

1932年蔡元培先生与社会文化界

发起恢复上海文化机关启事

1988年1月12日是我国近代著名教育家、民主革命家蔡元培诞辰120周年(1868—1940)。蔡先生1916年任北京大学校长,1929—1940年间任北京图书馆馆长多年,“他对北图的改革和他改革北京大学一样,他代表了当时的新文化思潮,推动了北图的事业。”

“九·一八”事变后,他主张抗日,同情革命,1932年他与社会文化界人士共同《发起恢复上海文化机关启事》一文,是他在灾难深重的旧中国关注图书馆事业发展的又一发现,弥足珍贵,本期特予发表,以资纪念。

——编者

敬启者上海为东方一大市场,物质之奢靡,建筑之巍峨,交通之便利,学校之林立,商旅之辐辏,市场之繁荣,以视世界各大都市,其相去盖亦极仅,独于文化则瞠乎人后,文盲载道,而关于文化之建设尤不为人所注意。举例而言,以如此繁盛,市民多至三百余万之通商大埠,竟无一大规模之图书馆,以供市民之阅览,而歌台舞榭,栉比林立,唯此深关民智之文化设备,则付缺如,此诚为上海市民之大耻,亦即我国家之大耻也。

曩者商务印书馆于清末建立涵芬楼于闸北,蜕化而成东方图书馆,二十余年来苦心经营,藏书逾五十万册,其在上海,尤为硕果晨星,弥足珍贵,惜自一二八祸变突发,此一大文化机关及江湾吴淞一带公私立大学及私家所藏图籍,竟全部牺牲,其可悲可痛,诚无可以言宣。

同人等认恢复上海文化机关,实为目前急务,而创设一规模较大之图书馆,尤为首要。顾以力量绵薄,莫克促其实现,抑且兹事体大,非群策群力,决难望其成功。爰敢征求发起,尚恳社会各方共促其成,涓滴之水,可成江河,尘埃之粒,可成泰岳,果能共起进行,则他日黄浦江头,崇楼高耸,琅玕罗列,汗牛充栋,要自可期,是则不仅为上海市民之福利,实即我国家之荣光也。素仰台端热心文化事业,务恳加入发起,鼎力提倡,不胜盼禱之至,兹附上筹办上海图书馆旨趣书一纸,如荷赞同,即祈

回示为禱!

Summary

Summary Minutes of the Forum "Report on Improving and Enhancing Library Service"

Following the Notice "Improve and Enhance Library Service" issued jointly by the Department of Propaganda of the Party Central Committee, the Ministry of Culture, National Commission of Education and Academia Sinica, a Forum was held last year by heads of cultural bureaus over the country to discuss how to carry out the Notice. The decision reached at this Forum has been agreed upon by related institutions of a higher level.

The Notice itself called attention to the fact that during the 7th five-year plan period, our country has placed in strategic priority the progress of science and technology and has stressed the exploitation of intellectual resources, while the construction of socialist spiritual civilization is being strengthened. (Page 7)

The Late Premier Zhou Enlai Attached Much Importance to Preventing the Country's Rare Old Books From Getting Abroad

The late Premier Zhou had always attached much importance to protecting the nation's cultural heritage, inspite of his heavily packed daily tasks. In 1955 and later in 1965, upon learning that a number of Song Dynasty (960—1279) and Yuan Dynasty (1279—1368) books would be sold by certain collector in Hong Kong, he gave order to related institution to have the whole collection bought up. When the collection was bought to Beijing he personally examined the books one by one, and ordered it to be kept by the National Library of China.

Among the works bought are such precious books as "Meng xi Bitan", "Xun Zi", etc. The former is no doubt an important work of China's history of science. Its author Shen Guo (1031—1095), a famed scientist of the Northern Song Dynasty, gave profuse passages in making concluding comments on the brilliant achievements of natural science in the old times, specially in the Northern Song Dynasty. Being a book dealt widely with mathematics, astronomy, geography, medicine, etc., it had been highly valued by scholars in China and abroad.

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A Public Notice Proposing the Resumption of Activities of Cultural Institutions in Shanghai, 1932

January 11, 1988 is the 120th birth anniversary of Cai Yuanpei (1868—1940), the eminent educationist and democratic revolutionist of contemporary China. He

became president of Peking University in 1916, and from 1929 to 1940 he was director of Peking Library. "It was in lieu of the then new cultural ideology that he sought to reform the Peking Library, just as he did the Peking University, and thus he pushed forward the library." after the Japanese invasion on September 18th, he advocated resistance against aggression, and sympathized with the cause of revolution. In 1932, together with noted figures of the society and the library circle, he brought forth the "Public Notice Proposing the Resumption of Activities of Cultural Institutions in Shanghai." Being an act showing his deep concern in Chinese libraries even at a time of national disaster, this Notice of special value is published here in the present issue by the Editorial Board, Bulletin CSLS

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*Preface to "Selected Writings by Staff Members
of National Library of China"*

The compilation of "Selected Writings by Staff Members of National Library of China" is one of the major items to celebrate the 75th anniversary and the opening of New Building of this Library. The writings are selected not just for their themes, but also for the necessary inherent idea to run well a national library, that implies the due importance given to the research into librarianship too." Published in this issue is therefore the Preface to the "Selected Writings", As well as the letter recently received from Mr. Tsuen-Hsuei Tsien, which supplied valuable first-hand background material to the article "Odds and Ends on Collecting Historical Data of Anti-Japanese War", while offering clues for further acquisitions. We hail such loyalty to one's post, flexibility and patriotism shown by a librarian of the older generation, right under the adverse circumstances of war chaos and shortage of hands. As the said letter has mentioned Mr. Zheng Xidi's acquisition of old rare books in Shanghai, we have excerpted the corresponding passages from "Xidi Talks on Books", together with known educationist Ye Shengtao's preface, hoping these, together with the historical data during the Anti-Japanese War so far appeared in this Bulletin, might form a rather integrated effect and might thus give a forceful answer to such statement that "Library work was an utter void during the eight years of Anti-Japanese War."

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