**ASIAN LIBRARY RESOURCES OF AUSTRALIA**

**Newsletter No. 73 (January 2019)**

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## Greetings from the Editor

Trust the new year is progressing well for all our readers and contributors. My appreciation for the continuing support of our colleagues at the National Library of Australia and Monash University Library for their contributions. Please note our call for nominations to positions within the ALRA family, and I would encourage any with an active interest in Asian librarianship or scholarship in Australia to apply.

Wishing all a fruitful and rewarding 2019 Year of the Pig.

Yours sincerely,

Darrell Dorrington
ANU China/Korea Information Access librarian (Emeritus)

# News from the National Library of Australia

## Xiaoli Li – Asian Collections

**Online access to iRead eBooks**

iRead eBooks (Hua yi dian zi shu) are now remotely accessible via the National Library's OPAC and eResources portal. This database provides access to Chinse ebooks primarily published in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau.  It covers subjects such as philosophy, religion, natural sciences, applied sciences, social sciences, history, geography, language and linguistics, and literature and arts.  Items are available for document delivery to Australian libraries. Interface is available in Chinese and English. The Library has acquired 132 ebooks so far.

## National Library of Australia Publishing books
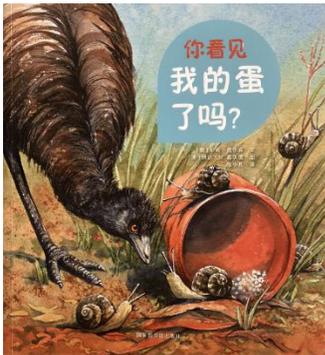


The Chinese version of National Library of Australia (NLA) Publishing's *Have you seen my egg*, by Penny Olsen and illustrated by Rhonda N. Garward, won a China's National Popular Science Books of Excellence 2017 award. *Have you seen my egg?* is one of seven children's books that the Library licensed to the National Library of China (NLC) Publishing House in 2017. The seven Chinese translations were published as the 'National Library Picture Book Garden' series which kicks off the first cooperation between the two national library publishing houses. The NLC publishing house sent this set of books to the Asian Collections as a gift for the help they received at both the communication and translation stages of the publication.

# Japan from 1868 -

# The 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration

*Rika Wright – Asian Collections, National Library of Australia*

The year 1868 represented the beginning of a new era in Japanese society that brought about the modernisation of Japan. To celebrate this anniversary, a display was set up in the Asian Collections Reading Room during May to July illustrating Japan's advancing westernisation during the late 19th century

## The dawn of Modern Japan



Due to a number of treaties signed with foreign powers in the mid-19th century, Japan had limited authority in charging import tariffs as well as unequal status in the consular courts. With the aim of revising these agreements and building a 50/50 relationship with allied Western powers, the Meiji government made efforts to establish Western-style national systems, centralising power, and encouraging new industry.

## Freedom, Rights, Democracy

The Freedom and People's Rights Movement was a political and social movement for democracy in the 1880s. The Movement prompted the Meiji government to establish a constitution in 1889 and a Diet (parliament) in 1890.
During this time, many political novels were written in order to spread political opinion and enlighten the people.

## Change in Everyday Life



Japanese society became Westernised in a very short period. The postal service, the first railway, and the national education system were established in the early 1870s, and the telephone was introduced in 1890.

People cut off the traditional topknot, wore Western style clothing, used the Gregorian calendar, and for the first time beef was introduced into Japan's Buddhist society.
In larger cities, English language signboards, gas lamps and brick buildings appeared.

The following image is an illustration of "Aguranabe" originally published in 1871.
It shows that the waitress and waiter are wearing traditional clothing while the customer, in Western hairstyle and clothing, enjoys reading the news over a pot of beef. The illustration highlights the customer's way of putting on airs of civilisation and enlightenment.



Aguranebe, reprinted in 1968, nla.cat-vn1494540

## First Australian Entertainer



Henry James Black was born in Adelaide and arrived in Japan in 1865 with his family at the age of seven. He became the first foreign kabuki actor and rakugo performer (Japanese theatrical art of comic storytelling that originated in the Edo period).

Black also published six or seven stenographic novels. "Gento" (right hand side) is known as one of the earliest detective stories to use fingerprint verification to solve a mystery.



Left: Nagare no akatsuki nla.cat-vn7582632, Right: Gento nla.cat-vn7582631

## Pioneer of Japan-Australia Trade



In the early Meiji Period, 90% of Japan's imports and exports were dominated by foreign companies. Fusajiro Kanematsu believed that trade rights must be brought back into the hands of the Japanese. He turned to Australia, which was the largest wool-producing country in the world.
Fusajiro established a trading company in 1889, and set up a Sydney branch to start the direct import of Australian wool in 1890. This company was responsible for 40% to 50% of Japan's wool imports by 1900.

In 1929, the company funded the Kanematsu Pathology Research Institute at Sydney Hospital. Sir John Eccles and Sir Bernard Katz based in this institute were later awarded the Nobel Prize.

# Korean literature in Korean and English translation
## *Jung-Sim Kim, Monash University Library*

*Korean literature in Korean and English translation* is a list of Korean fiction and short stories held by Monash University Library (MUL). The materials listed are part of both MUL's general collection and Korean Collection, which is the largest academic Korean collection in Australasia. The list was updated and revised as an online publication in 2018.

There were variations in the translated-English titles depending on different translators and publishers. Each variation is now linked to the relevant record in the Monash University Library Search (https://monash.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?sortby=rank&vid=MONUI&lang=en_US).

The list was developed with the aim of facilitating students, researchers, and members of the public to access Korean literature materials. In doing so, it is organised by author names in the Korean alphabet into four columns:

- Korean authors' names in Korean and their published names in English. The authors' names in Korean are based on 한글 as well as 한자 (漢字).
- Authors' names in romanised McCune-Reischauer ignoring diacritics (MR) and the Revised Romanization of Korean system (RRK).
- Titles of work in Korean.
- Titles of work in English.

A small grant was requested and secured to fund a casual assistant's time. This made it possible for the Korean Studies Subject Librarian to revise and publish the new publication online in 2018. The revised online version can be accessed at:  https://guides.lib.monash.edu/korean/literature-translations

In addition to the online published list, a limited number of the printed version, which includes diacritics in the authors' names in romanised McCune-Reischauer (MR), have been published in late 2018.
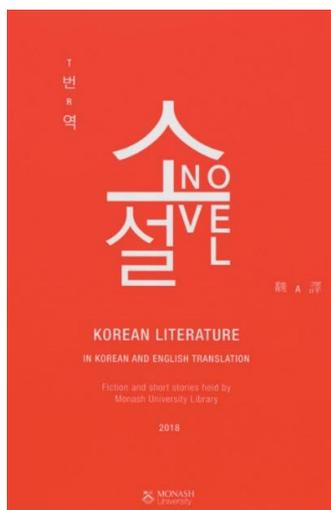
Compiled by Jung-Sim Kim, Dina Hoare
Cover and design by Eliza Liddy

## CrossAsia Fulltext search - open for all users
### From: Seeger, Miriam <Miriam.Seeger@sbb.spk-berlin.de>

Dear colleagues,
We would like to inform you about a fulltext search (beta version) CrossAsia is offering, open for all users. The aim of the CrossAsia Fulltext Search is to help users to find texts and sources relevant to their research questions by performing comprehensive searches across the content of different databases that are licensed by CrossAsia. At the moment the resources included are in Chinese, Japanese and English, however we plan to add resources in other East Asian languages as well. A full list of the resources included you can find here – from where you can access the fulltext search as well:
https://crossasia.org/service/crossasia-lab/crossasia-itr/

We offer two different beta versions of the fulltext search – for the different features and how to use the search versions, please refer to the short descriptions we provide on the individual search pages. In both versions search hits are displayed as short text snippets with their basic metadata. Only when trying to access the complete texts and images in the original database contexts, a login is required (either for CrossAsia users – red icon – or for users with other access modes – grey icon).

The CrossAsia Fulltext Search is built from textual resources hosted in the CrossAsia Integrated Textrepository (ITR), which is set up in the FID Asia project (Specialised Information Service Asia), generously funded by the German Research Foundation. The FID Asia project just started with its second funding period (2019-2021) and during the next three years we will continue to develop the ITR into an infrastructural service for external projects and develop additional services in the context of digital humanities. A summary of the planned activities of the FID Asia project and the application text (in German only) you can find here:
https://blog.crossasia.org/about/fid-asien/?lang=en.

In addition, you will find further information on CrossAsia's numerous activities on our website, such as in data management, digital humanities, on our various search options (including the fulltext search), and on licensing etc.:
https://blog.crossasia.org/about/?lang=en.

For feedback, questions etc. please contact: x-asia@sbb.spk-berlin.de.


Kind regards
Miriam Seeger

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# Call for nominations to ALRA positions
## *- Amy Chan [ALRA President 2015-2019]*

Hello all,

Welcome to the new year, 2019, and for those of you who celebrate, the year of the pig!

The current Committee has been in service since 2015, and ALRA is very due for a changeover of position holders.

Since the expansion of EALRGA (East Asian Library Resource Group of Australia) to include other parts of Asia 5 years ago, we have been actively advocating for Asia, Asian Studies and Asian studies/library resources.

We have solidified our purpose as:

1.  To build a national community of Asian Studies librarians and library liaisons (non-specialists who work to support Asian Studies), and to coordinate communication, collaboration and sharing of knowledge and information within this community; and

2.  To represent it to the Asian Studies scholars community, in particular in its liaison role with the ASAA through a representative position on the ASAA Council.

In general, we are advocates for Asian Studies and the resources required for in-depth study of the region, recognising that these resources may be esoteric, difficult to source, in a variety of languages and scripts, and may not necessarily fit into what is largely a Western library. It is in this area where ALRA makes a difference. We recognise that when we share information nationally and are able to consolidate our resources and knowledge, we can best serve our community of Asian Studies scholars.

These are some of the things we do:

*   We have organised and convened roundtable sessions in conjunction with the ASAA biennial conference.

*   We have a representative on the ASAA Council

*   We publish a bi-annual newsletter

*   We have a website, mailing list and database of e-resources

*   An annual Christmas lunch, co-organised with Asia Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG).

We are hoping new committee members will continue the good work, particularly in the era of the Asian Century.

Hence, I **call for nominations** for the following positions:

- President

- Secretary

- Treasurer

- Web manager

- Newsletter editor

In your submission of nominations, please include the following:

1. Your name

2. Name of your nominee

3. Seconder

4. A statement of why the nominee is nominated for the position and an acceptance of nomination by the nominee

Nominations will close at **11.55pm on 2 April 2019** and should be addressed to any member of committee as listed at http://alra.org.au/committee.html

Regards,

Amy Chan

President of ALRA, 2015-2019.