

# East Asian Library

Newsletter of the East Asian Library  
University of California, Berkeley  
Number 1 • Spring 2006

## IN THIS ISSUE

**MAPPING OUT THE PAST**

**LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**

**STARR UPDATE**

**BOOK HUNTING IN THE  
KOREAN DIASPORA**

**STAFF NEWS**

## MAPPING OUT THE PAST



Takamatsu Castle on the Inland Sea, from a panoramic map of coastal Japan. The castle's situation not only allowed its masters to levy tolls on passing ships, it also reduced the castle's vulnerability to land assault and provided a constant and limitless supply of seawater for its defensive moats. *Seto naikai no zu.*

One of the most valuable acquisitions in the East Asian Library's history is the private library of the Mitsui clan, and one of the most valuable parts of that library is the map collection of Mitsui Takakata. Totaling close to 2,300 items dating from the early seventeenth through the early twentieth centuries, the collection includes maps produced by manuscript, woodblock, copperplate, and litho, in formats ranging from pocket-sized folding maps to scrolls and paneled screens. There are world maps, provincial maps, and city maps, route maps and panoramic maps, maps for the tourist, the traveler, and the navigator.

In 1985–86, Dr. Donald Shively, late head of the Library, obtained a National Endowment for the Humanities grant that allowed EAL to catalog the collection and see it properly housed. Access was vastly improved and quickly bore fruit in a number of scholarly studies and publications by Dr. Elizabeth Berry, of Berkeley's Department of History, Dr. Marcia Yonemoto, a student of Berry's, and others. While the presence of the collection at EAL thus became more widely known, use of the maps themselves remained necessarily limited, fifteen years ago, to visitors to the Library. Even limited use brings its problems, however. No matter how strong the paper, repeated folding and unfolding eventually leads to fraying along creases and holes where those creases meet.

*continued on page 6*

# Letter from the Director



“It will not be many years before the most important cities of the world will be practically on a par—and they will be New York, London, San Francisco and Shanghai!” These words of Granville Woodward’s, an official of the U.S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, appear in the October 1935 issue of *California Monthly*, in the first article I’ve encountered that mentions Berkeley’s growing East Asian collection. The author of the article, Edwin E. Williams, notes that the collection—then totaling only 25,000 volumes—had already been praised by the *New York Times* as one of the most important in the country. He also calls the collection “the library that looks across the Pacific.” In 1935 this was both figuratively and literally true, since it was housed in Room 416 of Doe Library, commanding a view of San Francisco, the Golden Gate, and the ocean beyond.

The article offers an interesting window on the past, but what I find intriguing in it is a prediction of Granville Woodward’s, which seventy years later cannot be refuted. Williams quotes Woodward’s belief that “civilization is moving westward . . . the Pacific is the future trade center

of the world.” Williams agrees, pointing out that California was uniquely positioned to be a vital part of that future and that the University accordingly bore a responsibility to prepare Californians for it.

Today we cannot but appreciate the foresight of those who preceded us, who seeded the collection that has grown over the past century in size and richness. The East Asian Library’s holdings now number nearly 900,000 volumes, in books, serials, maps, rubbings, manuscripts, and non-print materials; portions of the collection are unparalleled outside East Asia. What began as an effort to help the residents of the state understand China, Japan, and Korea has developed into a major collection consulted by scholars from around the globe. It is to highlight particular aspects of this great library that we are initiating publication of this newsletter.

The cultural legacies of China, Japan, and Korea are individual to each. One feature common to them all, however, is the importance placed on scholarship and learning. Books and documents are the repositories of that learning, the means by which we are able to communicate with our predecessors as well as our contemporaries. The stories in this newsletter bear evidence to that.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Zhou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "Z".

Peter Zhou  
Director, East Asian Library

*Peter Zhou came to Berkeley as Assistant University Librarian and Director of EAL in the summer of 2000. He had previously headed the University of Pittsburgh’s East Asian Library and served as both East Asian Librarian and Chinese Studies Librarian at the University of Iowa. A former member of Wuhan University’s faculty and adjunct member of Iowa’s, Peter Zhou holds a Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*

# UPDATE ON THE C. V. STARR EAST ASIAN LIBRARY



In April 2004, the University dedicated the plot bounded by Haviland Hall, Memorial Glade, Moffitt Library, and McCone Hall as the site of the future Chang-Lin Tien Center for East Asian Studies, which will house C. V. Starr East Asian Library. When it opens in the fall of 2007, the Starr Library will be the first freestanding building in the United States specifically constructed to house an East Asian collection.

After soil testing and a brief dig (Prof. Laurie Wilkie's Anthropology 133 class excavated the remains of a conservatory built in 1894 on the future site of the Starr Library), temporary fencing was wound around a good portion of Observatory Hill last September,

to the east of Haviland Hall. The stone wall that had bordered the Haviland parking lot was torn out, the slope of the hill carved away and reinforced, the soil compacted, the foundation poured, and a tower crane installed. The first week of 2006 saw the beginning of ground-floor construction with the erection of wooden forms that will give shape to the concrete walls until they can stand on their own. Utilities installation is ongoing. The top of the Campanile offers a good bird's-eye view of the construction site. So does our web page, at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EAL/>. Just click on the thumbnail to the left. New images are added every week. 科

# BOOK HUNTING IN THE KOREAN DIASPORA



Jaeyong Chang with a portion of his growing diaspora collection, North Korean feature films acquired from a vendor in the People's Republic of China. Some of the films are based on historical events or novels; others offer a rare glimpse of contemporary life north of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.

**I**n October 2005, the East Asian Library's Korean bibliographer, Jaeyong Chang, traveled to the steppes of Kazakhstan in search of Korean imprints. He wasn't lost. There are close to half a million ethnic Koreans living in the former Soviet Union, largely in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Koreans began emigrating to the Russian Far East for economic reasons during the last decades of the nineteenth century. During the early decades of the twentieth, political activists and resistance fighters fleeing the Japanese colonization of Korea swelled their numbers. Some of these migrated voluntarily to Kazakhstan, which promised an easier way of life. The remainder were forcibly relocated to Central Asia by Joseph Stalin in 1937, ostensibly to prevent them from spying for Japan.

Throughout the years, these émigré communities, like the ethnic Korean communities of Chinese Manchuria and Jilin, have taken deliberate steps to preserve their cultural identity—observing customs and traditions, marrying within their communities, and publishing in the northern Korean dialect that was native to the original émigrés. This is now starting to change in reaction to the political and economic transformations underway in China and the former USSR. As members of the younger generation leave areas of émigré concentration to seek opportunity in Beijing, Shanghai, Moscow, and St. Petersburg, it seems increasingly likely that the social and cultural bonds that kept their parents' communities together will wear thin.

At present, the Korean populations of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and northeast China are still writing and publishing in Korean. In Almaty, Jae Chang found a Korean-language newspaper that has published continuously since 1917, and managed to obtain for the Library a complete run of the paper on CD Rom. In Yanbian, he found eight publishers still active. Their output is varied, ranging from works of literature to historical and anthropological studies and even Communist tracts, all produced by members of the émigré communities.



Jaeyong Chang came across a new compilation of sources concerning ethnic Koreans in the U.S.S.R. while visiting the former Soviet archives in Almaty, and an old Korean translation of *History of the Communist Party*, published by Moscow's now-defunct Foreign Languages Publishing House, while browsing in a used bookstore in St. Petersburg. *Kajahūsūt'an koryōin yōngsang charyojip. Ssoryōn kongsandang yōksa.*

Establishing working relationships with some of the bookmen proved more difficult than tracking them down, Jae found. While many of those based in China had moved operations to Beijing and were attuned to doing business with Western institutions, the publishers and book dealers Jae met in Kazakhstan were less savvy. Unused to the ways of Western business, some didn't understand how to invoice or why goods should be shipped before payment is received. Others preferred to strike deals only face-to-face, distrusting the idea of the long-distance transaction.

Jae is confident of the value of his efforts. As economists are starting to examine the influence of the Korean diaspora on today's global economy, historians are reconsidering the role the diaspora's components played in the geopolitics of the twentieth century, especially in the Russian Far East. The

materials Jae is acquiring, moreover, have been collected by no other library in North America. Even the National Library of Korea, in Seoul, has found the obstacles Jae is now grappling with too challenging to take on themselves.

The Korean communities of northeast China and the Central Asian republics represent only a portion of the Korean diaspora. Jae plans to acquire publications of ethnic Korean communities in Japan and the U.S. as well, hoping within ten years to have assembled a core collection for the study of the diaspora. So far, his work has been supported by the Librarians Association of the University of California and UC Berkeley's Center for Korean Studies. To realize these plans, Jae Chang will have to seek out not only steppeland publishers, but further sources of funding. 卍



Kyūshū is, as the directional marker in the black and white circle indicates, the westernmost of the four main islands of Japan. As such, it was visited more frequently by foreign traders. Ishikawa Ryūsen, *Nihon kaisan chorikuzu zu*.

*Mapping out the Past, continued from page 1*

With every handling, dirt and oils accumulate and colors are rubbed, decreasing the quality of the image and compromising the state of the item's preservation.

The East Asian Library's Japanese Historical Maps project addresses both access and preservation concerns. Two and a half years ago, EAL's Librarian for the Japanese Collection, Hisayuki Ishimatsu, began working with David Rumsey, founder of Cartography Associates, to create an online database devoted to the map collection. David Rumsey had already constructed a website for his own collection, which concentrates on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century maps of the Americas (<http://www.davidrumey.com>). He had the software, the hardware, the expertise—and the generosity to put them all at EAL's disposal.

To date, Cartography Associates and the Library's Photographic Service have put online some nine hundred images. Access is free to anyone with an Internet connection. Once in the site (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/japan/index.html>), users can search for specific maps or browse, review thumbnail images, call up details. They can save images to a file, add notes, and attach links. They can juxtapose or superimpose maps and

satellite images for comparison. Within the next month or two, they will have the added ability to project early maps over images provided by Google Earth. And soon they will be able to rotate the images, an especially important feature since early Japanese maps were designed to be read from all four sides.

Cartography Associates and the Library add images to the database regularly. Yuki Ishimatsu selects items for inclusion following a flexible set of criteria.

*In some instances, maps are selected*

*for their historical significance, in others,*

*for their representative qualities.*

When the Library owns more than one edition of a particular map, it tries to include not only the earliest but also all subsequent editions to permit the researcher to trace change in urban or administrative geography. A map's dimensions may also be a consideration. Early folding maps can be quite large in size, since it was understood that they would be spread



The newsletter of the East Asian Library is published three times a year by the Library, 208 Durant Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000, and is mailed with its compliments to supporters of the Library. For more information on becoming a supporter of the East Asian Library, call Peter Zhou, Director of the Library, at 510-643-6579, or visit the EAL website, at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EAL/about/support.html>.

© 2006 The Regents of the University of California

*Director of the Library:* Peter Zhou

*Librarian for the Japanese Collection:* Hisayuki Ishimatsu

*Librarian for the Korean Collection:* Jaeyong Chang

*Electronic Resources Librarian and Head, CCSL:* Susan Xue

*Librarian for the Chinese Collections:* Jianye He

*Senior Editor:* Deborah Rudolph

*Design:* Mary Scott

*Photography:* Deborah Rudolph

\*This seal was designed and carved for the East Asian Library by Ma Ji, of Xi'an's Beilin Museum, in a form of small seal script known as *tiexian*: "From the Collection of the East Asian Library, University of California, Berkeley."



Tokyo, 1892–1985. To the right of the Sumida River is the ward of Kōtō-ku, as it appears in Kanazawa Ryōta's 1892 pocket map *Shinzen Tōkyō zenzu*. To the left of the river, the ward Chūō-ku, as it appears in a Russian satellite image dating to 1985. The overlay suggests that the course of the river hasn't changed much through the last century, even if the number of bridges spanning it has increased. The imperial palace can be seen in the upper left of the satellite image.

out on tatami for reading. Other formats, such as folding screens and hand scrolls, are large, or long, by nature. To prepare such items for electronic publication, Cartography Associates takes multiple digital photographs that David Rumsey then stitches together, a process requiring equal parts of skill and patience.

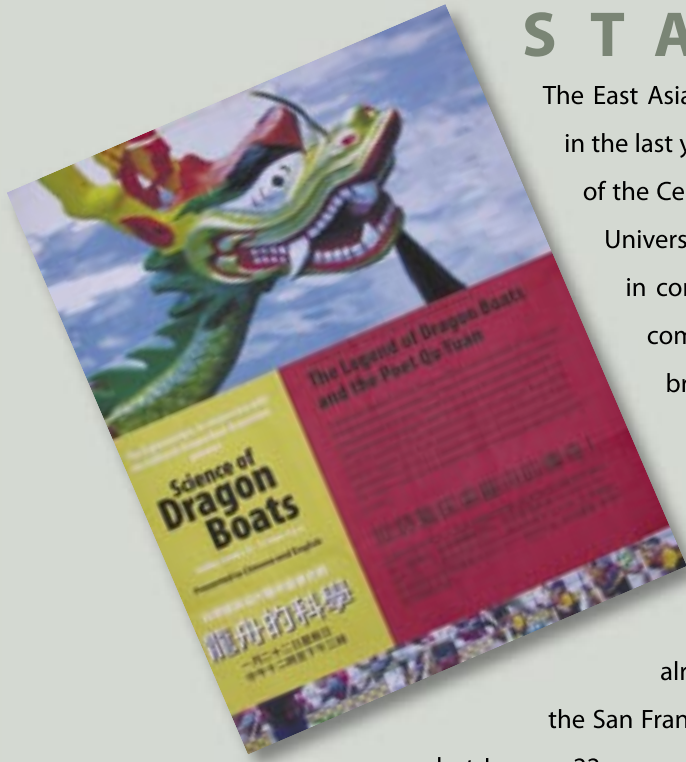
In the three days following the publication of a 2003 *New York Times* article on the project, the Japanese Historical Maps site received over forty thousand hits. Yuki Ishimatsu nonetheless continues actively to promote the site. He has given presentations to audiences in South Korea, Singapore, and Japan, including the Antique Map Society of Japan, the Japan Cartographers Association, and the Tokyo Antiquarian Map Club. He has also visited most of the major departments of East Asian studies in the U.S. This spring Ishimatsu will introduce the site to historians of science, philosophers, and librarians at Lund University, in Sweden.

Most collections of any maturity are the products of cumulative and collective effort, and in this

## EAST ASIAN AT THE MORRISON

On Sunday, May 21, the East Asian Library will be hosting an afternoon reception in the Morrison Library, just inside the north entrance to Doe. There will be welcoming remarks, dim sum, and an address by James Cahill, Professor Emeritus of Art History. Invitations will be mailed out in the coming weeks.

the Japanese Historical Maps database is no exception. It is exceptional in the sophistication of its presentation and in the quality of the collection it offers to the public view. Equally exceptional are the foresight and dedication of those who contributed to preserving the collection in good order and creating from it a resource accessible to all. 本



# S T A F F   N E W S

The East Asian Library has appointed two new librarians to its staff in the last year. Susan Xue, Electronic Resources Librarian and Head of the Center for Chinese Studies Library, holds an MLIS from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, and a Master’s in comparative politics from Renmin University, Beijing. She comes to Berkeley from the Government Publications Library at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she served as librarian, web master, and assistant professor. Jianye He, Librarian for the Chinese Collections, holds an MLS from the State University of New York, Albany, and a Master’s in classical Chinese from Nanjing University. While new to the Bay Area, Jianye He has already made herself a part of the community, helping staff the San Francisco Exploratorium’s Science of Dragon Boats program last January 22.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATES  
ROOM 131 DOE LIBRARY  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-6000

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA  
PERMIT NO. 45