Far Eastern History

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Older bibliographies with the word "Asian" or "Oriental" in their titles often disappoint by covering only, or predominantly, the "Near" or "Old" Orient. However, since the Far East has come appreciably closer to the rest of the world in the more recent past, particularly since World War II, even general historical bibliographies, such as the International Bibliography of Historical Sciences,¹ the Foreign Affairs Bibliography,² and the American Historical Association's Guide to Historical Literature (1961)³ have chapters concerning the Far East that command the respect and attention of area-specialist historians.

As the Far East in general has put itself on the map bibliographically, so has the history of the Far East as a particular field of historical science in its own rights.

In the past, historical bibliography of the Far East, particularly of Western literature on the Far East, was mostly part and parcel of the Sinologist's all-encompassing concerns. The Sinologist generally saw classical Chinese philology and philosophy as the acme of his métier, and history merely as a basic prerequisite. He preferred antiquity and disdained modern topics. However, this attitude is of the past. The old Sinological concept, which is still purposely followed in Herbert Franke's Sinologie (1953)⁴ and which we may detect in Henri Cordier's Bibliotheca Sinica (1904, supplement 1924),⁵ with Confucius and Mencius figuring large in the section "Historical Biography," is no longer evident in T'ung-li Yüan's China in Western Literature (1958)⁶ and John Lust's Index Sinicus (1960),⁷ both works actually continuing Cordier, the former for monographs, the latter for periodical articles, but both set up in a modern, streamlined manner, where history is history, adequately subdivided and organized into periods, and as topical as possible.

As far as Japan is concerned, Cordier had also provided a Bibliography.

Ernst Wolff is Consultant in Asian Bibliography, University of Illinois Library.

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theca Japonica in 1912, but modern comprehensive bibliography of Western literature on Japan began with Wenckstern and Nachod, who established a kind of German hegemony in this field that ended only with the Second World War. The work has never thereafter been resumed on that scale and from then on the annual non-cumulative bibliographies, like those published by the Kyoto University or the Association for Asian Studies, will have to serve the purpose.

As to Korea, the development was very similar, namely from the old "Sinological" Courant bibliography, the Bibliographie Coréenne to the Gompertz compilation in Volume 40 (1963) of the Transactions of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, which calls itself First Section of a Bibliography of Western Literature on Korea from the Earliest Times until 1950, based on Horace H. Underwood's A Partial Bibliography of Occidental Literature on Korea from Early Times to 1930 (Seoul, Korea, 1931 and 1935), and presumably also on the Library of Congress compilation: Korea, an Annotated Bibliography of Publications in Western Languages (1950).

However, one cannot avoid feeling that the final word has not yet been said here and that a summarizing compilation on the lines of T. L. Yuan's work for China is still awaited for Japan, as well as for Korea. (Just recently the Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai, or Society for International Cultural Relations, Tokyo, announced a Classified List of Books in Western Languages Relating to Japan, 1965, 450 pages. Actual copy has not yet been available for evaluation.)

In the meantime as interest in the Far East has grown during the last few decades and in an accelerated manner after World War II, a need arose for selective reading guides of the "What shall I read about . . . ?" type, more popular in nature, yet expertly selected. This need was adequately met, for instance, by such exemplary works as the Asian bibliographies of the American Universities Field Staff (1960, with 1961, 1963 and 1965 supplements), the bibliographies compiled by Hyman Kublin for the Japan Society and the Asia Society, the Booklist on Asia for Canadians, produced by the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO in 1961, and other similar works. All have sections on history, but emphasize general, rather than the specialized historian's, interests.

On the American campuses the "impact of the Far East" has had the result of increased Far Eastern studies, which have been introduced even into the undergraduate and liberal arts curricula. The dearth of adequate research tools that became apparent resulted in

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the compilation of study guides with the special purpose of providing appropriate introductions and workable bibliographies of essential knowledge for students and faculty.

In the field of Chinese studies, the old and oft-revised Syllabus of the History of Chinese Civilization, by Luther C. Goodrich and H. C. Fenn, was something of a trail-blazer (1929). It saw its sixth edition in 1958, but in recent years has been somewhat overshadowed by the bibliographical work of Charles O. Hucker: China, a Critical Bibliography (1962), of which a revision is now in the process of preparation. A notable recent study guide bibliography limited to the modern segment of Chinese history is the Introduction aux Études d'Histoire Contemporaine de Chine, 1898–1949, by Jean Chesneau and John Lust (1964).

In the field of Japanese studies, the Selected List of Books and Articles on Japan ... by H. Borton, S. Elisséeff, and E. O. Reischauer (1940) was one of the first of such study guides and bibliographies "for convenient class-room work" and as "a general guide for students of Japan and for libraries with limited collections". It was republished in 1954 (Harvard University Press) and "continued" by the Toyo Bunko, Tokyo, with the scope "1945-1960" (Tokyo, 1964).

Somewhat different, in that it provides a study guide to Japanese material, is Japanese History; a Guide to Japanese Reference and Research Materials, by John W. Hall (1954) but its purpose is the same, namely to be an aid for students and faculties at colleges and universities. Its political science counterpart, Japanese Political Science; a Guide to Japanese Reference and Research Materials (revised 1961) by Robert E. Ward and Hajime Watanabe may also be mentioned here because in part also of interest to the student of history.

A new high standard for books of this nature was set by the Research in Japanese Sources; a Guide, compiled by Herschel Webb with the assistance of Marleigh Ryan. Significantly, for its spirit and scope, this excellent guide is the direct outgrowth of the courses in Japanese bibliography at Columbia University.

In Japan itself the Library of the International House of Japan, Tokyo, has produced a "Japanese Winchell," namely the Guide to Japanese Reference Books, the latest English edition of which was published by the American Library Association, Chicago, in 1966. Much older, but still continuing, are the efforts of the K. B. S. (Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai, or Society for International Cultural Relations) which had already been at work since 1934 on a series of study guides.
in English. Its latest product of interest in this connection is Volume 3, "History and Biography" (1964), in its Bibliography of Standard Reference Books for Japanese Studies, with Descriptive Notes, an important scholarly guide to the reference and research material produced in Japan.

On a broader scope again and dealing with Western writings on Japan is Bernard Silberman's Japan and Korea; a Critical Bibliography (1962), a "study guide" type bibliography that tries to cover both Japan and Korea.

For Korea however, a much more comprehensive, well-annotated work is the Korean Studies Guide (1954, now out of print and badly in need of updating), prepared by B. H. Hazard and his associates at the Institute of East Asiatic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Korea itself has made an effort in this field with the Bibliography of Korean Studies, in English, published in 1961 by the Asiatic Research Center of Korea University, Seoul, a continuation of which is announced for 1966.

From the above discussion of general bibliographies of Western literature on the Far East and of study guides for Western users, it is apparent that the native participation in such bibliographic work has been limited and is a rather recent development. When we consider vernacular writings on the Far East, particularly on its history, we find the history of indigenous bibliographic work is almost as old as the literary traditions in these countries. Western influences here merely brought about noteworthy modernizations in methods.

The traditional "Four Department" classification (Classics, History, Philosophy, Literature) had to give way to more detailed and more appropriate subdivisions. Indexes have become a common feature of bibliographies to facilitate search, where formerly the time and convenience of the searcher were given scant consideration. In place of the private libraries of the rulers and their officially commissioned historiographers, newly created modern libraries—often the depository libraries under copyright law—and modern trained librarians have assumed bibliographic responsibilities.

On Taiwan, for instance, it is the National Central Library that has become the center for bibliographic work of nationwide scope and importance. After several annual compilations, this library brought out a comprehensive, two-volume national bibliography in 1964 covering all Taiwan publications during the years 1949-63. This contains a remarkable number of photo-reproductions of otherwise hard-
to-obtain primary historical source material, that had apparently been brought to Taiwan on the withdrawal of the National Government from the mainland of China.

In Communist China a bibliography of new books (at first monthly, but since September 1958 issued every ten days) is published by the Copyright Library of the Ministry of Culture and cumulated annually into the Ch'üan-kuo tsung shu-mu. A bad conscience, it seems, prevents the Red Chinese from making this compilation freely available in the open market.

In Japan it naturally devolved on the National Diet Library, organized after the war on the model of the Library of Congress, to publish a national bibliography (since 1948) in the form of an annual classified list of all Japanese publications in book form.

In Korea, too, the National Central Library has brought out the national bibliography covering the years 1945-62, in one thick volume, published in 1964 and followed in 1965 by a continuation for the years 1963-64.

We see then that modern comprehensive national bibliographies on the pattern of Western models are now being produced by all the central libraries or copyright libraries in the various countries of the Far East. They have significant sections on history and therefore must be mentioned in this context.

As in other branches of scholarly work, the bibliographic work concerning Far Eastern history feels the impact of the large and still increasing share that periodical articles occupy within the total scholarly literature of the field. The effect, as far as bibliographic work is concerned, is twofold: (1) more and extensive bibliographic work is needed to cover the increasing volume of periodical articles, and (2) more periodicals, aware of their increasing scholarly weight and popularity, are tempted to extend their sphere into bibliographic work.

In more detail, the position is as follows: Considering first the bibliographies that cover articles written in Western languages relevant to Far Eastern history, there is, for the China field, first of all again the Bibliotheca Sinica and the Index Sinicus mentioned earlier. Unfortunately this coverage extends only to 1955. In spite of the need, no continuations are planned as yet, according to latest information, and the scholar will have to rely on the non-cumulative indexes published periodically by various institutions. There is the annual bibliography in the Journal of Asian Studies, published by the Association for Asian Studies, the Annual Bibliography of Oriental
Studies, published by the Research Institute for Humanistic Studies at Kyoto University, which is excellent in its way, but too slow in appearing, as is the Revue Bibliographique de Sinologie of the École Pratique des Hautes Études of Paris. The School of Oriental and African Studies of London University publishes a monthly list of periodical articles on the Far East, with certain annual cumulations up to 1958. A “Far Eastern Bibliography” is published in the semi-annual Journal of Oriental Studies of Hong Kong University and lists complete tables of contents of about forty periodicals in Western and non-Western languages.

As to Western periodical articles on Japan, the most important of the above periodical indexes, namely the annual bibliographies of the Association of Asian Studies and of Kyoto University, also cover that field. In fact Japan never had a cumulative index comparable to the Index Sinicus after the German comprehensive bibliographies of the twenties and thirties.

As regards Western periodical literature on Korea, the situation is similar to that for Japan. The Gompertz compilation in Volume 40 of the Transactions of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society does cover periodicals, too, but on a limited scale and not to a more recent date. It is supplemented, to some extent, by the Index to English Language Periodical Literature Published in Korea, 1890-1940, by Jefferson McRee Elrod (Seoul, Yonsei University, 1960).

Thus the student of Far Eastern history can find much helpful bibliographic coverage of Western periodical literature. When we turn our attention to the vernacular periodical press, we have to bear in mind that periodicals are a comparatively new development in the countries of the Far East, but that in the short span of their existence they have proliferated—and expired—in great numbers. Since they reflect vividly the turbulent times of modern Far Eastern history, historians have discovered their intrinsic value—unfortunately somewhat belatedly—and attempts at bibliographic control have been and are being made.

One of the earliest attempts, specifically in the field of history, is the Bibliography on Chinese Social History, a Selected and Critical List of Chinese Periodical Sources, by E-tu Zen Sun and John de Francis limited to China, to the “past three decades” and to a mere 124 pages; nevertheless, it is well-annotated, indexed, and in English!

Other efforts in Western countries are understandably limited to the compilation of union lists, to trace available items and their location,
and do not extend to indexing the contents of the periodicals. There is a great number and variety of these union lists, as may be seen from the useful little Guide to Indexes of Periodicals Relating to China, compiled by May Ts’ao (Yale University Library, East Asian Collection, 1965, 10 pages). Most recently the Library of Congress has completed microfilming the total periodicals holdings (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) of all leading American institutions, which indeed would result in the most complete union list of this nature so far.

Native Chinese efforts in this field have produced several area union lists (Canton, Shanghai, Szuchwan), and finally, in 1961, an impressively comprehensive union list of periodicals covering the period 1833 to 1949 in the Ch‘üan-kuo Chung-wen chi‘i-k‘an lien-ho mu-lu compiled by the First Library Center, which comprises all libraries in Peking. This list includes 19,115 items, many of which are declared “ideologically questionable” (therefore in the Preface, the book is marked “For Internal Use”), but most are of great historical interest. Unfortunately, without a workable interlibrary loan arrangement, the location notes to all this wealth of historical source material are tantalizingly theoretical for the average Western scholar.

Of a much more limited scope, but immensely more practical and helpful is Yu Ping-kuen’s Chinese History: Index to Learned Articles, 1902–1962 (Hong Kong, East Asia Institute, 1963). This is not only a listing, but an index, in Chinese, to the contents of 355 Chinese periodicals, mostly in the Hong Kong University Library. It is only to be hoped that the compiler will be able to realize his intentions of adding annual supplements, with all the useful finding-aids that distinguish the first volume.

Classified indexes to Taiwan periodical publications are regularly published by the National War College (monthly) and the Library of National Taiwan University (first bi-annual, later annual).

In Japan the standard periodicals index is the quarterly Zasshi kiji sakuin (Tokyo). This is supplemented in the field of Asian history (excluding Japan) by the (Japanese) Japanese Studies on Asian History, which covers 1880 to 1960 and has started to appear in installments since 1964 (Tokyo). It lists vernacular periodicals, giving their tables of contents, issue by issue; no general indexing scheme is yet apparent, but this may follow at the end. So far only two volumes have been published, reaching the Japanese letter “to.”

A Japanese union list of periodicals in the main three scholarly libraries of Japan, namely the Toyo Bunko, the Tokyo University’s
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Toyo Bunka Kenkyujo, and Kyoto University’s Jimbun Kagaku Kenkyujo, may also be mentioned here. It is entitled Nihon-bun, Chugoku-bun, Chosen-bun tō chikuji kankobutsu nokuroku,51 covers periodicals in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, East Turkestan, Tibetan, and Mongolian, and was published in 1963 by a Committee of the three mentioned institutions.

An index to Korean periodical articles (after 1945) is contained in the Bibliography of Korean Studies51 mentioned earlier. There is furthermore a Bibliography of University Periodicals in Korea, 1945-1964,52 compiled by Yi Pyong-mok (Seoul, Yonsei University, 1964), and the more official Korean Periodicals Index53 compiled for 1960 and 1961-62 by the Korean Library Association, and for 1963 and thereafter by the National Assembly Library.

Before leaving the field of general bibliographies bearing on Far Eastern history, a few remarks on biographies should be included. The study of Far Eastern history is rendered additionally complex by the overwhelming volume of unfamiliar names and the absence of satisfactory native biographical reference works, particularly in Chinese history. The old Chinese Biographical Dictionary54 (1898) by H. A. Giles was a great help in its time, but has now receded into the sphere of “pioneering works,” that cannot fully satisfy the serious scholar of today. The best modern works, the Chung-kuo jen-ming ta tz'u-tien (Grand Dictionary of Chinese Biography)55 published by the Commercial Press (first 1931) and T’an Cheng-pi’s biographical dictionary of literary personalities (1934)56 are helpful, but much too sketchy.

A new standard of scholarly perfection and facility was set by Eminent Chinese of the Ch’ing Dynasty (1934-1944), of which A. W. Hummel was editor and Dr. and Mrs. Fang Chao-ying the two main contributors. This work is “more than a biographical dictionary,”57 as Hu Shih so rightly says in his preface to the work; it is in particular also a bibliography covering practically all the works written during this period of Chinese history. It is only to be hoped that the supplemental notes that Dr. Fang has been and still is accumulating to this work may also soon be published.

The Eminent Chinese of the Ch’ing Dynasty has already had a strong, stimulating effect on scholars interested in other periods of Chinese history, inspiring them to follow its example. For the Ming period we may expect a similar work to emerge from the Ming Project centered at Columbia University under Professor Luther C. Goodrich.
"Tangential" to this is Wolfgang Franke's *Introduction to the Sources of Ming History*, now about to be printed in Hong Kong.

The Sung period, no doubt, will be taken care of by the Sung Project at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, so energetically launched and brought to prominence by the late Étienne Balazs (1905–1963), and now being vigorously pursued by his successors, according to latest reports.

The Tang dynasty seems to be a field much preferred by Japanese Sinologists, while the Han Project at the University of Washington at Seattle will, hopefully, cover the Han period. In addition there is then also the Research Project on Men and Politics in Modern China, based at Columbia University under the supervision of Howard L. Boorman. Its principal work for several years has been the preparation of a major reference work, the *Biographical Dictionary of Republican China*, which will include biographical articles on some six hundred Chinese prominent in the affairs of twentieth-century China. The first volume of this work, covering individuals with surnames from Ai to Ch'ü, has already made its appearance (April 1967). Three other volumes of biographical articles will follow, and the set will be completed with a volume containing detained bibliographical citations.

For Japan there seems to be no shortage of good Japanese historical dictionaries and encyclopedias. However, the non-linguist historian has had only the outdated Papinot to turn to. Here the welcome news is that the Maison Franco-Japonaise in Tokyo is in the process of preparing a new work of eminent importance, the *Dictionnaire Historique du Japon*, of which so far the first fascicle, "Lettre A", has become available. This will be the work of Japanese scholars under French editorship and promises to be a great contribution, because apart from its general informative value, it will embody many up-to-date opinions and findings that had been restricted or suppressed, due to political considerations, in older Japanese works.

There still remain to be mentioned the many special bibliographic projects concerning certain areas or segments of Far Eastern history, that have been or are being undertaken by individual scholars or groups, usually at the traditional centers of Far Eastern studies. To name completed projects would repeat much of the information contained in one or the other of the general bibliographies mentioned above.

Information on projects in progress in the United States is available
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in the pamphlets of the External Research Office of the U.S. State Department. We see there, for instance, mention of Contemporary China, a Research Guide being compiled by Peter Berton and Eugene Wu, which according to recent information is now slated for publication in early 1967. Also mentioned there is an annotated bibliography concerning the Ch’én Ch’eng Collection of papers on the Kiangsi Soviets being prepared by Dennis J. Doolin and Derek Weller at Stanford, apparently continuing Stanford’s earlier contributions to special bibliography (e.g., F. W. Mote, Japanese-Sponsored Governments in China, 1937–45; An Annotated Bibliography).61

Another useful source of information on projects at various study centers is Newsletter published by the Association for Asian Studies, which for instance reported 62 that the Japan Foreign Relations Project at Columbia University is working on a checklist to the Chinese Foreign Ministry Archives relating to Sino-Japanese relations, a bibliography on Japanese-Korean relations, and other similarly interesting bibliographical projects.63

Columbia University, it may be added, is also center of the Chinese Society Bibliography Project (G. William Skinner and Richard Sorich), a most ambitiously conceived and systematically planned bibliography of modern China from the viewpoint of the behavioral sciences, but undoubtedly of great relevance also to historical research.

Similarly peripheral, but relevant in certain aspects, will be the bibliography and location report concerning all Chinese normative enactments (laws, regulations, decrees, etc.) readied by Richard Sorich for publication in Columbia University’s East Asian Research Aid series.

Work in Japan, completed or planned, is revealed in the voluminous reports of the Japanese Historical Society to the International Congresses of Historical Sciences (Stockholm, 1960, and Vienna, 1965).64 Japan also promises a bibliography of bibliographies, namely a Survey of Bibliographies in Western Languages concerning East and South East Asian Studies, with about 1,400 entries, to be compiled by the Information Center of Asian Studies at the Toyo Bunko, Tokyo.

Before concluding, a note of regret for not being able—due to linguistic limitations—to give a fair account of Slavic works in this field. The importance of Russian material on the Far East is a fact attested to, for instance, by the various supplements to larger bibliographic works, e.g., T. L. Yuan’s Russian Works on China, 1918–
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In Russia itself the most comprehensive work concerning China is P. E. Skachkov's Bibliografia Kitaia (1960), reviewed by Demiéville and adjudged "une présentation . . . excellente." There is no doubt that many valuable contributions to historical bibliography will be made by the Russian centers, as well as by the younger centers of Far Eastern studies in the Soviet-satellite countries.

Bibliography of the Far East, which only thirty-odd years ago in a leading work on bibliography consisted of one reference and the remark: "we know little of the real national bibliographies compiled by the natives of those countries" has swelled to a little world of its own. Even if we focus attention only on one facet, namely on the history of the Far East, its bibliography has become quite substantial, as even this superficial and incomplete survey will have revealed. This is a sign of the ever more pressing need to gain intensive and extensive knowledge of those parts of the world that within a few decades have evolved from exotic borderlands to main participants in its intellectual and political affairs.

As the volume of literature increases, specialization sets in. Bibliographic work is no exception. With new requirements of specialized skills and specialized knowledge of cultural backgrounds, particular segments of Far Eastern history become the topic of the individual scholar-bibliographer, while closer inter-institutional and even international cooperation will attempt the larger comprehensive projects. Much has already been accomplished in this way; much remains to be done.

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