**ASIAN COLLECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017**

**Gail King, Asian Studies Librarian**

A major portion of my duties as Asian Studies Librarian is responsibility for the Asian Collection. I do the Asian Collection shelving (including circulated, newly-cataloged, and in-house use materials) every morning when I first arrive at work. I report these and other Asian Collection statistics to the Council on East Asian Libraries annual statistical report of East Asian libraries in the United States and Canada. At the end of every month I report in-house usage and special loans to Brian Roberts. Besides doing the shelving every day, I also read a small section of Asian Collection shelves daily and take care of small shifts in the Asian Collection necessary to make room for new acquisitions. I carry out major shifts during breaks between semesters or during spring and summer terms. I put out on newspaper rods the one print newspaper that we still receive, *Ren min ri bao* 人民日报(People’s Daily) and discard the issues every month, order, receive, and process new books, and put new periodicals out on the Asian periodicals shelves.

At the beginning of 2017a fair amount of time was spent in responding to requests from library administration regarding how many shelves the Asian Collection could lose in order to expand student study space in the area and other issues related to the remodel and refurbishing of the library. I tried to contribute by providing data when asked for it and thinking of ways to help achieve stated goals. In the end, it seemed that the push to have everything decided has slowed down and library administration will look at each proposed change in a more measured fashion. I will continue to advocate for the integrity of the Asian Collection.

**Administration**

Japanese and Korean Reading Shelves

In May of 2016 I moved the Japanese Popular and Korean Popular collections to the front row of shelves in Asian Reference, in order to make them more visible and easier for Japanese language students to discover when they come looking for outside-of-class reading materials. To make room for these collections on the front row of the Asian Reference area, I sent three large sets to Auxiliary Storage and then shifted the remainder of the collection backward, leaving the front shelves open to serve as the Japanese and Korean Reading Shelves.

In Fall Semester I requested funding to hire two students, one in Japanese and one in Korean, to divide the books I had placed on the Japanese and Korean Reading Shelves by reading levels: Level 1 Beginning, Level 2 Intermediate, Level 3 Advanced. This request was approved, and the two students I hired soon set to work. Both finished by early December. As soon as the new location codes have been set up by programmers, cataloging personnel can begin changing the location for books now on the Reading Shelves and cataloging any as-yet uncataloged Japanese and Korean books to go on the shelves by reading level. I am very grateful for the student funding that made it possible to complete this project. In late December I compacted the books A-Z in the Asian Reference area in order to empty 25 more shelves so as to allow room for the expanded Japanese and Korean Reading Shelves by reading level.

Shifting

The Asian Oversize section had grown until all the shelves were completely full with no space at all for additions. So after classes were over in August I shifted the Korean periodicals section to free up some shelves and then shifted the Asian Oversize section so that now each shelf is only ¾ or less full.

In late December I compacted the books A-Z in the Asian Reference area in order to empty 25 shelves and make room for the Japanese and Korean Reading Shelves by reading level collection that will be placed there once the books are cataloged and relabeled.

**Collection Development and Management**

Subscription Cancellations

In September I was notified that the Chinese dictionary of *Oxford Language Dictionaries Online* was due for renewal at a price of $1,132, a 31% increase over the previous year. Usage was 115 for 2016, $9.84 per use, which is reasonable, but it’s still a very expensive dictionary. I concluded we shouldn’t encourage the publisher to believe they can just raise the price as they please. We cancelled.

I was notified in October that the renewal subscription for *Duxiu*, the Chinese database that we have subscribed to through a GWLA consortial arrangement, would increase in price by 11% for the coming year. Before agreeing to this increase, I investigated usage and consulted faculty members. Usage is low and faculty uniformly do not use it. *Duxiu* is set up to retrieve full-text of Chinese articles through a second index, *China National Knowledge Index*, which we do not subscribe to. So even the few times faculty members searched *Duxiu* for articles on a topic, they were unable to secure full-text directly but had to go through Interlibrary Loan. There is nothing wrong with using ILL, but the subscription price for *Duxiu* is too high just for an index. Hence I declined to renew our subscription and relayed the reasons to the librarian who is our GWLA contact with *Duxiu*.

Journal Cancellation and Retention Project

I participated in the Journal Cancellation and Retention Project according to the schedule set out by Robert Murdoch, Associate University Librarian for Collection Development and Technical Services and Jared Howland, Collection Development Coordinator. The faculty members I work with, though discouraged by the necessity for this measure, were both supportive of and cooperative with the library’s efforts. When it was announced that due to funding granted by the university administration, massive cancellations would not be necessary, they were all very happy.

**Acquisitions**

Donations

1) Chinese: In June the Asian Collection received an anonymous donation of the collected works of the Taiwan writer, historian, and social critic Bo Yang, *Bo Yang quan ji* 柏杨全集, a total of 24 volumes which have been cataloged (Asian Chinese PL 2875 .O17 2010) and are on the shelves in the Chinese section of the Asian Collection.

2) Japanese: No Japanese books were donated in 2017.

3) Korean: The Asian Collection in 2017 received 5 titles (5 volumes) from the National Library of Korea and and 8 DVDs of films from the National Film Library of Korea. In April William Bradshaw, a former BYU faculty member, donated 145 volumes in Korean that had been his son’s graduate research material on Korean politics in the 1970s and 1980s. I sorted through the donation and chose the titles we can use, 130 out of the 145 initially brought in, and then searched all of the 130 to locate OCLC records since no one in Acquisitions could read the Korean and these books were all published before South Korea began using ISBNs.

Book Purchases

Chinese

We received six shipments from March through October on our approval program with China Classics in 2017; our 2017 shipment of Taiwan imprints provided to us by Sun-Crown Chinese Materials and Book-Selling Service Center in Taibei arrived in August.

Japanese

Our Japanese dealer, The Isseido, now sends a monthly electronic booklist to me, which I forward to Japanese Studies faculty members to choose books from. Whether they are simply too busy, don’t need any books in Japanese, or haven’t found much on the lists that appeals to them, they seldom respond with any requests. I need to try this year to improve how this system works. When I visit all Asian Studies faculty members during Winter Semester I will bring up this problem with them and see what their suggestions are.

## Again this year I used $3500 of my Asian Collection budget to purchase rare or old Japanese books and scrolls destined for Special Collections that support our outstanding holdings of rare Japanese materials. The item purchased is **SO SHISEKI GAFU**. 宋紫石画譜 [So Shiseki’s picture album] Edo, Suharaya Shirôemon; Suharaya Môhei, Meiwa 2 [1765], a rare album of bird drawings, one of the strengths of the Bruning collection. I was happy that the Asian 34235 fund had remaining money toward the end of the year to allow us to purchase this set for Special Collections.

Korean

We received two shipments on our Korean approval program with Total Library Services for 52 titles (52 volumes) totaling $1183.30; cataloging charges totaled $735. Our order last year of books from North Korea through the Chinese book dealer that we use, China Classics run by Dr. Wei Wang, (through a colleague of his in a bookstore in Northeast China) was successful, and so again this year I sent the catalog Dr. Wang provided to the BYU Korean Studies faculty members, who chose 2 titles (160 volumes) of books for school children, stories from Korean myth and history, at a cost of $1480. The books were received at the end of July and cataloged by the end of summer. All were placed in the Korean Reading Shelves collection.

**Statistics**

Circulation 2017

Asian Collection circulation 2017: 1379, 34.3% increase from 2016 circulation of 1027; (2015 circulation was 1768)

Number of Asian Collection Books Cataloged 2017

Chinese 276 titles 392 vols.

Japanese 65 titles 65 vols.

Korean 142 titles 254 vols.

Total 483 titles 711 vols.

Backlog

The system in the Acquisitions Unit has changed. I deliver the books to them as soon as I verify the invoices, stamp, and tattletape the books. They then enter a brief record online and place the books on shelves for catalogers. The same procedure is followed for Gift books. Hence no new purchases or gifts are kept in the Asian Workroom, only some that remain from Dr. Lin’s and Paul Hyer’s donations. There is no backlog of current acquisitions in the Asian Workroom.

Total volume count for Dr. Lin’s books (minimal records online)

Books waiting full cataloging: 143 volumes

Books in poor condition, future uncertain: 550 volumes

During the summer I began to try to work out a plan for dealing with the fragile books still uncataloged in the donation from the late Professor Lin Tienwai. Several meetings were held with Scott Eldredge, Robert Murdoch, Thom Edlund, Erminia Chao, and me, and possibilities for disposition of the books were discussed, ranging from discarding to boxing every one of them to digitizing all of them and then discarding. Because most of the books were published after 1950, copyright is still an issue. To date no resolution has been determined.

Asian Collection Reference/ Patron Assistance 2017

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Language | Winter | Spr. & Sum. | Fall | Total |
| Chinese | 17 | 7 | 39 | 77 |
| Japanese | 17 | 4 | 34 | 63 |
| Korean | 2 | 4 | 8 | 19 |
| Other | 5 | 4 | 24 | 28 |
| TOTAL | 41 | 19 | 105 | 165 |

2016 comparison 66 23 98 187

Print Book Purchases 2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lang. | # vols. | $ books | $/vol. | $Shpng | Shp/vol. | Tot$/vol. |
| Chinese |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PRC | 211 | 4068.06 | 19.28 | 583.00 | 2.76 | 22.04 |
| Taiwan | 100 | 1191.95 | 11.92 | 679.15 | 6.79 | 18.71 |
| Total | 311 | 5260.01 | 16.91 | 1262.15 | 4.06 | 20.97 |
| Japanese | 33 | 2076.47 | 62.92 | 210.57 | 6.38 | 69.30 |
| Korean | 212 | 2664.30 | 12.57 | \*\* 96.00 | .60 | 13.17 |
| TOTALS | 556 | 10000.78 | 17.99 | \*1568.72 | 2.82 | 20.81 |

\*\*Shipping for Korean books by FedEx from Total Library Services in California to BYU is paid directly by BYU when received at BYU Mail Services. I do not know these costs. The shipping charges for Korean books include only North Korean books, (160 volumes divided into $96 = $.60 per book from North Korea.)

\*Average shipping totals include shipping charges for only North Korean books.

**Goals for 2018**

1. Complete Japanese and Korean Reading Shelves project.
2. Work with Japanese faculty to improve the Japanese book request system.
3. Continue to participate in the library remodel planning process as needed.

12/29/2017; 1/3/2017

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