

为繁荣中华民族的文化做出贡献

——纪念北京图书馆建馆75周年

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民族不分大小，各有自己的贡献。对人类文化有贡献的不止中华民族，而中华民族屹立于世界文化之林，足以自豪的，有两大特色：一是文化的连续性，二是文化的融合性。

纵观世界文化的历史，可以看到有的民族古代文化灿烂辉煌，后来趋于消沉；有的民族，进入近代有高度繁荣，其古代文化渺茫难考；有的民族在中世纪时曾驰骋欧亚，震烁于一时，后来一蹶不振，往日峥嵘，徒供后人凭吊。唯有中华民族，栖息繁衍在这块九百六十万平方公里的土地上，数千年来，历经艰难险阻，不断前进，在前进中形成了自己的文化体系。

中华民族善于吸收、融合不同民族的文化，并用它来发展自己。没有文化的民族，文化基础不深厚的民族，只能受奴役，被消灭，谈不上发展。中华民族显然发展了。

北京图书馆收藏的典籍的基础，可以上溯到南宋辑熙殿、明代文渊阁、清内閣大库的藏书。如果把“图书”的概念理解为文字记载，那就应包括甲骨、钟鼎铭文、碑刻、竹简、卷子，北图的收藏可以说是中华民族文化史的一面镜子。

人民没有当家做主以前，文化掌握在贵族统治者手中。图书资料度藏在贵族宫廷。据书记载，老子曾担任过周王朝的守藏史。秦始皇不准民间藏书，但宫廷图籍保存完整，萧何随刘邦入关，首先接管了秦朝全部图书资料、档案。汉朝建有石渠、天禄等处贮藏图书。从秦汉到明清，图书由国家管理、收藏的制度，维持了几千年。古代巫史不分，殷墟甲骨卜辞窖藏的发现，把图书收藏的制度又上推得更早。可见中华民族热爱文化、尊重历史，有着悠久的传统，是个好传统。北图的馆史，从京师图书馆算起为75年。实际上，从宫廷藏书制度建立算起，它远不止75年，而是好几千年。这种情况有点像中国教育史，讲中国大学从“京师大学堂”算起，即北京大学的前身。中国的大学应上溯到汉代的“太学”，世界最早大学应在中国。

当然，现代意义的图书馆是供收藏图书资料 and 提供一般读者阅览的地方。这种功能，是古代宫廷藏书楼所不具备的。北图真正具有近代图书馆的职能，是辛亥革命以后的事，特别应当提到的是蔡元培先生的功绩。蔡先生是我国著名的教育家，曾任馆长多年，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。也应当看到，旧中国的历史，内战不止，民不聊生，政局动荡，经费支绌。解放前的旧中国时期，北图近四十年间馆长换了十八任，先后十六人，（其中马叙伦还连续地担任过三任馆长）平均两年换一次馆长，维持已不容易，难以发展。北图真正为人民群众所享有，那是新中国成立以后的事。

新中国成立后，从五十年代开始，集中了全国力量大大丰富了馆藏的数量和质量。北图

从此承担了社会主义文化建设的重任。

我们全国人民的共同任务是建设社会主义，使祖国早日现代化。在文化建设领域中，我们要批判地吸收固有文化，吸收消化外来文化。在四项基本原则指导下，打开大门，吸收一切对我们有用的先进文化。北京图书馆的任务，既要总结过去，还要开创未来。处在信息激增的时代，必须采用先进的现代手段装备自己，建立世界性的信息网络，北京图书馆新馆落成，是向现代化迈进的标志，从此北图进入新的历史时期。

北京图书馆新馆，无论是馆舍建筑还是内部设备，在目前来看，是世界第一流的。馆内藏书在世界上也排在前几名。如能充分发挥它的作用，应当大有作为。有了现代化的设备，不等于现代化。好比演戏要有剧场、舞台及应有的设备。有了这些不等于有好戏演出。好戏要靠演员、剧本、观众的配合。现代的图书馆要现代化的设备，让现代化的设备发挥作用，还得靠人。关键是人的现代化，人的观念的现代化。真正现代化是买不来的。

发展文化不能割断历史，不能自我封闭。几千年我们走过的道路足以证明这个道理。在四项基本原则指引下，我们比过去更有魄力融合世界其它民族的优秀文化以丰富中华民族的社会主义文化。北京图书馆愿与全国文化工作者同心协力，为社会主义文化事业多做贡献。



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“Contribute to the Prosperity of Chinese National Culture”

—on the completion of the New Building and the 75th anniversary of the National Library of China.

In this article Director of National Library of China Ren Jiyu maintains that every nation has contributed to human culture. Considering her outstanding position in the world of culture, China prides herself on two major features: the continuity and absorbability of culture. The Chinese nation is good at absorbing and mixing with the culture of other nations to develop herself and to form her own style of culture.

The foundation of National Library of China's collection of old books and records could be traced back to Ji Xi Dian, the Imperial Library of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127—1279), to Wen Yuan Ge, the Imperial Library of the Ming Dynasty (1368—1644), and to the Cabinet Grand Library of the Qing Dynasty (1644—1911), which included the oracle bones, inscriptions on bronze vessels, etc. Thus, the holdings in the National Library of China rightly reflect the history of the Chinese national culture.

Before the Chinese people took over the state power, when culture was in the hands of ruling class, books were kept in the palaces. The system for the state power to keep and manage books lasted over two thousand years from the Dynasties of Qin and Han (B.C.221—A.D.220) up to the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368—1911). This fact demonstrated a good old tradition of the Chinese nation to love culture and to value history.

The National Library of China has had a history of 75 years if counted its predecessor the central Metropolitan Library of Peking. In fact, if counted from the founding of the state-owned system of books, it could have had a history of thousands of years. Yet it was after the Revolution of 1911 that the Library assumed the function of a modern library, and this was due specially to the merit of Mr. Cai Yuanpei, A well-known Chinese educationist and for years the director of this National Library, Mr. Cai made efforts to reform the Library just as he made efforts to reform the University of Peking. In this respect, he represented the New Trend of Ideology in pushing forward the service of the National Library.

But it was after the founding of the People's Republic that the Chinese people really had access to the collections of the National Library.

The New Building of National Library of China, including the interior furnishing, could be rated as world's first class. Its collection also goes among the best. A modernized library needs modernized equipments, but it takes men to bring modernized equipments into full play. Therefore, the point is the modernization of men's conceptions. True modernization is not what money can buy.

No culture could ever be developed should it be cut off from its history, or be isolated from outside world. The path we took in the past thousands of years testified to the truth of such understanding. Under the guidance of the Four Basic Principles we are more resolute and more capable than ever in assimilating the essence of culture from other nations to enrich the Chinese socialist culture. The National Library of China is ready, in co-operation with cultural workers of the country, to contribute to the prosperity of the Chinese national culture. (page 8)

"Improve and Enhance Library Service"

The Notice issued jointly by the four leading bodies 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. These factors no doubt have to ask for newer and higher library service whose present status is, however, far from fulfilling such needs in the sense of the lack of a comprehensive arrangement and an overall plan and the lack of a system to ensure the availability of document resources which have in turn caused both the duplication and the missing of documents and have harmed the resource sharing. The present work in libraries sees no vitality, the number of network or service station is small and the level of service is low.

In view of such state of affairs, the Notice pointed out the need for reform in library work, and made decision for these four leading bodies to carry on studies on the necessary guiding principle, policies, legal regulations and long-term planning; and to organize appropriate coordination both in a nationwide acquisition of library literature and information resources, and in a nationwide development of automation system, in order to realize the sharing of resources in China. (page 23)

A Brief Introduction to Chinese Old and Rare Books Kept in

European Countries and U.S.A.

Books in Chinese were kept in many a European library beginning the 17th, 18th or early 19th century. These long time kept books are rarely seen elsewhere, and, as a large part was collected either by Sinologists, missionaries, or by diplomats, they were noted by concentrated subjects and other special features. This

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