

LIBRARIES IN CHINA

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A matter of international interest is the fact that the Commercial Press has been asked by the Chinese government to reproduce by electrotype that stupendous work already referred to as the *Four libraries*. It will appear in two editions, the larger edition is to be presented to the nations of the world as a gift from China, but the small edition will be for sale at about \$1,500 U. S. currency. It is to be hoped that when the reproduction is made the libraries of the world will avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain a set of this monumental work as a constant reminder of China's culture and civilization.

There is yet another factor which exerted no small influence toward the encouragement of the library movement in China and, that is, the example and helping hand of the United States. Most of the leading modern librarians in China were trained in the library schools of the United States. Some of the mission colleges and universities were among the pioneers in organizing modern libraries and in setting an example for others to follow. Quite a few of the scientific societies and educational foundations such as the Smith-

sonian Institution and the Carnegie Foundation have made contributions of valuable publications to important libraries in China.

The Boone Library School, made possible largely through the enthusiasm and devotion of Mary E. Wood, is the first and at present the only library school entirely devoted to the important task of training future librarians for China. Of special significance has been the influence of Arthur E. Bostwick who made a visit to China during the past year as the representative of the American Library Association in response to an invitation from the Chinese National Association for the Advancement of Education. Through the reports of his investigations he submitted, through the conferences held with librarians and others, through the public addresses he delivered, and through the personal contacts made throughout his travels, he gave China new inspiration and new encouragement, as well as new ideas and ideals for the further development of the library movement in China. The part he played toward the organization of the Library Association of China and the inspiration of his presence at its inaugural meeting have created a very close relationship between the American Library Association and the Library Association of China. May this happy relationship continue to remain as an additional friendly tie between the United States of America and the Republic of China.

LIBRARIES IN CHINA

By ALFRED K. CHIU, *Librarian, University of Amoy Library, Amoy (Represented Chinese Library Association)*

and JOHN C. B. KWEI, *Curator, Chinese Collection, Columbia University, New York*

Education in China can be traced to the remote past, but the new era in Chinese education only began in 1905, when an imperial edict was issued, abolishing the ancient system of classical examinations and replacing it with a modern school system. From 1905 to 1911, several edicts were issued from the Throne, a number of regulations were promulgated by the Ministry of Education, and important educational conferences were held; all of which resulted in improvement towards a democratic educational system. Thousands of new schools were established and many provincial libraries were started.

Public Libraries

In view of the above facts, it could be said that the library movement in China was initiated by the government in 1905. Today one may find libraries of modern type with twenty or thirty years' standing at some of the provincial capitals. In 1915 the Imperial Library of the late Manchu dynasty became the Peking Metropolitan Library, and many free public libraries were established by the educational boards of different provinces. In the same year, on April 11, the Ministry of Education promulgated eleven articles on the promotion, organization and administration of libraries throughout the country.

Furthermore, the public library movement received a great stimulus in three changes, which have come over the nation. First, the Literary Revolution and Renaissance in 1917 aims to make the Pei Hua or colloquial language the medium of literary expression, and to reevaluate the teachings of the old classical books in the light of modern life and conditions. Second, the Student Movement of 1919 was started with the object of arousing the common people to a new national consciousness. Third, in 1920 the Mass Education Movement was begun to teach the illiterates to read and write in one thousand characters. These three movements have been responsible for the sudden and large output of popular magazines and books in easy Pei Hua style. In 1914 there were only 367 magazines officially registered in the post office; in 1921, 921 periodicals were registered; and in 1925, 1,323—an increase of about 260 per cent in ten years. To house the increasing output of popular publications, simple buildings have been set aside for use as reading rooms and libraries. The book stock of a provincial library consists mostly of ancient Chinese classical books, while the free public libraries have more new books and translations of foreign works in easy Wen Li (literary) and Pei Hua (colloquial) style. The latter is, as a rule, more popular than the former. The following table gives a rough estimate of the number of public libraries and their volumes in the various provinces according to available statistics as of 1922.

Public and Free Public Libraries

Name of Province	No. of Public Libraries	Vols.	No. of Free Public Libraries	Vols.
Peking	2	25,000	1	1,400
Chihli	2	14,160	4	900
Fengtien	4	12,402	35	7,500
Kirin	1	2,200	3	700
Heilungkiang	2	1,830	3	650
Shantung	1	3,000	23	10,000
Shansi	7	10,000	9	2,700
Honan	1	5,500	22	9,000
Kiangsi	1	850	5	1,500
Kiangsu	11	30,000	5	1,600
Anhwei	1	1,100	4	1,200
Fukien	1	1,240	21	600
Chekiang	6	8,000	21	5,350
Hupeh	1	7,310	44	18,000
Hunan	1	4,500	14	3,500
Shensi	1	1,250	1	600
Kansu	2	3,000	2	500
Singkiang	.....	.....	4	1,200

Szechwan	....	1	4,500	4	1,600
Kwangtung	..	1	3,065	6	1,800
Kwangsi	.....	1	6,930	1	300
Yunnan	.....	1	4,740	6	1,500
Kweichow	... 1	1,880	..	.....	.....
Jehol	.....	1	390	1	300
		51	72,400	239	152,847

The future of the public library movement is brightened by the grant of half a million dollars gold by the Sino-American Boxer Indemnity Fund Committee, which is composed of ten Chinese and five Americans in administering the remaining portion of the Boxer Indemnity Fund recently returned by the American government. Secondly, Tan Kai Kee, the founder of Amoy University, has promised to give one million dollars to establish several public libraries in Amoy, Foochow, Shanghai and other cities. Plans for the libraries at Amoy and Shanghai are now under way.

School and College Libraries

In addition to the public libraries, many of the high schools have reading rooms which provide dailies, periodicals, and some books, while colleges have regular libraries, or several reading rooms approaching a small library. Some of the college libraries have opened part of their collections to the public, and others have established branches with books of popular nature for the use of people outside. They are doing some sort of university extension work. Among college libraries, that at Peking National University is the biggest, with a collection of about eight hundred thousand books, and is the repository for any book given by foreign countries as a gift. National Southeastern University Library is noted for the way of obtaining its building. As an act of remembering his father, General Chi Hsieh-yuen, ex-Tuchun of Kiangsu, donated \$500,000 to the University for a library. Tsing Hua College Library at Peking is well known for its modern and beautiful building and its collection of foreign books.

Society and Special Libraries

Society and special libraries are just beginning in China. No accurate statistics have yet appeared. Among the better known the following may be mentioned:

Sung Po Memorial Library, Peking

Chinese Social and Political Science Association Library, Peking
 Library of the National Association for the Advancement of Education, Peking
 Library of the Science Society of China, Nanking
 Commercial Press Library, Shanghai
 Library of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai
 Special Educational Library, Canton.

Training of Librarians

The library conditions in China are far from being ideal. The chief difficulties are the lack of money and the scarcity of trained men. The former is conditioned upon the economical development and political settlement of the country, and an effort is being made to remedy the latter. Realizing China's urgent need for trained librarians, the Boone University (now Central-China University), Wuchang, started in 1920 the first library school in China under the direction of Mary Elizabeth Wood and two American-trained Chinese librarians. The school is one of the several departments in the Faculty of Arts, and the course in library science covers three years, from sophomore to senior, with additional subjects in the other departments of the college. It is equivalent to about the first year work in an accredited American library school. During the past six years, twenty-nine students have graduated, and nearly all of them are in important library positions in the various parts of the country. At present,

twenty more students are under training. In recognition of Miss Wood's good work, Boone Library School has been given a grant of \$5,000 gold each year for three years by the Sino-American Boxer Indemnity Fund Committee.

Besides the Boone Library School, short summer courses in library work have been conducted in Peking, Canton, Nanking and Soochow. Since 1922 regular summer courses have been offered by different universities. The People's University at Shanghai has just organized a department of library administration, and is beginning to offer courses.

Library Organizations and Publications

The first formal library organization in China was the Library Section formed in 1921 in the National Association for the Advancement of Education. Under its stimulus and guidance, many local library associations have been formed in various cities. The crowning result of these associations is the formation of the Library Association of China in Peking, June 2, 1925. A monthly bulletin is being issued as its official organ. The Chinese Library Association also issues a quarterly, which is devoted to discussions on both scientific and practical library subjects, and to library news of foreign countries. Besides these, a number of books on library administration, classification, cataloging, and indexing have been published lately. It is reported that a complete translation of Dewey's Decimal Classification is being prepared by two competent librarians.

LIBRARIES IN DENMARK

By A. G. DRACHMANN, *Sub-Librarian, University Library, Copenhagen (Represented the Ministry of Public Instruction, the University Library, and the State Library Commission)*

The two great libraries of Copenhagen are the Royal Library (Det kongelige Bibliotek) and the University Library (Universitetsbiblioteket).

The Royal Library was established in 1661. Since 1697 it has received two copies of every book printed in Denmark, and so its Danish Department forms a National Library, i.e., the greatest collection in the world of books written in Danish, about Denmark or by Danes. Besides it has a collection of foreign

books, palaeotypes, and manuscripts which makes it the greatest library in Scandinavia.

The University Library was established in 1482, but in 1728 it was burned down in the conflagration that consumed two-fifths of Copenhagen. Since 1732 it has received a copy of all books printed in Denmark, so that its collection of Danish books, though inferior to that of the Royal Library, is still very considerable; among its manuscript collections the Arnamagnæan Collection of Ice-