

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Washington, DC

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 2, 1956

Dear Colonel Lee:

As a result of your current interest in exploiting the oriental language holdings of The Library of Congress, I feel that you may wish to be informed of the size, nature, and cost of controlling these largely uncataloged collections.

The Library of Congress has the largest accumulation of Chinese, Japanese and Korean materials outside the Orient. This collection currently numbers more than 700,000 volumes and pamphlets and is being augmented at a rate of some 12,000 titles each year. Not only is this the largest Western collection of orientalia, but in many respects it is as unique as it is voluminous.

The arrearage of uncataloged Japanese material of some 250,000 volumes includes Japanese intelligence collections with materials which are not known to exist elsewhere either in the U.S. or Japan. Particularly valuable studies relating to mainland China are included in the materials of a group of the most outstanding oriental research and intelligence organizations. The East Asian Research Institute (Toa Kenkyujo); the Research Department of the South Manchurian Railroad Co; the China Affairs Board (Koain); the Ministry of Greater East Asian Affairs (Dai Toasho); the civilian research units of the Japanese North China Garrison; and other lesser organizations. Many of these documents are mimeographed and most are classified confidential (hi) or secret (gokuhi). While some of this material may be considered dated, the selected titles included in Appendix A afford some indication of the scope and nature of this material.

The current acquisitions include some 5,000 Chinese, 6,000 Japanese, and 1,000 Korean titles which include valuable materials of a more current nature.

USAF review(s) completed.

The USAF projects within the Library are using, and have used these collections as much as possible, considering their present unorganized state. Some specialized bibliographic work has been initiated by the projects, but as we learned in exploiting the Slavic collections, sporadic bibliographic efforts which do not result in complete control of the documents have proven to be more costly than the general cataloging of the collection. In addition, the usual cataloging procedures assure the projects, the Directorate of Intelligence, and the larger intelligence community not only an efficient method of locating available, often unique, titles, but the ability to use and reuse the documents as needs arise.

It is my best estimate that complete control of current acquisitions would require an expenditure of about \$290,000 per annum, following a maximum initial expenditure of \$150,000 in the first year. Complete control of the 250,000 volume Japanese arrearage would require an expenditure of about \$1,500,000 over a five-year period, with a maximum first-year expenditure of about \$78,500. Selective criteria would be applied to assure that more critical volumes be given cataloging priority.

The establishment of complete control of the collections includes the coordination of materials cataloged in the Library of Congress with current holdings cataloged by every library in the United States which has extensive oriental collections. The existence of such a catalog would not only provide control of Library of Congress collections, but would indicate the location of similar materials in libraries throughout the United States.

I will be glad to discuss this further with you or furnish additional information if you desire.

Sincerely,

s/

Burton W. Adkinson
Director

William G. Lee, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Air Force
Directorate of Intelligence
Headquarters, U.S. Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

APPENDIX A

Report of a survey of mineral resources in North China important for national defense (February 1941). (One volume of text, one volume of maps and charts.) SECRET

Report of a survey of freezing conditions on the rivers and lakes of North China (July 1941).

Drinking Water in the Main Cities of North China (March 1941).

Report of a survey of water transport on the rivers of North China -- a collection of photographs (1936).

Report of a survey of irrigation facilities for agriculture in Central China (August 1941) CONFIDENTIAL

Report of a basic survey of measures for the prevention of diseases in Central China (May 1942).

Collective report of the research committee appointed to study the Yellow River (June 1944). CONFIDENTIAL

Report of mineral resources in South China (January 1940). SECRET

Description of strategic positions in Kiangsi Province, from the standpoint of military use (December 1943). TOP SECRET