

Reflections on 90 Years of Cultural Exchanges: the Library of Congress' Chinese Section

Chi Wang

The Library of Congress' reputation as the best library in the U.S. is well-known, drawing scholars from all over the world to its collections to search through resources they would find nowhere else. It is one of the great symbols of America, a monument to our search for knowledge and a testament to our desire to fully understand the world around us. However, less people are aware of a vital feature of the Library of Congress—its foreign language collections. During my nearly fifty years working for the Library's Chinese and Korean section, I was able to dedicate my life to a respected institution that was just as concerned as I was with improving the American public's understanding of Chinese history and culture. The Library of Congress is more than just an American symbol—it is a global institution that promotes understanding and the sharing of knowledge between nations.

Of the many foreign language library collections within the United States, the largest and most extensive belongs to the Library of Congress. With holdings as diverse as our great nation's citizens, materials in more than 470 languages can be found in the Library's many collections. Some of the larger foreign language collections are the most expansive collections outside their native country. This is true for the Chinese Collection, which consists of about one million volumes.

Dr. Chi Wang spent nearly fifty years working at the Library of Congress, where he oversaw the development of the Library's Chinese collection. He served as the Assistant Head of the Chinese and Korean Section from 1966 until 1975, when he was appointed Head of the Chinese and Korean Section. He served in this position until his retirement in 2004. Wang is the president of the U.S.-China Policy Foundation and has played an active role in the promotion of U.S.-China relations since the 1960s.

From humble beginnings in 1832, The Library of Congress was originally just a small legislative library. In 1896, Herbert Putnam, then superintendent of the nation's largest public library, served as a witness to Congress to advocate for the restructuring and expansion of the Library of Congress. Three years later, Putnam became the Librarian of Congress, a post in which he served for forty years before stepping down. Putnam rightly believed the Library should focus on providing the highest quality of service to three main groups: the U.S. Congress, professional librarians, and the academic community. He worked tirelessly to expand the Library into a national institution and, by the time he retired, the Library of Congress had become the "world's largest bibliographical institution."¹

One of the ways Putnam expanded the Library's scope was to support the growth of foreign language collections, particularly the Asian collections. The Chinese Collection began in 1869, when the Qing government, acting on behalf of Chinese Emperor T'ung-chih, gifted the United States with 10 rare Chinese works in 905 volumes.² This was arranged through an international exchange system authorized by Congress a few years prior. At the time, China was still a far off and unknown place. This gift, and several subsequent gifts from the Qing government and American diplomats, provided Americans with their first chance to learn about China's expansive history and rich culture. By the early 1900s, the Chinese Collection was large enough to warrant the creation of the Chinese Section. In 1928, Putnam and Arthur Hummel Sr., a recently returned missionary to China, managed to secure a Congressional mandate establishing the Chinese Section. Thus creating a permanent home for the Chinese Collection within the

¹ "Herbert Putnam - Previous Librarians of Congress | Library of Congress," The Library of Congress, accessed August 10, 2017, <https://www.loc.gov/about/about-the-librarian/previous-librarians-of-congress/herbert-putnam/>.

² Ibid.

Library of Congress.³

The U.S.-China relationship has benefitted from academic and educational exchanges many times over the years. Following the Boxer Rebellion in the early 1900s, China owed the United States about \$25 million in indemnities. However, most American diplomats involved in the settlement believed this sum to be excessive.⁴ In 1908, the U.S. Congress approved a bill reducing the indemnities to about \$11 million and returning the balance to China.⁵ The Qing, and later the Republic of China, used the remitted funds to finance Chinese students' education in America. A preparatory school was established in Beijing to prepare students to study in the United States on scholarships. This school eventually grew into Tsinghua University, which is one of the top universities in China today.⁶ American missionaries founded several other schools in China's early stages of modernization, but Tsinghua is one of the few that survived the transition to Communism and the Cultural Revolution. The establishment of academic exchanges between the U.S. and China allowed the two countries to improve their relations and create lasting ties. The Library of Congress' Chinese Section is one of the key, lasting avenues in such educational exchanges.

The Chinese collection grew exponentially through its early years as a result of improved relations with China. By 1951, the collection contained 280,682 volumes.⁷ Many of these were gifts from prominent U.S. diplomats to China, American missionaries, and the

³ Judy S. Lu, "The Contemporary China Collection in the Asian Division," Library of Congress, 2007, https://www.loc.gov/rr/asian/ContemporaryChinaColl_011607.pdf.

⁴ Michael H. Hunt, "The American Remission of the Boxer Indemnity: A Reappraisal," *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (May, 1972), pp. 542.

⁵ "United States Relations with China: Boxer Uprising to Cold War (1900-1949)," U.S. Department of State, accessed April 23, 2018, <https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/90689.htm>.

⁶ "History," Tsinghua University, accessed April 23, 2018, http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/publish/newthuen/newthuen_cnt/about-th/about-3.html.

⁷ Chi Wang, "Building a Better Chinese Collection for the Library of Congress," The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2012, pp. 118.

Chinese government itself. However, after the Communists declared victory and closed mainland China to the West in 1949, acquiring Chinese texts became very difficult. Most new acquisitions were made through Hong Kong or were received from various U.S. government agencies.⁸ Fortunately, during the post-war period, the Chinese collection, and indeed all the foreign language collections, found stalwart support from the Librarian of Congress, Luther Evens. At a time when a lack of donations or easy access could have completely stagnated the section, the dedicated Librarian allowed the collection to survive despite the slower growth.

As a prominent deputy of the previous Librarian, and later the head of the Library of Congress, Luther Evens focused on the development and growth of academic culture within the United States. Previously a professor of political science, Evens recognized the necessity of understanding the complicated post-war world and believed the Library could be "a powerful instrument of peace and progress." Evens ended his term as Librarian when he was elected Director-General of the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), an organization he helped establish in 1945. Evens' focus on improving America's understanding of the outside world enabled the Library of Congress to contribute to the national academic community and develop into a worldwide authority.⁹

While the Chinese section was not enjoying the same degree of growth it had experienced in its early years, the Library as a whole saw tremendous expansion during Laurence Quincy Mumford's term as Librarian of Congress. The Library's annual income alone increased nearly tenfold during the twenty years Mumford served as Librarian

⁸ Chi Wang, "Building a Better Chinese Collection for the Library of Congress," The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2012, pp. 118.

⁹ "Luther Evens - Previous Librarians of Congress | Library of Congress," The Library of Congress, accessed August 10, 2017, <https://www.loc.gov/about/about-the-librarian/previous-librarians-of-congress/luther-evans/>.

of Congress.¹⁰ The most significant development for the Chinese section was Mumford's introduction of new card-cataloguing technology. I saw this change firsthand, as I undertook the complicated assembly of an imported Japanese phototypesetting machine for the organization of Chinese-language cataloguing cards.¹¹ Although challenging, my assignment was successful. The introduction of new technologies like this allowed the Chinese section to keep pace with the huge influx of materials in the years to come.

In 1969, to celebrate the Chinese collection's growth and history, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Library's first acquisition of Chinese books with a day-long celebration. Some of our honored guests included Senator Hiram Fong of Hawaii, the first Asian American to serve as U.S. Senator, and Ambassador Chow Shu-kai, the Republic of China's Ambassador to the U.S. The event was widely attended and heightened awareness of the Chinese collection among the American public. Due to China's isolation during the first decades of its new communist government, Chinese culture was not well understood in the United States. However, the anniversary came at a time when American interest in China was growing, particularly in Washington, DC. Only a few years later, in a whirlwind of clandestine meetings, the U.S. and China would reestablish diplomatic contact. Events like the Chinese collection's anniversary celebration would continue to expose the American public, academics, and policymakers to the rich Chinese culture.

The Chinese section was able to seize this chance to educate the public because of Mumford's strong support for foreign language collections. Under his leadership, a good portion of the revenue the Library earned was used to assist these growing collections. In the interest of

¹⁰ "Lawrence Quincy Mumford - Previous Librarians of Congress | Library of Congress," The Library of Congress, accessed August 10, 2017, <https://www.loc.gov/about/about-the-librarian/previous-librarians-of-congress/lawrence-quincy-mumford/>.

¹¹ Chi Wang, "Building a Better Chinese Collection for the Library of Congress," The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2012, pp. 4.

collecting internationally published books, twelve field offices were opened in various locations worldwide.¹² This is one of the most commendable achievements under any Librarian's leadership. Although the proposed field office in Hong Kong did not work out, I was later given a unique opportunity to expand the Chinese collection myself.

During the first few years of the 1970s I worked as the Library Director at the newly established Chinese University of Hong Kong while on leave from the Library of Congress. I was there to begin building the library's collections and create a management system. While I was in a great position to further develop my collection administration skills, my circumstances also allowed me an incredible opportunity to improve U.S.-China relations. After Kissinger's trip to China in 1971, I was invited to travel throughout mainland China and meet with Chinese librarians and booksellers. I jumped on this chance to visit my homeland, as I had not been back since I left more than twenty years earlier. Bureaucracy slowed the approval of the trip, but I set off for my two week journey on June 1, 1972. This visit would prove to be a resounding success.

During my travels through Canton, Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing, I was able to acquire many new publications unavailable from our regular Hong Kong sources. However, the establishment of new relationships between the U.S. and China is arguably the trip's greatest success. I met with many university officials, academics, and several top officials from the National Library of Beijing to discuss exchanges of both books and experts. In 1973, the first Chinese library delegation visited the United States, further strengthening our ties.¹³ During their time in Washington, DC, the delegation met with experts at the Library of Congress and was given a special presentation on the

¹² Chi Wang, "Building a Better Chinese Collection for the Library of Congress," The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2012, pp. 11.

¹³ *Ibid.*, pp. 18.

Chinese Section. Due to improved relations, the Chinese Collection was soon able to resume its incredible growth. I am truly grateful that my efforts to improve the Chinese Section were also able to contribute to the lessening of tensions during the Cold War period.

I consider the next decade, from 1975 through 1985, the most prosperous years for the Chinese collection's contemporary holdings. Appointed as the Librarian of Congress in 1975, Daniel J. Boorstin was a great supporter of the Chinese collection.¹⁴ I undertook many acquisition trips to both Taiwan and the mainland in order to build better relations with academics, leaders, and officials. I accompanied Boorstin on one such trip to Taiwan, where he gave a series of lectures on American history and met with the academic community. It was heartening to have a Librarian of Congress that was willing to support the Chinese section through more than just funds.

Boorstin was also willing to aid the Chinese section in educating the American public about Chinese art and culture. Shortly after his appointment, Boorstin expressed interest in holding an exhibit featuring some of the Library's unique pieces of Chinese art. I worked with other curators and was eventually able to identify an obscure, but very beautiful series of nineteenth-century prints illustrating life in China. Held in 1978, the exhibit, "China in the 19th Century by an Unknown Russian Artist," was well attended and highly praised. Its success contributed to the American public's growing awareness of Chinese culture.

Following the establishment of official diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China in 1979, a delegation of American librarians traveled to Beijing. During this trip the group made an agreement with the Beijing Library that significantly impacted the Chinese collection. From 1981 to 1987, Beijing agreed to send one

¹⁴ "Daniel J Boorstin - Previous Librarians of Congress | Library of Congress," The Library of Congress, accessed August 10, 2017, <https://www.loc.gov/about/about-the-librarian/previous-librarians-of-congress/daniel-j-boorstin/>.

Chi Wang, PhD

copy of each newly published work to the Library of Congress in exchange for a complete set of all U.S. government publications on China. This allowed the Chinese collection to grow from 450,000 volumes in 1975 to nearly 700,000 volumes by 1985. This agreement positively affected U.S.-China relations while greatly increasing our mutual understanding of each other's society and culture.¹⁵

Appointed in 1987, James Hadley Billington was the thirteenth Librarian of Congress.¹⁶ As a former director of the Woodrow Wilson Center and a scholar of Russian history during the Cold War, Billington understood that exchanges of culture and knowledge could bridge the gap between nations. Billington successfully led the Library of Congress into the 21st century. Contact and exchange with academic communities around the world increased, particularly among students pursuing careers in international studies.

Shortly after his appointment, Billington asked me to organize a panel discussion in cooperation with the Congressional Research Service. This event focused on discussing, analyzing, and disseminating the outcomes of the most recent Chinese Communist Party Congress. This Congress was an incredibly significant event for China, as it solidified policies that would transform China into the economic powerhouse it is today. I later organized similar panels and roundtables celebrating the 60th (1988) and 75th (2003) anniversaries of the Chinese section. These events allowed academics, policymakers, and China experts to come together and discuss China as it experienced a period of tremendous growth and transformation.

As we approach the 90th anniversary of its founding, I am proud to reflect on my nearly 50 years as a part of the Chinese Section.

¹⁵ Chi Wang, "Building a Better Chinese Collection for the Library of Congress," The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2012, pp. 23-24.

¹⁶ "James H Billington - Previous Librarians of Congress | Library of Congress," The Library of Congress, accessed August 10, 2017, <https://www.loc.gov/about/about-the-librarian/previous-librarians-of-congress/james-h-billington/>.

Unfortunately, shortly after my retirement in 2004, the section was absorbed into a larger Asian section and is now managed alongside collections from East Asia, Southeast Asia, India, and Pakistan. I worry that these diverse collections are not getting the individualized support and expertise necessary to continue their growth in the best way possible. The Library of Congress must strive to provide the highest quality of resources in order to best serve the needs of scholars in America, as well as the global academic community. As Librarians of Congress, Mumford, Boorstin, and Billington were among the strongest supporters of the foreign language collections—particularly the Chinese collection. As a whole, the foreign language sections compose about two-thirds of the Library's total collections. Maintaining their growth and integrity is crucial to the Library's future as a part of American, and global, society.

On the occasion of this important 90th anniversary, it is a great time to reflect on the ways in which academic exchanges have aided in the improvement of ties between the U.S. and China. From the circumstances surrounding the creation of Tsinghua University, to the first exchanges following our historic rapprochement, the U.S. and China were able to use the sharing of knowledge to improve their relations. Tensions between the U.S. and China are higher than ever before and the need for understanding between our two countries is undeniable. Boorstin often used an aphorism proclaiming "the greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge." The more informed we are about the world around us, the better we can interact with it. In this complicated and uncertain international political climate, every bit of knowledge, understanding, and goodwill we can preserve is vital.

The current Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden, was appointed by President Obama in 2016 near the end of his second term in office.¹⁷

¹⁷ Nancy Scola, "Carla Hayden Confirmed as Librarian of Congress," Politico, July 13, 2016, <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/carla-hayden-librarian-of-congress-225495>.

Chi Wang, PhD

Hayden has indicated little regarding her interest—or lack thereof—in foreign language collections. This is likely a new area of focus for her, as most community libraries do not have large foreign language collections. Only libraries in larger cities, such as the New York City Public Library or Washington, DC's Martin Luther King Jr. Library, have extensive academic foreign language collections. As Librarian of Congress, Hayden has the unique opportunity to use her experience in community outreach and organization for the purpose of reviving interest in the Library's foreign language collections. Doing so will surely guarantee the growth of these important sections for another ninety years and beyond.

The Chinese Section's History in Photos

Chinese book collecting in America is said to date from the 1840s when 140 volumes were donated to the American Oriental Society by Reverend William Jenks (a founder of this Society), Elijah Bridgeman (the first American Missionary in China), and Caleb Cushing (the U.S. diplomat who negotiated the Treaty of Wanghia, the first between the U.S. and China). In June 1869, the Library of Congress acquired 10 works in 933 volumes of Chinese books from the Emperor of China Tung-chih, marking the beginning of the Library's Chinese Collection. Herbert Putnam, then Librarian of Congress, and Arthur Hummel Sr., a former missionary to China, worked to create a permanent home for the Chinese Collection within the Library of Congress. They succeeded in 1928 with a congressional mandate establishing the Chinese Section.

After 1949, due to the lack of communication between Mainland China and the United States, the Library experienced difficulty in acquiring Chinese materials directly from the Mainland. From 1950 to the 1970s most PRC publications received by the Library were purchased through dealers in Hong Kong. Despite these less than ideal conditions, by 1975 the Chinese Collection numbered 411,963 volumes.

Following President Nixon's visit to the mainland China in 1972, contacts were established with libraries and distribution agencies which resulted in substantial acquisitions through exchange and direct purchase. With the normalization of diplomatic relations between the PRC and the United States in 1979, an exchange of publications was established between the National Library of China and the Library of Congress. These connections were fruitful and today the Chinese Collection numbers more than 1,000,000 volumes.

This year, 2018, is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Section. Although the section was absorbed by the Asian Division in 2004, it is still a significant anniversary and hopefully many will take this opportunity to celebrate the Chinese Section's rich history. The following is a photographic history of the Chinese Section.

These photos are from Dr. Chi Wang's private collection

100th Anniversary of the Chinese Collection - 1969



The first Chinese language books received by the Library of Congress in 1869, containing 933 volumes of traditional publications. This was a gift to the United States from the Emperor of China, Tung-chih.



In 1969, the Library of Congress and the Chinese Section hosted a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Chinese collection. The Librarian of Congress, Dr. Laurence Quincy Mumford, mingles with guests during the luncheon celebration.



The celebration was taped by the United States Information Agency, a U.S. government agency that promoted public diplomacy. It is now a part of the State Department.



Left to Right: U.S. Senator Hiram Fong of Hawaii, first Asian-American to serve as a U.S. Senator; Dr. Mumford; and Ambassador Chow Shu-kai, the Republic of China's ambassador to the United States.

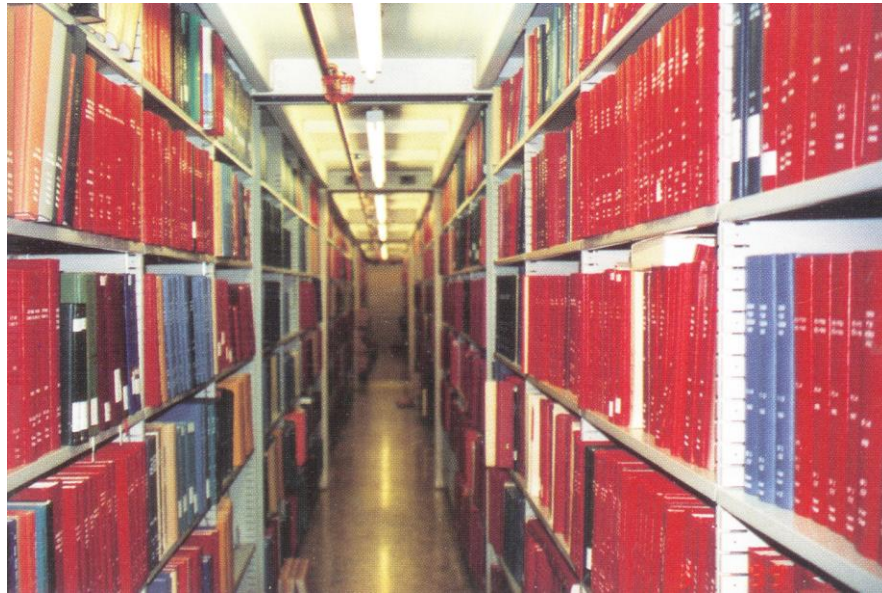
The Shelves of the Chinese Section



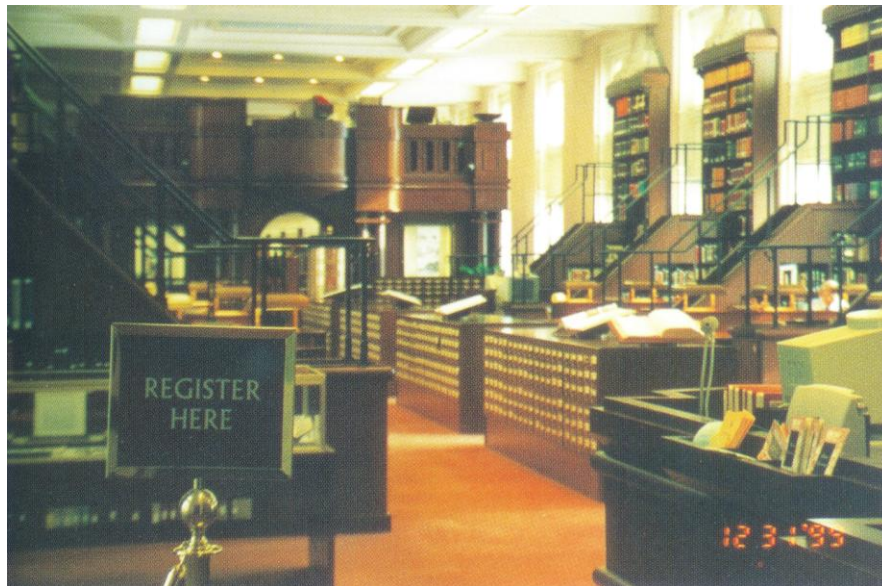
The Ku Chin t'u chi cheng (Imperial Encyclopedia of China) is a Chinese language encyclopedia with 5,044 volumes. These volumes were a gift to the Library of Congress from the Chinese Emperor in 1908 as a token of appreciation for the U.S. government's return of the unused Boxer Indemnity Fund.



At times, due to the volume of the collection, the shelves could become chaotic. Dr. Wang worked hard to ensure that order was maintained in the Chinese Section.



Dr. Wang spent many hours reorganizing the collection to make best use of the limited space. At the time of his retirement in 2004, the Chinese Section contained over 1,000,000 volumes.



The Chinese and Asian Reading Room in 1999.

Special Issue Section



There are more than 600,000 modern Chinese volumes in the Chinese collection. Acquisitions are sourced from Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.



The Chinese collection also houses the largest collection of traditional Chinese publications in the United States, with more than 300,000 volumes. It is especially rich in local histories, with more than 4,000 titles in this category.

Dr. Wang's 1972 Trip to Mainland China



In 1970, Dr. Chi Wang took a leave of absence from the Chinese Section to work with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Dr. Wang oversaw the development of the University's library collection and the construction of the new library building.



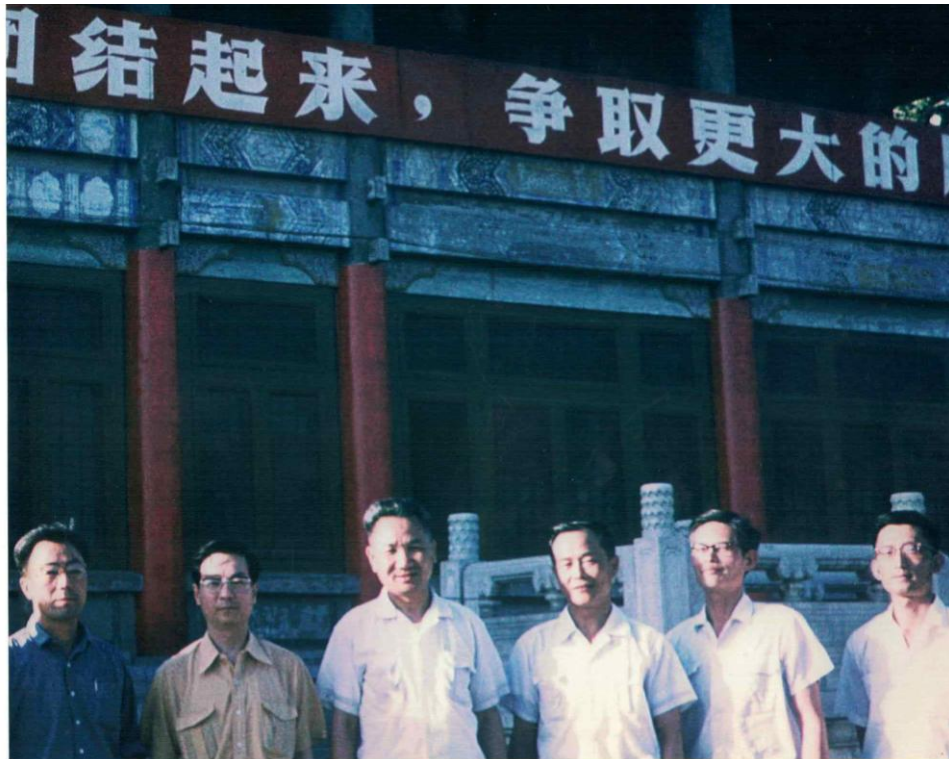
Dr. Wang (far left) and CUHK's Library staff.



The CUHK Library building was completed in 1972. At the time, this was the most modern library in Asia. Dr. Wang returned to the Library of Congress after working on the establishment of CUHK's library system for two years. He developed the University's collection from 100,000 to 300,000 volumes and established three additional libraries for affiliated colleges. CUHK has continued Dr. Wang's work and it remains one of the most advanced university libraries in Asia.

In 1971, halfway through his term at CUHK, Dr. Wang was invited to visit Mainland China and meet with Chinese librarians as a representative of the Library of Congress. This opportunity would not have happened without his position at CUHK.

Shortly after Kissinger's secret trip to China in 1971, Dr. Chi Wang was invited to visit China as a representative of the Library of Congress. In June 1972, Dr. Wang returned to his native China for a two week trip. He traveled through Canton, Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing meeting with many Chinese cultural officials and university leaders. The U.S. and China negotiated a book exchange and the U.S. extended an invitation to a Chinese cultural delegation to visit the U.S. the following year.



The first meeting between China's National Library and Library of Congress officials to discuss book exchanges. **Left to Right:** Ding Yu, Beijing Library's Rare Books Director; Dr. Chi Wang, Assistant Head of the Chinese Section at the Library of Congress; Liu Qiyun, the Deputy Director of the Beijing Library; Yan Cheng, the Beijing Library's Catalogue Department Director; (far right) Mei Shaowu, the Beijing Library's Foreign Language Collection Director.

The First Chinese Cultural Delegation visited the Library of Congress in September 1973



The Director of the National Library at Beijing visits the Chinese Section at the Library of Congress. The twelve member delegation traveled to Washington, New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and Honolulu.



Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, Chief of Orientalia Division, and Dr. K.T. Wu, the Head of the Chinese and Korean Section, address the Chinese delegation.



Anne Green, the woman standing, was Director of the Committee for Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China. She was responsible for organizing this exchange between the Library of Congress and the National Library at Beijing. She later became a Cultural Exchange Director at the White House.

Cultural Exchanges With China



In 1985, the Chinese University of Hong Kong hosted a conference for those involved with Chinese language collections. Several staff members from the Chinese Section attended, as well as over 50 librarians from university libraries around Asia, the U.S., Canada, and Taiwan.



The conference attendees discussing Chinese Language collections.



In August 1989, only two months after the Tiananmen Square incident, a conference on the development of Chinese libraries was scheduled at the National Library in Beijing. Although not originally the leader of this delegation, the Committee on East Asian Libraries asked Dr. Wang to take on that role, as many academics were uneasy about travelling to China at that time. Here, the delegation meets with Huang Hua (1st row, Center), then Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress. He was also the first Ambassador to the UN from the PRC and a former foreign affairs minister.



Dr. Wang (Left) meeting with the Director (Center) and Deputy Director (Right) of the National Library of China.



In November 1998, Dr. Chi Wang led a delegation from the Council on East Asian Libraries to China. The Council focuses on developing East Asian library collections and promoting international cooperation.



Dr. Wang also led many acquisition trips to Hong Kong and the Mainland to purchase new publications. In this picture he is visiting the Beijing Books Centre, the Beijing Library's Book Store.



In October 2001, the National Library at Beijing hosted a conference on rare Chinese books. The Library of Congress sent a delegation led by Dr. Wang (1st row, 5th from left).

Engaging With the Academic Community



In 1981, the publishers behind the Encyclopedia Britannica released a Chinese language version to be sold in China. The publishers presented one of the first editions to the Chinese Section. Daniel Boorstin (second from left); Richard Howard, Assistant Chief of the Asian Division (third from left); Chi Wang, Head of the Chinese Section (third from right); Warren Tsuneishi, Chief of the Asian Division (far right).



In 1987, the Chinese Section organized a luncheon with Jonathan Spence, a China scholar from the United Kingdom. Spence wrote many books on China's modern history and later became a professor of the highest rank at Yale University.



On November 18, 1988, the Chinese Section celebrated its 60th anniversary with a luncheon and panel discussions. Dr. Frederic Wakeman, a professor of Chinese history at UC Berkeley, addresses guests before a panel discussion.



Dr. K.T. Wu, former head of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress, addresses the guests of the Chinese Section's 60th Anniversary Celebration.



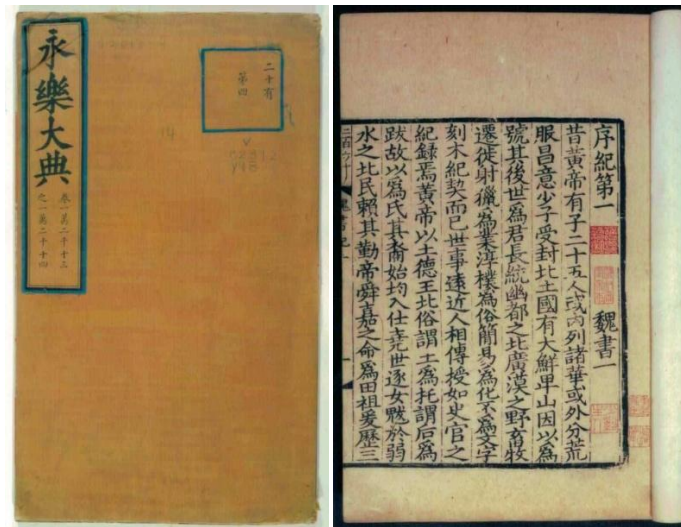
Librarian of Congress James Billington delivers remarks at the luncheon celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Chinese section. **Left to Right:** K.T. Wu, Arthur Hummel Jr., Edwin G. Beal, Jr. Chi Wang, and James Billington.



In 2003, the Library of Congress and the Chinese Section hosted a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Section. Then Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao (Left) was the keynote speaker at the day-long conference. The Librarian of Congress, James Billington (Right), welcomed the Secretary.



Before her speech, Dr. Chi Wang, the head of the Chinese Section, gave Secretary Chao a tour of the rarest materials in the Chinese collection. The volume pictured is a part of the Yongle Encyclopedia.



The Yongle Encyclopedia was created in the Ming Dynasty and was comprised of 11,095 volumes. A copy was made in 1567 and the original was mostly lost by the 1640s. By the late 1800s only about 800 volumes of the copy remained. This was further depleted during the Boxer Rebellion and the occupation of Beijing by Western soldiers. The largest collection, 221 volumes, is held by the National Library of China in Beijing. The Library of Congress has 41 volumes.



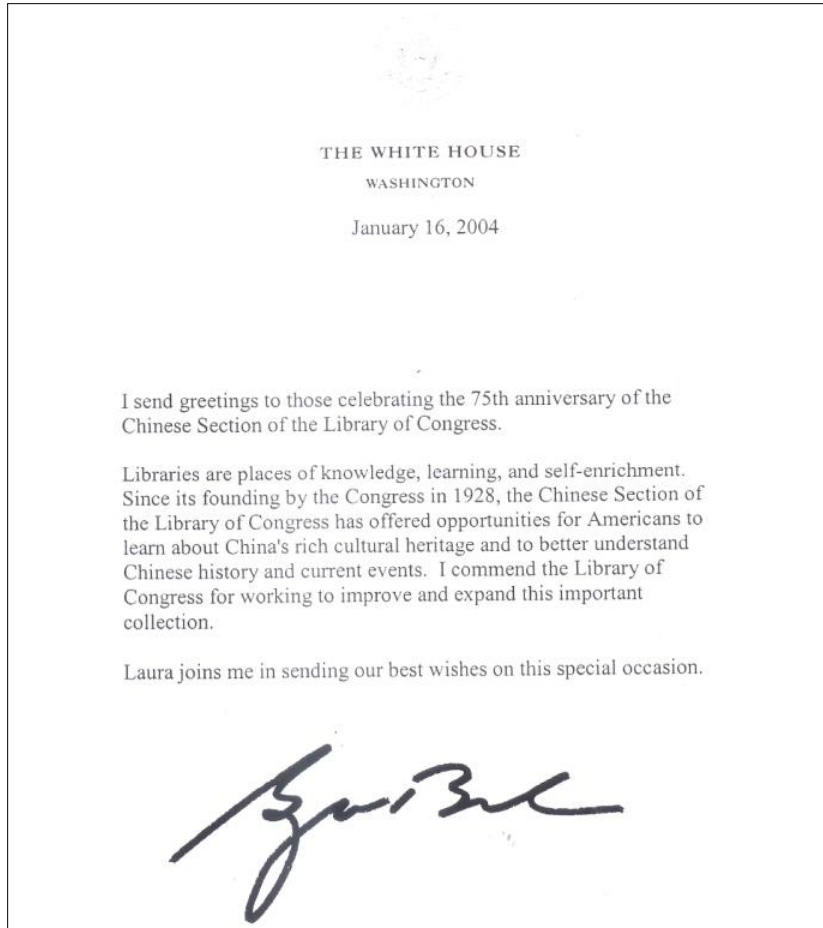
Many China scholars and policymakers joined the Chinese Section's celebration of its 75th anniversary. **Left to Right:** Ambassador James Lilley, U.S. Ambassador to China from 1989 to 1991; David Dean, Chairman and Director of the American Institute in Taiwan from 1979 to 1995; Secretary Elaine Chao; and Donald Anderson, former U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai and Hong Kong, President of the U.S.-China Business Council.



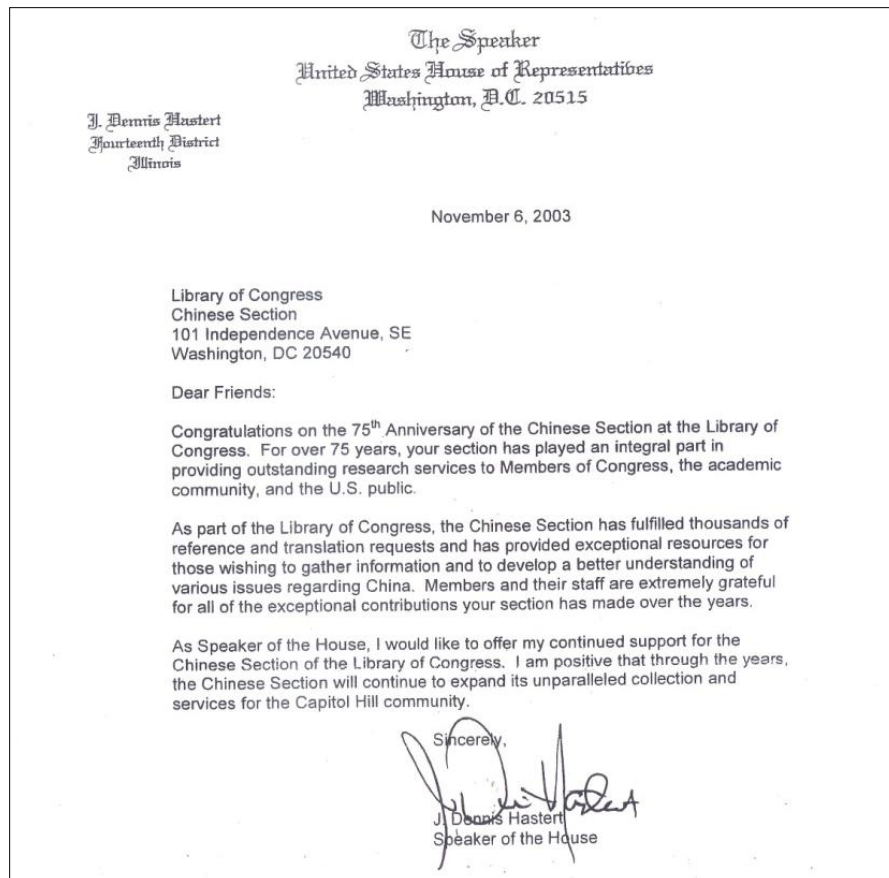
Secretary Elaine Chao delivering the keynote speech.



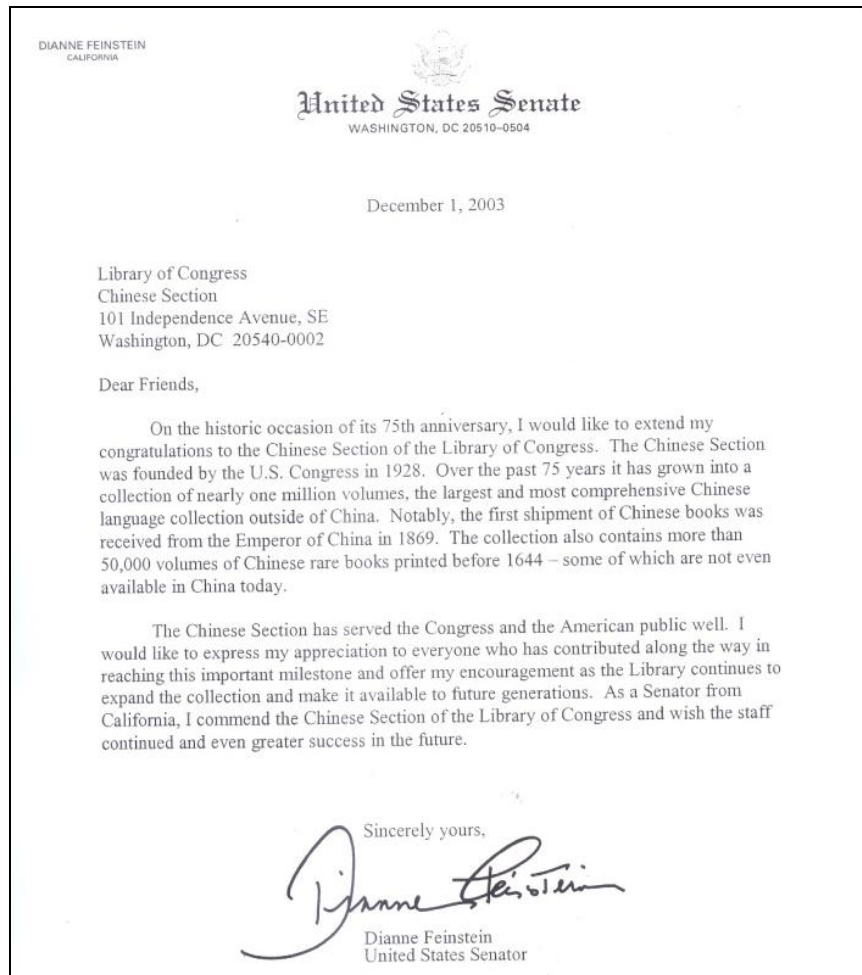
Roderick MacFarquhar, a China scholar and Harvard University professor, delivering remarks at the 75th anniversary celebration.



Celebratory letter from President George W. Bush



Letter from Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert



Letter from Senator Dianne Feinstein

ALA American Library Association

October 30, 2003

Chi Wang, Ph.D.
Head, Chinese Section
Library of Congress
Jefferson Building, Room 150
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Dr. Wang:

I was very honored to be invited to participate in the 75th Anniversary Symposium of the Library of Congress Chinese Section. I express my sincere regret at not being able to attend such a momentous occasion due to a prior commitment. I had the pleasure of being a guest at the Library of Congress several months' back and I was in awe at the magnificence of such an institution.

As President of the American Library Association, I feel it is vital to provide equal opportunity to library services and resources for all people. The Chinese Section, is such a resource, founded in 1928 it has provided research and translation services to members of the Congress and the general public for 75 years. Their continued service is an example of the commitment to our Association and its core value of the profession: Equity of Access. The Library of Congress Chinese Section reflects a true commitment to the ideal of providing equal access to everyone, anywhere, anytime, and in any format, particularly those groups who are already underserved, such as residents of rural and urban America, senior citizens and the disabled.

You have my heartfelt congratulations on your 75th Anniversary and may the Chinese Section continue to serve the Congress and the American public in many years to come.

Sincerely,



Carla D. Hayden
President
American Library Association

@ your library™

Letter from Carla Hayden, then President of the American Library Association. Hayden was appointed the 14th Librarian of Congress by President Obama in 2016.

Remembering the 90th Anniversary of the Chinese Section

On March 20, 2018, Professor Chi Wang was joined by the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Section of the Library of Congress. Librarians from across the U.S., and even abroad, gathered together to recognize the importance of this collection and its vital contribution to East Asian libraries and academic scholarship on China. Around 50 guests attended the celebration. Renowned university libraries at institutions such as Berkeley, Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, the University of Chicago, and many others were represented

The dinner coincided with the CEAL annual meeting that took place in Washington, DC. Jim Cheng, CEAL President and Director of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia University, gave remarks at the celebration and recognized Professor Wang's important contribution to the Chinese Section and to the overall U.S.-China Relationship. His remarks can be read on the next page.



Librarians celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Library of Congress Chinese Section

Remarks for the Chinese Section 90th Anniversary Celebration

Jim Cheng, PhD



Dr. Cheng delivers remarks at the celebratory dinner marking the 90th anniversary of the Library of Congress Chinese Section

I am very humbled and honored by the invitation of Professor Chi Wang to give remarks during this dinner. But, as the CEAL President, I feel I should say few words to celebrate Professor Chi Wang's dedicated and legendary career of nearly 50 years of East Asian Librarianship at the Library Congress, 45 years teaching Chinese History at Georgetown University, and many years serving as a prominent American Diplomat as co-chair and president of U.S.-China Policy Foundation.

First, 2018 is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Section at the Library of Congress. Today, the Chinese collection at the Library of Congress is the largest outside of China, for which Professor

Wang's nearly 50 years' contributions are critical. Secondly, as a professor, Dr. Wang contributed to the establishment of Georgetown University's PhD program in Asian History. Since 1972, Dr. Wang has acted as an advisor for graduate students majoring in U.S.-China relations. He has published over 10 books in both English and Chinese, including *Obama's Challenge to China* in 2015 and his autobiography: *A Compelling journey from Peking to Washington: Building a New Life in America* (从北京到华盛顿,我的中美历史回忆).

Finally, as a Diplomat, if you have read his autobiography you will note that he was the first librarian to represent the U.S. government in 1972 to negotiate the establishment of cultural exchange projects with the Chinese Government in Beijing. He was a major player behind the scenes who pushed for the historical meeting between KMT Leader Dr. Lien Chan and CCP Leader Hu Jintao in 2005.

Under his leadership, The U.S.-China Policy Foundation has assisted a number of major American business enterprises in developing their business opportunities in China since the 1990s. Professor Wang is the first librarian I know who has successfully crossed three professional fields with great success: librarianship, professorship, and diplomacy.



Professor Chi Wang welcomes guests to the dinner.