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Editor’s note:

Dear ALRA colleagues and readers,

Welcome to our Newsletter No. 74 of August 2019. I had the pleasure to edit this newsletter as my first one as the new editor, and, after a bit of a learning curve which may explain the belated issue, I am looking forward to editing the next one!

Our new Committee information is also available online, for more information please see http://alra.org.au/committee.html. It is good to see that our former committee members still lend us their insight and knowledge!

The current issue contains two features by Andrew Gosling. The first is a description of the Martensz collection on Sri Lanka in the National Library of Australia. James Aubrey Martensz CBE was a lawyer, eminent politician in the Ceylon House of Representatives, and later High Commissioner of Ceylon to Australia until 1959. His collection was donated to the National Library of Australia, and is given a closer look in Andrew’s article here.

The second article tells the story of Paul and Marian Chen, who came to the National Library of Australia from the National Central Library in Taiwan in the early 1960s to manage NLA’s East Asian language collections. Under their leadership the NLA acquired some of its most significant collections.

The Newsletter also contains reports by colleagues attending various conferences during the year:
Anita Dewi, Rheny Pulungan, Ayako Hatta, and Di Pin Ouyang visited the Women in Asia Conference 2019, Maiko Honda and Ayako Hatta report from the Japanese Studies Association of Australia Biennial Conference at Monash University in July, and Jung-Sim Kim reports of the 21st Biennial Meeting of the International Circle of Korean Linguistics (ICKL21), also held at Monash University in July this year.

I had the opportunity to visit to the new ‘Centre of Asian and Transcultural Studies’ Library in Heidelberg, Germany, where the merge of four independent Asian Studies-related research institutes into one common geographical compound needed the new building of a combined library. The fascinating part I find is that it is built underground, into high levels of ground water.

Enjoy reading!


Friederike Schimmelpfennig, editor
A Diplomat’s Gift: the Martensz Collection on Sri Lanka at the National Library of Australia

Introduction

Today the Martensz Collection is little remembered, though it is described briefly in that invaluable source on the National Library of Australia’s holdings, the Burmester guide (1). Its donation in 1955 was also covered in some detail in the Canberra Times (2).

Presentation of the Collection

On 2 June 1955 the High Commissioner for Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Mr J. Aubrey Martensz, CBE, presented his personal collection of books about his homeland to the National Library (2). The island nation then called Ceylon is now known as Sri Lanka. For convenience the current name Sri Lanka has been used in this article, except for proper names and in book titles. The gift was formally accepted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Archie Cameron, in his role as Chairman of the Library Committee. Those attending the ceremony in the Speaker’s Chambers of Parliament included the Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, the Minister for External Affairs, Richard Casey, and the National Librarian, Harold White. It is hard to imagine a book donation attracting a prime minister and other senior politicians nowadays.

Life and career of J. Aubrey Martensz (2)(3)

James Aubrey Martensz (1885-1963), was born into a Burgher family in Colombo, the island’s capital. The Burghers, a minority community of mixed Sri Lankan and Western heritage, generally have Portuguese, Dutch, British or other European surnames, the name Martensz being of Dutch origin. During British rule from the late 18th century to the island’s independence in 1948, the Burghers played a prominent role in public life.

Martensz was educated at Royal College, Colombo and then the Ceylon Law College. He practised law as a solicitor for forty years and became the senior partner in a legal firm. In 1947 he was appointed to the island’s parliament as a representative of the Burgher community.

In 1949 he became the first High Commissioner in Australia for an independent Sri Lanka, holding the post until 1955. Honouried as a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1952, he later became Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Australia. He was described by The Bulletin as “an able representative of his country and a popular member of many Canberra activities, especially the educational.” (4) A search on Trove reveals hundreds of newspaper articles about his activities around Australia, for example promoting Ceylon tea in Manjimup, Western Australia (5) or opening a flower show in Collector, New South Wales (6). Martensz donated his books to the National Library at the end of his posting to Australia. Back in Colombo he became head of the Development Corporation and was elected president of the Dutch Burgher Union in 1957.

Martensz returned to Canberra in 1959 and gained Australian citizenship in 1961. He was active in the community, as he had been while High Commissioner, and played prominent roles in the YMCA, St Paul’s Anglican Church, and Canberra Girls’ Grammar School. He died on 26 March 1963 (7). The distinguished Australian diplomat John Oldham called him “a man of extreme humility [who] possessed great profundity of character, wisdom and learning ... [and] never flagged in his discerning and wide reading.” (8) Roy Bullock who served with Martensz in the St Paul’s Men’s Group praised him
as “gentle, sincere and courteous by nature...a quietly spoken cultured gentleman in the very finest sense. He combined a calm personal serenity with a keenly intelligent and active interest in the welfare of his fellow man.” (8)

**The gift and its size**

When he donated his personal library, Martensz said that he hoped the gift, modest though it was, would make some contribution to understanding between Australia and Sri Lanka (2). He himself was being exceedingly modest. In a letter to the National Librarian, Harold White, dated 21 April 1955 he wrote, “with regard to my recent conversation with you about my books on Ceylon... they may be of too elementary a character to be of interest to the National Library but one or two may be of interest to you.” (9). While it is not large, his collection contains rare and valuable works, and none could be described as too elementary. Harold White stated that it was an important addition and “part of a wider endeavour to build extensive collections of material relating to all the countries of South and South-East Asia.” (2)

Unfortunately no definitive list of the Martensz Collection appears to be extant. His books were integrated into the Library’s holdings rather than being housed together as a formed collection. According to his letter offering his personal library, he attached a list (9), but neither of the two different but overlapping lists that this author has seen on file appears to be the original one from him. These two surviving lists are discussed in detail below in the appendix to this article. Both omit some books that he donated, and both contain others that are not from him. The titles that were definitely donated by him contain a presentation slip worded “Commonwealth National Library. This book was presented to the Library by Mr J. Aubrey Martensz. C.B.E. High Commissioner of Ceylon (1949-1955).” They are also annotated with the acquisition date 3 June 1955.

All 68 titles appearing in one or both of the two surviving lists have been checked. Several books are currently missing, others are clearly not from Martensz as they were acquired by the National Library earlier than June 1955, while there may also be works he donated that are not in either of the surviving lists. However a check in the Library’s pre-1967 Dictionary Catalogue (also known as the old card catalogue) under subjects beginning with the word Ceylon did not reveal any additional works from Martensz. Given all the above it is not possible to give an exact size for the collection, but at least 44 titles containing presentation slips are definitely from the Martensz Collection. The Library’s online catalogue records for these 44 works have now been augmented to indicate that they belonged to J. Aubrey Martensz (10).

**Highlights of the Collection**

The Martensz Collection covers many subjects such as the history, archaeology, geography, environment, economy, industries, communications, culture and religions of Sri Lanka. Most books date from the second half of the 19th century and early decades of the 20th, but a few were issued earlier. Half were published in Sri Lanka and most of the others in the United Kingdom. Old, rare and beautiful titles include:

Baldaeus, Philippus. A true and exact description of most celebrated East-India coasts of Malabar and Coromandel, as also of the Isle of Ceylon...vol. 3. Translated from the Dutch edition from Amsterdam, 1672. London : 1703. RBq JAM 915.48 BAL (Bib ID 2508451). Philippus Baldaeus (1632-1672) was a Dutch Reformed Church missionary in Sri Lanka and southern India. In 1658 he was appointed chief church minister in Jaffna in the north of the island and worked among the Tamil people, studying their language. His book is a major source on the beginnings of Dutch power in Sri Lanka and southern India,
the Dutch conquest of the maritime provinces of Sri Lanka from the Portuguese and relations between the Dutch and the independent Sri Lankan Kingdom of Kandy.

Bennett, J.W. Ceylon and its capabilities: an account of its natural resources, indigenous productions and commercial facilities. London: WH. Allen, 1843. RB 915.493 BEN (Bib ID 1030215). John Whitchurch Bennett (1790-1853) was a British soldier, magistrate, naturalist and artist, who served in Sri Lanka from 1816 to 1827. His vast work “Ceylon and its capabilities” covers many fields including geology, climate, agriculture, fisheries, industries, exports, government, education and communications. It contains illustrations by himself and local artists. He gathered information first hand by talking with local chiefs, priests, merchants, farmers and others. His “Selection of the most remarkable and interesting fishes found on the coast of Ceylon” (1828) is also held by the Library.

Coomaraswamy, Ananda Kentish. Mediaeval Sinhalese art: being a monograph on mediaeval Sinhalese arts and crafts, mainly as surviving in the eighteenth century, with an account of the structure of society and the status of the craftsmen. No. 375 of 425 copies. Broad Campden, Gloucestershire: Essex House Press, 1908. RBf MISC 184 (Bib ID 7123080). Born in Sri Lanka, the author Ananda Coomaraswamy (1877-1947) was a scientist and pioneering art historian, who explained Indian and Sri Lankan art to the West. His ground breaking study of Sri Lanka’s arts and crafts was illustrated by his English born wife Ethel, who was an artist and photographer. It is a beautiful limited edition printed by hand.

Davy, John. An account of the interior of Ceylon and its inhabitants with travels in that island. London: Longman..., 1821. RBq MOD 411 (Bib ID 1123235). This is a major work on early 19th century Sri Lanka. The author John Davy (1790-1868) was the younger brother of the chemist Sir Humphry Davy. He was an army surgeon and later Fellow of the Royal Society. His detailed study is based on interviews with Sri Lankans and his own observations during his four years on the island.

Knox, Robert. An historical relation of the island Ceylon in the East Indies: together with an account of the detaining in captivity the author and divers other Englishmen now living there: and the author’s miraculous escape. London: Printed by Richard Chiswell, 1681. RBq 915.48 KNO (Bib ID 2559755). The oldest book in the Martensz Collection, this is a major source on the geography, economy, society and culture of Sri Lanka in the 17th century. Knox was a sailor and trader for the English East India Company, who spent 19 years on the island after being taken prisoner by the King of Kandy, Rajasimha II. He escaped in 1679. His vivid account of life on the island and his escape was widely read and is believed to have influenced early British novels including Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe.

Legge, W. Vincent. A history of the birds of Ceylon. 3 vols. London: W.V. Legge, 1880. SRq 35, 36, 37. (Bib ID 1046974). Born in Tasmania, the author Colonel William Vincent Legge (1841-1918) was a distinguished Australian soldier and ornithologist. Stationed in Sri Lanka from 1869 to 1877, he spent his free time studying the birds of the island. His History of the Birds of Ceylon was issued in 3 volumes between 1878 and 1880. It contains over 1200 pages and 34 colour plates. The high quality illustrations were produced by the distinguished Dutch bird illustrator, John Gerrard Keulemans.

Summary

After a long legal career and parliamentary service in Sri Lanka, J. Aubrey Martensz became a much respected diplomat in Canberra, then came back to live in Australia after retirement. His generous donation of his valuable personal book collection on Sri Lanka formed the foundation for the National Library’s holdings on that country. It is hoped that this article will help to make the Martensz Collection better known.
**About the author**

Andrew Gosling is former Chief Librarian, Asian Collections at the National Library of Australia. He wishes to thank National Library staff for their assistance with this article, in particular Di Ouyang and Erica Ryan.

**APPENDIX**

**Contents of the Martensz Collection**

In the absence of a definitive list it has not been a simple task to reconstruct the Martensz Collection. The following has been compiled from two different but overlapping typed lists. It is unclear when, how or by whom they were compiled. The first, providing a detailed description of each publication, is entitled “Principal items in the J.A. Martensz Collection.” It is on the Library’s Martensz file (9). This file also indicates 18 books on Sri Lanka that were already held by the Library at the time of the Martensz donation, though confusingly these same titles are also contained in the two lists of works supposedly donated by Martensz. The second list is also typed but has a handwritten heading “Martensz Collection.” It only provides author and title details for most items. It is on the file relating to the donation in the 1980s by Manfred Claasz of his books on Sri Lanka (11). Like Martensz, Claasz was a member of the Burgher community who migrated to Australia. Titles only appearing on the first list are indicated by a hash (#) and those only on the second list with an asterisk (*). Missing or problematic titles are discussed in the notes below.

**A. Titles confirmed as being from Martensz**

The following 44 titles contain presentation slips confirming they are from Martensz. They have also been stamped with the acquisition date 3 June 1955. In some cases not all volumes of a particular title are from him and this is indicated below.

Anthonisz, R.G. The Dutch in Ceylon; an account of their early visits to the island, their conquests, and their rule over the maritime regions during a century and a half. v. 1. Early visits and settlement in the island. Colombo : C.A.C Press, 1929. 954.8 ANT (Bib ID 161219)

*Baker, Samuel W. Eight years in Ceylon. London : Longmans, 1890. 915.48 BAK. (Bib ID 620356)

Baldaeus, Philippus. A true and exact description of most celebrated East-India coasts of Malabar and Coromandel, as also of the Isle of Ceylon...Vol. 3. Translated from the Dutch edition from Amsterdam, 1672. London : 1703. 2 copies. RBq JAM 915.48 BAL is Martensz copy. (Bib ID 2508451)

*Balding, John William. One hundred years in Ceylon; or the centenary volume of the Church Missionary Society in Ceylon, 1818-1918. Madras : Printed at the Diocesan Press, 1922. 275.48 BAL (Bib ID 377582)

Bassett, R.H. Romantic Ceylon : its history, legend and story. London : C. Palmer, 1929. 954.8 BAS (Bib ID 121528)

*Bell, H.C.P. Report on the Kegalla District of the Province of Sabaragamuwa, 1892. Colombo : Govt. Pr., 1904. f 913.548 CEY (Bib ID 1969527)

Bennett, J.W. Ceylon and its capabilities: an account of its natural resources, indigenous productions and commercial facilities. London : WH. Allen, 1843. RB 915.493 BEN (Bib ID 1030215)
#Beven, F. Lorenz. A history of the diocese of Colombo; a centenary volume. [Colombo] : Printed by The Times of Ceylon Co., [1946]. 283.548 BEV (Bib ID 2184724)


Ceylon. Archaeological Department. Annual report. Colombo : Govt. Printer. Title varies slightly: North-Central, Central and Northern provinces annual report; North-central and Western provinces annual report. Description based on : 1895 (plans and plates). At head of title : Archaeological survey of Ceylon. Separate vols for plans and plates issued for some years. sq 913.548 CEY [Library holds 1895-1912/13 in 5 bound volumes]. The 3 volumes 1909/10/11; Plans and plates 1895-1902 and Plans and plates 1903-12 are from Martensz. The 2 volumes for 1905-08 and 1911/12-1912/13 contain no markings to indicate that they are from Martensz. (Bib ID 1584367)

Coomaraswamy, Ananda Kentish. Mediaeval Sinhalese art : being a monograph on mediaeval Sinhalese arts and crafts, mainly as surviving in the eighteenth century, with an account of the structure of society and the status of the craftsmen. No. 375 of 425 copies. Broad Campden, Gloucestershire : Essex House Press, 1908. RBf MISC 184 (Bib ID 7123080)

*Culavamsa : being the more recent part of the Mahavamsa / translated by Wilhelm Geiger, and from the German into English by C. Mabel Rickmers. 2 v. London : H. Milford for the Pali Text Society, 1929-30. s 294.3 PAL (Bib ID 4562009)


#Davy, John. An account of the interior of Ceylon and its inhabitants with travels in that island. London : Longman…, 1821. 2 copies. RBq MOD 411 (Martensz copy) (Bib ID 1123235)

De Silva, Colvin Reginald. Ceylon under the British occupation 1795-1833. 2 vols. 2nd ed. Colombo : Colombo Apothecaries, 1942. 954.93 D457c (Bib ID 1018259)

*Devendra, D.T. This other Lanka. Colombo : Ola Book Co., [1941]. 915.48 DEV (Bib ID 620348)

*Gordon Cumming, C.F. Two happy years in Ceylon. 2 v. Edinburgh : William Blackwood, 1892. 915.48. (Bib ID 883337)


*Jones-Bateman, Reginald. A refuge from civilisation and other trifles. London : Arnold, 1951. 915.48 BAT (Bib ID 554293)

Knox, Robert. An historical relation of Ceylon: together with somewhat concerning several remarkable passages of my life that hath hapned since my deliverance out of my captivity. Glasgow: MacLehose, 1911. 3 copies. q 915.48 KNO (Martensz copy). (Bib ID 999441)

Knox, Robert. An historical relation of the island Ceylon in the East Indies: together with an account of the detaining in captivity the author and divers other Englishmen now living there: and the author’s miraculous escape. London: Printed by Richard Chiswell, 1681. 2 copies. RBq 915.48 KNO (Martensz copy). (Bib ID 2559755)


*Lewis, Frederick. Sixty-four years in Ceylon: reminiscences of life and adventure. [Colombo]: Colombo Apothecaries, [1926]. 915.48 LEW. (Bib ID 375012)

Lewis, J. Penry. List of inscriptions on tombstones and monuments in Ceylon, of historical or local interest: with an obituary of persons uncommemorated. Colombo: Printed by H.C. Cottle, 1913. f 954.8 LEW. Fragile not for public use; use mfm 1919. (Bib ID 1618978)


The Oriental annual, or, Scenes in India; comprising ... engravings from original drawings by William Daniell R.A. and a descriptive account by the Rev. Hobart Caunter, B.D. London: E. Churton [etc.], 1834-40. s 915.4 ORI. 1834 volume is from Martensz, but not 1835-1839 volumes. (Bib ID 1840344)

*Parker, H. Village folk-tales of Ceylon, collected and translated by H. Parker. 3 v. London: Luzac, 1910-1914. 398.209548 PAR. (Bib ID 2535805)


Pieris, P.E. Ceylon: the Portuguese era; being a history of the island for the period 1505–1658. 2 vols. Colombo: Colombo Apothecaries, 1913-14. 954.8 PIE (Bib ID 151187)

*Ransonnet, Eugene de, baron. Sketches of the inhabitants, animal life and vegetation in the lowlands and high mountains of Ceylon, as well as of the submarine scenery near the coast, taken in a diving bell. Vienna: Printed for the author by Gerald, 1867. f 915.48 RAN (Bib ID 2106705)

Silva, T.U de. Decorative Sinhalese art. Colombo: Ceylon Daily News, 1940. q 745.4 SIL (Bib ID 253841)

*Skeen, William. Adam’s peak; legendary, traditional, and historic notices of the Samanala and Sri-pada, with a descriptive account of the pilgrim’s route from Colombo, to the sacred foot-print. Colombo: W.L.H Skeen and Co., 1870. 915.48 SKE (Bib ID 1695426)

*Smythe, Paul Rodney. A Ceylon commentary. London: Williams & Norgate, 1932. 915.48 SMY (Bib ID 2076567)


Steuart, James. Notes on Ceylon and its affairs, during a period of 38 years, ending in 1855: to which are appended some observations on the antiquity of Point de Galle, and on the pearl fishery. London: printed for private circulation, 1862. 954.8 STE (Bib ID 2073341)

Trimen, Henry. A hand-book to the flora of Ceylon, containing descriptions of all the species of flowering plants indigenous to the island, and notes on their history, distribution, and uses, with an atlas of plates illustrating some of the more interesting species. 6 parts. Part 1 annotated “To Lady Havelock with the author’s complts.” London: Dulau and Co, 1893-1931. 581.9548 TRI (Bib ID 997855)

*Villiers, Thomas, Sir. Mercantile lore. Colombo: Ceylon Observer Press, [1940?]. 338.09548 VIL (Bib ID 147711)

Weerasooriya, Hubert E. This isle o’mine. Colombo: Ola Book Co. [1945]. P 915.48 WEE (Bib ID 584372)

*Willis, John Christopher. Ceylon: a handbook for the resident and the traveller. Peradeniya: Colombo Apothecaries Co., 1907. 915.48 WIL (Bib ID 953943)


Young Ceylon: a monthly periodical, and magazine of Ceylonese and general information. Colombo: G.F. Nell, 1850-1852. s 055.48 YOU (Bib ID 3292302)

B. Missing and problematic titles

It is possible that some of the missing titles are from Martensz. Without more information it is unclear why the other titles described below were listed on file as being part of the Martensz Collection. One possibility is that they were included in the original and now seemingly lost list of books offered by Martensz, but that as they were already held by the National Library his copies were not acquired. In his letter offering his personal library he indicated that he might give those books not wanted by the National Library to two Canberra schools (9). One further complication is that records in the Library’s pre-1967 Dictionary Catalogue include the initials J.A.M. [standing for J. Aubrey Martensz] in catalogue card records for books on Sri Lanka which are definitely from Martensz and for a small number of titles that do not appear to be from him. These initials are not included in the Library’s online catalogue. The initials J.A.M are also found above the call number and on the spine of books from Martensz


*Cave, Henry. The book of Ceylon: being a guide to its railway system and an account of its varied attractions for the visitor and tourist. London; Melbourne: Cassell, 1912. 915.48 CAV. Stamped Commonwealth of Australia Library of the Parliament 3 March 1914. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 817640)
Cordiner, James. A description of Ceylon, containing an account of the country, inhabitants and natural productions, with narratives of a tour round the island in 1800, the campaign in Candy in 1803, and a journey to Ramisseram in 1804. London : Longman, 1807. 915.48 COR. Acquired 1950. Item missing. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 2551862)

*Denham, Edward Brandis. Ceylon at the census of 1911 : being a review of the census of 1911. Colombo : Govt Pr., 1912. 315.48 DEN. According to the Dictionary Catalogue this is from Martensz, but the Library's copy bears the stamp of Commonwealth Statistician 17 September 1912. National Library accession date 11 February 1958. (Bib ID 2395224)

*Elliott, C. Brooke. The real Ceylon. 3rd ed. Fort of Colombo : H.W. Cave, 1938. 915.48 ELL. Item missing. (Bib ID 1596120)

*Ferguson, John. Ceylon in 1893 : describing the progress of the island since 1803. London : J. Haddon, 1893. 330.9548 FER. According to the Dictionary Catalogue this is from Martensz but there is no record in the Library's online catalogue.

Forbes, Jonathan. Eleven years in Ceylon : comprising sketches of the field sports and natural history of that colony, and an account of its history and antiquities. 2 vols. London : Bentley, 1840. 915.48 FOR. Acquired 1950. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib 2571928)


Lewis, J. Mahanama, 5th century. The Mahawanso in roman characters, with the translation subjoined, and an introductory essay on Pali Buddhistical literature : in two volumes, vol.1 containing the first thirty eight chapters, by the Hon. George Turnour. Translation reprinted and completed by L.C Wijesinha, 1889. 1 v. Ceylon : Cotta Church Mission Press, 1837. q 294.31 MAH. Acquired 5 August 1957? On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 893650)


*Narada, Thera. The Buddha Dhamma : or The life and teachings of the Buddha. Palm Grove : Pasdura, Children of C.P. De Fonseka, 1942. 294.3 NAR. Item missing. (Bib ID 2418693)

*Parker, H. Ancient Ceylon. London : Luzac, 1909. 954.8 PAR. Acquired 9 August 1951. On file as already held before Martenz donation. (Bib ID 2544162)
Percival, Robert. An account of the island of Ceylon, containing its history, geography, natural history, with the manners and customs of its various inhabitants: to which is added, the journal of an embassy to the court of Candy... London: C and R Baldwin, 1803. Bookplate of Lord Lilford's Library. Signed Lilford. RBq 915.48 PER. Acquired 21 May 1951. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 2552188)


*Spittal, Richard Lionel. Wild Ceylon describing in particular the lives of the present day Veddas. Colombo: Colombo Book Centre, 1951. CLA 162. On file as already held before Martensz donation, so there should be another copy apart from that in the Claasz Collection, which was acquired in the 1980s. Bib ID 1244615

Still, John. Index to the Mahawansa together with chronological table of wars and genealogical trees. Colombo: Govt. Printer, 1907. 954.8 IND. Item missing (Bib ID 1939581)


*Wait, W.E. Manual of the birds of Ceylon. Colombo: Colombo Museum, 1926. 598.29548 WAI. According to the Dictionary Catalogue this is from Martensz, but the Library's copy has an acquisition stamp dated 14 Jan 1953. (Bib ID 1002400)


REFERENCES


5. “Ceylon visitors at Manjimup,” Manjimup Mail, 26 January 1949, p.2. Martensz said that his country’s prosperity depended on its exports of tea.

7. “Death of former envoy”, Canberra Times, 27 March 1963, p. 3. This article states that Martensz died at the age of 79, though he was actually 77. It also implies that he remained in Canberra after his posting as High Commissioner ended in 1955, whereas he went back to Colombo, returning to live in Australia in 1959.


10. Erica Ryan of the National Library kindly volunteered to undertake this task.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Apart from the first image, which is courtesy of the National Library of Australia, these photographs were taken by the author, Andrew Gosling, from out of copyright material.

1. James Aubrey Martensz


2. Presentation slip for books in the Martensz Collection.


Paul and Marian Chen: 
Pioneers of the National Library of Australia’s Asian Collections

At the beginning of the 1960s the National Librarian, Mr (later Sir Harold) White recruited Mr Paul Chen and his wife Mrs Marian Chen from Taiwan, to manage the Library’s East Asian language collections. Their son, Peter Chen, then a young boy, recalls the whole family, including his parents, his brother John and himself, meeting and being interviewed by Mr and Mrs White in a hotel room.

After the Second World War, as Australia became more aware of the importance of understanding its Asian neighbours, the National Library began serious collecting of East Asian language publications in the 1950s. Finding staff with the necessary linguistic and library skills to acquire, catalogue and provide reference services for these collections was a major problem. Canberra, though the national capital, was still small, and not the multicultural city it is today. One partial solution was to hire overseas students who were at the Australian National University, but this was no substitute for long-term professional staff.

Paul and Marian Chen were highly qualified and experienced when they came to Canberra. They had completed university degrees in China. Paul had a masters in library science and another masters in theology, while Marian also completed a masters in librarianship. They were also both fluent in Chinese and English, and were sufficiently proficient in Japanese to catalogue Japanese books. In 1960 Paul Chen was Director of Readers’ Services at the National Central Library, Taiwan and Marian Chen was a specialist in original cataloguing at the same library.

In the early 1960s the National Library’s East Asian language collections were housed at the Australian National University, a few years later shifting to an annexe in the suburb of Kingston. With the opening of the new National Library building in August 1968 they moved to their permanent home on the Third Floor, where they have remained ever since.

In April 1962 the Library’s Orientalia Section was formally established, with Paul Chen as its first head. Under his direction by April 1963 the East Asian language holdings had grown to 35,331 physical volumes. Including 25,503 Chinese, 7,233 Japanese and 773 Korean language monographs (1). Paul and Marian Chen were also heavily involved in bibliographic control of the Chinese and Japanese monographs, including both descriptive and subject cataloguing.

During this period the Library acquired two of its most significant formed collections about China. The London Missionary Society sold its Chinese language books and manuscripts to the National Library in 1961. Its rich holdings included extensive early materials on Christianity in China and extremely rare original works from the Taiping Rebellion in the mid-19th century. In 1961-1962 the Library received a large Chinese and Western language collection from the scholar-librarian Fang Zhaoying (Fang Chao-ying), who was then head of the Asian collection at the Australian National University Library. This covered Chinese history and biography, especially of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) and a wide range of works on Chinese culture.

During his time in Canberra Paul Chen contributed a piece about his former workplace, the National Central Library, Taiwan to Nexus, which was the National Library of Australia’s staff bulletin, running from 1959 to 1966 (2). In his article he outlined the history, structure and functions of the National Central Library.
The Chen family spent most of their stay in Canberra in the suburb of Campbell, not far from the Australian War Memorial. A photograph taken in about 1961 shows them all in front of the War Memorial, the two boys with their bicycles:

*Left to right: Marian, Peter, John and Paul Chen at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, around 1961. Photograph courtesy of Peter Chen.*

In April 1963 the Canberra Times reported, “Mr and Mrs Paul T.H. Chen, who for the past two years have been working in the National Library of Australia, where Mr Chen was in charge of the Oriental collection, have left Canberra with their two sons, John and Peter, to return to Taipei, Formosa. Mr Chen is to resume duty as Director of Readers’ Services, National Central Library” (3). Marian Chen took on a position of librarian undertaking collection development at the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit in Taipei. Their departure was also recorded in the National Library’s staff magazine (4).

The Chens later moved to Vancouver in Canada. Paul Chen’s final position before retirement was as a reference librarian at the Social Sciences Department at the University of British Columbia. Marian Chen was a cataloguer in the Asian Studies Division of the same university. Paul Chen retired in the late 1960s and Marian Chen about five years later. Both are now deceased. John and Peter are now retired and living in Canada.

After the Chens left Canberra, Harold White recruited another librarian from Taiwan, Mr Sing-wu (Sidney) Wang, who headed Orientalia from 1964 to his retirement in 1985. He was succeeded by
Andrew Gosling. In 1987 a section called Asian Collections was established. It included the East Asian language collections, from that time on no longer referred to as Orientalia.

It is important to honour the pioneers of Asian librarianship in Australia. Paul and Marian Chen played a significant role in laying the foundations of the National Library’s research resources on Asia, today the most extensive in the Southern Hemisphere. This article is also intended to supplement my short history of the National Library’s collections on Asia (5), written many years ago, by filling in gaps for the early period.

Andrew Gosling, author of this article, wishes to thank Peter Chen, son of Paul and Marian Chen, for his efforts to make the work of his parents at the National Library better known and for his detailed emails providing valuable information about their lives and careers. Peter is a retired senior meteorologist and director, whose career was spent with the Meteorological Service of Canada and the UN’s World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. He is undertaking a much more detailed study of his family, including the unforgettable time they spent in Australia in the 1960s.

REFERENCES

Women in Asia Conference 2019 - our experience

By Anita Dewi, Rheny Pulungan, Ayako Hatta and Di Pin Ouyang

On 21-23 June 2019, we (Anita, Rheny, Ayako and Di Pin) attended the Women in Asia Conference 2019 at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. A library panel was held on the final day of the conference, where we presented, promoted and shared information about the-collections held in the Asian Collections of the National Library of Australia and in Monash University Library’s rich Japanese and Indonesian collections relating to Women in Asia, as well as the librarians’ expertise in the Library. The panel presentation was well attended and received. One of the interesting questions put forward by a high profile professor researching Women in Asia was about our feelings as librarians and library staff working on Asian Studies in our institutions. In each individual response, we agreed that our expertise and knowledge in Asian Studies actually facilitates our ability to fulfill our roles, including in subject areas that are not strictly within the Asian Studies.

In addition to the library panel where we presented our papers, we attended the Early Career Workshop (ECR). In the workshop we could see the approach taken by ECRs and academics’ to the demand to prove social impact and (national) benefit to academic service and leadership, building international networks and finding time for life. Seeing how these pressures and characteristics are viewed from the academics’ perspective gave us insights into how we, as library staff, can provide support and collaboration through library researcher engagement activities.
We also attended a number of interesting panels on the second and third days of the conference. We all went to different sessions so we could pool our learnings. Anita attended panels on gendered political styles and identities; women, the internet and social media; and staging women’s voices in disaster and conflict areas in Indonesia.

Rheny attended a number of panels focusing on women and the legal profession in Asia. Across Asia, the legal profession and the judiciary have undergone major changes since the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997. This includes changes in the structure and size of courts, judicial reform and changes in legal practice, including the role of women in the legal profession and the judiciary in Asia. Two main speakers, Judge Saitip Sukatipan (Thailand) and Judge Selma Alaras (the Philippines) presented a new comparative context exploring the position and influence of women in the legal profession, and the ongoing barriers and limitations to women’s participation in it.

Meanwhile, Ayako attended the panel “Social media and gendered participation”, which discussed the dominance of white males presenting at the teachers conferences in Japan, and how few presentations were by female teachers due to their lack of confidence in presenting in front of a male audience. Social media and the internet have been utilised to encourage and empower women in their field to support and champion other women. It was also pointed out how important it was to add males as allies in these gender issues. Ayako also attended the panel “Women’s movements- challenging patriarchy” that raised the issue of women in the marriage system in Japan. The current family registration system and law in Japan does not allow separate surnames for married couples.

Di attended several interesting and stimulating presentations and strongly felt the conference has been a very good place to learn many research trends such as the gendering populism in Asia, and the role of women in the legal profession in Asia in an era of anti-elitism. Aunty Maxine Ryan of La Perouse Land Council Representative welcomed over 150 delegates from 14 countries, followed by a short speech from each WIAC Committee member. The conference was wrapped up with a fantastic keynote speech presented by Associate Professor Tarini Bedi on “Bodies that do! Bodies that speak!” offering the delegates an interesting position on body politics and political militancy. She suggested that attention to body politics and embodiment could help us understand connections between populism and electoral
politics and the production of gendered political authority for women who compete for elections at the lowest levels of electoral democracies.
For Di it was a great opportunity to interact and engage with scholars, to learn, exchange, and network with delegates in the field of women in Asian Studies.

The conference was also one of those where we found participants were very supportive of each other. We definitely learned a lot from them and are looking forward to implementing what we have learned from both the workshop and conference in our day-to-day work!
Report on Japanese Studies Association of Australia Biennial Conference
by Maiko Honda (National Diet Library, Japan) & Ayako Hatta (Monash University)

The Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA) Biennial Conference is the professional association for those in Australia who teach, research or study Japan, and it is open to Japanese studies practitioners in Australia and overseas. This year it was hosted by the Japanese Studies Section of the School of Languages, Cultures, Literatures and Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, Monash University and was held during 1st to 4th July 2019 at Caulfield campus.

The conference started simultaneously with the Postgraduate and Teachers workshop, then followed by concurrent panels for three days which also included three keynote speakers and a special panel in memory of Dr Romit Dasgupta’s work that has informed studies of Japanese society across disciplines and geographical boundaries.

The Library session was organised and presented during lunchtime where the academics and researchers can come and meet the key library partners to gain insights into latest developments in resources and collections. The library partners were collaborated with Di Pin Ouyang and Rika Wright from the National Library of Australia, Maiko Honda from the National Diet Library, Japan and Ayako Hatta from Monash University Library. It was well attended and had many positive feedbacks from the audience after the session.

Ayako welcomed the academics and researchers to Monash University, and introduced the newly renovated libraries of Sir Louis Matheson Library where the Japanese collection locates at Clayton campus, and the Caulfield Library where the conference was held. Introducing with strong specialisations in Japanese linguistics and language acquisition, anthropology, translation studies, cultural studies and history in the collection, it was also introduced the latest resources acquisition to the collection, and how the resources are physically presented at the Asian Collections display area and how virtually presented in the online Library blogs. It was emphasised that all physical resources are available to borrow from their own institution’s interlibrary loan services.

Monash University libraries have each Teaching & Learning Point staffed with librarians and learning skills advisors where students and researchers can drop in and ask questions. There is also library guides created by subject librarians where students and researchers can find resources and find key databases to get to the right direction for their subject. At same time, subject librarians are getting more and more involved in creating elearning modules in online educational platforms such as Moodle. As researching is now able to share the research outcome and able to get opportunities for finding researchers in the same area online, Ayako introduced some social networking tools and finding academic profiles in Japan that might be useful for researchers in Japanese studies.
Maiko introduced the National Diet Library presenting four online resources—the NDL Online, NDL Search, Research Navi, and the NDL Digital Collections—as well as the new Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries Overseas.

The first online resource introduced was NDL Online. This website enables users to search for any library material in the National Diet Library catalogue either in physical holdings or in digital contents. This system also lets you become a registered user without actually visiting the NDL. Once you are a registered user, you can take advantage of remote services like the Remote Photoduplication service, which enables users to request copies of library materials via the NDL Online and receive them via postal mail. The NDL Online also has an English user interface, making it easy for patrons who cannot read or write Japanese to request services.

The second online resource introduced was NDL Search. This service can be used when you would like to search online for materials held at the NDL or other institutions in Japan. The NDL Search database contains not only the catalogue of NDL holdings, but also catalogues of the holdings at public libraries and of digital data from many other institutions. NDL Search results also include links to the online public access catalogues of other institutions and to online book stores.

The third online resource introduced was the NDL’s Research Navi. If you don’t know where to start, please use the NDL’s Research Navi. The Research Navi page contains a variety of useful links to reference information, including some English content on Japan and Asia.

The fourth online resource introduced was the National Diet Library Digital Collections. When you find something in our collection which interests you, be sure to check whether or not it is available via the Internet. In recent years, the NDL has digitized a significant amount of material, and the National Diet Library Digital Collections now comprises roughly 2.7 million items, 540,000 of which are available via the Internet. So you can enjoy them from your PC at home.

All available via the Internet

二十四好今様美人
Nijushiko toji no hanamono

濠洲年鑑：全訳 1940年版
Goshu nenkan : zenyaku

三つの宝
Mittsu no takara
Finally, Maiko spoke about a new service, called the Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries Overseas, which was launched in April 2019. Simply put, patrons at overseas libraries that subscribe to this service have access to about 1.5 million items from the NDL Digital Collections that are not available via the Internet. In other words, they have access to 75% of the roughly 2.7 million digitized items from the NDL Digital Collections. Subscription to this service is free of charge, provided that the subscribing library meets certain qualifications.

Available online
540,000 items (20%)

Available online + at partner libraries
2,040,000 items (75%)

You are probably wondering what materials are available via this service. Materials that are available via this service are copyrighted works that are either out-of-print or otherwise difficult to obtain commercially. This includes books acquired by the NDL prior to 1969, non-commercial periodicals at least 5 years old, and doctoral dissertations in Japanese acquired by the NDL between 1991 and 2000.

This service does require library patrons to browse not at home but at the library, and no copying is allowed for any of these materials. Still, we consider this service to be a major boon for both casual readers and serious scholars of Japanese studies, and I hope that more and more libraries will take advantage of it.

We would both like to take this opportunity to thank the JSAA conference organizers for giving us this library session time to greet and introduce our library services to the Japanese studies academics at the conference.
Report on the 21st Biennial Meeting of the International Circle of Korean Linguistics (ICKL21)

Jung-Sim Kim
Korean Studies Librarian, Monash University

The conference was held at Monash University on 10-12 July 2019. The presentations were on 11-12 July. All staff and students of Monash had the opportunity to attend the conference. The presenters were from Melbourne as well as interstates and overseas.

I attended the conference with our Korean Studies Library intern who was supporting the conference as part of her Korean Studies Library Internship tasks. The sessions that were of my interest include those on electronic discourse in Korean, structure in spoken Korean, politeness in Korean, acquisition of Korean language by Chinese or Japanese. I also enjoyed the plenary talks on “A peculiar language: early Australian English and beyond” presented by Professor Kate Burridge and “Heritage language learning in Australia” presented by Dr. Louisa Willoughby.

I gave a tour of the Caulfield Library, Monash University during the first day of the conference as requested by some conference participants from interstate and overseas. They were very pleased to have a chance to see and look inside the library. As Asian Collections are held in the Matheson Library in Clayton campus, so I provided the Asian Collections brochure in the conference folder instead of providing a tour of it.

Ayako Hatta, Subject Librarian for Japanese Studies, also attended one day of the conference mainly in sessions of language learning stream. She expressed that without the Korean language ability, she still found there were many common current topics around language learning to any other language learning, such as motivation in language learning and classroom learning, how students tend to make language usage errors or to know avoidance strategies, how family language policy is formed in a cross cultural family in Australia, and the heritage language education in Victoria.

We, library staff, had valuable opportunities to network with academics and researchers in Korean linguistics areas during the conference. In addition, we gained some more recent information of Asian Studies in other institutions. These has given us some ideas of how we can further support our academics and researchers.
The new CATS Library in Heidelberg
A visit in July 2019, a month after opening

Friederike Schimmelpfennig

The new ‘Centre of Asian and Transcultural Studies’ is a combination of four different, but geographically related study areas: The South Asia Institute, the Institute of Anthropology, the Centre for East Asian Studies, and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, which comprises of Asian Art History, Buddhist Studies, Media Anthropology, Cultural Economic History and Intellectual History. Languages taught are Tibetan, Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Dari, Tamil, Nepali, Singhalese, Indonesian, Hindi, Thai, Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, Cantonese, Japanese and Korean. Predecessor of this centre was a research institution “Asia and Europe in a global context”, founded by federal government in 2007. In 2013 it became the ‘Centre of Asian and Transcultural Studies’.

The centre is housed in four buildings of the former dermatology clinic, built between 1869 and 1886, and is located in the historically oldest part of the city.

The library at the Centre of Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) comprises the collections of the Centre for East Asian Studies, the South Asian Institute, Anthropology, and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies. To combine the library holdings of these formerly independently located institutions a new library building had to be planned.

Problems that arose with the situation of the former clinic were that it is heritage listed, so building structures could not be altered deliberately. The compound is also situated close to the Neckar river, which has its own challenges, like a high ground water level. Erecting a new building within the compound was not feasible either due to the heritage listing.

Well, if you can’t go up, you go down. And that’s what they did, 4 levels deep (16 m).

Basically the whole building was placed into ground water: this was achieved with the help of 300 waterproof-concrete pillars within which the building was set:

(Image courtesy of Universität Heidelberg – KuM. Image use is restricted. For more images see: https://www.cats.uni-heidelberg.de/bauvorhaben/)
This is how it came out:

*Final result. To be clear: there are three more levels under this one.*

*Down, down down.....*

*set in (concrete) stone...*
The lower levels of the building are storage only, there is no public access to these levels. Library administration is located in a building next to the library and has subterranean access to the library and the repository. Loans are ordered from storage and provided at the desk.

As of now this special Asian Studies library holds about 600,000 volumes in monographs and serials. The reading/reference room holds about 15,000 reference works, with 52 work spaces, 13 carrels and 2 group study rooms. As for other media there are 8,000 films and 4,000 audio materials, 160,000 slides, and about 12,000 microforms, many of those are journals form the republican era in China, and a few thousand posters. About 600 journal titles are currently being subscribed to. Two full time Asian specialist librarians are in charge, with a various number of students working there on a part time basis.

The German Federal Government, the State of Baden-Württemberg, and the University of Heidelberg invested 31 mio Euro (50 mio AUD) in the renovation and rebuilding of this centre, and the building of the library. It felt good to see that there is major engagement with Asia in some places.

More information about the centre and studies there is available here: https://www.cats.uni-heidelberg.de/about/