

NOTES AND NEWS

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All of the following material was received prior to March 1, 1946

Academia Sinica (Kuo-li chung-yang yen-chiu yüan). The Academia Sinica was founded in 1927 by Dr. Ts'ai Yüan-p'ei when he was Minister of Education in the National Government. Dr. Ts'ai was appointed the first President of the Academia, and he held this position until his death in 1941. It was mainly through his farsightedness and his untiring efforts in the promotion and development of scientific research that the Academia has become what it is today. Dr. Chu Chia-hua has been its acting President since 1941.

The Academia Sinica combines the double function of undertaking scientific research, and of promoting and coordinating such research. It is therefore a national research council as well as a research institution. In the former capacity, the Council of the Academia Sinica is charged with the duties of: (1) Deliberating on the policy or program of research to be undertaken by the Academia's research institutes; (2) Promoting the scientific research of the Academia, and coordinating it with that of learned societies in China and abroad; (3) Making nominations for a successor to the President upon his retirement; and (4) Awarding prizes for scientific achievements of value and distinction. The Council at present is composed of 44 members; 30 are elected by university professors, and the remaining 14 are the directors of the various Academia Institutes. The elected members are distributed according to the branches of Science as follows: mathematics and physics, three; chemistry, three; engineering, three; biology, six; geology, three; astronomy, one; meteorology, one; psychology, one; social sciences, three; history, three; philology, one; archaeology, one; anthropology, one; total, 30. The Council meets once every year, and the President of the Academia presides.

As a research institution, the Academia consists of a number of Institutes, each of which conducts research work of a particular type. There are at present eleven Institutes, which deal with physics, chemistry, engineering, geology, astronomy, meteorology, history and philology, psychology, social sciences, zoology, and botany; and three Institutes in preparation: mathematics, physical anthropology, and experimental medicine. These Institutes, it may be pointed out, were not all established at the same time, for the creation of a new Institute is strictly circumscribed by the availability of scientific workers and funds. It is noteworthy, however, that four of the Institutes—those which deal with mathematics, botany, physical anthropology, and experimental medicine—were founded during the war years. It is hoped that more Institutes will be added now that peace has come.

The Institute of Social Sciences. The Institute of Social Sciences (*She-hui so*, formerly *She-hui k'o-hsüeh yen-chiu so*), one of the research Institutes of the Academia Sinica, was founded in 1927. Its work was originally divided into four sections: law, eco-

nomics, sociology, and ethnology. On July 1, 1934, the Institute of Social Research ([*Peiping*] *She-hui tiao-ch'a so*) was incorporated into the Institute as a result of an agreement between the Academia Sinica and the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture. The Institute of Social Research had been established by the China Foundation in 1926 on funds received from the Institute of Social and Religious Research in New York, and was supported by the China Foundation during its eight years of existence. After the incorporation, the entire staff of the Institute of Social Research joined the Institute of Social Sciences in the Academia Sinica. Mr. L. K. Tao (T'ao Meng-ho), director of the Institute of Social Research since its inception, was made director of the joint organization. At the same time, the character of the Institute's research activities underwent some changes. The law and sociology studies, which had been none too active for some years, owing to a shortage of research workers, were suspended, while the ethnology section was transferred to the Institute of History and Philology. Emphasis was laid more on economic subjects, in line with the tradition of the Institute of Social Research, and studies in public administration were introduced. At present, research studies are being conducted on the following subjects: social and economic history, industry, agriculture, international trade, money and banking, finance, public administration, and general economic subjects.

The Institute's research staff consists of fellows, associates, assistants, and research students. There were in 1945 four fellows, eight associates, three assistants, and five research students. Like everything else in China, this Institute has suffered greatly in the recent war. At the outbreak of fighting at Marco Polo Bridge, near Peiping, on July 7, 1937, two important activities of the Institute at Peiping were interrupted. The Peiping cost-of-living indices, begun early in 1929 by the Institute of Social Research as the first of their kind in China, and adopted by many of the world's important statistical publications, had to be suspended, while transcription of the Ch'ing government archives—a project which had been begun in 1930 and would soon have been completed—had to be discontinued. In September, the Institute began to move its staff together with its books and apparatus to Changsha, Hunan, with the purpose of setting up a working station there. It left a few members in Nanking, however, to do war work. They were evacuated only one day before the fall of that city.

The removal of the Institute to Changsha was but the beginning of a long journey, for no sooner had the entire staff gathered at Changsha than they were compelled, because of the congested condition of the town, to proceed to Nanyüeh, near Hengshan, to seek a place to work. A few weeks after the Institute's staff had settled down and resumed its work, the Institute was again ordered to move further south as a result of the fall of Nanking. Through the courtesy and assistance of the Kwangsi provincial administration, the Institute, together with two other Institutes of the Academia, was able to establish its headquarters in Yangshuo, a small, quiet town, about 60 kilometres southeast of Kweilin. Removal began in the middle of December, 1937; work was resumed on February 1, 1938, although transportation difficulties in the interior had so delayed the removal of books and other effects that the last shipment of this material reached Yangshuo only in September of that year.

The Institute remained in Yangshuo for only ten months. During this time several valuable studies were continued. For instance, two staff members were sent to Shanghai, which was then under enemy occupation, to study economic and financial conditions there. From time to time they rendered reports *via* Hongkong, which were communicated to government authorities. Two other members were despatched to Canton and to Hongkong to study the problem of remittance of funds by overseas Chinese, and the problem of trade with foreign countries. All of these studies later proved of value to the government.

When Canton fell in October 1938, direct communication between Kwangsi and Hongkong was interrupted. This resulted in great inconvenience to the work of the Institute. Since the security of Kwangsi appeared to be threatened, the Institute moved again—this time to Kunming, which is more than 1,400 kilometres from Yangshuo. This journey passes through a most mountainous district, and requires one whole week by motor-bus. In spite of most serious transportation difficulties, the removal at last began in the early part of December, and work was resumed in January 1939, at Kunming.

The Institute stayed in Kunming less than two years, for as a consequence of the advance of the enemy in the Indo-China area, it was ordered to move once more to Szechwan, where Lichuang, a townlet near the extreme western end of the Yangtze, was selected as the site for its headquarters. The Institute has remained in Lichuang ever since; it planned to return to Nanking in May, 1946.

It is scarcely necessary to mention that great damage has been done to this Institute by the war. The work of the Institute has been greatly retarded and many of the research projects which were being planned or were in progress had to be abandoned. The greater than normal turnover of personnel and the shortage of competent workers deterred still further the work of the Institute. The staff members were hard pressed by inflation, and the losses they were compelled to sustain during repeated removals could only add to their misery. Members of the staff and their families suffered privation and sickness, and this naturally had an effect on the Institute's work. To these privations and hardships were added insufferable forebodings about the length of the war, and—during the period between the closing of the Burma Road and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor—its doubtful outcome. Nevertheless, the staff members stood valiantly at their posts and pursued their studies relentlessly regardless of circumstances. The fact that publications have continued to appear ever since 1936 amply demonstrates that the research work of this Institute, at any rate, has been able to withstand the ravages of war.

It may perhaps not be out of place here to point out that the study of social phenomena as a science has never been developed in China. However valuable the writings on social, political and economic topics by ancient Chinese scholars may have been, they are usually no more than assertions, statements, or discussions of a loose, inexact, and general nature. It is true that one occasionally finds in these writings flashes of truths or indications of a remarkable scientific spirit and outlook, yet no topic has been subjected to a thorough and persistent investigation in a strictly scientific manner. It was only with the introduction of western science that the Chinese people began to appreciate modern scientific technique with its exact con-

ceptions, its objectivity, its careful methods of observation, and its rigorous, logical thinking, and to apply it to the study of social conditions in their own land.

During the two Institutes' few years of existence, the number of papers and monographs produced by their staffs have amounted to 232. They may be classified as follows: general, 6; economic theory, 10; social and economic history, 14; land and agriculture, 35; manufacturing and mining, 15; trade and commerce, 22; transportation, 2; currency and banking, 28; public finance, 48; population, 13; labor, 15; statistics, 14; government and public administration, 6; miscellaneous, 3. [Note prepared by Mr. L. K. Tao. A list of the publications of the Institute of Social Sciences will appear in a subsequent issue.]

Dr. Woodbridge Bingham, after serving in Naval Intelligence and the Office of Strategic Services, and after being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve, was released from active duty in October 1945. He resumed his teaching duties at the University of California in Berkeley on October 29, 1945. During the fall semester he had 54 students in the History of the Far East, and 33 in the Modern History of China. In the spring semester of 1946 he also had four students in graduate courses all of whom used either Japanese or Chinese sources. During 1946-47 he is expecting to give a Sophomore course on the History and Civilizations of Asia.

Dr. Arthur G. Coons, President-elect of Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, served from October 24, 1945 to January 31, 1946 as special adviser to Ambassador Edwin W. Pauley, as a member of the American Reparations Mission to Japan.

Dr. Paul D mi ville has been appointed successor to Professor Maspero at the Coll ge de France. Dr. Robert des Rotours is succeeding Dr. D mi ville at the  cole des Langues orientales vivantes.

Professor J. J. L. Duyvendak arrived in the United States early in 1946, in order to teach in Columbia University during the spring term, and to represent the Netherlands at the Institute of Pacific Relations conference in January.

Mr. Hubert Freyn, former editor of the *China journal*, and until recently a graduate student in the department of Chinese and Japanese in Columbia University, has received an UNRRA appointment, and will be leaving for China in the near future.

Professor Fung Yu-lan, noted scholar of the history of Chinese philosophy, is coming to the United States in the summer of 1946 on a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to spend a year at the University of Pennsylvania. There he will probably give two courses, one a lecture course on Chinese philosophy and religion, and the other an advanced reading course on the Taoist philosopher, Chuang Tzu. His main purpose in coming to Philadelphia, however, is so that he and Dr. Derk Bodde, associate professor of Chinese at Pennsylvania, may work together in trans-

lating the second volume of his *History of Chinese philosophy*, the first volume of which was translated by Dr. Bodde in 1937.

Dr. William R. Leete writes that he is now returning to his teaching work as Professor in the Department of English in the Nanking Theological Seminary. For the past seven years this Seminary has been carrying on uninterrupted work—one section in Shanghai and the other in Chengtu. Dr. Leete taught in the latter from 1941 until February 15, 1943, and is now being sent to teach in the former until it moves back to the campus in Nanking. The purpose of the English Department of the Seminary is to develop the ability of its students to read theological English readily and also to translate it into acceptable Chinese. Dr. Leete is taking with him an extensive selection of recent works on child welfare and rehabilitation in order to bring up to date this section of the Seminary's library.

Captain Earl Swisher, USMC, was granted leave of absence from the University of Colorado as of July 1, 1942. He attended the Navy Japanese Language School at Boulder, Colorado, and was commissioned Captain in the United States Marine Corps. As Assistant G-2, Language Officer in the V Amphibious Corps, he participated in the following operations: Gilberts (Makin, Tarawa); Marshalls (Kwajalein, Roi-Namur, Eniwetok); and Marianas (Saipan, Tinian, Guam). After being named Assistant G-2, Language Officer, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, he took part in the Iwo Jima operation. For his services in the Marianas operation he received a letter of commendation from the Commanding General, Northern Troops and Landing Force, and on November 2, 1945, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in a ceremony at Trimble Field, Third Marine Division, Guam, Brigadier General William E. Riley, Commanding General, Third Marine Division, made the presentation. The citation is as follows:

"For meritorious achievement in connection with operations against the enemy while attached to Headquarters, Fifth Amphibious Corps, and Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, from 13 September, 1943 to 11 August, 1945. As a Japanese language translator and interpreter, Captain Swisher rendered unusually valuable services during the capture of the Gilbert Islands, Marianas Islands and Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands. During most of this period, he served as G-2 language officer on the staff of the Commanding General, and was largely responsible for the training and employment of Japanese language personnel serving with Marine units in the Central Pacific Theatre. In the performance of operational and administrative duties, requiring great technical ability, initiative of the highest order, and constant devotion to duty, he rendered unusually distinguished services and assisted materially in the success of our operations against the enemy. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service.

/s/ Roy S. Geiger
ROY S. GEIGER
Lieutenant General,
U. S. Marine Corps."

Captain Swisher, Assistant G-2, Officer-in-Charge, Language Section, Third Marine Division, on Guam, M.I., applied for inactive status and returned to the University of Colorado early in 1946.

John Leroy Christian

Dr. John L. Christian, one of the best authorities on present day Burma, met his death not far from Rangoon on May 3, 1945, at the age of 44. At that time he was associated with the Military Intelligence Service of the United States Army, holding the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He received his Doctor's degree from the University of California, and prior to his entrance into the Army in 1942 he was Assistant Professor of Far Eastern History at the University of Washington. During the eight years from 1927 to 1935 he served in Burma under the Seventh Day Adventists as the Principal of the Meiktala Technical School. It was during this period that considerable information and personal experience of the country was stored away, which he later used to great advantage as an Intelligence Officer and in his various publications concerning this important area of Southeast Asia. Besides various articles, his outstanding contribution was the book *Modern Burma, a survey of political and economic development* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1942), which will remain for some time to come the standard descriptive account on Burma. This volume was reprinted in India with two additional chapters dealing with the Japanese occupation of Burma, and appeared almost simultaneously with the author's death. His untimely death is a severe blow to American scholarship in the Southeast Asia field. [Obituary prepared by Reverend Cecil Hobbs.]

The tragic loss to Far Eastern studies resulting from the deaths of Professor Henri Maspero and Professor Paul Pelliot has already been mentioned in these *Notes*. It is now reported that the libraries of these scholars will not be dispersed. Professor Maspero left his library to the Société Asiatique and to the Musée Guimet. Dr. Julien Cain of the Bibliothèque Nationale is taking charge of the library left by Professor Pelliot.