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Memorandum to: Librarians concerned with or interested in Southeast Asia no. 2.

From: Donald Clay Johnson.

It hardly seems possible that it was last July that the first memo appeared and from the response that has been received it has been indicated that something of this type is indeed needed. Several librarians have written and given me helpful suggestions and ideas which are included in this memorandum. During the three months since the last memo appeared there were the meetings of the International Congress of Orientalists, and a special report prepared by Miss Lian Tie Kho, Librarian of the Southeast Asia Collection at Yale is included in this memo. Upon reading this report, it becomes painfully apparent that cooperation is going to be one of the key issues for librarians concerned with Southeast Asia. Before presenting this report however, there are several other items which should be brought to your attention and they are listed as follows:

1. Catalogs. Two new catalogs of holdings of library collections on Southeast Asia have been received. They are: from Edinboro State College and Northern Illinois University. The addresses to write to get a copy are:

Mr. Hwa-Wei Lee
Chief Librarian
Edinboro State College
Edinboro, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Peter Ananda
Southeast Asia Librarian
Sven Franklin Parson Library
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

2. Publications. Cecil Hobbs is the author of paper no. 81 of the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science Occasional Papers. The title of this paper is "Understanding the peoples of Southern Asia."

Paul Bixler contributed the entire Sept. 1967 issue of Leads, the publication of the International Relations Roundtable of ALA. It is a summary of the library related aspect of Mr. Bixler's recent trip to Southeast Asia. Leads is available for an annual membership fee of \$2.00 payable to the treasurer, Miss Lillie M. Kleven, 3822 Van Ness Street N. W. Washington, D. C. 20016.

3. Additions to the mailing list and corrections on memo no. 1.;

Miss Frances A. Bernath is no longer at Cornell.

Mrs. Indra David is at Syracuse so her code letters should read NSU and not MVS.

Miss Juliane M. Heyman is working for the International Relations Office of ALA. Her address is: 1420 N. Street N. W. Washington D. C. 20005.

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New names on our mailing list:

- Miss Zubaidah Isa InU
- Mr. Frederik Haver Droeze InU
- Mr. Peter Ananda N. Ill. Univ.
- Mrs. Estrella Bryant CtY
- Miss Lawan Vajrathon CtY

The number of librarians concerned with Southeast Asia continues to grow. If you know of someone who is not on our mailing list, be sure to let us know and we will place them on it.

4. Activities:

A. American Library Association Annual Convention, 1967.

- 1. The Committee on Non-Western Library Resources of the College Library Section met on Friday, 30 June 1967 in San Francisco. Next year the committee will be holding another pre-conference institute in Kansas City. "See you in Kansas City."
- 2. Dr. Warren Tsuneishi of the Library of Congress held a meeting of interested Asia oriented librarians and ALA officials concerning the possible establishment of an Asian Subject Specialists group similar to the existing Slavic and East European Section. Reactions were most favorable and plans are now being drawn up for what should the group be, what it should do and how it will operate.

B. The Association of Asian Studies.

Word has been received from Cecil Hobbs concerning the Library oriented committees of the AAS. In the past librarians have been allowed to attend the South Asian and Far Eastern Committee sessions. However, the Southeast Asia committee was a closed session. Because of an interest expressed by several librarians to attend the Southeast Asia meetings, these meetings have now been made open. This now allows librarians concerned with Southeast Asia to have a valid reason for coming to the AAS meetings other than scholarly interests since they will be able to attend a committee meeting which deals with library development.

C. The International Congress of Orientalists.

The 27th International Congress of Orientalists was held in Ann Arbor Michigan from 13 to 19 August 1967. Included in the activities of the congress was an all day library panel, the first such panel to meet within the congress. The idea of such a meeting was first brought up at the annual meeting of the Committee on American

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Library Resources on the Far East of the Association for Asian Studies in April 1966. The organizers of the panel were Eugene Wu (Harvard) and Yukihsa Suzuki (Michigan) and they are indeed to be congratulated on their efforts. The four sessions of the panel were devoted to library resources of North Africa and the Near East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. The representatives of libraries in Southeast Asia attending the congress were; Miss Suthilak Ambhanwong, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Miss Marina G. Dayrit, University of the Philippines; and Mrs. Chen Hsiu Chin Wang, University of Singapore. Each of these three gave a brief (20 minute) informative survey of the library resources in their respective countries. Copies of the papers on Southeast Asia were not available at the time, but the University of Michigan Library will duplicate and furnish copies to interested librarians.

The University of Michigan library was most hospitable by taking the librarians to lunches and dinners, conducting tours and discussions and finally having a reception. University Microfilms tours were conducted in groups of five or six so that each librarian would have an ample opportunity to ask questions. Throughout the week there were many informal discussions with colleagues and scholars from around the world. The Southeast Asia group very much enjoyed the hospitality of John Musgrave who invited the group to his home for two long sessions which allowed everyone to discuss some real practical problems. Some of the matters discussed during the course of the week are given below.

1. Cooperative Acquisitions.

Miss Suthilak Ambhanwong brought with her a proposal from the Thai Library Association which has offered its services in acquiring Thai materials for libraries not only in Thailand but also of libraries abroad. US libraries may subscribe to this project at a fee of \$20.00 per year. They will obtain a monthly checklist from the Thai Library Association from which they can select items to be supplied by the Association. The checklist will include publications not in the book trade such as government publications, and cremation and anniversary volumes.

There were many discussions on this topic and all agreed that in order to do a proper job of systematic acquisitions it is imperative to have a person on the spot, such as an arrangement as suggested by the Thai Library Association, or a Harrassowitz-type agent. This problem has been brought up many times, and the recent visits of several US librarians to Southeast Asia to procure items points out only too well that receipt of Southeast Asia materials in the United States is far from adequate for the present scholarly needs. While John Musgrave was in Southeast Asia earlier this year he approached a person in Sarawak; and Mrs. Wang has talked with a book dealer in Singapore and both the person in Sarawak and the dealer in Singapore would like to undertake systematic acquisitions for

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US libraries. Other possible jobs for these agents would be to bind monographs, collate and bind government gazettes and other materials issued in parts (which tend to go astray in the mail). No definite program was proposed since each of the librarians present did have some form of arrangement for getting materials from Sarawak, Singapore, and Thailand, although each person said that the arrangements which they had were far from satisfactory. Perhaps when we take stock of our needs and coordinate these needs with libraries faced with similar problems that we might be able to find a solution to this long-standing problem.

2. Coordinative Center for microfilming.

Cornell has been the American collection most concerned with the microfilming of Southeast Asian newspapers and newsletters and has done an admirable job in this respect. However, they do not have the resources or manpower to cope with the bulk of materials. Accordingly they suggested the establishment of a coordinating center for this project of filming materials. As their Photo-Science Dept. seems to be the most advanced of any such departments in libraries in the United States, it was agreed that Cornell would be the most suitable place for such a center. It was suggested that the cost of supporting this center be shared by librarians interested in SEA.

3. Lists of dissertations.

Since Dissertation abstracts includes only part of the films held by University Microfilms, the company is now in the process of compiling lists of dissertations presented at American Universities. These are to be sent to the respective universities for checking and will subsequently be published. The company will then be in a position to furnish subject bibliographies and we can look forward to a complete list of American Doctoral dissertations on Southeast Asia.

4. International Association of Orientalist Librarians.

On the last day of the congress we met in the office of the director of the University of Michigan Library, Dr. Frederick Wagman, to hear a proposal concerning the establishment of an International Association of Orientalist Librarians. James Pearson of the London School of Oriental and African Studies was to be the first president with Yukihiisa Suzuki of Michigan to be Secretary-Treasurer. The latter and Dr. Wagman were to investigate the administrative procedures involved. The names of regional representatives were suggested, and these regional representatives were to contact national representatives in their region. Meetings of the Association were intended to coincide with the Congress so that the library panels may become a permanent part of the meetings of the International Congress of Orientalists.

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From Miss Kho's report it is apparent that the librarians were very busy while they were in Ann Arbor. Should we not carry through with some of the suggestions which were made concerning cooperative acquisitions and centralized microfilming? How many libraries would be willing to join a cooperative acquisitions venture in Singapore and Sarawak whereby we would deal cooperatively with one person who (hopefully) would give us considerably better service than if we attempted to get publications from each of these two areas individually? Since John Musgrave began the initial work with the person in Sarawak, please direct your comments and inquiries to him. If you are interested in the Singapore agent, please contact me and I'll get in contact with Mrs. Wang. What are your reactions to the proposal of the Thai library Association? I think that it might prove helpful for getting materials from Thailand which are not part of the regular bookstore trade in that country.

Although this memorandum is issued from the Yale Southeast Asia Collection, it is the product of the suggestions which are given to the Curator. For those of you who wrote an answer to the first memorandum thank you, it confirmed my feelings that it was time we begin to get organized. For those of you who did not answer, well . . . maybe you'll answer this memo.

Please address all inquiries to: Donald Clay Johnson, Curator, Southeast Asia Collection, Sterling Memorial Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut, 06520