevertheless will provide the basis for future more comprehensive lists.
- (3) The Group entrusted William Brugger with the task of compiling a comprehensive report on the strengths and weaknesses of Chinese collections in British libraries. This report is well under way. Since the meeting William Brugger has extended his terms of reference to include problems of library management, etc.
- (4) The Group considered the proposal that a full-time Chinese bibliographer should be appointed, whose function would be the exchange of information on library holdings between the various institutions, and a certain amount of bibliographical research. A sub-committee was appointed to investigate this, and has not yet met.

It is hoped that this sub-committee will draft a concrete proposal for the appointment of this bibliographer and seek funds from a national source.

The main function of the Library Group is seen to be that of facilitating co-operation between various libraries for the purchase of Chinese language material and inter-library loan. Much of the work of this Group will, of course, be affected by the Dainton report, especially with regard to the possibility of a recommendation for limited borrowing from the British Museum. Several concrete proposals have been put forward to the Group as to how co-operation may be effected, such as the convening of termly meetings of personnel engaged in buying Chinese language material. This will, of course, not apply to reprints and microfilm collections, and not to secondhand books. The problem of regional specialisation has been discussed by members of the Group, without any conclusion, since it was felt that regional concentration in book buying would not be terribly effective unless there was similar academic regionalisation.

Members of the group expressed the hope that in future funds will be made available to the Group for purchases of large items of Chinese language material. To this end a treasurer was appointed.

The Library Group can, of course, do much to establish mechanisms for co-operation in book buying. The effectiveness of these mechanisms, however, depends upon the willingness to co-operate of the various institutions concerned. Institutions do not agree as to what constitutes a basic reference collection to be duplicated in all centres, and to what extent responsibility can be shared. For example, some institutions consider local history collections absolutely indispensable, and are prepared to spend several hundred pounds on these, even though other libraries have done exactly the same. Because of the differing nature of the research being undertaken by the various institutions, agreement on book buying has an academic dimension, which it is hoped the Library Group can resolve. It is felt by some, however, that until China studies are unified on the academic plane such co-operation will at best be only partially effective.

Sub-Committee appointed to explore the possibility of convening a seminar on Chinese bibliography.

A meeting of the committee appointed to consider plans for a seminar on Chinese bibliography was held on 23 April 1969.

Present: D. C. Lau, J. Lust, J. Pearson, P. van der Loon.

The suggestion for a seminar on historical and technical aspects of Chinese bibliography was made at the meeting of the China Library Group on 7 February 1968 and repeated at the meeting of 5 March 1969, when the present committee was set up.

The committee discussed some of the details of the proposal.

Aims: To further technical collaboration between librarians and to improve general standards of bibliography among librarians and other scholars in the field.

Programme: Three or four days' discussions on the history of book production in China, problems of authorship and terminology, library resources in Great Britain, the need for bibliographical surveys, the administration of Chinese collections, selection policy, the cataloguing and classification of Chinese books, and reference service. Four or five speakers to be invited to introduce the discussions.

Scope: It was considered desirable to invite also librarians and university teachers from other European countries. Enquiries would be made with the Japan Library Group to see whether it was possible to organize the seminar on a joint basis.

Summary of Discussion

In his introductory talk Mr. Brugger took the opportunity of adding further details to the topics mentioned in his written report. One of the projects of the Group was the convening of a Seminar on the historical and technical aspects of Chinese bibliography, to which overseas sinologists would be invited. A working group was already making preparations for this Seminar. Among the topics to be considered was the use of computers in the field of Chinese bibliography. Another project was the preparation of Hand List No.4 of Chinese periodicals in British libraries. It was hoped that it would be ready for publication in the autumn and it would contain over 3,000 titles.

The Group had asked Mr. Brugger to prepare a report on the strengths and weaknesses of Chinese collections in British libraries, including problems of library management. The main findings in his preliminary report, which would be submitted to the Group in November, were the neglect of contemporary Chinese materials in most libraries, exceptions being the British Museum, SOAS and the University of Leeds, the waste of the knowledge and expertise of senior library staff, which might be remedied by the employment of more junior assistants with a competent knowledge of Chinese, and the neglect of bibliographical work by libraries. The Contemporary China Institute had therefore sponsored the compilation of a bibliography on contemporary Chinese literature in Chinese and English sources by a member of the SOAS Library and, as mentioned in the written report, the China Library Group had set up a sub-committee to look into the possibility of appointing a full-time Chinese bibliographer, whose function, apart from collecting information on library holdings in the various institutions, would be to carry on a certain amount of bibliographical research. It was also suggested that small groups should be set up to consider special acquisition problems. Mr. Brugger also stressed the importance of greater liaison between academic and library staffs and of raising the status of librarians.

During the discussion Mr. Pearson reported, in answer to a question, that he was confident that the funds necessary for the proposed Seminar could be obtained.

In compliance with a request from the Chairman, Professor S. R. Schram, Head of the recently established Contemporary China Institute, outlined the work and aims of the Institute. It was designed for research, not for teaching, and was organised on similar lines to corresponding institutes in the United States. It was autonomous but closely linked with SOAS and had provided a grant of £12,000 towards building up a collection of books

in its range of interest within the SOAS library. 'Contemporary' was defined as primarily post-1949 and to a lesser extent post-1919.

Members of the Japan Library Group asked that their Group should be included in the proposed Seminar and this was considered to be desirable. Members of the Conference from overseas also expressed the wish to take part in the Seminar and the suggestion was welcomed. Two summer schools held recently in the U.S.A. for training in Far Eastern librarianship were described and disappointment was expressed that they had been open only to United States citizens. It was suggested that the American experts who conducted these schools might be invited to give similar courses here.

2) REPORT BY PROFESSOR G. BOWNAS ON THE JAPAN LIBRARY GROUP

The Japan Library Group has continued to meet twice in the year, in October (at the British Museum) and in March (in Oxford).

Mr. A. D. Hyder (Oriental Institute, Oxford) has succeeded Miss Anne Abley (St. Antony's College, Oxford) as Secretary and Professor G. Bownas (Sheffield) continues as Chairman. There are three new members of the Group since the report to the June Conference in 1968, Dr. D. E. Mills (Cambridge), Mr. C. F. Foo-kune (NLL) and Dr. W. E. Skillend (SOAS).

Undoubtedly the most significant development of the year has been the publication and distribution of the first edition of the two-volume Checklist of Japanese Periodicals held in British Universities and Research Libraries, by Miss Sigrid Mandahl and Peter W. Carnell (both of Sheffield University Library). These publications draw to a certain degree on useful earlier work done by others (notably by Dr. C. J. Dunn of SOAS), but we are indeed indebted to our two colleagues from Sheffield for this most valuable document. Addenda and corrigenda have already appeared for the first volume, and there will be revisions and corrections twice a year by means of a Newsletter edited by Miss Mandahl, Part I, General Periodicals, Humanities and Social Sciences (September 1968) lists 1,118 entries, and Part II, Science and Technology (December 1968), has 1,331 titles, of which only 13 are not current. The benefit of these Checklists has already been proved by the ease with which we can now answer a wide variety of queries; some of the librarians in our Group have also begun the task of plugging the most glaring gaps which these Checklists have exposed. For the future, a second edition is planned; this will be distributed much more widely, but will require much greater resources in terms of special funds and full-time staff.

The Group discussed at its October meeting its responsibility for Korean studies, and accepted this responsibility in principle. Mr. A. Roberts (Bodleian) has agreed to undertake the task of producing a preliminary list of holdings of Korean language material. The Group also plans to produce and distribute another checklist of microform holdings related to its area of interest.

At its March meeting, the Group agreed that its most important function was the development of procedures for joint book selection and cooperative buying and awaits with interest details of Mr. J. D. Pearson's scheme, which, unfortunately, he was prevented by illness from presenting at that meeting.

Summary of Discussion

In introducing his report Professor Bownas paid tribute to the work of Miss Mandahl and Mr. Carnell of the University of Sheffield in producing the two-volume Checklist of Japanese periodicals held in British universities and research libraries. He referred to the funds made available by the U.G.C. for Centres of Area Studies and told the Conference that the funds left unexpended were now to be distributed among the established Centres to be used for library development and staff travel. Professor Bownas reported that the British Standards Institution was in process of producing a standard Japanese romanisation scheme with the help of a panel drawn from various libraries and universities. He also reported that Mr. A. R. V. Cooper had been commissioned by the Council of Europe to make a survey of the holdings of East Asian books in libraries in its region. Referring to the working party set up by the British Association of Orientalists to consider the future of Asian studies in Britain, Professor Bownas hoped that this working party would take evidence from libraries and that library interests should be represented on it.

Reference was made in the discussion to co-operation in the acquisition of oriental materials and it was felt that if the recommendation of the Dainton Committee permitting some limited lending of books by the British Museum were implemented, this might lead to some changes in present policies.

3) INTRODUCTORY TALK BY DR. C. R. BAWDON ON A PROPOSAL FOR THE FORMATION OF A CENTRAL ASIAN LIBRARY GROUP

My task in introducing the proposal for a Central Asia Library Group is to put the case for such a proposal but also to act as devil's advocate and mention those foreseeable factors which might cause frustration. My only qualification for giving this introductory talk is that I have a little experience in tracing and buying books from one undoubtedly central Asian country, the Mongolian People's Republic. I am speaking today not because I had any hand in drawing up the proposal, but simply because I was asked to speak.

The arguments for setting up a Central Asia Group probably do not differ from those relevant to any other group, but the snags may be more idiosyncratic. Let me begin by dividing the problem into four parts:

1. How do we define Central Asia, and how do we ensure that the term does not become a convenient rag-bag for stowing away all the odds and ends which do not fit tidily anywhere else?
2. Who are the interested parties and what are their holdings?
3. What numbers of books might be involved, and how are they to be tracked down?
4. In view of the foregoing, is a Central Asia Group likely to be realisable and to be rewarding in its function?

To take these in order:

1. The scope of the term Central Asia is variable. Politically it seems usually to be taken to mean the 5 central Asian republics of the USSR, in

which case the wide geographical term is Inner Asia. Even with this limitation, Central Asia must overlap with the Islamic, Iranian and Russian worlds. However, Mongolia must belong to Central Asia, politically because of its present adherence to the Soviet block and detachment from China, geographically because of its siting. Consideration of Mongolia implies consideration of the culturally similar Kalmuck and Buriat republics of the USSR. We cannot then exclude the Turkish peoples of north central Asia, principally the Yakuts, nor the Tuvinians and other minor peoples. At SOAS the central and north Asia subcommittee of the Library Committee deals in addition with the peoples of the Caucasus, and it is hinted in the minutes of the Middle Eastern Group before us today that the same is envisaged for the group we are now discussing. What Georgia and Armenia have in common with, say, Mongolia, I find it difficult to grasp, unless it be their Russian connections, but evidently Georgia and Armenia can at a stretch be considered as Central Asian. Are we to include the Finno Ugric peoples of north Russia and Siberia, and the Paleoasiatics? What about Turkish republics this side of the Urals, Bashkiria, the Tatar Republic, the Chuvash Republic?

If book procurement trips form part of the interest of a library group, we must remember the difficulties of communications. Mongolia, for example, can be reached only via Irkutsk, not direct from any union republic.

2. I have not tried to find out in advance who all the interested parties are, nor what holdings exist. This should be a cooperative venture, given the variety of the field. At first sight, we should do well to look at SOAS, SSEES, and the Central Asian Research Centre. As for the Caucasus, I confess myself quite uninformed.

3. To enquire into the availability of books and then to lay hands on them is likely to be a daunting task. I can speak with experience only of Mongolia - this experience may or may not be relevant for the USSR. No annual bibliography is easily available. Lists of books printed each year are produced, but of course in arrears, by which time the chance of getting the books may be long past. It is true that books do not usually get sold out, except in the shops, but they tend to lie about undistributed in freezing cold storehouses, in dusty bundles and it is a mammoth job to get access to the storehouses, and extract the books. An annual production plan is issued, and is usually available in Europe. However, it never corresponds with achievement, nor is it comprehensive. Books listed may never appear, or may appear only years later and under another title. European booksellers do offer a number of Mongol books now and again, but the selection is never comprehensive. Not knowing what has come out, the shop can accept only what it receives or order on a haphazard basis of chance information, so that books on interesting fields, e.g. law, often fail to reach us at all. So do publications like the quarterly Reports of the Academy of Sciences, which fall between the categories of books and periodicals. Even periodicals tend not to arrive, even after one has subscribed, perhaps because 4 issues a year are too widely spaced for the packers to remember you. One very big German firm which specialises in the books of communist countries has actually given up dealing with Mongolia because it was too troublesome.

Official book exchanges tend to start off with a bang and then fade away, and in any case it is usually only those books which can be bought which get sent. At the moment the British Council operates a book exchange with a Mongol counterpart, and the proceeds trickle through to SOAS, but

deliveries are few and far between.

The ideal solution would be to send someone to buy on the spot, but expense would no doubt be a barrier. There are only 4 or 5 decent book shops in Ulan Bator, and no second hand trade. The number of books on sale at any one time is limited, and a shop may be out of action for lack of personnel. I do not know if these practical difficulties obtain elsewhere in the Russian world, but if they do obtain over central Asia the prospect would be rather discouraging.

I have heard, however, that recently the Central Asiatic Seminar in Bonn, a big buyer of books, is dealing directly with the Mongol Book Export Office, and that so far things are going well. This might be borne in mind.

4. Is a central Asia Library Group likely to be able to do a useful job?

In view of the foregoing, we should consider:-

i. The area is a complex one, containing cultural entities which are quite unconnected with each other. It is hard, for example, to envisage scholars interested in Armenia sharing the cares of those interested in Siberian shamanism, and this raises again the question of the coherence of a group like this.

ii. There is a good deal of inertia to be overcome in establishing vigorous contact with local book trades. Distances are large, the book trade is entirely state operated, and lacks incentive to put itself out for the sake of the few books it might sell or exchange in Europe under unfamiliar conditions. SOAS appears to have failed to establish contact with academic bodies in the Kalmuck and Buriat republics, and it may well be because dealing with us bodes too much trouble, the exercise of too much initiative, for the officials concerned.

iii. Where good libraries of books from Central Asia do exist already, this has been due almost without exception to the energy, interest and local knowledge of a particular scholar or of an expedition. We may think for example of the unequalled collection of Mongol manuscripts in the Royal Library, Copenhagen, or of the excellent library of books on Mongolia and Tibet in Bonn, including bound Xerox copies of all available Mongolian manuscripts from European and some other libraries. This has been brought together solely as a product of the drive of the director of the Central Asiatic Seminar there.

iv. Our universities do not have teaching posts for all the areas we have to consider, so that book collecting might not be linked with a live academic interest.

We have to decide, then, whether setting up a committee would improve the situation. Is the procurement of books from the vast and varied world of Central Asia likely to be expedited by the establishment of a committee, or should the matter be left to individuals and institutions which have already shown a realistic interest?

C. R. Bawden.

Summary of Discussion

In the discussion which followed Dr. Bawden's talk Dr. W. Seuberlich of the Staatsbibliothek Pr. K., Marburg/Lahn, spoke of the liaison between German scholars and the Transcaucasian Republics and described his experiences when he had visited libraries and oriental institutes in the area. Other speakers told of the difficulties experienced even by Russian scholars in obtaining material from the Asiatic republics of the USSR. Mr. Meredith-Owens spoke of some exchange schemes between the British Museum and Central Asian institutions which varied very much in the value of items exchanged. It was felt that in general exchange schemes were not always to the benefit of western libraries but they were often a means of giving much-needed help to libraries in under-developed countries.

In the light of Dr. Bawden's speech no formal proposal was put to the Conference on the formation of a Central Asia Library Group.

THIRD SESSION. CHAIRMAN: MR. K. B. GARDNER

TALK BY MR. J. D. PEARSON ON 'INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AMONG ORIENTALIST LIBRARIES'

Mr. Pearson began with a few comments on the Dainton Report although it did not, in his view, contain much of special interest to the orientalist librarian. He regarded as most important the recommendation in Paragraph 274 that the British Museum Library should be enabled to lend "lightly used foreign books". This would make all schemes of library co-operation far more effective. The Report had failed to do justice to the schemes for co-operative purchase of foreign books which were already in existence. It was unfortunate that the terms of reference of the Dainton Committee had not allowed it to include in its Report some of the highly-specialised libraries which serve as national libraries in their particular fields. This might be a useful subject for a supplement to the Dainton Report.

Mr. Pearson said that although he had given his talk the title 'International co-operation among orientalist libraries' he proposed to range over a wider field and he would begin by defining what distinguishes an orientalist library from any other and the reasons why oriental libraries in particular need international co-operation. He continued:-

Orientalist libraries have their own special problems. The abundance of scripts other than the Roman in which the books they collect are written forces the librarian to decide either upon transliteration of all titles into Roman characters or to compile separate catalogues for each language. Either solution has its disadvantages. For most languages there is no generally accepted system in use even on a national scale. Every scholar uses his own system which is in his view better than everybody else's. International differences can be fundamental, the choice lying, for example, between such widely diverse signs as Dj, J, Dsch, Y for a single Arabic consonant and so on, as is indicated by the various ways in which the name Hajjaj has been spelt in Roman characters. If separate catalogues are maintained for each language using a non-Roman script, translations have to be separated from originals, persons whose works are composed in more than one language will need to be checked in more than one catalogue, and filing has to be done by experts. Though this problem is familiar to those of our colleagues who collect books in Slavonic languages, at least they normally

have only the Cyrillic alphabet to cope with in addition to the Roman.

But the difficulties for the library interested in Asia, or indeed in Africa, begin before the question of cataloguing a book arises. It starts with the actual obtaining of the book in the first place or before that, even, of discovering that the book exists. For most countries in Asia are not only a long way away but they are "underdeveloped" economically in every sense. Among all the other underdeveloped things is the book trade, and though few books may be published, and the majority or totality of these by governments, nevertheless in many countries these are not recorded in national bibliographies, or if they are, these appear too late to be acquired before they go out of print. When the existence of a book is discovered, the problem is then to obtain a copy of it. Publishers and booksellers in general are under-equipped with modern techniques and disinclined to surmount the difficulties which selling to countries overseas imposes, whether this be trading in bulk with foreign booksellers or selling individually to foreign libraries or scholars. All Orientalist librarians are well aware that in acquiring books from Asia it is not merely a question of obtaining enough money, and the simple method of ordering books through your local bookseller will not be productive of results. Often, indeed, it seems that the only way to obtain books is to have a representative who will go round to visit publishers and booksellers and buy or negotiate for them on the spot. The advantages of this are clearly demonstrated for us by the successful achievements in recent years of the American "P.L.480" acquisition centres in India, Pakistan, Israel, Indonesia and Egypt and the "Title 2c" centres in Africa and Latin America.

What Orientalist libraries are there?

The libraries in the United Kingdom which contain significant collections of books in and about Oriental languages, and of books in Western languages about one or more of the countries of Asia are of very varied character and origin: there will soon be available a guide book which lists them all and gives details of their collections and administrative practices. Compiled by Robert Collison, this is being edited by Brenda Moon under the auspices of the Sub-committee of Orientalist Libraries of the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL).

Among the most important Orientalist libraries are, in the first place, the Department of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts of the British Museum (the national library), and the Oriental departments of the Bodleian and the library of Cambridge University, all of which enjoy the right of copyright deposit. They buy and receive by exchange and gift a reasonable number of books useful for Oriental studies every year. They have large and important collections of MSS. in Oriental languages. The remaining copyright libraries, the national libraries of Scotland and Wales, and that of Trinity College, Dublin, though naturally comprehensive in respect of books on Oriental and Asian studies published in the United Kingdom, are not noteworthy for their stores of foreign works on these subjects, nor of books in Oriental languages.

In addition to the libraries of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, each supporting a strong faculty of Oriental studies, which can also draw upon a specialist library or libraries of its own, Orientalist libraries are found wherever Oriental studies are pursued in London and in other institutions of higher learning in the metropolis and outside. The Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, a School of the University of London, shares in the almost complete autonomy enjoyed by its

parent body. It is recognised as the national lending library for Oriental studies. Just over fifty years old, in size it probably approximates to the Oriental printed book collections of the two older universities. Outside London, the largest collections are to be found in Durham (where the University Library has a detached Oriental section which has built up a significant collection since the war), Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool and Sussex, and in the rapidly growing "Hayter centre" universities of Sheffield and Hull. In Scotland the collections at Edinburgh, Glasgow and St. Andrews are of prime importance. Other teaching institutions with substantial Oriental collections are the libraries of Jews' College in London and that of Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham.

The Royal Asiatic Society has a library which has been built up for the benefit of its members in well over a hundred years of existence, and the Asian books in the Royal Commonwealth Society are of significant proportion. Other learned and popular societies have collections of varying importance: they relate either to Asia or part of it alone, as the Royal Central Asian Society, or Asia figures largely in its stocks, such as is the situation in the Royal Anthropological Institute.

Unique in the British Isles if not in the world as a whole is the India Office Library of which the Librarian also has custody of the records of the East India Company and the India Office. Though the Office exists no more, nevertheless the Library has continued to develop since India attained independence in 1947 and has accumulated through the years a treasure of manuscripts and printed books which is without parallel. Not to be confused with the India Office Library is India House Library, which serves the needs of the High Commissioner of India in London.

One must not forget the John Rylands Library in Manchester, a former privately owned collection founded and built as a memorial to her husband by Mrs. John Rylands, which has been open freely for the use of the public since 1900. This Library, too, is of special importance on account of its collections of Oriental MSS. and papyri.

These, then, are the Orientalist libraries of the United Kingdom. They vary considerably in age, size, organization and scope: they enjoy a major or minimal degree of independence from their parent bodies. But all come together within the SCONUL Sub-committee on Asia, and in smaller groups according to their regional interests in the independent Middle East, South Asia, South-East Asia, China or Japan Library Groups. I shall have more to say about these regional groups later.

All these types, with the possible exception of the India Office Library, are represented among the Orientalist libraries of Continental Europe and North America. In all, there must be at least a hundred or more libraries outside Asia with a special interest in that continent. Outside the United Kingdom other types of Orientalist library occur, such as the Seminar or Institute libraries of Oriental departments in the German universities (somewhat different from our departmental libraries), and the libraries of research institutions within the framework of academies of science and learning such as exist within Eastern European countries, the large state and republican public libraries of the USSR, and the city public libraries of the USA, in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Cleveland, to name but four.

Thus we have a wide-ranging kaleidoscope: libraries to all intents autonomous, with no obvious constituency, those which act as the laboratory for a research institution, those which are a department of one of the world's great libraries, and those which are diffused among the collections of one of these institutions. For Oriental MSS. and indeed, often important caches of printed books are often to be found in libraries with no declared interest in Oriental studies.

Oriental and Asian studies

During the fifty years which have passed since the Oriental Department of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek and the SOAS Library were founded, two main branches of scholarly interest in Asia have emerged. The first, represented by Oriental studies of the traditional kind or the historical-philological type, unites those persons whose career begins by learning an Oriental language and who thereafter may become interested naturally in the literature for which that language provides the vehicle, and the history, culture and customs of the people who speak that language. The second branch is formed by those whose approach is through one of the general scholastic disciplines especially in the social sciences and who are attracted towards the study of Asia, perhaps ultimately to the extent of learning the language of the region of their interest.

The two branches, of course, are by no means mutually exclusive: they merge and diverge, and overlap in all possible permutations. They roughly coincide with the humanities and the social sciences but there are occasional points of contact with the natural sciences. They may exist as separate institutions or within the framework of the same parent body. In Britain in the last fifty years, as in other countries, both types of study of Asia have developed enormously, but a prominent feature of the history of East-West relations during this period has been the tendency and process of social scientists and to some extent others, to come together in multi-discipline but regional groups and so form a team for the study of the region, using the different methods of approach and tools offered by the individual disciplines. One cannot but be hopeful that this procedure of joint study of an area, side by side with the tradition of studies by discipline, will have far-reaching results. In this paper I as a librarian intend to consider the needs of both groups of Asia-interested persons which co-exist, not always entirely peacefully, within my own institution and in many others.

The basic factors which influence the services which our libraries provide for scholars in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities stem from certain fundamental differences in the use of literary materials by members of the three divisions. The natural scientist uses a library as a kind of bank from which he can at times draw out something which he needs in the furtherance of his scientific enquiry or research. On the whole he wants rapid "information retrieval" and will best be served in future through the computer and developments in library automation. He tends to use books rather than to read them, and I have seen it written that there are some young scientists who regard libraries in the sense of shelves full of books as being "on the way out". The social scientist though having the same need for rapid information contained in a relevant periodical article or other information unit needs at the same time to have recourse to a wide and heterogeneous range of sometimes very ephemeral matter such as newspapers, government propaganda bulletins, popular magazines, statistical surveys and other official documents and the like.

He tends to squeeze out the juice from whole mounds of fruit. This material can never be analysed fragmentally to meet all of the social scientist's documentary needs, but here again the computer will have its uses in accumulating and storing vast masses of data collected from surveys.

The humanist, most of the three types, reads and needs the books. Although he finds bibliographies, catalogues and indexes indispensable to his research, much of his information comes to him in a rather haphazard way from unexpected sources through reading "round the subject", from browsing in the library, which is to him what the laboratory is to the natural scientist and the social survey to the social scientist, and from occasional happy accidents brought about by fortuitous juxtaposition of books on shelves and articles in periodicals, I shall therefore deal with three main problems of the Orientalist librarian in this talk, the one being that of cataloguing and indexing the hundreds of thousands of manuscripts, archival documents, papyri and other accumulations of a literary character which await description in the libraries of the world, the second being the registration of published books and other types of information vehicle, and the third that of acquiring books and other informative material from countries with as yet underdeveloped book dissemination services. The second and third topics are, of course, closely allied: the compilation of complete and up-to-date bibliographies on a national and international scale is an essential prerequisite to obtain the books. Finally I hope to show how progress may be made towards all of these objectives through the formation and development of an association on the international plane of librarians with responsibilities towards Oriental or Asian collections.

Oriental Manuscripts

One of the most intractable problems that has long confronted the Orientalist librarian is that of compiling and publishing catalogues of the MSS. in Oriental languages in his collection. For it is not sufficient merely to have a catalogue for home use, as may well do for printed books: every MS. is a unique object and its existence cannot be suspected in any one library but can only be discovered through a published catalogue.

Many hundreds of thousands of Oriental MSS. and documents remain undisturbed on the shelves of our great libraries and in some of our lesser ones, their very existence known only to local scholars, if indeed to them. To take but two examples from my own country, which is by no means unrepresentative in this respect. The Bodleian Library has not succeeded in publishing a catalogue for the accessions to its Arabic MSS. collection since 1834: already by 1954 these numbered 465. Its sister university of Cambridge has still not produced the catalogue of its Hebrew MSS., which in 1940 numbered a thousand or so: still less has the same University Library completed any descriptive catalogue of the Hebrew and Arabic fragments in the Taylor-Schechter collection of Genizah documents, which have been rummaged through by scholars for some eighty years or more now.

This problem has been a constant preoccupation of mine since 1947 when I returned to the Cambridge University Library after the war and was instructed to survey the Oriental MS. collections and the state of cataloguing of them. Later I extended my scope to all libraries in Great Britain and Ireland, and published the results in a pamphlet issued in

1954 by the Royal Asiatic Society on the occasion of the XXIII International Congress of Orientalists held in my native city of Cambridge. Ten years later I ill-advisedly accepted a contract with UNESCO to undertake a similar survey for the whole of Europe and North America: I hope to place the results of this in the hands of the printer in the next few weeks. A modest undertaking, it attempts to give the numbers of MSS. in all the Oriental languages from Hebrew to Japanese in the libraries of Europe, Canada and the U.S.A., and to designate the catalogues, where they exist, in which those MSS. are described. It has seemed to me a necessary preliminary step before more sophisticated efforts to indicate the contents of the collections may be made. Though I have travelled to many countries in search of information and have consulted many hundreds of printed sources, it is clear to me that I have attempted the impossible. No one person can hope to produce a satisfactory work of this kind for all the languages and all the countries but I hope that what I have done may serve as a stimulus to others to produce much better surveys of a national character similar to Gabrieli's masterly Manoscritti e carte orientali nelle biblioteche e negli archivi di Italia. My work has attempted rather more than was achieved by Vajda and following him by Huisman for the Arabic collections, in that I have tried in addition to list the collections (albeit in a more limited geographical area) for which no printed catalogues exist.

Librarians have always found it difficult to bring out catalogues for their MSS. in Oriental languages, I reiterate. In a talk given at the International Congress in 1954 and during the course of discussion which followed it, it was suggested that librarians in a single country or indeed in more than one should unite to bring out joint or union catalogues of the Oriental MSS. in all of their libraries. Though I cannot claim to have planted the seeds which were later to grow into the exemplary Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland, on which my friend and colleague, Wolfgang Voigt, has demonstrated such strength of persistent enthusiasm, administrative ability and power of extended labour, or the Polish equivalent Catalogue des manuscrits des collections polonaises (I do not venture to pronounce the Polish title), yet I like to think that here was an example of what ethnologists call, I believe, idea-diffusion in operation which later led to these important developments.

For it is by no means easy to persuade the right kind of people to spend their time making catalogues of MSS. There are few scholars today of the calibre of Ahlwardt or Brockelmann though their successors toil manfully on in Germany. A scholar is likely to be carried away and diverted to the fascinating problems which his reading of the MSS. presents, unlike the librarian to whom all texts represent merely items to be catalogued but who seldom has the necessary linguistic and cultural equipment to perform these tasks successfully, and the more he has of this equipment the more nearly he approaches a scholar with the urge to create and establish new horizons of knowledge rather than to be content to open these up to others. We cannot look to the computer to give us help in cataloguing an Oriental manuscript: nevertheless it has a possible application for the future in dating MSS. on palaeographic grounds and it is already being used in this way by the Institute of Hebrew Manuscripts in Jerusalem. But with computers it seems that before you can enjoy the output you have to arrange for the input, and the input is vastly more expensive (indeed astronomically so) than the present input. The computer has its place, even it may be in library operations, but it must be kept firmly in its place and I am a disbeliever who rejects the suggestion that

we should sacrifice some of our present resources to it at this time in the earnest hope of a paradise to follow in the hereafter. There is a great need for our library schools to train young librarians to specialize in the cataloguing of Oriental manuscripts and to make it possible for them to travel from library to library to perform this service. Or young scholars might be encouraged to spend a few years of their research life in gaining experience of the necessary techniques: it is difficult to think of a more suitable apprenticeship. The problem is worthy of much greater study in detail at leisure.

I hope that others will do for Asia more satisfactorily what I have attempted for Europe and North America.

But when all the manuscript collections have been surveyed and all the union catalogues completed, this is still not the end of the problem. The International Council for Archives with the support of UNESCO is planning to bring out a series of calendars of documents relating to Asia, to Africa and to other parts of the world. In Britain we have already completed this task, in the one volume published so far discovering that documents relating to South and South-East Asia are to be found in no fewer than 250 libraries including the Mission to Lepers and the Seaforth Highlanders' Regimental Museum, and archive depositories in the kingdom and in Ireland. We were fortunate in that generous grants were made to us for the purpose by the Rockefeller Foundation: UNESCO can dispose only of meagre resources and hence the appearance of the ICA volumes is likely to be much longer delayed.

After the Western-language documents in our libraries and archives we must think of those in Oriental languages. Some of these, it is true, will be recorded in such works as the Verzeichnis and the Polish Catalogue and are referred to in my survey, but for coping with this problem we need a different technique to be put to use, which will produce inventories of many thousands of documents rather than, it may be, detailed descriptions of a few choice items in a manuscripts collection. These documents, for a large part entirely unexploited, exist not only in the archives of East European countries at one time under Turkish hegemony, but also in the national libraries and repositories of all countries which have had at any time relations with Asian countries. They tend to be housed in places such as national archives where the Orientalist librarian seldom penetrates and where skills in Oriental languages are rarer even than in libraries. Of what country could it be said that no documents in Oriental languages had found their way into its archives?

Susceptible to similar treatment are the world's collections of Oriental papyri in quite a few Oriental languages and the Genizah documents which we have already noted as existing in Cambridge but which are to be found in many other libraries in a great many countries besides.

It would seem unlikely that supplies of work of this kind will become exhausted within the lifetime of most of us present, or that, with all due recognition of the splendid achievements of the VOH and other similar projects, that we are really making more than minimal progress towards the goal. As a librarian I admire the published results of the research of my scholar colleagues and even more I admire the achievements of the great cataloguers and coordinators such as Aufrecht, Brockelmann, Storey and Sezgin, but much of the work is based on incomplete evidence and will inevitably need to be revised when more evidence becomes generally available. To take but one example, Storey's Persian literature is based

on 150 published catalogues, whereas at least 450 are recorded in the Materials for Persian bibliography collected by Akimushkin and Borshchevsky and in the sources on which they have drawn.

Oriental bibliography

Often at international conferences the fact has been bewailed that effectively since 1911 there has been no general bibliography for Oriental studies comparable with the Orientalische Bibliographie, founded and edited by August Müller, which covered the production of the years 1887-1911. For the last year of publication a total of 7,307 titles was recorded, besides a large number of book reviews. In 1965 the total number of worthwhile or significant monographs or separate publications on Oriental studies produced in Europe as a whole was estimated by me to be in the region of 2500 titles. "Worthwhile or significant" of course depends on a subjective value judgment: in this case it means those which the Librarian of SOAS thought it worthwhile to buy for his Library. Naturally a lot of books published are for popular consumption or of topical interest only and have no place in a learned library, but this does not of course mean that it is not worthwhile to list the remaining titles in a bibliography. The figure of 2500 therefore is no indication of what is published annually on Oriental studies, but we should obviously be safe in assuming that 5000 titles are published about Asia in Europe alone, a half of which any good library interested in the whole region would want to acquire.

What would be the number of important articles on Oriental and Asian studies published in European periodicals and collective publications in a year? As far as I know no one has ever supplied a figure for this. But on the basis of a single year's production of the SOAS academic staff it would seem that five articles are published for every single monograph, and if this is a typical sample (and I know of no reason why it should, or should not be), then we might expect that 25,000 articles are published about Asia every year in Europe. Not all of these are significant, of course. If we look at the problem from a different aspect, at least 2,000 significant articles are published every year in Western languages on Islamic subjects. By what factor should we multiply this, by 3, 4 or 5, to get a reasonable approximate figure for the world production rate of periodical articles in Western languages about Asia?

Whatever figure we eventually arrive at, it is obviously going to be vastly in excess of the figure of 7,300 for the Orientalische Bibliographie of 1911. We must perhaps give up all hope now that anyone will ever be able to publish an annual OB again: an attempt was made after the war but it resulted in failure. It may no longer be necessary to aim at a complete OB in view of the many excellent partial bibliographies being produced in various places, but the whole is probably still greater than the sum of its parts and the parts would be even better if they had good extensive general bibliographies to draw on. What is needed, in my opinion, and in this I am only following up a suggestion made by Gaudefroy-Demombynes in 1948, is for every nation to compile its own list of publications in any form and issue this every year. Consideration might also be given to the marking in some way of those titles regarded as of international importance for scholarship. For although the task of compiling an international OB would be insuperable, that of compiling a national OB would be a relatively easy one. Indeed, several countries at present issue similar bibliographies for African studies, and one at least, the USSR, publishes an annual list of

both Asian and African studies. From experience I doubt if a national list for Britian would involve much more than a full week's work for a single person.

If we could organize the regular compilation of such national bibliographies by all the main European (and extra-European) countries we would have a truly solid basis for all other bibliographical work and in addition a reliable instrument with which to top up our normal book selection activities.

Books from Asia

The distinction I have drawn between the needs of the humanities scholar and the social scientist may not be tenable, but it seems that if the former is best provided for by the compilation of catalogues, calendars, inventories, bibliographies and indexes, what the latter needs most is an abundant supply of literature of all types, from government publications to children's books, emanating from the developing countries. That this is fully recognized in the U.S.A. is demonstrated by the establishment of acquisitions centres, under Public Law 480, in India, Pakistan, Israel, Indonesia and the U.A.R. which in 1967-68 provided to some twenty libraries; from India a total of 170,000 newspapers, 265,370 serials and 104,800 monographs; from Pakistan 50,561, 90,638, and 11,877 in the several categories; and, from the U.A.R. 170,627, 35,217 and 12,906. There are no exactly comparable figures available for acquisitions by libraries in Great Britian and elsewhere (to collect them would be an operation of quite major expense) but it is clear to everyone that we are falling very far behind the additions made to American libraries.

It would be difficult to devise a formula to work out the percentage of one country's literature production that ideally ought to be available to the users of libraries in any other country. Obviously there inevitably comes a time when a scholar must visit the country whose language or culture he is studying, but such visits are expensive and can take place only too infrequently. And the precious time spent in the country can be much better employed in taking advantage of facilities available only on the spot and should not have to be decimated by reason of the need to consult the local literature which could largely have been anticipated before the visit. For the study of India and Pakistan since 1952, when the first U.S. acquisitions centres were set up and for the study of other Asian countries from correspondingly latter periods, it is clear that, as Mr. Sutton said, unless serious thought is given to improving the present situation, European scholars will be at a great disadvantage compared with their American colleagues in respect of the literature available. I have heard of a plan being mooted by IFLA in Europe for the establishment of a library to collect the publications of the developing countries which, it is hoped, will be able to draw on the facilities already set up by the Americans in these countries. This, if it materializes, may provide the answer to the problem, but a great many difficulties remain to be surmounted.

The annual cost of the P.L.480 centres was estimated in 1964 to be \$550,000 for the Delhi centre, \$90,000 for that in Karachi and \$150,000 for the one in Cairo. In addition, every recipient library paid \$6,900 in hard currency towards the cost of the centralized cataloguing of the books received from India and Pakistan and \$1,900 for those from Cairo. Clearly few other countries could contemplate expenditure on this scale for library needs. We in England have been looking into the possibility of a poor man's P.L.480 centre in New-Delhi to collect Indian publications in all

languages: the cost on a conservative estimate would be in the region of £5,000 or \$12,000 a year and to this the cost of buying and transporting the books would have to be added, and since we are a small country, a very few copies or even a solitary copy of most publications would be sufficient for our needs, so that the number of libraries which would be able to participate would be very small.

Canada also has blocked-currency credits at its disposal in India: recently an acquisitions centre has been set up to serve the needs of this country by collecting four copies of every publication in English and one of those in Indian languages. The annual budget of this centre is estimated to be in the region of 250,000 rupees or £14,000.

The Netherlands also has plans for a centre in Djakarta to collect publications for its libraries. All these operations indicate clearly a realization by librarians that the traditional methods of ordering from booksellers, or by exchanges between institutions, are by no means adequate for obtaining publications from countries whose publishing and bookselling services, like many other activities, are still seriously under-developed.

This state of affairs is likely to be with us for some time yet. Publication activities are bound to increase as countries develop but it will be some time before it is as easy to obtain publications from all Asian countries as it is from Israel and Japan and even there the U.S.A. thinks it worthwhile to have a P.L.480 centre in the one, and a Title II (c) office in the other. On the one hand, it seems to me, we must develop co-operative arrangements for obtaining publications from Asia on behalf of Europe and at the same time encourage and stimulate the development of individual publishing and bookselling activities looking ahead always to the time when these arrangements will no longer be necessary.

It is by no means my wish to be thought to be concerned only with the needs of my own library, or with those of my country as a whole, or indeed of Europe as a whole. Every Asian country has the same problem in respect of the publications of every other Asian country and any measures that can be taken to improve the interchange of books between all countries will inevitably benefit the Asian countries too. For while my talk today is concerned with the problems of Orientalist libraries I am very conscious all the time that there are Oriental libraries as well, in Asia itself, with whom many of us have excellent relations which we are concerned ever to maintain and develop.

I.A.O.L.

Although library matters have from time to time been discussed at the International Congress of Orientalists it was at the 27th ICO held in Ann Arbor in the summer of 1967 that for the first time a panel of Orientalist librarians held a series of meetings. Papers were read by distinguished Asian librarians and others on Oriental collections in the Near and Middle East, South Asia, South-East Asia and the Far East, and other places. These papers are now being prepared for publication. At the end of the meetings the decision was taken to establish the International Association of Orientalist Librarians, based on a framework of regional and national groups, which might meet whenever an international congress was held to discuss matters of general interest. Although founded, IAOL has not really got off the ground as yet. A few general decisions were taken at Ann Arbor

on the kind of work that such an association might do, subscription rates were fixed but no one has yet been asked to pay a subscription. Representatives were elected for the main regions of Asia as well as for Eastern and Western Europe, North and South America. It is planned to issue, inevitably, a Newsletter. As I see it the main tasks to which the Association might turn its attention are those which I have already mentioned: stimulation of the production of catalogues of MSS., calendars of archives, inventories of papyri, Genizah fragments and similar documents; the regular production of complete world-wide bibliographies of Asian and Oriental studies; the collection of publications from Asian countries. But there should be a two-way traffic, into Asia as well as out of Asia. There should be no suggestion that IAOL exists to exploit Asia for the benefit of non-Asian.

We hope and expect our Asian colleagues to help us improve our library collections in support of Asian studies, but we must ask ourselves what we can do to help them, perhaps by way of supplying our publications on Asian (or even non-Asian) studies, assisting with the training of their librarians, arranging exchanges of personnel, helping with their bibliographical projects and the like.

A world-wide organization such as IAOL cannot hope to meet very often: perhaps only at ICO's, once every three years, will it be possible for members from some regions to get together and exchange views and news in discussion. The main work will go on in national or regional groups. We could perhaps contemplate an annual conference for Western European or Eastern European Orientalist librarians or, better still, for both. National groups, however, are fairly inexpensive to organize and can meet quite frequently. In the last few years in Britain a number of such groups have been meeting regularly twice or three times a year. An account of their work may be useful.

For some time now we have had a joint committee of librarians sponsored by the Association of British Orientalist and SCONUL. This body is thought by some of us to have been of rather limited usefulness. The need for it to refer on occasion to the two sponsoring bodies was a disadvantage, its meetings were rather large and inevitably, because few libraries are interested in the whole of Asia, a great deal of the business transacted was of little interest to a great many of those who attended. Its great achievement, however, was its stimulation of and advisory work in connection with the Union catalogue of Asian publications, which is maintained at SOAS, and to which some forty libraries in the country report their accessions from Asian countries. In the interests of procedural simplification ABQ has now withdrawn its sponsorship and the committee is a sub-committee of SCONUL: it consists solely of librarians. I hope that it will agree also to act as a national committee within the IAOL framework, and that it will arrange an annual conference to which foreign librarians can be invited.

Two such conferences have been held in 1966 and 1967 at SOAS. Ostensibly called to consider the problem of the acquisition of publications from Asia, the second of these also considered the future of the national library collections in Far Eastern languages on the basis of a recommendation submitted by all professors of Far Eastern subjects in the country. The first proposed regular meetings of librarians and scholars interested in the various Asian regions on the pattern of one which had already been set up for the Near and Middle East. In addition to this, there now exist library groups for China, Japan, South Asia and South-East Asia. They

already have considerable achievements to their credit and promise well for the future. The reason for their existence is to ensure that more material needed for scholarly research comes into the country from Asia through the avoidance of unnecessary and wasteful duplication between libraries. They provide a forum where librarians can meet those for whose needs they are providing and constitute useful post boxes for the interchange of information. All of the groups have compiled or are compiling union lists of periodicals published in their regions: these are being used not only as guides giving locations but also as the basis for studies designed to indicate what is not being received.

Thus, for instance, we find that of the current non-government periodical publications being received by American libraries through the activities of the P.L.480 centres in Delhi, Karachi and Dacca we in Britain receive 648 or 34.5%. We now have to ask ourselves whether this proportion is adequate for our needs or whether we should seek to increase it. The South Asia group is also considering the possibility of an acquisitions office in India similar to the one Canadian libraries have set up under the Shastri Memorial scheme. It has also been responsible for co-operative arrangements whereby more newspapers from India are obtained by the country's libraries.

South-East Asian studies are pursued at only two universities in the country, but the group concerned with that area arranges meetings which are attended also by colleagues from Holland and is the only one which so far has members from outside the country. My hope is that all of the groups will develop in this direction, for a lot of these problems cannot be solved if contained within national boundaries.

I do not know if what I have told you about this glut of committees in Britain and elsewhere appals you. I do not know if a similar arrangement in any other country would be desirable. Speaking personally, my work has certainly increased tremendously since these various committees were set up as I have to attend all of their meetings. And though I am by no means a "good committee man" (one of my favourite sayings being that "a camel is a horse designed by a committee") nevertheless I am convinced of the usefulness of meeting from time to time one's colleagues from other universities and members of the clientele they serve, and that international meetings are so much more interesting than national ones that I hope when the time comes you will all join the International Association of Orientalist Librarians.

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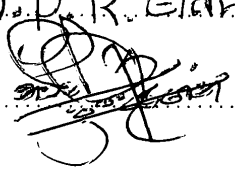
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