

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!

Please note: The applications for NLA's 2020 Asia Study Grants are still open until 12pm, 30 August 2019 (AEST). Please see: <https://www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/fellowships-and-scholarships/asia-study-grants> for more information.

Friederike Schimmelpfennig, editor