

ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE NEWSLETTER

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Sino-Tibetan Conference

The XVIIth International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics took place at the University of Washington on September 16-18. The conference was sponsored by the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures, the China Program, and the Department of Linguistics. Among the more than ninety participants were scholars and advanced students from Canada, China (both PRC and Taiwan), France, Hong Kong, Japan, Norway, and Thailand. Of the forty-nine papers actually read at the conference, thirty-nine dealt with some aspect of Chinese linguistics, nine with Tibeto-Burman languages, five with Thai languages and one with Vietnamese. Sessions were chaired in part by out-of-town participants and in part by members of the local academic community. From this department, Professors Cooke, Schiffman, Serruys, and Wylie kindly consented to chair four of the sessions; in addition, Professor Ellen Kaisse of the Department of Linguistics, Professor Carol Eastman, Dr. Elizabeth Edwards, and Dr. Larry Epstein, all of the Department of Anthropology, served as chairs at various times.

The organizers of the Conference were especially pleased that several distinguished Chinese scholars were able to attend this year's meeting. The most noteworthy of these were Professor Chou Fa-kao of the Academia Sinica in Taipei; Professor Li Rong, Director of the Institute of Linguistics in Peking; Professor Fu Maoji, retired Deputy Director of the Institute of Nationality Studies in Peking; and Professor Ting Pang-hsin, Director of the Institute of History and Philology of the Academia Sinica in Taipei. We were also very pleased to host Professor Yang Huandian of Guangxi University in Nanning, a member of the Naxi Nationality and the only native speaker of a Tibeto-Burman language at the Conference; and Professor Jiang Xiwen of Guizhou University, an expert on early Chinese phonology.

Professors Yang and Jiang made the long trip from China especially to attend the Conference. Mr. Zhang Zhigong, a noted authority on modern Chinese grammar, was also able to attend. Mr. Zhang was already in the United States this summer as a special lecturer at Middlebury College in Vermont.

This year's organizing committee consisted of Professor Jerry Norman (chair), Professor William Boltz, Professor Anne Yue-Hashimoto, Professor Paul L-M Serruys, and Marjorie Chan (secretary). Next year's conference will be at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Arrangements will be handled by Professor Scott DeLancy of the Department of Linguistics.

Holiday Party

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature will hold its annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 15, 1983, from 3:00-5:00 P.M., in the Music Room of the Faculty Club. As in the past, all members of the department are invited as well as their families and other guests. Santa Claus has promised to drop in for a short visit with the children, and the various choirs of the department will entertain us with songs in their native languages. Judy Boltz will be at the Steinway. Please reserve this date.



Two Visitors from China

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature recently has been host to two distinguished visitors from China. Professor Li Rong arrived on September 12 and departed on September 25. Professor Li is currently the Director of the Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Social Sciences in Peking. He is an internationally known expert on Chinese historical phonology and Chinese dialects. On September 23 his lecture on "Differences among the Chinese Dialects" was attended by many of the department's faculty and graduate students. Professor Fu Maoji arrived on September 15 for the beginning of the Sino-Tibetan Conference and stayed at the university until October 6. Professor Fu recently retired from his position as Deputy Director of the Institute of Nationality Studies in the Academy of Social Sciences in Peking. Professor Fu is an authority on the Yi languages of Southwest China; he has a particular interest in the writing system of the Naxi minority and is the author of several important works on this subject. At present he is president of the Chinese Association for the Study of Minority Languages and president of the Chinese Association for the Study of Ancient Minority Language Scripts. Professor Fu delivered two talks while he was with us: the first was "The Structure of the Naxi Pictographic Script" delivered on September 29 and the second, "Minority Language Studies in China," delivered on October 3. Both Professor Li and Professor Fu's visits were arranged through the Distinguished Scholar Exchange Program of the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China. Local arrangements were handled by Jerry Norman.



Nicholas Poppe

In April 1983 Professor Emeritus Nicholas Poppe participated in the Conference on Central Asia, organized by Professor James Bosson at the University of California, Berkeley. He gave a paper titled "An Antique Motive in a Buriat Epic." In September 1983 Professor Poppe participated in the Fourth International Conference on Central Asian Epics, organized by Professor Walther Heissig in Bonn, West Germany. He presented a paper on "Betrayal and Murder in Mongolian Epics." The paper already is in print.

As the oldest member of the Finno-Ugric Society (a body of renowned scholars who are elected to membership), he has been invited to participate in its 100th Annual Meeting on December 1-3, 1983, in Helsinki. Professor Poppe will address the opening meeting with a talk on "Altaic Affinity." His paper already has been printed in the Symposium Saeculare Societas Fenno-Ugricae, pp. 189-201.

Professor Poppe also has finished a translation of the Kalmuck epic Jangar (about 300 pages in typescript), which will be published soon by Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden. An updated bibliography of his works published between the years 1977-1982, compiled by Arista Maria Cirtautas for his 85th birthday, appeared in Central Asiatic Journal, 26 (1982), 161-66. He has recently published an article, "Chaladsch und die altaische Sprachwissenschaft," in Central Asiatic Journal 27 (1983), 112-20.

Paul L-M Serruys

Professor Emeritus Paul L-M Serruys left on November 10 for Taiwan. He plans to spend six months at the Institute of Philology and History, Academia Sinica, finishing his translation of a collection of oracle inscriptions from the Shang dynasty. Professor Serruys recently was elected a corresponding member of the Academia Sinica, which is sponsoring his translation project.



Isabella Yen

Professor Emeritus Isabella Yen reports that she will again offer her course in Traditional Chinese Cuisine in Winter Quarter 1984. She also is continuing her work as a member of the Cornell High School Committee. The numerous services she performs for individuals and for the community make her a very valuable source person for people needing her knowledge of Chinese language, customs, and culture. Dr. Yen also reports that she is feeling quite well and that keeping busy plays a large part in her good health.

Jack Hawley

Professor Hawley spent a month in India this summer pursuing research that relates to two projects. For the ongoing project devoted to preparing a critical edition of the Sūr Sāgar he sought out and photographed a number of the large, relatively large manuscripts related to the text, and arranged for the indexing of others. For a project having to do with the hagiography and poetry of several Hindi singer-saints, he traveled to sites as far separated as Jodhpur and Benares. The purpose was to gain a keener appreciation of how the legacy of these saints is kept alive in the modern day, as well as to collect manuscript materials relating to their lives and compositions. This project received the support of a Short-term Senior Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies in November. Professor Hawley will present papers relating to these singer-saints at the South Asia Conference hosted by the University of Wisconsin and at a conference on Untouchability to be held at Columbia University.

Richard Salomon

Professor Salomon has finally finished his book on Aśvaghōṣa's Saundarananda: Literary, Cultural, and Linguistic Studies, and hopes to arrange publication shortly. He has not had time to do anything else in the meantime.

Ilse Cirtautas

Professor Cirtautas spent a busy Spring Quarter "on leave" attending conferences and presenting papers (Central Asia Conference, Berkeley, in April; First International Conference on Turkic Studies, Bloomington, May), teaching classes and giving lectures to local citizen groups going to Uzbekistan. During the summer she finally found free time to do some research. Essentially she prepared herself for her new course "Oral Epics of Central Asia" to be given in Comparative Literature during Winter Quarter 1984. The course will discuss Turkic and Mongolian epics. She finished an article, "Das kirgische Epos Manas in Forschung und Gesang bei den Kasaken" (The Kirghiz Epos Manas in Research and Song among the Kazakhs) which is already in press (Central Asiatic Journal, vol. 28, 1984). She also participated in the Fourth International Symposium on Central Asian Epics, Bonn, September 21-25. The topic of her paper was "Traditional Songs within the Central Asian Turkic Epics." It will be published soon in Fragen der Epenforschung IV edited by Walther Heissig. Another article that deals with a particular aspect of Central Asian Turkic and Mongolian epics appeared in July: "Zu den Einleitungsformeln in den Märchen und Epen der Mongolen und der Türkvölker Zentralasiens" (On the Introductory Formulae in the Fairy Tales and Epics of the Mongols and the Turkic Peoples of Central Asia), Central Asiatic Journal 27 (1983), 211-48. On October 22, Professor Cirtautas gave two workshops on Soviet Central Asia at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho, as part of a week-long discussion-lecture series on the Soviet Union sponsored by the History Department at Boise State University.

Ann Kotas

Ann Kotas, a graduate student in Japanese literature and a teaching assistant in Japanese 134 last summer, gave birth to a six pound eleven ounce girl, Maya Evelyn, on August 24. Ann is twice blessed: she has been hired to teach Japanese this year at Edmonds Community College.



Edward Kamens

Professor Kamens, Visiting Lecturer in Japanese, has submitted an article, "Kōya," for inclusion in the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Religion. The fourteen-volume Encyclopedia is being compiled under the editorship of Mircea Eliade, and will be published by the Free Press. Kōya, the subject of Kamens' entry, was an innovative Buddhist monk of the Heian period, and a popularizer of the nembutsu (invocation of Amida Buddha) as an expression of faith and means toward salvation.

Jay Rubin

Professor Jay Rubin was recently informed that the \$120,000 grant from NIMH announced in the first issue of this Newsletter has been withdrawn upon discovery that there was no foot fetishism in the late essays of Natsume Sōseki. The twins expected by his wife in mid-July turned out to be a pair of earrings. Vandals broke into the Monumenta Nipponica editorial office and destroyed his forthcoming review of the Journal of Japanese Studies (Winter 1982), leaving the rest of the issue mysteriously untouched. Professor Edwin A. Cranston has published an annotated notice in HJAS claiming that the sushi dinner he ate in San Francisco with Professor Rubin in March was actually lasagna.

David R. Knechtges

Professor Knechtges presented (in absentia) a paper, "Linguistic Problems in the Translation of the Fuh," to the Fourth Quadrennial International Comparative Literature Conference in the Republic of China, Tamsui, Taipei, August 22. On October 12 and 13, he visited the University of Colorado, where he gave a public lecture, "A Literary Feast: Food in Early Chinese Literature," and a seminar on Pan Yue's "Rhapsody on Pheasant Shooting," to the Department of Oriental Languages. His article, "Ssu-ma Hsiang-ju's 'Tall Gate Palace Rhapsody' ," which originally appeared in the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies 41 (1981), has recently appeared in a Chinese translation by Wang Hsin-ling in Kuo-wai hsüeh-che k'an Chung-kuo wen-hsüeh (Foreign Scholars Viewing Chinese Literature). The volume, edited by Professor Hou Chien, Dean of the College of Arts at Taiwan National University, includes translations of articles by Glen Dudbridge of Cambridge University, Patrick Hanan of Harvard, Kao Yu-kung of Princeton, L. N. Menshikov of the Soviet Union, David Lattimore of Brown University, and Jao Tsung-yi of Hong Kong. He spent the past summer preparing volume two of his projected eight-volume translation of the Wen xuan (Selections of Refined Literature), for submission to Princeton University Press.

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