

## NOTES AND NEWS

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*The University of California.* "A Graduate Seminar in Chinese History." [The following statement, which was prepared by Professor Woodbridge Bingham of the Department of History, University of California, was read by the author to a meeting of the American Oriental Society in New York City on April 26, 1946. The editors of *THE FAR EASTERN QUARTERLY* are happy to take this opportunity to make it available to a larger audience, and hope that it will stimulate the preparation of similar statements by other members of the teaching profession].

The aim of this statement is to present for discussion and criticism a program of instruction in the Oriental field which is based on several years' experience. A method of conducting a graduate seminar in Chinese history has been evolved over a period of years from 1937 to 1941 and 1945 to 1946. While certain definite results have been achieved in this course, it is recognized that the methods are still far from perfect, and it is hoped that this description of the course will lead others with a similar experience to make comments and suggestions.

The course as listed in the catalogue of the University of California at Berkeley is entitled "Seminar in the History of the Far East," a course for graduate students to meet for a two-hour period once a week. This course has been given as a separate entity during each of the eleven semesters between 1937 and 1946. During most of this time one other graduate seminar on the Far East, devoted to a study of Japanese history and institutions, was also offered. But for advanced students interested in any phase of Far Eastern history except Japanese history the seminar in question was the only course available. Although it is listed as a "Seminar in the History of the Far East," the instructor's own qualifications have led him to confine the work chiefly to the History of China. The objective of this course, as part of the history program of the University, is a training in historical research, especially in the problems of Chinese history. Instruction has been greatly facilitated by the availability of a good library of Chinese and general Far Eastern materials.

The number of students in the seminar during each semester has varied from one to seven and is usually about three or four. The course has had a total registration of thirty-five students. All of these have been qualified as graduate students. Some have had previous historical training; most of them have not. A few have had previous training in the Chinese language, but during some semesters the course has been conducted with only one member of the class able to use Chinese. Many of these students have attended the seminar for only one semester. Nevertheless, a certain continuity has been attained by the fact that ten have taken the course over a period of two semesters. Thus the students vary considerably in background and ability and each semester has necessitated a fresh start in the training offered with a new group of students. The instructor has been faced with the problem of presenting to students with little or no knowledge of Chinese, and often without previous historical training, a sound approach to research in Chinese History.

Two means are employed as methods of instruction: presentation of methods and materials through a series of lectures and discussions, and practice in research problems through reports by the students themselves.

(A) By discussion and lecture the students are introduced first to the general problems involved in gathering and evaluating historical source materials. The first sessions of the seminar are devoted each time to a discussion of methods in such matters as (1) attaining completeness of coverage for all possible sources in a given area of history, (2) arrangement of source materials in a well-organized and annotated bibliography, and (3) forms of bibliographical entries either in a list of sources or as footnotes. The general purpose of such discussion is to start the student off with concrete advice for the writing of an essay on the sources for a given subject.

After the introductory discussions on method, as many sessions of the course as are available, when not actually given over to the presentation of student reports, are devoted to the introduction to special problems of Chinese historical research. In this the primary aim is to acquaint the students with the tools which they may employ in (1) collecting and appraising Chinese historical materials and in (2) the use of those materials.

As a background for present and future work in the collecting and appraisal of Chinese historical materials, the following have been discussed in lectures to the students of the seminar: bibliographical aids, library resources in the United States and the Far East, archives and collections of official documents, and the history of Chinese historical writing within China and in other countries.

In training the students of the seminar for the use of Chinese historical materials, they have first had explained to them the various auxiliary sciences and reference works which they should employ after accumulating and giving a preliminary evaluation to their material. The subjects have been presented in the following subdivisions: general problems of Chinese language transliteration and translation (including discussion of special bibliographical, historical and chronological terms); special problems arising in the reading of ancient documents, seals, inscriptions, etc.; Chinese chronology; Chinese geography; biographical reference works; works for reference in the use of Chinese official titles and personal names; and Chinese encyclopedias.

The final exposition of the use of Chinese historical materials has been concerned with the editing and interpreting of those materials with emphasis on textual and historical criticism and methods of writing history. These phases of instruction have been brought into the discussion of specific topics worked on by the students themselves.

The material for these lectures and discussions is now in process of being made available to the students in written outline form as a preliminary guide to the tools for research in Chinese History.

(B) Each student is usually required to present two reports during the semester. The first report, if the student is newly entered in the seminar, is an essay on the sources for a given phase of Chinese history. The second report and those in succeeding semesters are on the subject matter of some small topic within the phase of history covered in the essay on sources.

The topics, chosen through consultation between the instructor and the students, have varied from the "Chinese attitude towards the introduction of the railway in China" to a study on the "T'ang Heir Apparent Li Ch'eng-ch'ien and the abortive revolt of 643." Some forty-eight reports have been made between 1937 and 1946; half of these have been concerned primarily with an evaluation of source materials. They have generally been confined to the history of China during the Ch'ing period, especially the 19th century.

Among the reports dealing with the 19th century sixteen have been concerned with internal history: problems of the land frontiers (including a study of K'ang-hsi's campaigns against Galdan), biographical topics on the Empress Dowager Tz'u-hsi and the Chinese statesmen who helped maintain her in power, and studies of some of the great armed uprisings which disturbed the empire in the 19th century. In eleven of these, or more than half, Chinese materials have been used by the student.

Topics concerning the foreign relations of China have been particularly favored by the instructor because of the fact that they involve the use of source materials of more than one country and because more materials are available for students who do not use Chinese. Twenty-two reports have been made on topics dealing with China's relations with western powers and their dependencies during the 19th century: with the British Empire, nine; the United States, five; Russia, two; and the Philippines, three. Three papers were on Yunnan and the Burmese frontier.

Four students have made reports on subjects drawn from 7th Century T'ang history for which the chief sources are in Chinese.

Students have first been asked to present each report in written form with copies for the instructor and at least one other member of the class. At the following week's meeting the same student presents the subject orally during the first hour of the seminar. The second hour is devoted to (1) a discussion of the oral report, followed by (2) comments on the written report by the other member of the class who has read the paper and by (3) a final discussion of both reports by the instructor. The grading in the course is based largely on the student reports but includes consideration of ability shown in commenting on the work of other students.

This course has attracted a small but steady stream of graduate students, a few of whom have gone on to continue their scholarly work towards an M.A. in Far Eastern history or in Chinese language. The actual number of theses is three in Far Eastern history and one in Chinese language. Of those present among this year's students in the seminar, three expect to become candidates for a Ph.D. in history with emphasis on the Far Eastern field.

Among the later activities of some of the former students in the course six (or more) have entered government service and during the last few years have served in: the Office of Strategic Services (three), Military Intelligence (two), and the Foreign Economic Administration (one). Two have written books on the Far East and one has a position in guiding university activities of foreign students.

In spite of the opportunities available, few history graduate students are able or care to proceed in the field of Far Eastern history to the point of attaining an M.A. or Ph.D. in that special field. Even as an outside field of study this type of seminar course and this special field have not up to now appealed to many candidates for higher degrees in history. Their main emphasis is on Europe and America. On the

other hand, students who have attended the seminar have reacted favorably to the opportunity for mutual criticism and discussion provided by this course and many have shown marked improvement in ability during the period of instruction. Some of those who have taken the seminar have developed a high degree of excellence in Far Eastern research which has proved useful in intelligence work, writing, or academic scholarship. The present year has brought to the seminar a larger proportion of students who can use Chinese. Hence, more members of the course are able to go further in a short time. It is hoped that this will continue to be the case. In any event the availability in written form of a guide concerning sources and reference works will assist in the improvement of teaching by enabling the instructor to lay greater emphasis on the interpreting of historical data especially by those who have a command of the Chinese language.

*The Library of Congress.* During the past two years the Japanese Section of the Library of Congress has been working on a Union Catalog of books in the Japanese language. The plan was conceived during the early years of the recent war, when the demand for Japanese material rose to unprecedented heights. The first step was the listing on cards of the Japanese books available in the libraries of various war agencies in Washington, D. C. The resulting catalog proved so useful in locating this material that the Section secured permission to obtain listings from other libraries.

At present, this union catalog comprises approximately 40,000 entries. Even though the main Union Catalog of the Library of Congress enters works only by author, it has seemed advisable, in dealing with Japanese books, to enter all works both by author and by title. In some cases it has been possible to obtain reproduced cards directly from other libraries. In other cases lists of the holdings of other libraries have been obtained, and from these lists cards have been prepared in the Library of Congress. The collections outside of the Library of Congress which are now represented are those of Columbia and Northwestern Universities; the University of California collection, and the Kuno collection in that University; the University of Michigan; the Law Library of the University of Washington; Claremont Colleges Library; the library of the Institute of Pacific Relations; and the legal collection of Mr. Thomas L. Blakemore. In addition, complete microfilm reproductions have been obtained of the catalogs of the Japan Institute Collection and the Nippon Club Collection, both of which are housed at Columbia University. These films will be reproduced on 3" by 5" cards as soon as suitable enlarging equipment again becomes available. The Harvard-Yenching Institute also has promised a microfilm reproduction of its cards for Japanese books, but, owing to a shortage of microfilming equipment in the Boston area, this film has not yet been received.

It is recognized that cards representing the libraries of other institutions must be added, and that the whole catalog is in need of editing and standardization of entries. Even in its present form, however, the catalog has proved very useful.

*Washington Document Center.* The Tokyo edition of *Stars and Stripes* (vol. 2, no. 61) recently carried an interesting article by Sergeant Andrew Headland, in which he reported an interview with Colonel A. S. Knight, Chief of the Washington Document Center Advance Echelon.

Colonel Knight stated that between November 1945 and May 1946 approximately one half million specially chosen Japanese books and documents had been shipped to the United States. Most of the shipments are reported to be destined for the Washington Document Center, where they will be used to build up a new oriental library. Books or manuscripts sentimentally valuable to the Japanese are not being removed from Japan, but are being microfilmed instead. The article states that a "total of 158 members of the Washington Document and Allied Translator and Interpreter Sections (including British personnel) have visited 400 document sites or 'targets' in the search for material. Books have been found stored for safe-keeping in temples, caves, and out of the way places throughout the Japanese islands and the American-occupied part of Korea." The article further states that Colonel Knight "pointed out that the establishment of this oriental library at Washington for the first time will make available to the American public a direct insight into Japanese history, literature, art, culture, and various sciences."

*Lieutenant Schuyler Cammann*, who in May, 1946, was on terminal leave, has been living at 4103 W Street, N. W., Washington 7, D. C., after almost five years of active duty in the United States Navy. While in China in 1945 he wrote by far the greater part of a guidebook to Kunming. This work was prepared chiefly for the benefit of American military personnel stationed there; its purpose was to help them better to understand the things they were seeing. Lt. Cammann's chief contribution consisted of descriptive guides to ten tours to be taken in and around Kunming, but he also contributed a "Short history of Yunnan," and articles on "Buddhism in the life of Yunnan" and "Symbols in Yunnanese art and architecture."

*Dr. Helen B. Chapin*, in a letter written in Tokyo on May 13, 1946, to Mr. Mortimer Graves, reports that Professor Umehara Sueji is well and is working very hard. Miss Chapin went on an archaeological expedition with him near the village of Yagi, where they dug on the site of a Hakuho (*ca.* 650–*ca.* 720) temple. They uncovered many undecorated tile fragments, several tiles with flower designs, and "two fragments of clay plaques with Buddhist images in low relief." She also visited the Yakushiji. The abbot of that temple is now Bishop of the Hossō sect, and has charge of the Yakushiji, Kōfukuji, and Hōryūji. She regrets that during her projected visit to Korea she will not be able to profit by the help of Japanese scholars who have spent the greater part of their lives in archaeological work in Korea.

*Professor H. G. Creel* of the University of Chicago has completed four years' service in the United States Army. He served at first with the rank of major, and later with that of lieutenant-colonel. After leaving the service in the spring of 1946, he spent several months working in the Library of Congress on his new study of Confucius and early Chinese society. At the end of May he returned to Chicago to prepare his staff and program for the coming academic year.

*Dr. Edwin A. Kracke, Jr.*, who for the past four years has served in the Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D. C., has accepted an appointment in the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. His teaching schedule for the academic year 1946–47 will comprise courses both in Chinese history and in the Chinese language.

*Professor Cyrus H. Peake*, in a letter written in Tokyo on February 26, 1946, has discussed some of the problems involved in securing printed material in Japan. Excerpts from his letter follow:

"We work six days a week here, and it is not easy to get things done on the side. For example, I have not been out to Tōyō Bunko as yet. I can, however, testify that the Library of Tokyo Imperial University is intact. Moreover, a large share of the Kanda district, where second-hand bookstores are located, is also intact and their books spared. However, the prices on old books are very high at present. It is better to wait to buy them. But books and magazines published in recent decades are being sold by reputable dealers, such as Maruzen, at prices fixed and usually printed on the back cover. Thus a five *yen* book, which would have cost \$1.25 before the war, can now be bought for 33 cents, at the current exchange rate. Unfortunately the supply is limited, as is the case with books published during the war, owing to paper shortages. I plan to do some buying for Columbia. I have to mail these items parcel post in packages of not more than 70 pounds, at a cost of \$8.00 per package. Recently I bought a complete set of the *Oriental Economist* (English edition), from January, 1941, to the present (76 issues) for 85 *yen*—a real bargain at the current 15 to 1 exchange rate. . . .

"I am comfortably located here in the Dai-ichi Hotel, with private room and bath, and good meals. The work is very interesting—at times fantastic, when one considers the power and influence we exercise over the government and the life of the people. So far all goes well, but there will be trying times ahead; in particular, there will be a food shortage until next harvest. However, people still appear to be better off than I had expected, and better clothed. There is an increasing amount of building going on here, and more and more things are appearing on the market."

*Professor Earl Swisher* is back at the University of Colorado, and started teaching again as of March 4, 1946. He will also take over the directorship of the University's Institute of Asiatic Affairs, and hopes to get a new program set up for that organization soon. As of March 15, 1946, he was still on terminal leave from the Marine Corps, where he had served with the rank of major, but he was scheduled to secure his separation on April 16, 1946.

#### GEORGE D. WILDER

Dr. George D. Wilder, missionary in China of the Congregational Church, and author, died in Oberlin, Ohio, on May 5, 1946, at the age of 76. He had spent 44 years of his life in China. Many of these years had been devoted to establishing rural churches and to teaching, but he also was an enthusiastic student of bird lore and an expert in bee culture. In 1925 he became the first president of the Peking Society of Natural History. He was decorated by the Chinese Government for his work in famine and flood relief. Most students of the Chinese language have used his *Analysis of Chinese characters*, which was published in Peking in 1922. He also directed the revisions and additions which were incorporated into the fifth edition of Fenn's well-known *Five thousand dictionary*, published in Peiping in 1940.