

# Chinese Fang-chih, Ts'ung-shu and Rare Books in the Library of Congress

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The U.S. Library of Congress houses the largest collection of Chinese fang-chih or local histories, ts'ung-shu or collection of reprints and Chinese rare books in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this article is to investigate these areas and to provide an analytical description of their most important items.

## Fang-chih

Known in the Western world as Chinese gazetteers, fang-chih or chih-shu was usually compiled by groups of retired scholars, appointed by the local magistrate or the local gentry. In some instances the work was initiated and brought to completion by a scholar on his own. Due to the fact that the sources were primarily derived from literary and epigraphical remains and records in public and private archives, they often yield information available in no other form.

Historically, the oldest extant Chinese fang-chih--the Hua Yang Kuo Chih by Chang Chu--was written as early as 347 A.D., being a description of the area today incorporated in southern Shensi and northern Szechuan. The growth and extent of such

topographical literature may be gauged from the fact that fang-chih titles which were mentioned in the literature of the Sung period (960-1279) alone are estimated to number at least 220. Of these only 25 are now known to exist.<sup>2</sup> Until the 18th century, however, Chinese gazetteers were thought of primarily as works on geograpy. Because they were compiled in response to government mandate, it was natural to regard them as perfunctory documents, the compilation of which intended to provide the impecunious literati an opportunity to supplement their incomes. It is not surprising, therefore, that despite the great volume of this branch of literature, the catalogers of the 18th century Imperial Library chose to list only some 150 titles.<sup>3</sup>

The importance of fang-chih writing was measurably enhanced when the noted philosopher Tai Chen (1723-1777) undertook in 1771 the organization of the fang-chih of Fenchow Fu, Shansi, and in the next year that of Fenyang Hsien of the same province. Other eminent scholars like Hung Liang-chi (1746-1809), Wu I (1745-1799), and Sun Hsing-yen (1753-1818), performed a similar service for district fang-chih in Shensi, Honan, and Kiangsu, respectively. It was not, however, until the critical historian Chang Hsueh-ch'eng (1738-1801) completed the provincial fang-chih of Hupeh province, and district fang-chih in Anhui and Chihli province, that their significance to history was adequately recognized. "When properly edited on the basis of documents preserved in local archives," maintained Chang, "they would in time constitute an indispensable source for the rewriting of the national history." As a consequence, "historians would naturally turn to them for information concerning the social organization, the economic conditions, the folkways and superstitions, the biographical data, and the cultural achievements of any given localities."<sup>4</sup>

The total number of titles of fany-chih in the Chinese collection was first counted in 1921, when there were 1,047. The number added each year during the next two decades was indicated in each of the 20 annual reports covering 1921-1941. No figure had been given since 1941, except for 1949 when 31 titles were acquired, making a total of 3,479. The following table shows the addition of fang-chih in the collection since 1921:

TABLE I  
NUMBER OF FANG-CHIH ACQUIRED DURING 1921-1949

Fiscal Year	Number Added	Total	Source in ARLC
Before 1921		1,047 <sup>a</sup>	1921, p. 169.
1921/22	115	1,162	1922, p. 176.
1922/23	134	1,296	1923, p. 171.
1923/24	37	1,333	1924, p. 258.
1924/25	27	1,360	1925, p. 256.
1925/26	5	1,365	1926, p. 312.
1926/27	18	1,383	1927, p. 245.
1927/28	96	1,479	1928, p. 273.
1928/29	11	1,490	1929, p. 288.
1929/30	14	1,504	1930, p. 342.
1930/31	48	1,552 <sup>b</sup>	1931, p. 263.
1931/32	14 <sup>c</sup>	1,557 <sup>c</sup>	1932, p. 184.
1932/33	172	1,729	1933, p. 112.
1933/34	479	2,208	1934, p. 144.
1934/35	24	2,232	1935, p. 183.
1935/36	82	2,314	1936, p. 168.
1936/37	151	2,465	1937, p. 170.
1937/38	135	2,600	1938, p. 210.
1938/39	162	2,762	1939, p. 242.
1939/40	287	2,049	1940, p. 155.
1940/41	253	(3,302) <sup>d</sup>	1941, p. 129.
1941/48	not given	not given	
1948/49	31	3,479	LCQJCA. 7 (Feb., 1950), p. 17.

<sup>a</sup>In addition, there were 93 duplicates.

<sup>b</sup>In addition, there were 192 duplicates. The number of duplicates was not indicated in later years.

<sup>c</sup>Either the number added for that year or the number given as a total was a mistake. If it is the latter case, then all totals for subsequent years should be increased by 9 titles.

<sup>d</sup>The total was figured by the researcher; it was not indicated in the annual report.

An annotated list entitled A Catalog of Chinese Local Histories in the Library of Congress, which contains 2,939 titles of Chinese fang-chih in the collection, was published by the Library in 1942. This was compiled by Mr. Chu Shin-chia, cataloger in the Division of Orientalia and specialist in the field of Chinese local histories, who had published numerous catalogs and other works in this subject.<sup>5</sup>

Twenty-three items of the 2,939 titles described in this catalog are reprints of fang-chih first compiled in Sung period (960-1279); 9 are reprints of those compiled in the Y'uan period (1260-1368); 68 were originally compiled in the Ming period (1368-1644); 2,376 were printed in the Ch'ing period (1644-1911); and 463 were published since the establishment of the Republic in 1912. More than one-third of these gazetteers came from the provinces of Hupeh (283), Shantung (279), Kiangsu (252), and Szechuan (252).<sup>6</sup>

A particularly valuable feature of Mr. Chu's catalog is that it points out items of special interest concerning the fang-chih in question. If, for example, it contains studies relating to folklore, gardens, local dialects, overseas Chinese, aboriginal tribes, international trade, antiquities, or is provided with especially valuable bibliographies, these points are recorded for the reader. Whenever the gazetteers contain seals showing that the works described were once in the possession of famous collectors, that fact is also noted.<sup>7</sup>

## Ts'ung-Shu

A class of literature of equal significance, but not featured to the same degree as gazetteers in the West, is known to the Chinese as the ts'ung shu, or collection of reprints. According to Arthur Hummel, ts'ung shu can be defined as "a compilation of two or more works, each complete in itself, and from the hands of more than one author."<sup>8</sup>

Works of this type have a long ancestry in China. The ts'ung shu was one of the outstanding contributions of the Sung Dynasty to Chinese bibliography, just as the lei-shu (encyclopedias) was one of the chief contributions of the T'ang Dynasty (618-906). The name of the ts'ung shu, however, was already in vogue in the T'ang Dynasty, having been employed by Lu Kuei-meng (d. circa 878 A.D.) as part of the title of his book, the Li T'se Ts'ung Shu. If we adopt the definition of the ts'ung shu cited above, then notwithstanding its title, the Li T'se Ts'ung Shu does not fall into that class, for it represents the collected writings of only one author. Until the early 1920's, the Po Ch 'uan Haüeh Hai, compiled by Tso Kuei in 1273, was regarded as the ancestor of all Chinese ts'ung Shu. But since the publication in 1924 of T'ao Hsiang's edition of the Ju Hsüeh Ching Wu, it is clear that this latter work, compiled by Yu Ch'eng in 1201, is the true ancestor of this type of Chinese bookmaking.<sup>9</sup>

By persistent effort over the years the Chinese collection in the Library of Congress had assembled some 1,500 ts'ung shu as of 1954,<sup>10</sup> ranging from several volumes in a collected work to as many as 2,100 volumes in the Ssu Pu Ts'ung K'an. The Library has many of the oldest and most valuable works in this class, including the above-mentioned Ju Hsüeh Ching Wu, a reprint of which was secured in 1930.

The total number of Chinese ts'ung shu was 126 in 1916, and 196 in March 1918. It was increased to 304 in 1920.<sup>11</sup> Annual additions had been indicated for the years from 1921 to 1941, as shown in the following table. The number of titles of this class added annually since 1941 was not available in the annual reports.

TABLE II  
NUMBER OF TS'UNG SHU ACQUIRED DURING 1921-1941

Fiscal Year	No. Added	Total	Source in ARLC
1920/21	37	not given	1921, p. 170.
1921/22	12	not given	1922, p. 183.
1922/23	19	363 <sup>a</sup>	1923, p. 174.
1923/24	31 <sup>b</sup>	394	1924, p. 260.
1924/25	27	421	1925, p. 256.
1925/26	13	434	1926, p. 314.
1926/27	20	454	1927, p. 248.
1927/28	20	474	1928, p. 274.
1928/29	34	508	1929, p. 288.
1929/30	39	547	1930, p. 342.
1930/31	10	557	1931, p. 263.
1931/32	20	577	1932, p. 184.
1932/33	13	570(590) <sup>c</sup>	1933, p. 112.
1933/34	6	576(596)	1934, p. 144.
1934/35	5	581(601)	1935, p. 182.
1935/36	10	591(611)	1936, p. 168.
1936/37	33	624(644)	1937, p. 170.
1937/38	4	628(648)	1938, p. 210.
1938/39	98	726(749)	1939, p. 242.
1939/40	19	745(765)	1940, p. 155.
1940/41	72	817(837)	1941, p. 126.

<sup>a</sup>Duplicates were not included in this total.

<sup>b</sup>The newly acquired titles for the year was 26; the additional 5 titles had just been identified as ts'ung shu that year but had been part of the collection prior to 1923/24.

<sup>c</sup>Because of the error, 20 more titles should be added to each of the nine total figures as indicated in the annual reports from 1933 through 1941. The total in parenthesis is the correct figure supplied by the researcher.

## Rare Books

The Library of Congress houses the largest collection of Chinese rare works outside of China.<sup>12</sup> Some of them were intentionally purchased. Some of them came with the gifts by William W. Rockhill in 1900 and 1901. A considerable number were added from the transfer of the John Crerar Library's Chinese collection in 1928. About 500 rare items were obtained through the acquisition of the Wang Shu-an library in 1929.<sup>13</sup>

In 1957, the Library published A descriptive Catalog of Rare Chinese Books in the Library of Congress which was first compiled by Mr. Wang Chung-min from 1939 to 1942. A well-known specialist in Chinese rare works, Mr. Wang brought to his task a varied experience in several libraries, including the National Library of Peiping, the British Museum in London, and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.<sup>14</sup> In compiling this catalog he employed a number of criteria for inclusion: 1) All books printed before the end of the Ming Dynasty (1644) are regarded as shan pen, or rare works, and are thus automatically included; 2) books proscribed by the Manchu government in the 18th century and are now difficult to secure; 3) manuscripts which have not been printed or which, if in print, have historic importance, or else are useful for collation; 4) books bearing marginal notes or comments by famous scholars; and 5) books having seal impressions which show that they were once in the imperial library, in a famous private library, or in the hands of celebrated collectors.<sup>15</sup>

Based upon these criteria, the Chinese collection in the Library of Congress contained 1,622 rare items as of 1942. "It is obvious that not a few books of the past three centuries, which may well be regarded as rare, are not included in the above-mentioned categories, and are therefore not described by Mr. Wang."<sup>16</sup>

When the catalog was completed in 1942, it became apparent to the Library that it was both difficult and costly to set Chinese type in the United States. A decision was made then that the best solution was to send the catalog to China for printing. After World War II, Mr. Wang brought the manuscript to China, and arrangement for

publication was made with the National Peking University Press in 1948. Before the completion of the publication, however, the Communist conquest of mainland China took place. Since that time the Library has been unable to keep in touch either with Mr. Wang or with the University Press.<sup>17</sup>

Fortunately, before Mr. Wang returned to China, a microfilm copy of the manuscript was made as an insurance against loss. When it became clear that the original plan for publication could not be carried out, the Library invited Dr. T. L. Yuan, former Director of the National Library of Peiping, to edit the microfilm copy for publication. In the meantime, he was instructed to revise and supplement the Wang manuscript as seemed appropriate.

The revised version of the catalog by Dr. Yuan was published in 1957 which contains 1,777 works, 155 more than those included in Wang's manuscript. Applying the criteria employed by the librarians of China to the rare Chinese books in the Library of Congress, Mr. Wang stated in 1942:

This Library houses the third largest collection of Chinese rare books in the world. The most extensive, of course, is in the National Library of Peiping, which in 1933 listed 3,985 rare works. The second largest is in the Kiangsu Provincial Library at Nanking, which in 1918 described 2,548 items. In 1934 the Palace Museum Library (Peking) listed 1,025 items, and in 1930 the Cabinet Library, Tokyo (Neikaku Bimko) listed 788 Chinese items. The rare book holdings of several other Chinese collections are doubtless considerable, but for them no listings are available.<sup>19</sup>

Of the 1,777 rare works described in the 1957 catalog, 11 were printed during the Sung period (960-1279), 1 in Chin period (1115-1234), 14 in the Yüan period (1260-1368), and 1,518 in the Ming period (1368-1644). Seventy items published in the Ch'ing period (1644-1911) were also included for one reason or another. The remainder comprise 140 manuscripts, 11 Japanese printings of Chinese works, 11 Korean printings of Chinese texts, and 1 rubbing.<sup>20</sup>

For the purpose of illustration, some of the most important rare items are singled out here for a brief description. The oldest specimen of Chinese printing in the Library



is a small Buddhist invocation sutra entitled I Ch'ieh Ju Lai Hsin Pi Mi Ch'uan Shen She Li Pao Ch'ieh Yin T'o Lo Ni Ching. This was printed in 975 A.D. by Ch'ien Shu (929-988), the 5th and last ruling prince of the state of Wu Yueh. According to K.T. Wu:

The printing of 84,000 rolls of this sutra, which contained about 3,000 characters, was ordered, and the rolls were placed in holes bored in the bricks used to erect a seven-story pagoda named Lei feng t'a (Thunder Peak Pagoda) at West Lake in Hangchow, Chekiang, in honor of the consort of Ch'ien Shu. For 950 years this pagods stood in the banks of the famous lake. When it suddenly collapsed in a thunder-storm on September 25, 1924, a number of the rolls came to light, but with the ravages of time most of them disintegrated when exposed. The Chekiang Museum has a comparatively perfect specimen containing the frontispiece. The Library of Congress has a mutilated copy of this sutra with the frontispiece missing. Originals in varying degrees of completeness are also found in the British Museum, the Harvard-Yenching Library, the University of Chicago, and other collections in China and Japan.<sup>21</sup>

The second oldest specimen in the Library's Chinese collection is the Chinese version, in scroll form, of the Saddharma Pundarika Sutra, known in China as the Miao Fa Lien Hua Ching (The Lotus of the Wonderful Law). This was printed in Hangchow about 1050 A.D. The scroll is 68 feet long by 6 1/2 inches wide, and is the version completed by Kumarajiva in 406 A.D.<sup>22</sup>

Another early specimen of Chinese printing is the Wei Shu (Official History of the Wei Dynasty, 386-556 A.D.), comprising 114 ch'uan in 64 volumes. This was printed in Szechuan in 1144, and is the earliest of the most dependable existing texts of this history.<sup>23</sup>

The Library also has a complete set of an old herbal entitled Ch'ung Hsiu Cheng -ho Ching Shih Cheng Lei Pei Yung Pen Ts'ao which was printed in 1249 A.D. in 10 volumes. "Both for its clear-cut characters and its finely drawn illustrations, it constitutes

one of the best examples of early Chinese printing. Viewed historically, it is interesting for having been printed at Pingyang, Shansi, when that city was under the control of the Chin Tartars."<sup>24</sup>

The Library has 9 of the oldest Chinese manuscripts, 7 of which are of the T'ang period (618-906), and two are probably still earlier.<sup>25</sup> They were found in the caves at Tunhuang in 1907.

The great bulk of the rare items in the Chinese collection belongs to the Ming period, numbering 1,518. Of these 72 items are printed in more than one color, one of them in five colors, in order to differentiate the contributions of various commentators.<sup>26</sup>

Speaking of the Ming prints, mention should be made of the great Yung-lo Ta Tien, of which the Library has 41 volumes, constituting more than 10% of its extant volumes. According to studies made by Dr. T. L. Yuan. 367 volumes of this work were known to exist in 1939.<sup>27</sup> A number of volumes have been located since then, however. It was estimated in 1962 that some 400 volumes were known to have been in various libraries throughout the world.<sup>28</sup>

The Yung-lo Ta Tien is an encyclopedia of unparalleled bulk compiled from 1403 to 1409 by order of Emperor Yung-lo, the third emperor of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It comprised originally 11,095 volumes, containing 22,937 books, and was so voluminous that it has never been printed. As described by Walter Swingle:

It is the most extensive literary monument ever made by man, being at once the largest and best dictionary of the incredibly rich Chinese language, the largest and best Chinese encyclopedia, and the largest and best collection of reprints of Chinese works in all fields of human endeavor. ... It is in truth a universal compendium of all existing Chinese history, ethics, science, industry, art, geography, administration, religion, divination, in a word, of all human knowledge among the Chinese up to 1400 A.D. The Yung-lo ta tien combined all existing Chinese books that were available to the all-powerful despot, Yung-lo, excepting only novels and plays not considered as falling within the scope of a serious work of this class. The Yung-lo

ta tien is first of all a phonetic dictionary wherein all Chinese characters are classed under the 80 rhymes, which are in turn arranged under the five conventional tones. The various authorized ways of writing the character, its variant forms, its sound or sounds, and its meaning are given in great detail. Then follows an exhaustive list of compound words into which the character enters, with illustrative quotations from Chinese authors of all ages. As a dictionary it is of priceless value.

The Yung-lo ta tien is also at one and the same time a geographical gazetteer, a biographical dictionary, and a compendium of history, literature, philosophy, science, art, religion, and astrology of unrivaled amplitude.

The Yung-lo to tien is, finally, the greatest ts'ung shu or collection of works extant, as in it is included all Chinese literature existing in 1400 A.D. Some works are split up into chapters, or even paragraphs, and entered under the characters to which the fragments belong; other works are given intact under the most important character of the title.

In spite of its excellence as a dictionary and its value as an encyclopedia, the Yung-lo ta tien has come during the last two centuries to be chiefly valued for the many Sung, Yuan, and early Ming works that were copied into it but since then lost.

No fewer than 385 lost works were copied out of the Yung-lo ta tien by a commission appointed in 1773 by Emperor Ch'ien-lung, and included in the great Ssu k'u ch'uan shu. 286 lost works were reprinted at the Imperial Wu Ying Tien press under the supervision of Wang Chi-hua, one of the commissioners appointed to search through the Yung-lo ta tien and copy out lost works. In spite of the efforts of this imperial commission, many other works have since been recovered by interested scholars, such as Yuan Yuan and Sun Chuang, and a great number of very important works now lost have never been copied out of the Yung-lo ta tien, although known to be included in it.

For the compilation of this work, a commission of 148 scholars was first established

in 1403. The result of one and one half years' effort proved unsatisfactory to the Emperor, thus a new commission was organized in 1404. It consisted of one director, 2 associated directors, 20 subdirectors, and no fewer than 2,069 assistants. They worked hard for another four years, and the first draft was presented to the Emperor in 1407. As a sign of his approval he attached his name to the title, calling it Yung-lo Ta Tien (The Great Encyclopedia of Yung-lo). An army of copyists worked for two more years, and the final copy was completed in 1409. A brief calculation suffices to reveal the astounding fact that the equivalent of nearly 10,000 years of labor was spent by scholars and scribes in putting this monumental work into final shape. Of these some 8,000 years' labor of scholars was consumed in compiling and proofreading the original work, and about 2,000 years of efforts in making copies and transcripts.<sup>30</sup>

It is not clear whether two copies or more of this work were made. As a result of a fire in 1557 in the palace of Emperor Chia-ching where the work was stored, however, a new manuscript set was made between 1562 and 1567.<sup>31</sup> Since "the original set was entirely destroyed," the present extant volumes are believed to belong to the new set,<sup>32</sup> which was again largely destroyed by fire, on June 23, 1900, during the Boxer Rebellion.

The Library's holding of 41 volumes of this work<sup>33</sup> is the largest outside of China, second only to the National Library of Peking (formerly the National Library of Peiping),<sup>34</sup> with the receipt in recent years of the reproductions of other existing volumes, the Library now has most of them, either in original manuscript, or in reproduced forms, such as microfilm and facsimile copy.<sup>35</sup>

Finally, a brief description is warranted of the microfilming of the nearly 2,900 rare items which were deposited in the Library for safekeeping by the National Library of Peiping during World War II as mentioned earlier.

The story of the travels of these treasures to the United States began in 1937 when they had been moved out of Peking before that city was occupied by Japan. By 1940 they were stored in the French Concession of Shanghai at the Aurora University.<sup>36</sup> In November 1940, Dr. T. L. Yuan (1895-1965), then Director of the National Library of

Pieping, queried American representative in China as to whether or not the Library of Congress would give the treasures safekeeping, also, he offered permission to microfilm them.<sup>37</sup>

After the State Department transmitted Yuan's query to the Library, Arthur Hummel promptly urged the Librarian to accept the offer. As he told MacLeish:

*I regard it as highly important, both from an international point of view and for the benefits that would accrue to this Library, that we should grant temporary storage for the rare books and manuscripts belonging to the National Library of Peiping. Dr. Hu assures me that opportunity would be given to us to photostat or film at least some of the rare items. This alone would compensate for any inconvenience to us because the material is the finest that the Chinese people possess.*<sup>38</sup>

Accordingly, MacLeish replied to the State Department on November 30, 1940, saying: "the Library of Congress would consider itself fortunate to receive and to give safe-keeping to the books and manuscript ... and would consider that the resources of American scholarship had been immeasurably enriched if the Library would be afforded the opportunity ... to make microfilm copies."<sup>39</sup> In the meantime he wrote to Dr. Hu Shih, Chinese Ambassador to the United States:

I am writing to inform you of the great interest of the Library of Congress in the rare and invaluable materials from the Peking National Library and the National Central Library at Nanking now stored in Shanghai. If the Library of Congress could secure on loan this collection of incunabula of the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries, and of scrolls from the Cave of the Thousand Buddhas, and of the original volumes of the Yung-lo ta tien, it would be profoundly appreciative. These materials constitute not only one of the greatest treasures of Chinese letters but also one of the greatest treasures of world literature. If, therefore, the custodians of these materials were willing to deposit them with the Library of Congress on loan, the Library of Congress would gratefully undertake their care.<sup>40</sup>

The first shipment of two boxes of these treasures arrived on May 26, 1941, and

25 more on December 18, 1941; 75 boxes were in the care of the Library of the University of California at Berkeley for a time before they arrived at the library of Congress on March 16, 1942.<sup>41</sup> As soon as the rare books reached Washington, the Chinese Ambassador, Dr. Hu Shih, informed the Library that permission was granted by the Chinese government to microfilm any or all of these items, and that films so made *might be distributed by the Library of Congress throughout the world.* The sole request made by the Chinese government was that three sets of all the reproductions be sent back to China so that the Chinese people themselves may enjoy more wide-spread access to them.<sup>42</sup> In the letter which Ambassador Hu Shih wrote to the Librarian granting this permission, he remarked:

I am writing, my dear Mr. MacLeish, in the spirit of the following story told of Confucius. The King of Ch'u once returned from hunting and found that his treasured bow had been lost in the chase. His servants suggested that a search be made for it. The King said, "No, what one Ch'u man has lost, another Ch'u man has found." When Confucius heard the story he remarked, "Well said! But why didn't he go a little further and say what one man has lost, another man has found. Why add the qualification Ch'u?"<sup>43</sup>

Microfilming of these treasures began in 1942 and was completed in May 1946. The films contain 1,072 reels (mostly 100 feet in length), representing 2,500,000 pages from 2,720 titles in some 20,500 volumes.<sup>44</sup> Total expenditure of the project was approximately \$37,000.<sup>45</sup>

The collection was by no means all the rare books of the National Library of Peiping, but represented a careful selection of the most precious items which were chosen for safekeeping because they are unique. Among them are 150 printed works of the Sung period (960-1279), 100 works of the Yuan period (1260-1368), and about 2,000 works of the Ming period (1368-1644) and the succeeding Ch'ing period (1644-1911). There were local histories of the provinces as early as the Ming period; popular literature (novels, short stories, dramas), either printed before 1644 or copied by hand during the 17th century; China's oldest known illustrated children's primer (an early 16th

century reprint of a 1436 edition, more than a century older than first Western picture book for children, which was issued in 1658); and more than 300 manuscript volumes of the Ming period, comprising the chronicles of the Ming emperors, the most complete set ever known.<sup>46</sup>

Since the Library had agreed to furnish 3 complete sets of microfilm to Chinese institutions designated by the Chinese government, two of the three copies were brought back to China by Mr. Wang Chung-min who had participated in the work of microfilming the collection. One of the two was kept in the National Library of Peiping, the other went to the National Central Library in Nanking. The third set was retained in the Library of Congress until 1959, when the government of the Republic of China on Taiwan designated the Academia Sinica, Taipei, then directed by Dr. Hu Shih who was the Chinese Ambassador to the United States when these treasures arrived in Washington, as its depository.<sup>47</sup>

A number of sets have also been purchased by leading research institutions in the United States and abroad, such as the universities of Chicago, Cambridge, and Leiden, while portions of it have been secured by Columbia, Harvard, and others.<sup>48</sup> As Verner W. Clapp once pointed out: "There is no doubt that wars and the dislocations to which they give rise have in the course of history often indirectly promoted the ends of learning and of scholarship."<sup>49</sup> The microfilming of these Chinese treasures by the Library of Congress is an excellent example.

By late 1946, arrangements were already being made for the return of these rare items to China. Due to the continued unrest caused by the Chinese civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists, however, shipment was delayed. Although the Nationalist government moved to Taiwan in 1949 and the National Central Library was reactivated in 1955, it lacked facilities to care for the rare materials. It was not until 1965 when both space and adequate facilities had been enlarged that the government of the Republic of China asked the then Librarian of Congress L. Quincy Mumford to arrange for their return, so that the materials could be shipped to Taipei together with Chinese items exhibited at the World Fair in New York. On October 21, 1965, 102

cases of books and 14 suitcases of wooden slips were delivered into the custody of Mr. Daniel T. C. Chang of the National Central Library at the shipping entrance to the Annex of the Library of Congress.<sup>50</sup> They arrived safely in Taiwan on November 23, 1965,<sup>51</sup> thus concluding their historical odyssey of a quarter century.

## References

1. As of 1975, The Library of Congress had 3,750 gazeteers, 3,000 Ts'ung Shu, and 1,544 rare items published prior to 1644; whereas the Harvard-Yenching Library, the second largest Chinese collection in the United States, had 3,525 gazeteers, 1,400 Ts'ung Shu, and 1,269 rare items printed before 1644. See Tsuen-hsuei Tsien, Current Status of East Asian Collections in American Libraries, 1974/75 (Washington, D.C.:Center for Chinese Research Materials, Association of Research Libraries, 1976), pp. 42, 43-44.

2. Wu Ch'i-ch'ang, "Sung tai chin ti li hsueh shih (The Study of Geography in Sung Times)," Kuo Hsueh Lun Ts'ung, vol. 1, no 1, p. 60. Cited in ARLC (1932), p. 193.

3. Ibid., pp.193-194.

4. Ibid., p.194.

5. Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress (1942), p.41.

6. Ibid., p.42.

7. Ibid.

8. Arthur W. Hummel, "Chinese and Other East Asiatic Books Added to the Library of Congress, 1929-30," in ARLC (1930), p.343.

9. Ibid.

10. Arthur W. Hummel, "The Growth of the Orientalia Collections," LCQJCA 11 (February 1954), p.79.

11. Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress (1920), p.191.

12. Arthur W. Hummel, "Orientalia: China," LCQJCA 4 (February, 1947), p.19.



13. Ibid., p.21.
14. Ibid., p.19.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Edwin G. Beal, Jr., "Foreword" to A Descriptive Catalog of Rare Chinese Books in the LC(Washington, LC, 1957).
18. Ibid.
19. Arthur W. Hummel, "Orientalia: China," LCQJCA 4 (February, 1947), p.19.
20. Beal, "Foreword," op. cit.
21. K. T. Wu, "Illustrations in Sung Printing," QJLC 28 (July, 1971), p.175.
22. Ibid., p.176; see also Hummel, "Orientalia: China," 1947, p.20.
23. Ibid. p.20
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid., p.21.
26. Ibid., p.20.
27. Dr. T. L. Yuan published two articles about the extant volumes of the Yung-lo Ta Tien. In his 1929 article the number of volumes was 349, see "Census of the Extant Volumes of the Yung-lo Ta Tien," Bulletin of the National Library of Peiping, 2 (March-April, 1929), 215-251; in his 1939 article, 367 volumes were recorded, see "Census of the Extant Volumes of the Yung-lo Ta Tien," Quarterly Bulletin of Chinese Bibliography, New Series, I (September, 1939), 246-286. Other publications relating to the extant volumes of this work include the facsimile edition of 202 volumes published in Peking by the Chung Hua Book Co. in 1960, and a facsmile edition of the existing volumes published in Taipei by the World Book Co. in 1962. The Taipei edition was presented to the Library of Congress as a gift by Professor Yang Chia-lo in 1963, which consists of 100 volumes bound in Western style. See Edwin G. Beal, et al., "Orientalia: China and Korea," QJLC 21 (April, 1964), p.124.
28. K. T. Wu and Key P. Yang, "Orientalia: China and Korea," KCQJCA 19 (March, 1962), p.79. It was mentioned in 1961, however, that "a number have been

located in the past 21 years, however, and at the present time it is probable that the locations of almost 500 volumes are known." See Edwin G. Beal, K. T. Wu and Key P. Yang, "Orientalia: China and Korea," LCQJCA 18 (February, 1961), p.64.

29. Walter T. Swingle, "Orientalia: Acquisitions," in ARLC (1923), pp. 188-189.

30. Ibid., p.190.

31. Ibid.

32. Wu and Yang, op. cit., p.79.

33. Two of the 41 volumes were first loaned in 1931 to the Library by Mr. John Gilbert Reid, but donated to the Library in 1961. See Ibid.

34. Beal, Wu and Yang, op. cit., p.64.

35. Wu and Yang, op. cit., p.79.

36. Hummel's memorandum to the Librarian, December 20, 1940, Asiatica File, LC Central Service Division.

37. E. Wilder Spaulding to Archibald MacLeish, November 27, 1940, Asiatica File, LC Central Service Division.

38. Hummel's memorandum to the Librarian, November 29, 1940, Asiatica File, LC Central Service Division.

39. Archibald MacLeish to the Secretary of State, November 30, 1940, Asiatica File, LC Central Service Division.

40. Archibald MacLeish to Hu Shih, January 2, 1941, Asiatica File, LC Central Service Division.

41. "Rare Chinese Library Materials Arrive in Taipei After World War II Journey to Library of Congress," Library of Congress Press Release No. 65-77, January 14, 1966, Asiatica File, LC Central Service Division.

42. Arthur W. Hummel, "Orientalia: China," LCQJCA 3 (February, 1946), p.17.

43. Cited in Hummel, "The Growth of the Orientalia Collections," p.79. The researcher tried in vain to locate this letter when he was doing research in the LC during the summer of 1976. Dr. Edwin Beal told the researcher that he had seen this letter in the Asiatica File of the Central Services Division. Since it could not be located

there, the researcher went to the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. where he was told that all Dr. Hu Shih's file had been sent back to him in Peking after World War II when he was the President of the National Peking University, and were lost when the Communists occupied that city in 1949.

44. Fu-ts'ung Chiang, "The Return of the Rare Chinese Collection of the National Library of Peiping Preserved in the United States," West and East, 11 (March, 1966), 5. See also ARLC (1947), p.49.

45. Verner W. Clapp to Cleon C. Swayzee (Director of the Board of Overseas Training and Research, Ford Foundation), January 27, 1954, Asiatica File, LCCSD.

46. Library of Congress Press Release, No.65-77, op. cit.; cf. Arthur W. Hummel "Orientalia: China," LCQJCA 3 (February, 1946), pp. 17-22.

47. Hu Shih to L. Quincy Mumford, February 14, 1959, Asiatica File, LC Central Services Division.

48. Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress (1947),p.49.

49. Clapp to Swayzee, op. cit.

50. Library of Congress Press Release, No. 65-77, op. cit.

51. Nai-wei Chang to Jennings Wood, December 21, 1965, office of the Cultural Counselor File, Embassy of the Republic of China, Washington, D.C.