The University of British Columbia Chinese Library Collection: A Report

The Asian Studies Division of the University of British Columbia Library was established in 1960 with a Chinese collection of 45,000 stitch-bound volumes almost entirely in the humanities. Today, its subject scope has been broadened so that Chinese and Japanese holdings in social sciences constitute about a fifth of the whole collection of over 193,000 volumes. With the prospect of its eventual relocation in a new Asian Centre, where the Library will not only serve the U.B.C. faculty and students but also Asian communities in British Columbia, a more intensive development of the present trend towards social sciences and inter-disciplinary subjects can be predicted. The Chinese and Japanese collections are strongest in history; next in numbers come the classics, language and literature, then social sciences and a much smaller number shared equally by religion and fine arts and by science and technology.

At present, with the exception of 850 volumes in Western languages (mostly reference works) and some sets of the Tripitaka in Tibetan and Pali, materials in the Asian Studies Library are all in three East Asian languages, with approximately 141,000 volumes in Chinese, 51,000 in Japanese and 1,000 in Korean. Eventually, it will expand to include a South Asian Collection of about 20,000 volumes (mostly in Sanskrit and Hindi) now housed in the Main Library. Chronologically, periods from the early to the modern and contemporary are quite evenly and adequately covered in the Chinese collection, but the Japanese materials deal with the modern period much more than the pre-Meiji Restoration (1867) era, and the Korean materials mainly with the period between 1910 and 1945. Sanskrit and Tibetan materials cover chiefly the ancient period, while those in other Indic languages the modern and contemporary.

The acquisition in 1959 of the P'u-pan Collection provided an excellent coverage of traditional Chinese works published before 1912. Besides its 320 rare editions and manuscripts, other valuable parts include the gazetteers, the classics, and individual works by scholars (particularly those from Kwantung) of the Ch'ing period (1644-1912). Gaps in the holdings have been filled with later purchases of private libraries, some 500 ts'ung-shu (collections of monographs), and a large number of Taiwan reprints. In modern publications, a comparison between these holdings in the areas of general reference, humanities and social sciences and those in the East Asia Collection of the Hoover Institution Library (Stanford University) shows that 80 per cent of their Japanese and 70 per cent of their Chinese materials
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are identical. As the Hoover collection is "best known for the richness of its materials of political, social and economic conditions in the modern Orient," the U.B.C. holdings can be rated accordingly.

The Development of the Collection

Prior to the formal establishment of the Asian Studies Library, faculty members were called upon to help in book selection. Contact was established with book dealers in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan; requests were made to East Asian libraries of the Universities of California, Stanford, and Washington for their duplicates; and a publication exchange programme was set up by the Canadian government and U.B.C. with institutions in China and Japan.²

It was Dr. Ping-ti Ho who negotiated for the purchase of the P’u-pan Collection. His colleague, Dr. Y.T. Wang, after comparing the books carefully with the original catalogue, published an annotated list of the manuscripts and rare books³ and a descriptive article about the collection,⁴ in 1959 and 1961 respectively. In 1965, a title-index to the original catalogue was compiled in card form by the library staff; and for convenience of retrieval, notations were designed for the classes and sub-classes used in the catalogue and stamped on the books and cards. So much has been written on the P’u-pan Collection that what now remains to be reported is how parts of the widely known Nan-chou Collection have become its core. The seal with the four characters of "Nan-chou Shu-lou" (Nan-chou Library) appears in many of the P’u-pan books, making it possible to trace the owner of this library, Hsü Shao-ch’i (courtesy name: Hsin-fu, 1879-1948),⁵ a professor of Chinese literature and bibliography, at one time curator of the Kwangtung Provincial Library, and one of the three most renowned bibliophiles of South China. A native of Kwangtung, Hsü concentrated his book-collecting activities on records, documents and literature of this province,⁶ hence his library’s richness in gazetteers and writings of Kwangtung authors. It is said that the best part of the Nan-chou Library was finally presented to the Chung-shan Library in Canton;⁷ other parts were sold and a large section was transferred

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² See Ng, Tung-King, "The Birth and Growth of an East Asian Vernacular Library, being the Asian Studies Division of the University of British Columbia Library," Canadian Library Association, Occasional paper, No. 53 (April 1967), pp. 1-5.
³ Wang, Yi-t’ung, A Descriptive Catalogue of Valuable Manuscripts and Rare Books from China (Part I) issued during the Sung, Yuan and Ming Dynasties (1060-1624) in the Library of the University of British Columbia: Being the P’u-pan Collection brought together by Tao Chun-shih of A Macao, Vancouver, University of British Columbia, 1959 (mimeographed).
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to the Yao family, former owner of P'u-pan. As a result of Hsü Shao-ch'i's interest in his native province, many unpublished manuscripts by Kwang-tung authors were included in his library. Although most of them are now in Canton, a few can still be found in the P'u-pan Collection. One of these, the Shuo-wen sheng-t'ung or Shuo-wen sheng-piao, by a very distinguished Kwang-tung scholar, Chen Li (1810-1882), was photographed at the U.B.C. Library and then published in three volumes in Taiwan in 1971.

To the P'u-pan Collection, about 5,200 volumes in English which originally constituted the library of the International Secretariat, Institute of Pacific Relations, New York, were added in 1961. In the following year, after having been catalogued, these volumes were integrated into the U.B.C. Main Library, and their records were withdrawn from the Asian Studies Collection, which then became a special language library, consisting of only materials in the three East Asian languages.

Budget limitations slowed the development of the collection between 1961 and 1964. In the face of ever-rising book prices, and keen competition by other libraries, the small annual allocations could hardly cover the best part of the current imprints, let alone retrospective acquisitions. Fortunately a series of special grants and gifts of hundreds of volumes were received from time to time from private or institutional sources such as the Canada Council, Friends of the U.B.C. Library, Koerner Foundation, Japan Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mr. H.R. MacMillan, Mr. Harry Chin, Mrs. Harue Mimoto, etc., making it possible to acquire expensive collections of monographs and serials.

With a fair share of the large gift to the University Library from Mr. H.R. MacMillan in 1965, an approval or "blanket order" system was introduced to cover current imprints in a limited number of subject fields; professionals were added to the staff for the first time, and the head librarian made an acquisitions trip to Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan. As a result, two private collections (the Ching-i Chai and Sung Hsüeh-p'eng Collections) of materials comparable and supplementary to the P'u-pan Collection, a number of Chinese and Japanese periodicals, and over a thousand titles of Chinese literary works of 1910-1960 were added to the Library. The former owner of the Ching-i Chai Collection, Mr. Ch'en Ch'i-lien (fl. 1930-1940) of Kwang-tung, was successful in both the academic and commercial worlds in Hong Kong. A collection of about 4,000 volumes was the fruit of his labour in collecting older Chinese imprints, among which are the T'ung-chih-t'ang ching-chieh (The T'ung-chih-t'ang collected works on the classics), 1873, and T'ang Sung wen-shun (Prose works of the T'ang and Sung periods), 1738. The Sung Hsüeh-p'eng Collection is, though small in size (500 volumes), valuable for its Kwangtung local gazetteers which supplement the P'u-pan. Sung Hsüeh-p'eng (fl. 1900-1940), a native of Kwangtung who lived in Hong Kong, taught Cantonese to many distinguished foreigners (the first a young cadet, Cecil Clementi, who later in 1925 became the Governor of Hong Kong).8

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8 Sung, Hsüeh-p'eng (Sung, Hok P'ang), Kuang-chou pai-hua hui-hua, (Cantonese conversation), Hong Kong, 1934, p. 1.
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In 1972, Mr. Harry L. Chin, a prominent businessman of Vancouver, donated $10,000 to the Library for materials on Chinese culture for a five-year period on an instalment basis.10 With this the Library has acquired many titles of Chinese genealogy, catalogues of East Asian libraries, Taiwan reprint series, and back issues of some Peking journals, which were suspended in 1966 but have resumed publication recently.

Early in 1974, another timely donation of $75,000 was received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for materials in the field of East Asian studies.11 A committee was formed for allocating funds to various disciplines for relevant materials. One of the appropriations has helped to strengthen the Japanese collection in three areas: Korea, Northeast China and Taiwan, during their Japanese occupation period. In the humanities (especially in Chinese classics) the availability of different editions of the same book are important for textual studies, but for social science research as in the study of these regions, it is essential to accumulate a critical mass of research materials. Among these, the Japanese materials are a major source of information on social and economic conditions in these areas during the first half of the century.

Other areas in the collection benefitting from the Mellon grant are fine arts, Buddhism, education and archaeology.12 The Library’s collection of Buddhist canons and literature has expanded vigorously since Dr. Shotaro Iida joined the U.B.C. faculty and started advising on book selection in this field eight years ago. One of the important items purchased on his recommendation is a microfilm copy of the Stein Collection of Tunhuang Manuscripts from the British Museum. In 106 reels, it contains the principal sūtras, Vinaya and Abhidharma texts.13 The original manuscripts, mostly scrolls, and a large number of religious paintings, were collected from a walled-up chamber adjoining one of the caves of the Ch’ien-foo-tung (Caves of the Thousand Buddhas), near Tunhuang, Kansu, by Aurel Stein, and were deposited in the British Museum in 1909. The Buddhist works in this collection are said to amount to more than three-quarters of the whole that was found in Tunhuang. This notable addition has greatly enhanced the research value of the Buddhist collection, which is now adequate to support a Ph.D. programme in religious studies.

Chinese materials in education formed one of the weak spots in the collection. To rectify this deficiency, back files of a few important journals such as Chiao-yü tsa-chih (Journal of education) and Hsin Chiao-yü (New education) have been acquired with the Mellon grant. Under the head librarian’s book selection programme since the beginning of the collection, materials on archaeology have been developing steadily to the stage where they were sufficiently strong to support a course in this subject that started two years ago. Since the Mellon grant made gap-filling acquisitions possible,

11 Ibid., v. 13, no. 2, (March 1974), 3.
12 Materials in Japanese and Tibetan on Buddhism not relevant to Chinese studies will be discussed later in their respective language sections.
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A number of expensive titles have been obtained, e.g., *Hsiao chiao-ching ko chinsih wien-tzu* (The Hsiao Chiao-ching Ko Collection of metal and stone inscriptions), *Tsin-Chou ch'ing-t'ung-ch'i fên-lei t'u-lu* (Classified illustrations of bronze works of the Yin-Chou period), *Inkyo bokui kenyū* (A study on Yinhhsi oracle bone inscriptions), and *Kyōto Daigaku Jimbin Kagaku Kenkyūjo shozō kokotsu noji* (The collection of oracle bone inscriptions in the Institute of the Humanities, Kyoto University).

The collection has benefitted greatly from donations of books and journals from institutions. On an exchange basis, materials in Chinese from the National Library of Peking, and Japanese government publications from the National Diet Library of Japan are being regularly received. From private sources too, collections ranging from 100 to 2,300 volumes, have been donated to the Library. In 1966 and 1967, for instance, two Chinese private collections were generously presented to the Library from Mr. Charles K.C. Lowe and Mr. and Mrs. Tong Louie, all of Vancouver. Because of their high quality, both collections have admirably supplemented the holdings in Chinese Buddhist literature and philosophical and literary works of the 912-1565 period. Mr. and Mrs. Louie donated the collection of the late Mr. Seto More, Mrs. Louie's father, a prominent businessman and Chinese scholar. The Seto represents the largest private collection (approximately 1,100 titles in 2,300 volumes) received as a gift. In April 1976, Mr. Yuhtai Lee of Vancouver presented to the Library 79 new titles in Chinese literature from the People’s Republic of China, conveniently filling gaps in the holdings.

The Chinese Collection

The Chinese Collection has aimed at a balanced coverage of various fields of research with history as the core. Beginning with official histories, the Library has various editions (e.g., *po-na pen*) of the Twenty-four Histories, of which the most important is the chiao-tien pen (collated and punctuated edition) from the People’s Republic. These histories of many dynasties were written one at a time over a long period from the beginning of the Han to the early Ch’ing, in over 3,200 chuăn and almost 40 million characters, covering a period from the legends of Huang-ti (fl. 2697 B.C.) to the cultural, economic and political histories of the successive dynasties up to the end of the Ming (1368-1644). The absence of punctuation made it very difficult to read the old editions, not to mention their many errors and discrepancies as a result of changes made by different editors through the ages. The rectification of all this formed a difficult task, which in 1958 was assigned to the Chung-hua Shu-chü by the State Council of the People’s Republic. Over a hundred historians and literary experts participated in the task. From 1958 to 1963, four of the histories were published. After the Cultural Revolution, work on the rest was finished between 1972 and 1975. By late 1977, a new Erh-shih-ssu shih, with punctuation and few errors, and in a form much closer to the originals, will be offered to the public.

The history of the Ch’ing (1644-1912) is not included in the Twenty-four

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Histories. In 1914, an office was established for the compilation of it, and the Ch'ing-shih-kao (Draft history of the Ch'ing dynasty) was published in 1927. The two different editions of this work (the kuan-net pen and kuan-wai pen) have become the subject of great controversy, and publication was soon prohibited altogether. The U.B.C. collection is lucky to have both editions available. In 1960, the Ch'ing shih-kao was revised and enlarged, the result being published in 1961 as Ch'ing-shih. It was included in the Jen-shou pen Erh-shih-liu shih (Jen-shou edition of the 26 histories) in 1971. These are all among the U.B.C. holdings.

In his article on the P'u-pan Collection, Dr. Y.T. Wang mentioned a few other rare items, e.g., the Ch'ing shih-lu or Veritable records of the Manchu emperors, printed only in a very limited number of copies. Since then, two different editions of the Ming shih-lu (Veritable records of the Ming emperors), have also been purchased. The first, published in 1941 and known as Liang (Hung-chih) pen, was also printed in a limited number of copies. It has, however, been overshadowed by the other, painstakingly collated by the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, from 1933 to 1961, involving many experts and the use of many different manuscripts excepting the Liang pen, which U.B.C. is fortunate to have for textual studies.

On Chinese modern history, there is a collection of basic research materials in the Library. The first type consists of materials hitherto unavailable but now published together, e.g., the diplomatic documents from the Grand Secretariat Archives, Ch'ou-pan i-wu shih-mo (A complete account of management of barbarian affairs), published by the Palace Museum, 1930, and including documents of the period 1836-74. An index to this multi-volume work is entitled Ch'ing-tai ch'ou-pan i-wu shih-mo so-yin. There are also two supplements, i.e., Ch'ing-chi wai-chiao shih-liao (Historical materials on foreign relations in the latter part of Ch'ing), compiled by Wang T'ao-fu, edited and published by his son, Wang Liang, 1932, containing documents of 1875–1908, and Ch'ing Hsüan-t'ung ch'ao wai-chiao shih-liao (Historical materials on foreign relations in the reign of Hsüan-t'ung of the Ch'ing dynasty), compiled and published by Wang Liang, covering 1909 to 1911. Another valuable collection of this type is the Ming Ch'ing shih-liao, chia-pien—jen-pien (Historical materials of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties, Series 1–9), published by the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, 1930–67. There is an index to this work entitled Ming Ch'ing shih-liao so-yin, 1972, but it only covers the first five series.

Scattered historical materials are often collected and published together in a series. The Institute of Modern History and the Third Institute of History of the Chinese Academy of Science, Peking, have published several series in the 1950s under such titles as Chin-tai shih tzu-liao (Materials on modern history), Chin-tai tzu-liao chuan-k' an (Monographic series of modern materials) and Chung-kuo chin-tai shih tzu-liao ts' ung-shu (A collection of historical materials of modern China). Shen-chou Kuo-kuang She

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16 Chu, Shih-ch' e, Ch'ing-shih shu-tien, Peking, San-lien Shu-tien, 1957, pp. 79–107.
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published the Chung-kuo nei-luan wai-huo li-shih ts'ung-shu (A collection of historical works on domestic disturbances and foreign invasions) in 1946. Its revised edition appeared in 1951 as Chung-kuo li-shih yen-chiu tsu-liao ts'ung-shu (A collection of materials for the study of Chinese history). Individual movements and events in modern China have been dealt with separately by the Chung-kuo Shih-hsüeh-hui (Chinese Historical Society) in the People’s Republic in the 1950s, resulting in the publication of a series: Chung-kuo chin-tai shih tsu-liao ts'ung-k’an (A collection of materials on modern Chinese history). Some of the titles it includes are: Chung-Fa chan-cheng (Chinese-French War, 1884-85), Hsin-hai ko-ming (Revolution of 1911), I-ho-l’uan (Boxers) and Ya-p’ien chan-cheng (Opium War). One of the many commercial series recently compiled or still in the process of compilation is the Chin-tai Chung-kuo shih-liao ts’ung-k’an (A series of historical materials of modern China), by Shen Yün-lung. It is rich in such source materials as biographies, diaries, memoirs, memorials, private notes, etc., of historical figures in modern China.

Another important collection of Chinese historical materials in the Library is the Hung-wei-ping tsu-liao (Red Guard materials), made available to Western libraries first by Eugene Wu of Harvard Yenching Library and later by Ping-kuen Yu of the Center for Chinese Research Materials, Association of Research Libraries, under the title Red Guard Publications (in microfilm). It contains items from wall-posters, leaflets, odd issues of periodicals to 113 monographs on a variety of subjects. Collected in it is information on important figures in the People’s Republic and events (e.g., Resolution of the Enlarged 12th Plenary Session of the 8th Central Committee of CCP on the CCP constitution).18

As listed in Ko Kung-chen’s Chung-kuo pao-hsüeh-shih (A history of Chinese journalism), 1928, the following periodicals published in the late Ch’ing and early Republican periods are “invaluable documents for historical study”19 because they reflect liberal thought of the time. Those that appeared between 1898 and 1916, edited by such scholars as Liang Ch’i-ch’ao and Chang Shih-chao, are as follows: Ch’ing-i-pao, Hsin-min ts’ung-pao, Yung-yin, Chia-yen tsa-chih, etc. Those that appeared in 1917-37, edited by Ch’en Tu-hsien, Fu Su-nien, Hu Shih, etc., are Hsin ch’ing-nien, Hsin-ch’ao, Hsien-tai p’ing-lun, Kuo-wen chou-pao, Tu-li p’ing-lun, etc. All those and some of the earliest learned journals such as Pai-ching ta-hsüeh she-hui k’o-hsüeh chi-k’an and Pei-ching ta-hsüeh kuo-hsüeh chi-k’an are available in the Library.

Modern Chinese historiographers from Liang Ch’i-ch’ao to Ku Chiehkang were of the opinion that archaeological finds, which had a great impact on the study of Chinese history and other subjects (e.g., chronology, fine arts, philology and social history), should receive as much attention as written materials on Sinology. Take oracle bones, for instance, which were first discovered in 1899. By 1957, some 162,000 pieces had been collected, 269 persons had studied the inscriptions on them, and 876 articles and books had

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been produced on the subject. Basic works by leading scholars in “chia-khu-hsüeh” (study on oracle bones), e.g., Lo Chen-yü’s Yin-shang chen-pu wen-lzu k’ao and Yin-hsiu shu-ch’i ch’ien-pien, hou-pien and k’ao-shih; Wang Kuo-wei’s collected works, Tung Tso-pin’s Chia-ku nien-piao and Supplement, Chia-ku-uen t’u-an-tai yen-chiu li, Chung-kuo nien-li tsung-p’u and Yin li-p’u; Kuo Mo-jo’s Chia-ku wen-lzu yen-chiu and Yin-ch’i ts’u-i-pien; reports and compilations of institutions, e.g., Chung-kuo k’ao-ku pao-kao chi (A collection of reports on Chinese archaeology) by the Academia Sinica, as well as works by Japanese authors, e.g., Kyōto Daigaku Jimbun Kagaku Kenkyūjo shozō kōkotsu maji (The collection of oracle bone inscriptions in the Institute of the Humanities, Kyoto University); Shirakawa Shizuka’s In kōkotsu bunshū (A collection of Yin oracle bone inscriptions) and a Japanese periodical on oracle bones, Kōkotsugaku, are all among the U.B.C. holdings.

Other articles discovered in China in the past seven or eight decades include bamboo and wooden strips of the Han (206 B.C.-220 A.D.), scrolls of the T’ang (618-907) from Tunhuang and other regions in China’s northwest, records in the Nei-ko ta-k’u (Grand Secretariat Archives), documents in languages of China’s minorities, bronze and other metal objects with inscriptions from various places in the country, and po-shu (silk-books) from Han tombs. Space limitations forbid discussion of any of them here, but this does not mean materials on these subjects are lacking in the Library. Not only older works such as those just mentioned above, but also very recent publications from the People’s Republic have been acquired; e.g., Ch’ang-sha Ma-wang-tui san-hao Han-mu po-shu (Silk-books from Han tombs at Ma-wang-tui, Ch’ang-sha) v.1, Lao-tzu chia-ten chi chüan-hou Ku-i-shu; v.2, Lao-tzu i-ten chi chüan-ch’ien Ku-i-shu, and also Yin-ch’üeh shan Han-mu chu-chien (Bamboo strips from tombs of the Han period at Yin-ch’üeh shan) v.1-4, Sun-tzu ping-fa; v.5-10, Sun Pin ping-fa.

Ever since Chang Hsüeh-ch’eng’s (1738-1801) recognition of the importance of fang-chih, interest in these gazetteers of Chinese provinces, prefectures and districts has been widespread. The fang-chih is a “peculiar crystallization of Chinese culture,” comprehensively recording all the facts about a place, including topography, changes of territorial division, climate, natural disasters, irrigation, products, population, taxation, schools, examinations, ancient sites, biographies, bibliographies and examples of writings of local scholars, etc. Ch’en Cheng-hsiang, a professor of geography, has pointed out two striking features about them: their great number and wide geographical distribution. According to his estimates, there are about 11,000 titles altogether. Chung-kuo ti-fang-chih tsung-lu (Comprehensive list of Chinese local gazetteers), by Chu Shih-chia, 1958, lists 7,413 titles. The Catalog of

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30 Hu, Hou-hsiian, Wu-shih-nien chia-ku-wen fa-hsien ti tsung-chieh, Hong Kong, Hua-hsia Ch’upan She, 1957, p. 1. For further reference see also the appendices in Ch’en Meng-chia, Yin-hsiu pu-tzu’u tsung-shu, ed. by Chung-kuo K’o-hsiueh Yüan K’aou-k’u Yen-chiu So, Peking, K’o-hsiueh Ch’upan She, 1956.

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Chinese local histories in the Library of Congress, also by Chu Shih-chia, 1942, records 8,939. At present, there are approximately 1,284 of them in the U.B.C. Library, including the 723 which have been published as Series One of the Chung-kuo fang-chih ts'ung-shu (A collection of Chinese local gazetteers), 197 in the P'u-pan Collection (86 of which are of Kwangtung) and 59 in microfilm.

Chinese biographical works are written in many forms. The nien-p'u (chronological biographies) are more detailed. Others include mu-pêi (tombstone inscriptions), hsing-chuang (biographies prepared for inclusion in a local gazetteer or official history), etc. As these materials are scattered, such bibliographies and indexes as the following titles from the U.B.C. holdings are valuable: Chung-kuo li-t'ai ming-jen nien-p'u mu-lu (Bibliography of nien-p'u of eminent Chinese), by Li Shih-t'ao, 1941; Li-t'ai jen-wu nien-li pei-chuan tsung-piao (A comprehensive list of biographical data of Chinese historical figures), by Chiang Liang-fu, 1959; Erh-chih-ssu shih chuan-mu yin-te (Index to biographies in the 24 histories), by Liang Ch'i-hsiung, and relevant titles in the Harvard Yenching Institute Sinological Index Series. Examples of biographical works on individual periods are: Sung Yüan fang-chih chuan-chi (Index to biographies in local gazetteers of Sung and Yüan dynasties), by Chu Shih-chia, 1963; Ming-jen chuan-chi tsu-liao so-yin (Index to biographical materials of the Ming), by Ch'ang Pi-te and others, 1965-66; etc. To these, more have now been added, including the Dictionary of Ming biography (1368-1644), edited by L. Carrington Goodrich and Chaoying Fang, 1976. A product of the Ming Biographical History Project of the Association for Asian Studies, it is comparable to Arthur W. Hume’s Eminent Chinese of the Ch’ing Period. Other new additions include Sung-jen chuan-chi tsu-liao so-yin (Index to biographical materials of the Sung) by Ch’ang Pi-te, and Chung-kuo chin-tai jen-wu chuan-chi tsu-liao so-yin (Index to biographical materials of historical figures of modern China) by the National Central Library, Taipei, 1973.

Despite the neglect that social science subjects suffered at the beginning of the UBC Chinese collection, basic research materials have subsequently been added under the guidance of the faculty. For example, economic history materials of different periods have now been acquired, from the Western Han to the Republic, the World War II years and the five-year-plan period of the People’s Republic. Also available are materials on specific economic aspects, e.g., railways, the Maritime Customs, rural development, etc. Chiao-t’ung-shih (History of communication), Nanking, 1930-37, is a monographic series covering a 60-year period up to the late 1920s. It represents an official record of China’s accomplishments in postal service, aviation, navigation, highway and railway administration, telecommunication, etc. Mi Chu-ch’eng’s Chung-kuo chin-tai t’ieh-lu shih tsu-liao, 1863-1911 (Materials on the history of railways in China), Peking, 1963, appeared in the series entitled Chung-kuo chin-tai ching-chi shih ts’an-k’ao tsu-liao ts’ung-k’an (A series of research materials on modern economic history of China), while Li Kuo-ch’i’s Chung-kuo tsao-ch’i t’ieh-lu ching-ying (China’s administration of railways in the early period) was published by the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, in 1961. Besides these, an important group of works on one of the Chinese railways, the Nan-man t’ieh-lu or Minami’ Manshū Tetsudō (in short Mantetsu, the South Manchurian Railway), and the development of China’s
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northeast provinces, is also available. These were published in Japanese by the South Manchurian Railway Co., e.g., Mantetsu Shina gesshi (Mantetsu monthly report on China), 1924-33; Mantetsu chōsa gekkō (Mantetsu monthly survey), 1919-44; Mantō keizai nenpō (Annual report on the economy of Manchuria), 1933; Mantō tetsudō kensetsu hiwa (Secret stories of railway building in Manchuria), 1939; Mantetsu fuzokuchi keiei enkaku zenshi (History of development of regions in the vicinities of the Mantetsu), 1945 (?). Mantetsu also published surveys on a great variety of subjects, such as agriculture, industries, economic conditions, rural conditions, mineral industries, real property, etc. in other regions of China.

The Maritime Customs, Decennial Reports (Shanghai, Inspectorate General of Customs, 1893-1933) contains reports on trade, industries, etc., of the ports open to foreign commerce in China, and on conditions and development of the treaty port provinces in 1882-1931. All reports are illustrated by maps, diagrams, etc., and include detailed statistics on foreign trade. As for rural development, all the six surveys by the Hsing-cheng-yüan Commission on Rural Reconstruction on the provinces of Chekiang, Honan, Kiangsu, Kwangsi, Shensi and Yunnan are in the collection, together with similar reports in Japanese published by the Chūgoku Nōson Kankō Chōsa Kan-kōkai (Publishing Committee for Reports on Rural Customs and Practices of China).

For source-material on the political and social history of China from the T'ang (618-907) to the end of Ch'ing (1644-1912), the Library has a valuable reservoir in the Chiu-t'ung (A collection of nine works classed together for those governing the country). (There is also a copy of the Shih-t'ung (.. ten works ..) in the Library); the hui-yao (collected chief information) of eight periods from Ch'in to Sung, which supply information on genealogy, geography, administration, population, economics, military systems, etc., of the period they deal with, performing the role of a small encyclopedia; and the ching-shih wen (Material for statecraft), the first of which is the Huang-Ming ching-shih wen pien (Statecraft materials of the Imperial Ming), followed by others of subsequent periods, i.e., the Ch'ing dynasty and the Republic.

Ch'eng-fu kung-pao (the government gazette) is a recent acquisition of important political source materials, some in book form, others in microfilm. The former was published by Wen-hai Ch'ü-pan She, Taiwan, 1971-76, covering the years of 1912-28. The microfilms include the gazettes of (1) Yunnan, 1923-28, (2) Hopei, 1938-43, (3) Nan-ching Wei-hsin Cheng-fu, 1938-39 and (4) Nan-ching Kuo-min Cheng-fu, 1940-43. Lei Chin's Ch'eng-fu kung-pao fen-let hui-pien (Classified collection of the government gazette) can be used as a guide to the part in book form. Great effort has been made in the acquisition of government documents from the People's Republic, e.g., documents of the National People's Congress, its Standing Committee, bulletins of the State Council, treaties, etc. Not all the efforts have been successful and there are still gaps in the holdings. From the Hoover Institution the Shih-sou tzu-liao-shih kung-fei tzu-liao (Materials on Chinese Communism held in the Shih-sou Library) was acquired on microfilm. It is considered the most comprehensive Western collection of CCP documents.

Only two groups of materials in Chinese language are discussed here. The
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first concerns traditional works in etymology and phonology, especially the Shuo-wen chieh-tzu (An etymological dictionary), by Hsü Shen (d. 120?). There are several different editions of this work and some eighty titles about it in the P’u-pan Collection alone, including a Sung edition of the Hsü-shih Shuo-wen wu-yin yün-pu, by Hsü Hsüan (916-991), and the manuscript of the Shuo-wen sheng-t’ung as mentioned in the section concerning the collection’s development. From inscriptions on metal and stone objects the etymological development can be traced. There is a very rich collection in the P’u-pan of works on all aspects of “chin-shih” (metal and stone), but only those relating to the inscriptions are selected as follows: Chin-hsieh lin-lang, T’ieh-ch’iao chin-shih pa, Chi-chin so-chien lu and Chin-shih wen-ch’ao. The Hung-wu sheng-yün with several Ming editions in the P’u-pan, is the most notable among holdings in Chinese phonology. These are strongly supported by modern publications, e.g., Ting Fu-pao’s Shuo-wen chieh-tzu ku-lin and the annotated editions of Chung-yüan yün-yün originally by Chou Te-ch’ing (fl. 1314-24).

The second group contains materials on Chinese language reform. Tu Tzu-ching’s Chung-kuo wen-tzu kai-ko yün-tung nien-piao (Chronological table of the Chinese language reform movement) provides valuable information on its historical development. For the beginnings of this movement, the Ch’ing-mo wen-tzu kai-ko wen-chi (A collection of literature concerning language reform in the late Ch’ing period) should be consulted. For later developments, the Library has basic materials such as the lists of and works on the simplified characters from the People’s Republic, published since the announcement of the Han-tzu chien-hua Fang-an (Chinese characters simplification programme) in 1956, e.g., Chien-hua tsu tsung-piao lists 2,238 simplified characters and Wen-tzu pi-hsiü kai-ko (The Chinese characters must be reformed) summarizes the achievements in the People’s Republic in this field.

From Shih-ching (Book of Odes) to Shih-k’an (Journal of poetry), the number of writings in Chinese literature (belles lettres) is enormous. This is where the many bibliographies and other reference works in the collection are most necessary. The P’u-pan Collection provides block-print and other old editions for a large number of basic traditional works, which are strongly supported by modern critical writings as well as reprints with annotations and commentaries. Collections of individual works of poetry and essays of a single or several periods usually are found in two or more editions in the Library. For the classics, there are the Shih-san ching chu-shu (The thirteen classics with annotations), Wu-ching (The five classics), and T’ung-chih t’ang ching-chieh (The T’ung-chih T’ang collected works on the classics). Among the many editions of the Ch’u-ts’u and books on it, there are some Ming editions. Yüeh-fu shih-chi includes most of the Han poetry in the form of “yuèh-fu,” while the Yü-t’ai hsin-yung covers other poetic forms. The Ch’üan Han San-k’uo Chin Nan-pe-ch’ao shih contains the poetry of the periods indicated in the title. Ch’üan T’ang shih records the best part of T’ang poetry in 900 ch’üan. Hua-chien chi covers the main body of ti’u (the representative poetic

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form of the Sung dynasty) of the T’ang and Wu-tai periods, while Sung liu-shih ming-chia tz'u covers those of the Sung. Most of the poetic works of the Yüan and Ming periods are in the Yüan shih-hsiian and Ming shih-tsung. Editions of the collections of essays are just as fine and numerous as the poetry. Besides the Ch’iian T’ang wen, Sung wen-chien, Yüan wen-lei and Ming wen-heng, each of which covers a single dynasty, there are also collections including several periods such as the earliest Wen-hsiian, edited by Hsiao T’ung (501-531), Han Wei Liu-ch’ao pai-san chia chi, Yao Nai’s Ku-wen-tz’u lei-tsuian that selected essays from the Ch’in to the mid-Ch’ing in thirteen sections (with a supplement by Wang Hsien-ch’ien) and Yen K’o-ch’un’s Ch’iian shang-ku san-tai Ch’in Han San-kuo Liu-ch’ao wen, that includes works of 3,497 authors, although the quality of some of its contents is questionable.

The total number of individual literary works from the Han down to the Ch’ing recommended in the Shu-mu ta-wen pu-cheng comes to 289, and 223 (representing 77 per cent) of them are in the Library. In the P’u-pan alone, there are approximately 1,260 individual works, about 850 by Ch’ing authors. Many of the authors are natives of Kwangtung, e.g., Chang Chiu-ling (678-749), (there is a Ming edition of his Chang Ch’u-chiang chi), Ch’en Hsien-chang (1428-1500), (there are one Ming and two early Ch’ing editions of his Po-shih ts’u chi), Ch’ü Ta-ch’un (1630-1696) (there is a manuscript copy of his Tao-Yüan-t’ang wu-lü) and Ch’en Li (1810-1882) (the copies of both his Tung-shu tu-shu chi and Tung-shu chi were printed in his lifetime).

The collection is rich in traditional drama, or rather opera, i.e., ch’ü or tsao-chü of the Yüan and the ch’üan-chü of the Ming. Collections of these works in the U.B.C. holdings include the Yüan-chü hsüan, Liu-shih chung chü, T’uan-jen tsao-chü ch’üan-chü, Ku-pen Yüan Ming tsao-chü, Sheng Ming tsao-chü, Ming-jen tsao-chü hsüan, Ming Ch’ing ch’üan-chü hsüan and Ku-pen hsü-chü ts’ung-k’an, Su-chi, Chiu-chi (A collection of old editions of drama, Series 4, Series 9). The titles listed under Hsiao-shuo chia (The fiction class or section) in the Shu-mu ta-wen pu-cheng are all in the Library. Some of them, e.g., Hsi-ching tsao-chü and T’ai-p’ing kuang-chü, are in very good editions.

For the study of modern Chinese literature, the Chung-kuo hsien-wen-hsiieh taohsi (A corpus of China’s new literature) provides the first ten years’ materials while the Chung-kuo hsien-wen-hsiieh yen-tung shih (History of China’s new literature movement) gives information on books and authors concerned. In 1959, attempts were made to publish representative works in a series: Chien-kuo shih-nien wen-hsiieh chu’ang-tso hsüan (Selected literary works of the first ten years of the People’s Republic of China), of which every literary form (e.g., drama) was edited by a leading specialist of the field (T’ien Han). Only three forms (U.B.C. has two: Drama; Songs and ballads) were collected in leading East Asian libraries in America. The same kind of attempt made by a committee to publish selected literary works of Shang-hai of the same period under the title: Shang-hai shih-nien wen-hsiieh hsüan-chü seemed more successful. Eight forms were collected in American libraries (U.B.C. has six).

Of the numerous works of about 1,000 modern Chinese writers published since 1912 which are in the Library, over 200 concern Chou Shu-jen (Lu Hsüen, 1881-1936) alone. Some of the latter body of materials has recently been acquired from a check-list, Lu Hsüen yen-chiu yü hsien-wen-hsiieh (Studies on
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Lu Hsün and new literature), compiled by Shen-chou T’u-shu Kung-ssu, Hong Kong. Almost all the 700 titles listed in it are now in the Library.

It is well-known that Chinese works were often preserved in ts’ung-shu or collectanea. There are at least 2,800 ts’ung-shu containing approximately 70,000 individual titles. The U.B.C. collection has over 500, including the Pai-pu ts’ung-shu chi-ch’eng (A collection of one hundred ts’ung-shu), 1964-69, and important ones published in the 1920s and 1930s, e.g., Ssu-pu ts’ung-k’an, Series 1-3, 1919-37 (contains 468 titles); Ssu-pu pei-yao, 1927-37 (351 titles); Ts’ung-shu chi-ch’eng, 1935-39 (4,100 titles); and Kuo-hsüeh chi-pen ts’ung-shu, 1929-41 (400 titles). Since the end of World War II, many new collections have appeared, e.g., Ssu-k’u ch’i-tan-shu chen-pen (Rare books in the Ssu-k’u ch’i-tan-shu) Series 1-6 and Supplement, published by the Commercial Press, Shanghai, Taipei, 1934-36, 1931-76 (1,488 titles); Wu-ch’iu-pei Chai Chuang-tzu chi-ch’eng (The Wu-ch’iu-pei Chai collected works on Chuang-tzu) Series 1-2, 1972-74 (138 titles), compiled by Yen Ling-feng (Yen also compiled similar collections on Lao-tzu, Lieh-tzu, Meng-tzu, Mo-tzu and I-ching), and Ch’ing-tai kao-pen pai-chung hui-k’an (A collection of one hundred manuscripts of the Ch’ing period), 1974.

Although it has been a slow process, the development of the Chinese collection has achieved the goal of a balanced coverage of different fields of research; it is much more capable of supporting efficiently the programmes in various disciplines than it was sixteen years ago. A few weak spots still exist: (1) Works in education as noted above; (2) Japanese materials in Sinology: this situation has seen gradual improvement since the receipt of the Mellon grant in 1974, especially in the acquisition of government reports and statistical surveys on Northeast China and Taiwan, as well as works in archaeology and general reference; and (3) Periodicals: as one of the fifteen largest East Asian collections in North America, the library has the smallest number of current periodicals (a total of 345, of which 145 are Chinese), and there are many more defunct titles than current subscriptions; the quid pro quo system that has been imposed in recent years on new subscriptions has prevented any effective remedial action.

As some important areas such as reference works and materials in microform and on fine arts, folk culture and literature, etc., are omitted, this article does not represent a complete review of the Chinese collection. If the general strengths and weaknesses of the collection have been identified, however, this review will have fulfilled its purpose. One feels deeply grateful to members of the faculty for their generous advice and support, without which the collection would never have achieved its present considerable size and scope.

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