

AAMES Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1

Fall 2011

AAMES Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Asian, African, and Middle East Studies Section of ACRL

ISSN: 1548-4343

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Letter from the Chair: Let AAMES Embrace Electronic Meetings

Over the past few years, many ALA/ACRL committees have been using different electronic means for conducting committee meetings. While AAMES has not been amongst the first ones to take advantage of these opportunities, AAMES did conduct the past two midwinter meetings via electronic means. And despite some technical glitches, we had completed the meetings successfully.

Of course, like many of us I prefer in-person meetings, for there are certain aspects that electronic meetings have yet to fully capture. Over the years, in addition to professional activities, I have built many long lasting friendships while attending in-person types of conferences. However, given the availability of telecommunication technologies and especially budgetary constraints, AAMES should try to hold as many committee meetings as possible via electronic means.

Electronic meetings, I believe, have many other advantages as well. One is that there are many colleagues who do not join or volunteer to serve on AAMES committees, especially to take on leadership roles, because they do not attend the annual and the midwinter meetings. Thus, if AAMES offers ways for potential members to join and/or participate in AAMES without going to the conferences, AAMES might be able to attract additional members, including international ones. Two is that the number of virtual interest groups within ALA has mushroomed. No doubt, the availability of telecommunication technologies has made it possible. But what might have also played an equally important role in this phenomenon is that there are constraints in ALA's existing structure (e.g., committee members are required to attend both the annual and the midwinter conference), and/or issues that have not been sufficiently addressed by ALA. Third is that electronic means enable us to collaborate with our colleagues not only within ALA but also in other professional organizations such as the Association for Asian Studies and the Middle East Librarians Association, as well professional associations and colleagues from around the globe. Lastly, if we use electronic means for committee meetings, we will be able accomplish many tasks before we actually arrive at the conferences. In that way, we will have time to discuss substantive issues as well as to attend other ALA programs.

Let's take advantage of electronic means to enhance greater participation in AAMES. We'll use electronic media not only for midwinter but also annual, AAMES committee, AAMES subcommittee, as well as (future) AAMES interest group meetings.

Binh Le, AAMES Chair, 2011-2012

Heading East, Writing West: An Exhibition at the University of Colorado, Boulder Libraries

Kevin McDowell is the East Asian Research & Instruction Librarian at the University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries.

View prints of brilliantly colored fish; flowing calligraphy; women in delicately patterned kimono; detailed sketches of temples, palaces, people and Chinese and Japanese nature. You will also find rare photos of wartime Japan and a diary detailing the anguished and famished last months of a Japanese soldier. These are some of the striking visual images and texts that make up the exhibit currently showing at the University of Colorado Libraries Special Collections Department: "Heading East, Writing West: Four Centuries of Traders, Travelers and Artists in East Asia."

Susan Guinn-Chipman is Lecturer, Special Collections Department, at the University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries.

The idea for the exhibit originated with a phone call. A Japanese historian from the University of Colorado History Department called to ask whether Special Collections held any *ukiyo*e (floating world) wood block prints. This spurred a search for Japanese prints that turned up a series of fish prints originally produced by Utagawa Hiroshige from 1836 and 1838 as well as other *ukiyo*e prints and Japanese materials.

Recognizing that the prints, with their impressive visual nature, should be displayed and promoted to the campus and university community, librarians and art experts in Special Collections and the East Asian Studies Librarian, in collaboration with the Planning and Promotion department, began developing an exhibit to display the East Asian highlights in Special Collections. The initial step in setting up the exhibit was searching further in the Special Collections stacks for East Asian items of interest. Some of the notable materials that were pulled from the shelves and prepared for display include early European accounts of China and Japan, a wartime diary written by a Japanese soldier stationed on Guadalcanal in 1942 (translated by Japanese Language Officer Robert D. Thornton) and photo-



Heading East (continued from p. 2)

graphs of Japan taken by a French woman, Germaine Kellerman in 1940, who was in Japan with her American husband, Maurice, a filmmaker.

Among the accounts of Japan by Europeans, Engelbert Kaempfer's work, *History of Japan*, which was translated from German to English and published in London in 1727 is of great importance in that Kaempfer provides a rare glimpse into the geography, climate, customs, people, government, and flora and fauna of Japan during the Tokugawa period, a time when Japan was largely secluded from the West. Kaempfer journeyed to Edo (now Tokyo) in 1691, recording his impressions of the country as he travelled. The book includes many meticulous illustrations and even some examples of Japanese writing and language. As one of the few Western accounts of Japan from that era, it stands as an extremely valuable record of Western perceptions of Japanese society and culture.

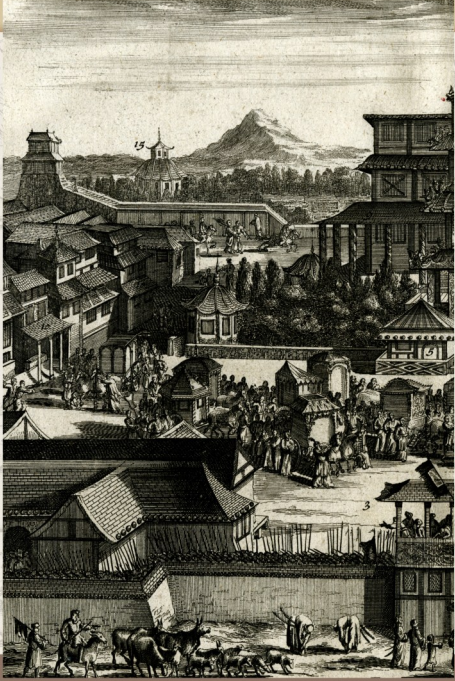
Another early Western account included in the exhibit was written by Arnoldus Montanus and published in 1669. Montanus, who had studied theology at the States College of Leiden, was appointed as a preacher to the East India Company. It was the Company's reports of voyages to Japan between 1649 and 1661 that provided Montanus with the material for his work on Japan, seen in the exhibit.

The photographs taken by Germaine Kellerman are also of great interest, as she portrays Japan in 1940, then enmeshed in war with China, without any of the trappings of militarism or portents of the looming threat of conflict with the United States. Later, however, her photographs appeared in Life magazines in two articles published in 1944 and 1945. In the magazine, the photographs are captioned with wording that depicts Japanese as combative, wily and deceptive, thereby taking the somewhat idyllic images captured by Kellerman and turning them towards the dominant wartime conception of Japanese society as aggressive and warmongering.

Through the efforts of the Special Collections staff the photographs and prints have been mounted and hung and the textual materials placed on display. Also, through collaboration between Special Collections, Planning and Promotion, and the East Asian Studies Librarian a promotional campaign has started with flyers and posters advertising the exhibit. This process has shown both the value of collaborating across departments and the importance of discovering and showing the many important resources held in Special Collections departments in academic libraries.


Heading EAST Writing WEST

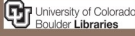

Four Centuries of Traders, Travelers, and Artists in East Asia
East Asian Highlights in Special Collections at the University Libraries
On display through February 29, 2012



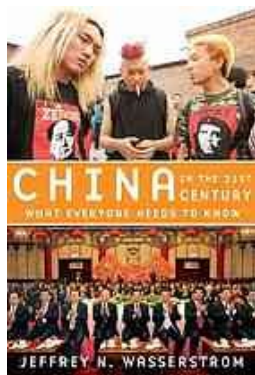
Location: Special Collections, Norlin Library N345
1720 Pleasant St., Boulder, CO

Hours: Thursday and Friday from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
and by advance appointment




 with support from
 

World Beat



Welcome to the Fall 2011 edition of World Beat! For this issue's column, I will review *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Jeffrey Wasserstrom, who teaches history at the University of California, Irvine. Although the author focuses primarily on modern China (indeed, the second section of the book is entitled "From Mao to Now"), he also covers topics as diverse as Confucianism, imperial China, and revolutionary China in his first three chapters. While the book is less likely to be useful to the specialized reader, it is an excellent choice for the general reader, particularly for undergraduates just beginning their research on the country.

For *China in the 21st Century*, it is impossible to discuss the book's content without simultaneously addressing its structure. Wasserstrom eschews the narrative structure typical of most works of this type and instead opts for a question-and-answer-style format, although he does not say why he does so. Questions range from the simple ("Who was Confucius?") to the more complex ("Why did the Qing Dynasty fail?") to the controversial ("What is the real story of the Tiananmen Uprising?"). One of the strong points of this book is that it allows the reader to either flip through the book at leisure, piquing his or her curiosity with each question along the way, or read the book straight through (as I did).

Of course, with such a slim volume (the book is a brief 135 pages, not including front and back matter), Wasserstrom had to make choices as to which subjects to address. His stated goal is to "help normalize discussions of China, a country that is too often seen as – to use the cliché – inscrutable." Thus, the questions that the author chooses to answer will be of less interest to, say, scholars of the Song Dynasty and much more pertinent to someone who knows little to nothing about China. Fortunately, in addition to copious endnotes, Wasserstrom includes a list of suggestions for further reading organized by chapter, rather than in an alphabetized bibliography.

Yet it is important to keep in mind that this book is not, nor is it designed as, a comprehensive work on China generally, and I would recommend that students supplement this book with more detailed books on Chinese history and culture when undertaking a research project on the country. However, due to its Q&A format, I believe the book to be less threatening and intimidating to undergraduates new to history, Asian studies, or related subjects, and that is the book's primary advantage over traditional reference sources, other monographs, or even Wikipedia. Since Wikipedia articles on countries and their history tend to be extremely lengthy and consist of other reference sources "piled on top" of one another, it is important to emphasize this shortcoming to undergraduates and to have a source like *China in the 21st Century* ready as an alternative.

On the whole, Wasserstrom's book is an excellent way to introduce readers unfamiliar with one of the most dynamic and powerful countries in the world today. I greatly enjoyed reading this book, and I learned a lot about China that I did not know. I would not hesitate to recommend *China in the 21st Century* for any collection.

Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780195394474; 9780195394122 (pbk.). \$74.00; \$16.95 (pbk.).

Blake Robinson recently received his MSLIS from Florida State University and works in the Circulation department at the University of Central Florida. He holds a master of arts in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Sydney, Australia, where he completed his thesis on the historiography of Islamic Spain.

Program Committee's Report on the 2011 Annual Conference Program



From left to right: Anchi Hoh, Ellen Tise, H.K. Kaul, and Majed Khader

At the 2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, AAMES sponsored a session on “AAMES Librarianship in the 21st century: Effective Models in an Age of Globalization.” The panel brought together an impressive range of national and international speakers and was moderated by Triveni Kuchi, Director of the South Asian Studies Program, and Sociology & South Asia Librarian at Rutgers University Libraries. This event was co-sponsored by SAGE Publications, OCLC, Chinese American Librarians Association, Asian Pacific American Librarians Association and the International Relations Committee of ACRL.

Dr. Anchi Hoh (Asian Division of the Library of Congress and Chief Executive Director for the Asian Division Friends Society) presented “‘Get the Champagne out of the Bottle:’ China-North America Library Conference and Post-Conference Initiative.” Dr Hoh talked about the clear objective of the China-North America Library conference: to identify post-conference initiatives that are mutually beneficial. The Asian Division of the Library of Congress took the lead in co-organizing the fifth China-North America Library Conference in collaboration with their colleagues at the National Library of China. Through these interconnections, libraries provide access to different nations, languages, traditions, and cultures where patrons can encounter new ideas, new voices, new discoveries, and innovative solutions. The conference consisted of sub-themes such as resource sharing policies and perspectives, digital infrastructure and repository technology, research data, shared digital access, retrieval and use.

Dr. H.K. Kaul (Director, Developing Library Network (DELNET), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India) spoke on “New Trends in Knowledge Organization: The Global Role of Knowledge Centers.” Dr Kaul discussed the establishment of knowledge centers and institutional repositories that are growing around the world. His survey shows that knowledge center services, which are becoming important for institutions, cannot be offered by traditional or e-libraries. The networking of knowledge centers and institutional repositories will promote the rationalization of global resources; the creation of quality content; access to resources free of charge or at a relatively low cost, and reduce duplication in the creation of content globally. DELNET – Developing Library Network is establishing the International Network of Knowledge Centers (INOKC) to let the resources of knowledge centers and institutional repositories be disseminated globally.

(Continued on p. 17)

Iraqi Academic Library Staff Development and Challenges

Academic libraries in Iraq can be traced back to the 1930s; however, the establishment of the University of Baghdad and its library in 1957 is the defining moment and a solid starting point. As in many developing Middle East countries, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been a leading force in training Iraqi library staff and advising how to build “contemporary” libraries. But there have been other organizations also, such as the Ford Foundation from the United States and experts from the United Arab Republic (from 1958-1961, Egypt and Syria were in a union called the United Arab Republic). In Iraq from 1952 to 1967 there were six training courses given regarding libraries. The number of participants and the period of training for the first two programs are unknown; with the other four programs the training time ran from two to six months with a total of 51 people participating in those programs¹.

Following this training, the University of Baghdad in July 1969 decided to establish a library Graduate Diploma course in its central library². This is the first Iraqi graduate library training program in the country’s history. However, it seems that it took three years to establish a full graduate diploma program. A. Sharif states that the University of El Mustansria created a Department of Library Science in 1970 that led to a 2-year diploma and a 4-year B.A.³, while the Graduate School of Library Science, University of Baghdad was established in 1972 with the help of UNESCO. Sharif stated it had a ten-month post-graduate diploma.⁴ A post-graduate diploma is also called higher diploma and in Iraq those who have a two-year college degree receive a diploma; it is equivalent to an Associate Degree in the United States.

Then in 2009, Abdulateef Hashim Khairi from Mustansiriye University in Iraq and a Ph.D. candidate at Simmons College, stated in a presentation that “there are five library schools in Iraq: three universities and two technical institutes.”⁵ In addition to those library schools he named there were also two more library schools in technical institutes in the Kurdistan Federal Region of Iraq: one in Hawler (Erbil) and the other in Sulamania. However, most of these libraries regardless of where they are located are in serious need of both equipment and retraining of their teaching staff.

In the period after the 2003 conflict there has been some training by international personnel⁶ and regional organizations, but all of them have been small in scope. According to data received from the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) in the Kurdistan Federal Region of Iraq, from 2003 to 2008 the following training has been conducted⁷:

- Virtual Science Library (IVSL), 2003 in Amman, Jordan
- E-Library, 2006 in Amman, Jordan
- Library Association, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq
- Library Management (UKHL⁸), 2008 in Hawler (Erbil), Sulaimany, and Duhok
- Cataloguing (UKHL), 2008 Hawler (Erbil), Sulaimany, and Duhok
- Library Security, 2008 in Cairo, Egypt

Despite these efforts, Iraqi academic libraries have really never fully developed modern, functioning libraries. The practice of using libraries for all they have to offer has been slow to develop and students utilize the libraries mainly as a location to read their own books.⁹ Furthermore, Iraqi libraries have always been short of professional staff¹⁰ and, most revealing, have almost never empowered the library professionals to perform their job. In fact, Iraqi libraries have been run by mostly by non-librarian trained staff. To illustrate this point Simon Francis, a UNESCO expert who in 1976 conducted the study “Development of Documentation and Academic Library Service,” made this observation about the library at the University of Mosul: “Neither the Director-General of University Libraries, the Assistant Director-General nor the heads of the Acquisitions, Periodicals or Gift and Exchanges Departments has received any training in librarianship” (Francis, p. 5). Even today many academic library managers and decision makers have received no librarian training; moreover, sometimes those who have do not even work in the library.

Amed Demirhan, MLIS, MADR, is currently the Director of the Library at the American University of Nigeria in Yola (Adamawa State) and was formerly the Director of the University of Kurdistan Hawler Library in the Federal Region of Kurdistan, Iraq. He can be contacted at amed.demirhan@aun.edu.ng

Iraqi Academic Library Staff Development & Challenges (continued from p. 6)

In addition to the above educational shortages, the Iraqi government's successive failed wars from the 1970s to the war of 2003 have further damaged the development of academic libraries and the opportunities for library staff development in Iraq. A study conducted by UNESCO in 2004, "Iraq Education in Transition: Needs and Challenges," estimated the value of damages to university and college libraries at \$44,412,455 USD. The same study estimated the cost of reconstructing those libraries to be \$1,367,321,057 USD.¹¹ However, this study did not count the cost of training the staff and the essential need of importing professional personnel to rebuild collections and establish proper services.

Iraqis today, while rebuilding their country, are in serious need also to rebuild their academic libraries in order to develop a research-based education. Fortunately, 21st century libraries are less expensive to establish than 20th century libraries and much easier to build, thanks to the Internet, databases, open access sources, digitization, e-books, smart phones, e-readers, and other e-devices. So both content and delivery devices offer quality at costs that are lower than before.

Therefore investing in 21st century libraries is the crucial choice for the education and development of Iraq and, fortunately, most likely much less expensive than UNESCO's estimate mentioned earlier. However, the investment must first be in personnel, librarianship and core library leaders, not in another building. In the past, the Iraqi government, like many other developing countries, has simply invested in large, attractive buildings and facilities. In Iraq's case, the educational investments in the 1970s and early 1980s were in many eye-catching library buildings, but they really never became functional due to the lack of trained professional librarians in all categories: management, collection development, and services.

For example, the Iraqi National Library building was one of these new buildings in Baghdad erected at a cost of three million dollars (USD). In 1977, the number of visitors to the Iraqi National Library (INL) was 35,780 with 86% of them being students. Yet in total these visitors consulted only 14,153 books (that averages to 40% of all visitors merely consulting one book). Experts who visited the reading hall regularly found no more than 20 to 30 seats occupied of the 300 seats total in the reading room (Kahlia, p. 18). Once more this shows that good libraries—those that accomplish their true purpose—are not just about buildings and new facilities nor are they just any collection of information resources. **Without professional librarians' leadership and knowledge, buildings and collections are mostly a waste of money and resources and of no lasting consequence for the population.**



Iraqi Academic Library Staff Development & Challenges (continued from p. 7)

Building 21st century libraries

The Iraqi government has to develop short-range and long-range plans to address this issue. In the short run it needs to import librarians with international experience and particularly with American education and library experience because America has the most advanced library system in the world. In the long run Iraq has to invest in librarianship/information science studies and develop its own expertise.

Importing international experts is not unusual for Iraq. In fact, the very first academic library in Iraq was built with help from UNESCO experts. One of the UNESCO experts, A.H. Helal, in a study conducted for the "Iraq Scientific Documentation Center" (February – April 1972) recognized this need and gave a detailed proposal for the training of Iraqi library staff and importing the necessary skills of librarians.¹² In later years Iraq has imported library experts on an on-going bases; however, they never reached a critical mass that could establish a functioning library of international standards or train Iraqis to operate such a library.

But the number one priority now has to be the training of professional librarians in order to develop and improve existing libraries. The Iraqi government has to develop a five to ten year strategic plan for library staff development. As the initial group will be trained and prepared for leadership positions, they must be carefully selected.

In addition to re-development of their library schools with contemporary concepts of librarianship, Iraq should send its students abroad for training. This is again something the Iraqi government has done in the past.¹³ The Iraqi government already has a generous scholarship program for Iraqis to study abroad, but it should specify a certain quota for librarianship, information science, and information management studies. This has to be one of the priorities of government for without professional libraries there will not be proper academic libraries and, consequently, no place for research and learning and the students they are sending abroad will return and accomplish very little because the proper research facilities will be unavailable.

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Iraqi Academic Library Staff Development & Challenges
(continued from p. 8)

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The author offers a special thanks to Dr. Robert Doeblner, Director of the A.C.E. Language Institute at Montana State University, for his help in editing and feedback. Dr. Doeblner has about four years teaching and management experience in Iraqi higher education.



Persistence of Vision: Iconic Memory and After Images of a Traumatized Tibet

In this the “forgotten phase,” the aftermath of continual, compounded catastrophe occurring in the Trans-Himalayas since my [Traditional Tibetan Medicine \(TTM\) essay](#) in October 2009 and following my [Traditional Chinese Medicine \(TCM\)-related post-quake summary](#) in April 2010, I convey here an update:

Without respite, enduring against an unrelenting earth and unrepentant sky, the survivors - human, wildlife, livestock - of the Qinghai (Tso-ngön) foreshocks and earthquake of April 2010 staunchly faced subsequent aftershocks, landslides, full-force gales, and disaster-relief-stalling snowstorms just a week later while yet in the midst of disease-prevention surveillance and potential recurrence of pneumonic plague outbreak (which caused to be quarantined the farming town of Ziketang in 2009) incurred by the displacement of formerly-hibernating marmots awakened by seismic waves beneath the fault zone’s trembling grounds, which extended to counties of Sichuan.



Yushu Medical Orphanage School, Credit: Jinpa Trust

*LaVerne Poussaint is
CKO of Plutonic Re-
search & Knowledge
Teams International
[PRAKTI] and Direc-
tor of its DeepMed
Library*

En suite, Gansu residents were challenged by torrential summer rains, flash floods, an over-flowing dam, and, thereafter, a massive mudslide which submerged their Gannan prefecture in August 2010. Besieged by the biosphere, another quake dislocated Yushu Prefecture dwellers in June 2011, permeating throughout rural Nangqên County (Nangchen, Nangqian), situated near the already-quake-devastated township of Gyêgu (Jyekundo).

This July past, a temblor jolted the Golmud exclave (at the juncture of the Yushu and Haixi Mongol Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures). Subsequently, in September 2011, seismic aftermath of tremors, sleet, and landslides disrupted the lives of Ganggu villagers of Yadong County residing near the Indo-Tibet border of Sikkim (northern India, Xigaze Prefecture, approximately Ü-Tsang of Old Tibet). People’s Hospitals of Xigaze Prefecture and of Yadong County withstood shifting of the terrain; both received quake patients.

Persistence of Vision (continued from p. 10)



Yushu Prefecture Tibetan Medical Hospital Credit: Tibet Foundation

To the lengthy list of 2010's officially-recorded global damages due to 950 natural disasters (including the earthquakes of Haiti, Chile, and New Zealand; floods in Pakistan and China; heatwaves and forest fires in Russia) should be added a registry of incalculable, ineffable loss of buried, unredeemed, or demolished remains of Tibet's ever-living treatises of traditional medical sciences (gSo-ba rig-pa).

On such an at-risk-and-in-ruins inventory would be written the wreckage of authentic corpora of *rGyud-bzhi*, the *Four Medical Tantras* (root, explanatory, instructional, subsequent); irreducible Indic source shastras (palm-leaf manuscripts on physics, biology, chemistry); representative disease research works of competing Northern and Southern schools of thought; foundational medical ethics classics; rare replicas of medical thangka teaching tools; medical scroll-paintings (Sman-thang); authoritative food tonics handbooks; medical cuisine recipes; study group polemic annotations; Bönpo healing arts esoteric; veterinary folios; materia medica series; methods manuals; localized ritual practicum; tantric knowledge maps; *sui generis* historic surveys; theoretical compilations in anatomy, embryology, cosmology, pathology, physiology, zoology disciplines; diagnostic, therapeutic, and pharmacologic typologies; medical anthropologic taxonomies; terminology glossaries; rarefied gTer-ma; clinical science historiographies; prescription compendia and codifications; medical mandalas; metaphysics logic; medicaments and substance formulae; surgical instruments; ethno-botanic specimens; medicinal flora and faunæ charts; herbaria; land registries denoting vegetable, mineral, tree, plant provenance; animal parts catalogues; reams of patient history records, epidemiologic data, and library collections of healthcare facilities, "barefoot doctor" clinics, and healing sciences educational institutions; physician diagnosis diaries; and bio-facts books.

Recalling my unsuccessful 2010 attempt to suss out the fates of these unparalleled text corpora (apprehending the falling through of these ancient bodies of knowledge down through the footwalls of stealth or archaeological decay) and keen to decipher the significance of their place within the scheme of modern health emergency relief response, the following is some of what I have deciphered.

Persistence of Vision (continued from p. 11)

The ravaging quake rocked 19 villages and rumbled through 87 monasteries, razing 10 of those. Procedural standards were enacted for purposes of cross-registration of rescued items between temples and teams.

With immediacy and efficacy, an expert team commissioned by the State Administration's Department of Cultural Heritage Conservation and Archaeology and the Qinghai Provincial Government's Bureau of Cultural Heritage commenced investigation, deployed security, and installed temporary protection facilities around damaged sites.



Wellcome Images

Credit: Theresia Hofer, 2003; Wellcome Images, CC BY-NC-ND

Thrangu housed Kham's premier repository and was principal possessor of a massive medical archives. Those of the library's collection which could be redeemed were transferred to waterproof tents. To the tally of the salvaged, from among the rubble of the upper and lower monasteries within that complex (previously partially demolished circa 245 years ago also by earthquake) can be counted a 600-years-old thangka remnant and 4,376 volumes of sutra texts, manually excavated from the main assembly and shrine halls by a team of soldiers from the Chinese People's Armed Police Force, under the direction of and in co-operation with the monastics. Relocation to a less tectonically-vulnerable site was undertaken and completed re-construction of the lamasery, dormitory, shedra (monastic college), and library are anticipated for re-establishment by this October's end.

The scripture halls and monastic college of the august lamasery (Gyêgu (Jiegu) Gompa - of the older Sakyapa order and scholarly tradition) were obliterated, as was Saikang. Yushu Prefecture Maternal & Child and Yushu County Maternal & Child Hospitals collapsed in the calamity. Eight other medical facilities suffered serious destabilization including People's Hospital of Yushu Prefecture. The Tibetan Medicine Hospital and the Health Inspection Institute of Yushu Prefecture sustained heavy, permanent losses. Qinghai Province Paediatric Hospital's emergency obstetric and neonatal surge capacity was augmented by UNICEF, which also disseminated bilingual (Tibetan and Mandarin Chinese) library book kits along with other quotidian essentials (inclusive of basic health manuals published in the

Persistence of Vision (continued from p. 12)

Tibetan script, enabled now according to its own unique international text coding standards {ISO} identifiers).

Remaining undisturbed, at a farther remove from the Rima Village epicenter, nestled deeply within the mountain valley range of Dêgê County is the literary treasure trove of Greater Tibet's timeless publishing tradition – the venerable Derge printing house (sde dge par-khang) and the Derge gGon Chen Shedra College, both under the administrative domain of the Gonchen monastery. Within the binders' cloth- and paper-cutting stack-rooms, storage chambers, woodblock-carving work stations, proofreading rooms, and inkers' engraving facilities are still produced the sacred sutras; osteopathic medicine text forms (pecha); and scientific, technologic, historical, biographical, mathematical, and multilingual cultural classic publications from all Indian and Tibetan Buddhist orders and branches as well as science-arts of *Bönpo* sects. These walls protect one of six of the only existing sets of canonical texts (vinaya) of early Indian Buddhism.

Still standing is the Dege Tibetan Hospital – progenitor of South Tibetan Medicine and host to an immense, cultivated collection of raw materials, tonic foods, and curatives gathered from the peaks of the Plateau.

Yushu Tibetan Medical Orphanage School and Hospital were rendered uninhabitable. Their dental surgery clinic, optometry clinics, and spectacle dispensary projects have been temporarily shut down. Its teaching arm has ceased and its medicine, optometry, and dentistry research functions were halted. Medications were trekked from the extreme remotes of Sershul Gompa village's Sershul (Dzachukha) Tibetan Clinic and Hospital.

Occurring as it did along the Yushu-Garzê-Xianshuihe fault zone, regional road damage was confirmed, but as of this writing, I cannot ascertain status of the Translation Bureau nor the unique eastern Tibet collections belonging to the local Garzê Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture Library.

The ruthless reach of the 2010 disasters did not extend to Tibet Traditional Medical College, Sera Monastery's legendary library (Lhasa), nor the Tibetan Medicine gallery of Tibetan Museum.

Prior to the April quake, obstetrical emergencies were overseen by Qinghai University Hospital (Xining) which also provided limited on-site care and outreach but now its severe state of disrepair, depleted resources, and massive numbers of injured medical staffers have eliminated those supplementary services for Tibetans.

Protected from the flotsam was the oldest, most comprehensive set of the Tibetan rendition of *Tripitaka* canons known to exist, safeguarded among lineage editions for more than a millennium by a Yushu medical family. Their stemmatic legacy collection is now under the custodial care of the Cultural Heritage Bureau, added to the four-tiered listing system in which TTM items had been already batched, under governance of the National People's Congressional ICH laws (the latest being passed in Feb 2011). China's Intangible Cultural Heritage [ICH] state protection conservatory programme {for which national-level inheritors receive subsidies while performing succession obligations} was initiated in 2006, pursuant to UNESCO's "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" proclamation and propagated via its 2008 viable stewardship Convention. TCM components and Tibetan opera are now inscribed, respectively, on the 2010 and 2009 Representative Lists. Presumably, the quake-retrieved TTM indigenous knowledge/skills/practices elements meet classification criteria suitable to and are intended for deposit and registry per UNESCO's 2011 "In Urgent Need of Safeguarding" roster.

Nowhere and at no time have the life-affirming, death-denying potentialities of ancestral

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East Asian multiple systems (medical holism) and the curative powers of their pharmacodynamic notions been made more manifest than during contemporary, crisis-upon-crisis, extreme event management of *en masse* natural disasters.

In concert with conventional Western modalities (biomedicine), a full repertoire of TCM, TTM, and TCVM (Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine) approaches were implemented throughout all points of emergency response operations during recent Sino-Tibetan catastrophes.

The solutions and mechanisms of action generated by moxibustion, Tieh-ta (Diē-dá , bone-setting), Tui-na (manipulative muscle therapy), gua sha, tsien sha, fire-cupping, acupressure, acupuncture, aquapuncture, herbal pharmaceutical constituents, food tonics, and nāmarūpa (mental health interventions) as applied to quake victims effectively increased bloodflow to extremities of extracted, long-trapped collapse victims; reduced permanent limb loss and disability; accelerated healing processes of acute and chronic wound care; abated respiratory and cardiovascular malfunction; obviated acute traumatic ischemias; adjusted excessive bleeding; mitigated stress-induced maternal labor and made viable at-risk, in-field births; transformed intestinal response, quelling nausea and vomiting; stimulated pathways, alleviating circulatory shock; optimized internal organ and cell functions; enhanced immune systems of sustained-exposure survivors; improved clinical outcomes for in-field pre-op evacuees and in-hospital surgery-prep patients; restored muscle metabolism in longer-term, active rehabilitation; controlled infectious communicable human diseases; supplied supports and psycho-spiritual succor in PTSD cases; performed “golden hour” interventions; regulated fevers and fatigue; provided palliatives for pain relief; balanced hypothermia in long-trapped over-exposed rescue extractions; stabilized high-altitude sickness and resultant pulmonary and cerebral complications; reduced recuperative time; subvented neo-natal urgencies and altered adverse outcomes of pediatric critical care conditions; thwarted vector-borne zoonoses and animal epidemics; treated simple and compound bone fractures of crush casualties; strengthened overall physiologies of the walking wounded; improved coping-capacities of the paralyzed and amputated; mended sprains and bruises in soft tissue and tendon injuries; facilitated repair of spinal cord tracts and severe musculoskeletal conditions in crush victims; managed symptoms during pre-death, near-death, and end-of-life cycling

In tandem with and direct parallel to full-scale re-building of the ruptured lives of Tibet’s residents, extensive (traversing 27 townships) biodiversity conservation protocols are now in place to replenish the decimated montane earth which produced these precious medicaments, numbering at more than 3,000.

Tibet’s overarching mountain ecosystem was at risk prior to the quake (due to nuclear and other hazardous wastes dumping in some regions, mining and industrial over-production in others) and now in particular peril is Yushu, where ecological and environmental protection measures have been prioritized for the purpose of stemming further degradation. Endemic to this ecosphere was a vital abundance of rare mineral resources, medicinal ethnobotanicals, bird species, thick old growth forests, vegetative cover, and animals (whose death tolls outnumbered that of human fatalities).

Protracted post-disaster design, development, and re-settlement planning (inclusive of the 62 completed and the infrastructural erection of remaining 25 monasteries scheduled for completion by this year’s end) has necessarily involved land re-allotments, which, invariably, is a matter of concern and contention for some in the given areas.

In conjunction with edifice erections, railway/road groundworks, land re-cultivation initiatives, pre-existing headwaters reserve protections, and de-contaminating water-purification treatments are TTM and TCM advancements - within Yushu and beyond.

More than 5,000 multidisciplinary rehabilitation services for villagers and quake-handicapped patients (including artificial limb installation, rehab occupational training, physiotherapy, psychological consultation, device supply) are underway since the Sichuan and Yushu quakes, from Deyang and Shandong centers to Xining (Silung) facilities (where Yushu surgical evacuees were transferred to Qinghai Peo-

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ple's Provincial Hospital and Xining Number 2 Hospital during Phase I medical evacuations).

The World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledged the principle place of integrative TCM advisements in its earliest April 2010 *Situation Reports* on Yushu to responding agencies and has drafted a compilation of disorders for which TCM approaches may prove beneficial.



Credit: Theresia Hofer, 2001; Wellcome Images, CC BY-NC-ND

In March 2011, pursuant to successful TCM endeavours during peacekeeping missions in Africa, a delegation from the ASEAN Regional 302 Military Hospital has co-ordinated simulated disaster relief exercises in Indonesia.

In May of 2011, UNICEF reps visited quake-debilitated patients engaged in longer-term recovery at the Mianzhu TCM Hospital in Mianzhu.

Witnessing a dearth of qualified TTM practitioners and lack of local language/culture knowledge sufficient to meet local healthcare needs during the Qinghai quake, a cadre of volunteers have permanently returned; one degreed physician and his MD clinical trainee from the Hainan prefecture now operate an independent clinic in Yege township to supplement services offered at the TCM hospital in Qumalai (Qumarlêb) County.

In collaboration with the Prefecture Department of Health, Yushu Prefecture Tibetan Hospital, the Central United Front Work Department, inaugurated in June 2011 was the first Yushu Prefecture Health Initiative installment of a 5-years TTM advanced medical training programme for 46 "barefoot doctors", allied health workers, nomads, and farmers.

Sershul County Health Initiative has since enhanced its TTM curriculum, Gyurga township clinics, and sustainable herbal harvesting employment earned from Ganzi (Kandze, Garzê Tibetan Autonomous) Prefecture's grasslands.

Contemporaneously, construction of small greenhouses, TTM remedy factories, and extinction education are taking place in Nangchen.

In October 2010, the ROKPA Foundation approved study gants and research sponsorship

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for 200 med students pursuing higher-level TTM and allopathic proficiency qualifications at Khensu University and Sichuan Provincial Tibetan School in Dartsedo (Kangding City, of historic Kham).

Pre-op Sichuan quake victims from the Lamdrak Menkang clinic in Kangding (Dardo) - a mixed practice integrating TTM with Western Medicine (WM) – were transported to local TCM hospital which incorporates WM surgery. The Lamdrak Menkang nunnery maintains the robustly busy clinic, continues TTM research, and engages in herbs collection projects. Cross-disciplinary TTM/WM training courses in Dzongsar, Thopa and Drayab Counties are enabled but require enhancements. Under directive of the Ministry of Health, health facilities reconstruction has commenced and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine is rooting out rampant, unregulated pharmaceutical manufacturing bases, whose dangerous production of inauthentic, adulterated drug productions in Qinghai, Shaanxi, and Gansu is at an output ratio of 1:10.

Via integrated and independent, formal as well as informal networks, TTM/TCM/TCVM toolkits serviced triage frontlines throughout the winter 1995/95 Sêrxü {Shersul, Shiqu} snow blizzards; the 1998 Yangtze River flood; the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami {Sri Lanka mission}; the 2007 Yushu landslides; the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake; the 2008 Panzhihua earthquake; and the 2010 and 2011 Yushu earthquakes.

Though not widely reported, an earthquake penetrated Shimian County in 2003 along this same active Yushu-Garzê-Xianshuihe fault zone.

What can be reasonably projected –and mathematically calculated- is significant seismic activity (induced or natural) south of the Plateau in Shimian and Ya'an city in the not-so-distant-future, given past plate tectonic movements in eastern Tibet.

What can be expected is that TTM and TCM implementations will play increasingly principal roles as adjunct systematized tools in this upcoming Asian catastrophe and beyond – as models for globalized disaster preparedness and emergency medical relief standardization.

Their possibilities as gap-bridgers between urban-rural/north-south/east-west/agrarian-industrial healthcare provisions have been evidenced and can soon be more widely effectuated and disseminated, given research trends:

UNESCO anticipates that by 2020 - in its *Natural Sciences Quarterly Newsletter* (Vol. 9, No. 2 April–June 2011) – an inevitable, necessary, and desirable acceleration of knowledge- and data-mining research into TCM formulaic complexities via systems biology approaches rather than en vogue reductionistic, placebo-controlled protocols now prevalent in pharmaceuticals companies.

PubMed citations referencing Wenchuan and Yushu earthquake patient cases are increasingly accessible. Since the 1980s, university- and secondary school-level textbook publication by authentic TTM practitioners and scholars from Tibet, Qinghai, and Sichuan has proliferated – inclusive of translational, correlative WM theory and diagnosis curricula.

The investigative works of Dr Mingji Cuomu (a visiting scholar at University of Oxford and TTM practitioner with WM cross-training) highlight the logic of TTM systems vis-à-vis international quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and protocol design standards.

Well-endowed world-wide R&D lab and institutional collaborations, concomitant TTM and TCM patent applications and approvals, and establishment of TTM clinics are on the upsurge. Correspondingly, historical Tibetan and Chinese medical texts are of paramount consequence - the neglect of which can prove as deadly as any tectonic shift: at a minimum, 800 qualified TTM practitioners are required over the next decade to meet provincial needs.

TTM holds a place of primacy in this, the transitioning of China's first phase of healthcare reform.

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Going forward, the realization of the goals of its 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) will be evaluated in the crucible of post-quake capacity-building according to lessons learned from Japan's 1995 Hanjin-Awaji quake and tsunami aftermath, during which a brief two-years recovery/reconstruction phase gave rise to rapid escalation of employment and higher incomes but declined thereafter to pre-disaster GDP levels (Meadows and Dunford).

Something other than tectonic plates shifted on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in 2010; the dissonance of psychological faultlines of a people striving within their indomitable human spirits to settle the incongruities of the religious tenets which extol transcendence and impermanence while tenaciously, daily handing themselves over with hope to the nitty-gritty, down-to-earth tasks of repairing, restoring, conserving, preserving, reconstructing habitats and homes and lives and limbs is an epochal phenomenon. While bearing witness to the burden such loss, worthy of lamentation also are the scribed works which never survived; I recall, and mournfully discern their significance within the present scheme of things.

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Dr. Majed Khader (Professor and Associate University Librarian, Director of the Morrow Library, Marshall University) discussed "Exchange Opportunities for Librarians and Information Specialists with/from AAMES Regions: Methods, Barriers, and Positive Outcomes." Dr Khader talked at length about the long history of exchange and collaboration that dates back to early 1900s. His talk shed light on collaboration methods such as site visits, education, training, and collections exchange, but also barriers and obstacles such as lack of policies and procedures, tools, cultural differences, and security issues. The positive outcomes and benefits of collaboration and exchange include developing bonds with people from other parts of the world, fostering cross-cultural communication, and seeking ways for librarians to improve their practices and operations. Dr. Khader also covered procedures for developing partnerships such as reviewing the literature, intensive advance planning, consulting with other institutions and professional associations, and getting the approval and support of your parent institution.

Ms. Ellen Tise (Senior Director, Library and Information Services, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa), in her presentation "New Shoots in the Baobab: African Academic Institutions Adopting Technology to Improve Access to Information," portrayed the current information environment for African researchers. South African institutions of higher education will serve the role like that of a baobab tree, as these institutions have the potential and infrastructure to share research output with the rest of the continent. This access to critical and relevant information is essential for the generation of new knowledge to eradicate the problems that beset the continent. Further, it is this access to information that will allow the continent to harvest its wealth and to prosper as a continent. Stellenbosch University, one of the leading research universities on the continent, is utilizing current technology to make its research output broadly accessible. This continued contribution to African knowledge will help Africa realize its potential and erase the tag of being an underdeveloped continent.

Exhibition Review: Three Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

From October 22nd 2010 to February 27th 2011, The New York Public Library: Stephen A. Schwarzman Building opened an exhibition entitled, *Three Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam* that explored the roots, commonalities and distinctiveness among the three monotheisms by drawing from their respective sacred sources. One of the main goals of this exhibition was to draw a comparative study of the history and scriptures of these faiths held in an open and intellectual space.

Inspired by the British Library's 2007 exhibition *Sacred: Discover What we Share*, *Three Faiths* emphasized and illuminated several commonalities - monotheism, revelation, Abraham and scripture - throughout the exhibition. The curators selected an impressive array of texts from various centuries and regions and all of the materials came from the library's own collection: "This exhibition treats these three great Abrahamic religions, setting forth in splendid and historic detail the complementarities and differences among them, explaining their development, and exploring their lived experience through public and private prayer" ([exhibition website](#)).

The exhibition showcased selected Bibles, Korans and Tanakhs and focused on key verses that illustrate their uniqueness as well as their spiritual links and points of agreement. *Three Faiths* also examines the foundational figures of these faiths - Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad - and how they are presented in different sources. Also shown were texts illustrative of the changing technologies of writing and of the worldwide reach of these religious traditions. Visitors could see a Gutenberg Bible, the first major printed book produced in Europe, or a 9th-century Koran from Iran or Iraq that was written on vellum and is one of the oldest extant Korans. Illustrating the impact of Islam in East Asia was a Koran from 19th-century China, written in Chinese. Visitors had the opportunity to see miniature volumes of the Tanakh from 1550s Venice: four inches tall and two inches in width, these books were carried by traveling Jews. Also on display were other religious scriptures and commentaries such the Apocrypha, Midrash, and the Hadith. In the private prayer section, there were works of

Raymond Pun is a Librarian in the General Research, Periodicals, and Microforms Division, Schwarzman Building, of the New York Public Library.

The Three Faiths exhibit can be explored online at <http://exhibitions.nypl.org/threefaiths/>



Kabbalah and Jewish personal liturgies; the exhibition also demonstrated diverse practices of communal prayers and rituals in Judaism through various sources.

An interesting addition to *Three Faiths* was the Scriptorium exhibition located in a separate space known as the Wachenheim Gallery, where visitors had the opportunity to explore, see and touch

Three Faiths (continued from p. 18)

materials used in the craft of writing and book making. Various types of paper, pens, dyes and inks were on display. For example, visitors could feel the stiff texture of parchment made from goat-skin that was used for writing in the 1400s. There were also demonstrations and explanations in using pigments to create spectrums of colors and inks for aesthetic purposes. This interactive gallery offered hands-on activities, such as an exercise in which visitors sketch out their names in Arabic, Hebrew, Latin and Greek alphabets based on a video demonstration. There is also [an accompanying website](#) where users can continue to explore the sacred texts and practices of these faiths.



The exhibition narrates the history of the faiths through a rich display of rare texts from the early Near East to Imperial China. *Three Faiths* succeeds in illustrating the extensive influences of these faiths throughout history by illuminating the commonalities and the distinctiveness of each faith, and in highlighting the strengths of NYPL's collections in religious and area studies.

**The AAMES Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Asian, African, Middle Eastern Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association
50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611;
Phone: 800-545-2433, X 2523.**

The subscription to this newsletter is included in the ALA/ACRL/AAMES membership fee.

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**Editor: John Russell, Social Sciences Librarian, University of Oregon Libraries
141 Knight Library, University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1299 johnruss@uoregon.edu**