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SAN DIEGO, CA

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2013 Conference

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Conference/Symposia Reports

Eric Strahorn, Florida Gulf Coast University, Editor

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We encourage conference organizers to provide individual submissions, which should be thematic and descriptive (i.e. not merely a listing of papers presented). The following are some more specific suggestions regarding content.

1. Overall theme title, location of conference, and origins of participants.
2. Topics discussed within the overall theme and the predominant disciplines represented by the participants.
3. The Organizing Committee and Sponsors.

4. A succinct description of the theme.
5. Major issues raised within the theme.
6. Presenters and their topics (if space permits).
7. Contact email address for abstracts or other details on papers and presentations.

Reports should be approximately 500–800 words in length. Submissions by e-mail are preferred, and should be sent to Dr. Eric Strahorn at estraho@fgcu.edu.

Report on “Chinese through the Americas: 5th WCILOS International Conference of Institutes and Libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies”

Vancouver, May 16–19, 2012

Submitted by Leo F. H. Ma, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Supported by the Dr. You-Bao Shao Overseas Chinese Documentation Center, a Chinese Overseas Studies conference was held successfully in Athens, Ohio, in 2000. With its mission to promote research, learning and outreach for Chinese Overseas Studies, the WCILCOS (World Confederation of Institutes and Libraries in Chinese Overseas Studies) was established by the participating institutes and libraries in order to facilitate cooperation between scholarship and documentation, and between institutes, libraries, and archives in different parts of the world.

Since then, the Shao Center has co-organized international conferences with the University Library System of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (2003), the Inter-Agency Committee on Chinese Overseas Databank and Research, Singapore (Huayinet) (2005), and the Jinan University Library and Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies of the Jinan University, China (2009). This year, the 5th WCILCOS Conference with the main theme of “Chinese through the Americas” was co-hosted by the University of British Columbia Library and the Ohio University Libraries on May 16–19, 2012 at the University of British Columbia (Point Grey Campus) in Vancouver, Canada. More than 200 scholars, librarians, community researchers and students from the US, Canada, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, UK, France and Cuba participated in this conference.

The opening keynote speech entitled “The Rhythms of the Cantonese Pacific and the Making of Nations” by Prof. Henry Yu addressed the relationship between the migration of Cantonese in the past few centuries and the making of the national state in the Pacific region. The keynote speech entitled “Emigration from Fuzhou to the USA around 2000: As Mirrored from the Case of Change” delivered in the closing ceremony by Prof. Zhuang Guotu examined the phenomenon of a sudden influx of the Fuzhou emigrants to the U.S. at the turn of the century.

The 5th WCILCOS Conference brought together a wide array of topics such as Forced Migration and Refugeedom, Researching the Chinese Presence in Atlantic Canada-Family and Place, Chinese and Aboriginal Relations, Diversities and Similarities of Chinese Overseas Society, China in the Overseas Imaginary, Researching

and Writing Family Histories, A Chinese Reformer in Exile, Canadian Law, Intermarriage and Ethnic Relations for Chinese immigrants and Aboriginal Canadians, Pacific Connections, Chinese Women in the Northwest Americas, etc. in 28 panel sessions with 101 papers and presentations. Among these 28 panels, three were proposed by two community groups, namely the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia and the Chinese in Northwest America Research Committee. Also, new thematic panels on Chinese rare books held outside China and on historic relations between Chinese and aboriginals were set up for the very first time in the WCILCOS Conference. Compared to previous conferences, a good number of librarians participated this year. Apart from individual papers, there were three panels specially designated for library presentations, namely Chinese Overseas Heritage Treasures: Transnational Discovery & Delivery (5 papers), In Search of Value Overseas: Stories of Chinese American Librarians (5 papers), and Chinese Rare Book Overseas Studies (3 papers).

The 6th WCILOS Conference will be held at the Xieman University in Fujian, China in 2014.

Further information, see www.overseaschineseconfederation.org or contact Leo Ma, Head, New Asia College Ch'ien Mu Library, leo-ma@cuhk.edu.hk.

Report on “The 12th Annual Association for Asian Performance (AAP) Conference”

Washington, D.C., August 1–2, 2012

Submitted by Alexander Huang, George Washington University

A scholarly organization of over 200 members, the AAP was founded in 1987 as a California Public Benefit Corporation. It is also an affiliate of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. (ATHE). *The Asian Theatre Journal* is the official scholarly publication of the organization. Organized by the AAP vice president Alexander Huang (George Washington University), the two-day conference in Washington, D.C., welcomed nearly 100 participants and audience members. This year's conference, with 10 parallel panels, 2 workshops, 2 roundtables, an expanded poster session with 15 poster papers, and *The Asian Theatre Journal* Distinguished Scholar Lecture presented by Professor Richard Nichols, was very successful. All the parallel sessions were well attended, which is an indication of the healthy growth of the AAP and the maturity of our field.

Organized by Jennifer Goodlander, the poster session had a new feature this year. Each poster paper is paired with an expert

respondent who spent time with the paper author at the booth and offered in-depth comments on the paper.

This year's AAP continued and expanded the new features launched last year: a small book exhibit with deeply discounted books on Asian performance cultures; a full-color conference program with ads from major journals and publishers in the field; a new poster session featuring 15 well-attended multimedia-enhanced presentations (presenters ranged from graduate students to professors); and AAP's YouTube channel where videos of the conference presentations can be viewed by those who missed the conference.

An exhibition on Cao Yu and His Legacy was curated by Ruru Li and presented by Lily Wong, Alex Huang, and George Washington University. Cao Yu (1910–1996)—the foremost pioneer in modern drama in China—is a key figure in the literary and cultural development in Republican China. "Cao Yu and His Legacy" explores his significance today through historical and dramaturgical analyses of four productions performed in Chinese and English both in China and in the West. The special exhibition on the father of modern Chinese drama Cao Yu was set up in the hall way outside the two meeting rooms where the AAP was held August 1–2. The exhibition was then moved to the foyer of the ATHE's registration desk (the first stop for most conference delegates) and attracted more diverse audiences from outside the field Asian performance studies.

The Annual *Asian Theatre Journal* Distinguished Scholar Lecture by Richard Nichols: It is an honor to have Richard Nichols deliver this year's *ATJ* Lecture. His talk dealt with contemporary Korean theatre's emergence into international recognition, and he shared insights distilled from his personal career paths that led to Seoul and the anthology, *Modern Korean Drama*. Richard Nichols is past President of Association for Asian Performance. He is currently Professor Emeritus of Theatre, Penn State University. He holds a Ph.D. from University of Washington. A two-time recipient of Japan Foundation fellowships, Nichols also taught as a Fulbright Fellow in Seoul and directed plays at Beijing's Central Academy of Drama, Sungkyunkwan University, National University of the Arts, and Korea University. He has contributed to the field of theatre studies through his extensive service as national chair of ATA's Theatre Movement Program, American College Theater Festival. He has contributed to the field of theatre studies through his extensive service as national chair of ATA's Theatre Movement Program, American College Theater Festival.

Asian Theatre Journal Emerging Scholar panel: chaired by *ATJ* editor Kathy Foley, this year's Emerging Scholars panel consisted of three original papers that were dynamically presented, which is one reason why the presentations were followed by lively discussions. Focusing on director Tadashi Suzuki's productions in Korean between 2008 and 2010, Jae Kyoung Kim argues for the importance of a pan-East Asian approach to Suzuki's fusion theatre. Fan-ting Cheng's paper examines the politics of *Dreamers*, a musical that was commissioned by the government to celebrate Taiwan's national birthday in 2011. In his paper Guanda Wu considers a different era of Chinese-speaking theatre, namely the debates about nandan (male actors specializing in impersonating female roles) in early Republican China from 1912 to 1937. The three papers showcase the best of a new generation of scholarship in Asian performance studies.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/pages/Association-for-Asian-Performance/103477229028.

Report on the 2012 New York Conference on Asian Studies

New Paltz, September 28–29, 2012

Submitted by David Elstein and Akira Shimada, SUNY New Paltz

The 2012 New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) was hosted by the Asian Studies Program of the State University of New York at New Paltz on September 28–29, 2012. The theme of the 2012 conference was "Contesting Tradition," and panels were encouraged to examine ways in which the various Asian traditions are and have been contested, transformed, and reimagined. With nearly 60 panels, we believe this was the largest NYCAS ever in terms of number of panels. We had nearly 250 registered participants, including some from Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, and Sri Lanka, as well as throughout the United States.

The panels were held at the Student Union of the New Paltz campus, which provided a central location for most conference activities. In designing the program, we aimed for diversity in both discipline and geographic area. Some highlights here were panels on Vietnamese film, Korean religion, Chinese diaspora traditions, and US policy in the Afghan-Pakistan region. The conference theme was well represented by panels such as "Contesting/Changing Ideologies in China," "Traditions of Contestation in Pre-Modern Japan," and "Asian Women in Contesting Cultures." A number of panels were interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary, focusing on issues such as environmental sustainability, media studies, national identity, and gender. A number of panels featured undergraduate presenters, not only from SUNY New Paltz, but other institutions such as Vassar College and the University of Rochester. The large number of panels was a logistical challenge, but enabled us to put together a diverse program to appeal to many different specialties. After panelists from Sri Lanka were unable to make the trip to New Paltz, we experimented with doing presentations by Skype, which proved successful after some small technical problems.

We had a large book and educational exhibit featuring twenty academic publishers and study abroad organizations.

Certainly the biggest challenge for the conference was with the plenary session. We had arranged for the plenary address to be given by award-winning author Ha Jin. Unfortunately, he had to cancel due to a last-minute medical emergency. We were very fortunate that Prof. Heinz Insu Fenkl agreed to step in on short notice and give a talk on Ha Jin's recent book *A Good Fall*, which all incoming freshman read. We are grateful to NYCAS for the funding to pay him an honorarium.

NYCAS 2012 also included a number of cultural events. The Samuel Dorsky Museum on campus hosted two art exhibitions: On the Farm, an exhibit of photographs mainly of rural China by New Paltz alumna and Fulbright scholar Veronica O'Keefe, and Shinohara Pops!, an exhibit by noted Japanese modern artist Ushio Shinohara. Shinohara attended the conference and gave a live demonstration of his boxing painting on Saturday. With funding from the Council of Conferences, the Asian Studies Program organized a Saturday morning panel and workshop on Shinohara's painting and Japanese art. Seven K–12 teachers and other educators signed up for the workshop. Friday evening included the presidential address by AAS

The AAS via E-Mail

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