



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Fédération Internationale des Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques

Internationaler Verband der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen

Международная Федерация Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Bibliotecarios y Bibliotecas

国际图书馆协会与机构联合会

الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات ومؤسسات المكتبات

About IFLA

www.ifla.org

IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession.

IFLA provides information specialists throughout the world with a forum for exchanging ideas and promoting international cooperation, research, and development in all fields of library activity and information service. IFLA is one of the means through which libraries, information centres, and information professionals worldwide can formulate their goals, exert their influence as a group, protect their interests, and find solutions to global problems.

IFLA's aims, objectives, and professional programme can only be fulfilled with the co-operation and active involvement of its members and affiliates. Currently, approximately 1,600 associations, institutions and individuals, from widely divergent cultural backgrounds, are working together to further the goals of the Federation and to promote librarianship on a global level. Through its formal membership, IFLA directly or indirectly represents some 500,000 library and information professionals worldwide.

IFLA pursues its aims through a variety of channels, including the publication of a major journal, as well as guidelines, reports and monographs on a wide range of topics. IFLA organizes workshops and seminars around the world to enhance professional practice and increase awareness of the growing importance of libraries in the digital age. All this is done in collaboration with a number of other non-governmental organizations, funding bodies and international agencies such as UNESCO and WIPO. IFLANET, the Federation's website, is a prime source of information about IFLA, its policies and activities: www.ifla.org

Library and information professionals gather annually at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, held in August each year in cities around the world.

IFLA was founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1927 at an international conference of national library directors. IFLA was registered in the Netherlands in 1971. The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Royal Library), the national library of the Netherlands, in The Hague, generously provides the facilities for our headquarters. Regional offices are located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Pretoria, South Africa; and Singapore.

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The History and Cultural Heritage of Chinese Calligraphy, Printing and Library Work

Edited by

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and Jan Bos

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IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section

Cultural Department of Zhejaing Provincial Government, China

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Zhejiang Library, China

Zhejiang Provincial Society for Library Science, China

Zhejiang Provincial Society for Social and Information Science, China

Tianyi Ge Museum, Ningbo, Zhejiang, China

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Dr. Alex Byrne, President of IFLA

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Dr. Zhan Furui, Curator of China National Library, Director of China Society for Library Science

Ms. Liu Xiaoqin, Deputy Director of the Social Cultural Department of the Cultural Ministry of the State Council

PREFACE

Alex Byrne, IFLA President

The 2006 Pre-Conference of the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section was generously hosted by the Cultural Department of the Zhejiang Provincial Government in the beautiful and historically important city of Hangzhou, China. As is evident from these Proceedings, the program dealt with many aspects of the long history of Chinese writing and printing, cultural heritage and library work.

That long history has extended from characters scratched on ancient bones to contemporary applications of information and communication technologies. It is recorded and celebrated in the libraries of China including the vaults of the National Library of China and the historic pavilions of the Ancient and Rare Books Department of Zhejiang Library, overlooking the Emperor's Lake at Hangzhou.

The sense of that history permeated the program and papers of the Pre-Conference which covered many aspects of printing in China and the challenges of conserving and preserving both the printed items and the wood blocks with which they were printed. Papers were presented by colleagues from as far afield as Germany and the United States as well as many by Chinese scholars and librarians. They demonstrated both the intrinsic interest of many beautiful examples and their value as vital elements of the heritage of humanity. But they also showed the skill and care applied by specialists to protect and, where necessary, repair rare books and manuscripts – as one paper put it, “repairing the old one like the original.”

The application of that expertise is a fine example of the central contribution which libraries and librarians make to the preservation and transmission of the memory of the world. Complementing the other services provided by public, educational and specialist libraries and information services, the work of rare book and manuscript specialists ensures that we can all look back as well as looking forward. It ensures that we can all learn from the past but also enjoy the vitality of our predecessors' cultural expression and appreciate the technological developments which enabled humanity to progressively enhance its ability to create and communicate.

Formal sessions of the Pre-Conference were followed by visits to major cultural sites including the 440 year old library of Tianyi Ge in Ningbo City, which I previously had the memorable fortune to visit thanks to the generosity of colleagues at Zhejiang Library. That visit and the others on the study tour reinforced the professional and scholarly exchanges during the program. They demonstrated the international collaboration fostered by the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section which is so visible in these Proceedings.

9 September 2007

Alex Byrne
IFLA President

WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE

Yang Jianxin, Director of the Cultural Department
of Zhejiang Provincial Government
and Chairman of The Preparatory Committee of the 2006 IFLA RBMS
Pre-Conference in Hangzhou, China

Dear respected former Member of the IFLA Governing Board, Dr. Marian Koren;
Respected Chair of IFLA RBMS, Dr. Susan Allen
Respected Secretary of IFLA RBMS, Dr. Jan Bos;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning!

The 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-Conference, “The History and Cultural Heritage of Chinese Calligraphy, Printing, and Library Work,” hosted by IFLA RBMS and the Cultural Department of Zhejiang Provincial Government, now has its grand opening here on the banks of West Lake in the beautiful city of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China. Please allow me on behalf of the Conference Preparatory Committee and the Cultural Department of the Zhejiang Provincial Government to extend our warm welcome and sincere thanks to the leaders of the China Society for Library Science, the China National Library, and to the specialists, scholars, and colleagues who traveled thousands of miles from home and abroad to participate in this pre-conference.

In December 2004 in order to support the 72nd IFLA World Congress to be held in Seoul, Korea in 2006, the Zhejiang Library delivered an application to IFLA RBMS proposing a 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-Conference in Hangzhou. In order to make this Pre-Conference successful, IFLA RBMS and the Cultural Department of the Zhejiang Provincial Government set up a Preparatory Committee, raised funds in different ways, called for papers from colleagues at home and abroad, carefully planned the Pre-Conference program and local arrangements. Seven Preparatory Committee meetings were held to discuss different subjects for this conference. To provide an enchanting cultural evening, we have arranged for a local Yue Opera production, “The Story of the Fan Family Library,” which shows the history of 440 years of the Tianyi Ge Library as performed by the Zhejiang Xiao Baihua Yue Opera Troupe. The Yue Opera, founded in Zhejiang Province one-hundred years ago, is a type of local drama. The Yue Opera performance of “The Story of the Fan Family Library” is totally in keeping with the Pre-Conference theme. I’m sure it will be of interest to all of you. After more than one year of hard work, we finally greet you at the grand opening of this pre-conference. We believe that this Pre-Conference will be of high quality, of far-reaching significance, and

successful due to the great efforts of the IFLA RBMS and the other leaders, specialists, scholars, and colleagues attending from home and abroad.

Zhejiang Province is located on the west bank of the East China Sea, and to the south is the Changjiang (Yangtze) Delta. It has a long history of people of talent coming forth in large numbers, and it has beautiful landscape. Its good products from the earth are nature's treasures. Usually, Zhejiang has been taken as a land of abundance, known as "the home town of rice and fish, the capital of silk and green tea, land of historical cultural relics, and beautiful scenic spots for tourists." Zhejiang Province covers an area of 101,800 square km with a total population of about 46 million people. There are eleven municipalities under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. Since the 1980s, the economy of Zhejiang has been developing rapidly and has followed the route of Zhejiang's characteristics. In 2005, the GDP in Zhejiang reached 133.65 billion yuan with 27,550 yuan (over \$3,400) per capita, which placed it first among Chinese provinces. The revenue of the province reached 20 billion yuan (\$25.7 billion) in 2005. According to the Global Competitive Force Reports by the Luosan International Management Institute, Zhejiang Province is evaluated as one of the highest efficiency regions in China.

Zhejiang Province with its rich, colorful, bright and distinctive traditional culture is one of the birth places of Chinese civilization. Its long history and magnificent culture has won this province the fine sounding name of "The Capitol of Silk," "The Home Town of Rice and Fish," "The Beautiful Scenic Spots for Tourists," as well as "The Land of Historical and Cultural Relics," etc. During the last few decades, archaeologists have found the 8,000 year old Kua Huqiao Ruin, the 7,000 year old Hemudu Ruin, the 6,000 thousand year old Majia Bing Ruin and Luojiajiao Ruin, and the 5,000 year old Songze Ruin and the Liangzhu Ruin, etc. in Zhejiang Province. All these historical ruins embody the vast reservoir of rich pre-historical information in China and have become an important source of original evidence of 5,000 years of traditional Chinese civilization. Our ancestors in Zhejiang Province created a striking historical and brilliant civilization by remolding nature and through social evolution.

According to a survey at the beginning of the 1980s, the density of the cultural relics found in the earth in Zhejiang Province took second place in China. There were 132 sites named as "An Important Chinese Relic Preservation Spot," ranking the province fifth in all of China. There were 279 sites named at the provincial level as "Important Relic Preservation Spots." On May 20, 2006, the State Council of the People's Republic of China issued the first group of "The List of Chinese National Non-materials Cultural Heritage." There were forty-four items from Zhejiang Province included which ranked Zhejiang Province first in all the provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government. Zhejiang is one of the original places where Chinese wood blocks and letter boards for printing have been found. There is a long history here. During the Qingli Emperor Period (1041–1048 A.D.), Mr. Bi Sheng, an ordinary craftsman in Hangzhou, invented the letter board for printing, and created a great revolution in

printing technology about four hundred years earlier than Johann Gensfleisch zum Gutenberg of Germany. Hangzhou's printing technology had reached a world leading level during the Song Dynasty (960–1279 AD). Techniques of book binding and the design layout of books were perfected in the Song Dynasty. It appeared the inkling for the formats in books binding and layout at that time (sic). The books of the Song Edition, the most precious rare books, are now known to all the world because they are similar to the original edition with exquisite and excellent printing. As the splendid outcome of a glorious example and great wisdom, which were created by the spirit of creativity in the region, Chinese wood blocks and letter boards for printing are a great historical contribution to civilization and progress not only for the Chinese nation, but also for the whole of mankind. Zhejiang is the hometown of book collecting. There is a saying that: "The east of Zhejiang paid attention to collecting books, while the west of Zhejiang upheld scholars of profound knowledge." In Zhejiang Province there are eleven ancient libraries that still survive. Among them, one is the emperor's library, and ten others are private libraries. The Tianyi Ge Ancient Library, which was established in the Jiajing Emperor period of 40–45th (1561–1566 AD) during the Ming Dynasty, became the earliest existing ancient library in China and one of the oldest ancient libraries in the world.

Local chronicles (recording local history, geography, historical personalities, customs, and other sociological data) which document Chinese characteristics and collected almost all the local information, began to flourish in the Song Dynasty (960–1279 AD). During the period 1127–1279 AD of the South Song Dynasty, three successive magistrates of the Lin An Prefecture (now Hangzhou City) conducted research and compiled the famous Hangzhou local chronicles, "Qian Dao Lin An Local Chronicles," "Chun You Lin An Local Chronicles," and the "Xiao Chun Lin An Local Chronicles," which are called collectively "Three Lin An Local Chronicles." The existing genealogical documents in Zhejiang are also quite rich. In 2005, the Zhejiang Library organized a group of scholars and specialists, which included more than 180 colleagues that worked over a three year period to compile and publish "An Annotated General Bibliography of Zhejiang Genealogy." This bibliographic database project described more than 12,000 titles of genealogical works available in Zhejiang Province, and also established an automatic access system in order to retrieve entries in the database. At the same time another project, "A Union Catalogue of Zhejiang Provincial Ancient and Rare Books" has been initiated in order to reflect the state of antiquarian and rare book collection and preservation in the province.

In recent years, librarianship in Zhejiang Province has made considerable progress. There are ninety libraries (above the county level) with collections of more than twenty million volumes, and a public library service system has been established to provide various kinds of information services to the whole province. This public library service system plays an active role in the development of social, cultural and economic growth of the whole province.

Zhejiang possesses an excellent environment and splendid, superior resources for holding this international academic conference.

Today, scholars from home and abroad gather in the Zhejiang Library to conduct textual research into the origins and development of the cultural heritage of Chinese calligraphy, printing, and library work; to allow everyone to express intelligent views; and to learn from each other by exchanging views. We will have an excursion to Hua Baozhai, a living museum which gathers together in one place demonstrations of Chinese traditional paper-making, the design and engraving of wood blocks for printing, book binding, etc. We will also visit the oldest Chinese library of Tianyi Ge Ancient Library; one of China's most famous private libraries, the Jiaye Tnag of Zhejiang Library where we will see a collection of wood blocks for printing; and the Chinese calligraphy brush museum. This will be an excellent gathering of academic significance and practical value. We are extremely happy to have this magnificent preconference in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang.

We hope that through our hardwork we have created a good environment for this preconference, and we hope to make all our guests feel at home. We also hope the scenic beauty of West Lake will compensate for the unusually hot weather that threatens to interfere with our work.

There is a Chinese saying: "A bosom friend afar brings a distant land near." Let's study and learn from each other about every aspect of the cultural heritage of Chinese calligraphy, printing, and library work through this magnificent international conference for the promotion of the international cultural heritage of printing and library work in order to make a contribution to human knowledge. Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the IFLA RBMS for giving its painstaking guidance; thanks for the strong support of the scholars and specialists from home and abroad, who provided high quality presentations and papers; and also thanks to the co-organizers who gave energetic support to this preconference.

Many thanks again!

With best wishes for the complete success of the 2006 IFLA RBMS Preconference in Hangzhou!

WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE IFLA RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS SECTION

Susan M. Allen, Chair of IFLA RBMS
and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee
of the 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-Conference in Hangzhou

Good morning! It is a tremendous pleasure to be here in Hangzhou with all of you today for this conference: "The History and Cultural Heritage of Chinese Calligraphy, Printing and Library Work." I want to welcome you all here this morning, and I want to say, "Thank you," from the bottom of my heart to all of our friends here in Hangzhou who have made us so welcome and have done all the planning of this conference. I want to thank the Hangzhou Preconference Organizing Committee, especially its chairman, Yan Jianxin, the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture here in China, and also the vice-chairman, my colleague Jan Bos, the Secretary of the IFLA RBMS Standing Committee. I would also like to thank Qi Youwei and Jin Gengchu, both of the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture. We could not have had this preconference without all the hard work of our Chinese colleagues here in this beautiful city of Hangzhou. I know we have been told repeatedly about the sweltering heat, but we have also heard a delightful expression a few times and that is: "The heat is just a symbol of the warm heartedness of the people here who are welcoming us." And this is certainly the case. We have been welcomed in a very wonderful way.

Now I want to tell you all a bit about IFLA and the RBMS Standing Committee (the Rare Books & Manuscripts Standing Committee). The mission of the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section (RBMS) is to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information on matters of particular concern to rare books and manuscript librarians, including the subjects of collection development, preservation, bibliographic control, and the role of special collections materials in all types of libraries.

Recently we have had two goals to support the mission of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. The first goal has been to promote the understanding of the significance of rare books and manuscripts for scholarly research as a part of the heritage of civilization in an international context. So it is very proper for us to be here in your city in China to look at rare books and manuscripts in the context of Chinese culture. A second goal of RBMS has been developing international standards in the field of rare book and manuscript librarianship, publishing directories and bibliographies, and building up sources of information that will assist rare book and manuscript librarians in their work. We have taken a number of actions in recent years, and we hope to do more in the future. Some of our continuing projects include the discussion of the security of rare materials, the collection of samples of policies and standards for the digitization of special collections material,

and participation in setting the criteria for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. We also seek members and corresponding members by sponsoring the 2006 satellite meeting here in China. We are hoping more of you from China will join in the work of RBMS. We continue to augment the Sections web pages. We have a working group on ISBD (a). We are also planning to sponsor midterm meetings from time to time. Other actions we take as a section to promote rare books and manuscripts include providing a newsletter for professionals in the field. We also have a Section brochure, which, thanks to our friends here, has been translated into Chinese.

Finally, as a means of professional development RBMS has provided pre-conferences prior to IFLA World Library and Information Congresses. A satellite meeting was convened last year in Copenhagen, Denmark, and this year here in Hangzhou, China. Next year RBMS will participate in a preconference in Durban, South Africa, where we will collaborate with the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section on a program on conservation of library materials. For those of us going on from China to Seoul, Korea, for the World Library and Information Congress at the end of this preconference, we will have a program there entitled: "West by East, East by West: Culture and Technological Exchange, Old Technology, New Technology, Collecting, & Describing Rare Materials." I hope you will join us for that meeting in Korea. But in the mean time, let me return to the program of this preconference. I am so very grateful to committee members and sponsors here in Hangzhou. I look forward to today, tomorrow, and Wednesday not only to hearing the important papers and presentations that will be given, but also to seeing the wonderful rare books and manuscripts preserved here in this region of China. Thank you all very much for being here this morning.

WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Marian Koren

Welcome, welcome to this IFLA conference.

On behalf of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, we welcome all professionals and policymakers from all over China and the wider world, meeting here in Hangzhou. It is an honor to address so many specialists and scholars who are concerned with rare books and manuscripts, with the written and printed cultural heritage and with library work and services. Important issues of our heritage worldwide need to be discussed.

That is why IFLA as the global organization for libraries and information services offers a forum for professionals to discuss issues of worldwide concern, exchange expertise and work on international standards. But IFLA is doing much more. For those of you less familiar with these international aspects of librarianship a few more words.

IFLA works at the international level and represents the interests of library and information services and their users. (In figures: more than 500 thousand library service points as well as the 2.5 billion registered library users around the world.) IFLA was founded in 1927 at an international conference and has its headquarters in the Netherlands, on the premises of the Royal and National Library in The Hague.

What does IFLA work for as an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization? IFLA promotes high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services; for access to sources, for the exchange of information, for the best preservation of library materials, for catalogues, and digital representation, it is important to have international standards, developed by professionals; our work, librarianship is truly international.

IFLA also encourages widespread understanding of the value of good library and information services; this means promotion of library services for all; partnerships with education, cultural sectors and others; and convincing decision makers to provide adequate budgets for library work.

Finally, through participation in the international community, for example at UNESCO, United Nations and international organizations on e.g. copyright, trade, communication, IFLA represents the interests of the members throughout the world. It has now 1,700 Members (library associations and institutions) in 150 countries, including China, and many other countries in the Asian region, where now satellite conferences take place around the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, starting in a few days in Seoul, Korea.

What makes IFLA special? Let us explain this with help of some keywords, all starting with P (at least in English).

IFLA is professional. In the sections and divisions dedicated professionals share their knowledge, improve competencies and qualities, also in the less known or popular areas of librarianship. A profession is for a lifetime, and requires the respect for the knowledge from the past. A professional attitude works for the future beyond one human generation. Respect for tradition, good skills for accountable description (standards) and modern representation through new technology, are what makes librarianship, especially in the field of Rare Books and Manuscripts a true profession.

IFLA is political, in the sense that it protects universal basic values which also apply to library and information services: human development, access to information for all, freedom of expression, cultural diversity, unbiased service, and independent acquisition and treatment of sources. As professionals we stand for these values, and library associations worldwide will advocate for the interests of libraries and their users. We all know how vulnerable rare books are in conflict driven and changing times.

IFLA is promising. Our societies are increasingly knowledge societies. More and more people are learning, studying, in need of good sources. As professionals we wish to promise that materials of e.g. cultural heritage are well kept, adding sometime surprising knowledge to the issues of today and tomorrow. We all also work in a promising field of new technologies which can help where human capacity is limited. That is why we need cultural and technical exchanges on technology and strategies for collecting and describing rare materials. Every rare book or manuscript taken care of and put into the public is a promise for human development.

IFLA is partnership. Through the work in the sections, through e-mail and conferences contacts are established for sustainable partnerships. You will experience yourself how many opportunities for networking, for professional development are offered. IFLA works with international partners, such as the Blue Shield to preserve heritage, to protect valuable materials and to apply new methods of treating e.g. rare books and manuscripts. Without international orientation, many professionals, many materials would be at a loss.

Therefore, it is very fortunate that IFLA's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, has found such good partners here in China, in Hangzhou, so it can hold a special conference totally dedicated to its prime interests.

All the professional papers are also referring to the keywords with P: it is about paper and printing, production and preservation, people and politics that influenced the written and printed cultural heritage in China.

So we are all going to enjoy this conference, the meetings and wonderful visits on the spot. On behalf of IFLA we would like to thank in advance the organizers and co-organizers: the section has done a wonderful job bringing us here, in Hangzhou: the paradise on earth, and also the paradise for the book.

For a good book all is present, but the most important is the spirit in which it is written. In the same way: all elements for a good conference are present. Let us collect all the good spirits that come from these rare books and manuscripts, and write together a rare conference.

**ADDRESS TO THE AUDIENCE OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE
ON BEHALF OF THE CHINA NATIONAL LIBRARY AND
CHINA SOCIETY FOR LIBRARY SCIENCE**

Zhan Furui

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The 2006 IFLA RBMS Preconference, "The History and Cultural Heritage of Chinese Calligraphy, Printing, and Library Work," now commences in the city of Hangzhou, paradise on earth on the banks of beautiful West Lake. Please allow me on behalf of the China National Library and the China Society for Library Science to extend my warm welcome and sincerest wishes on this great occasion.

China is a country of ancient civilization with a long history. It created a world famous splendid culture of long standing in the process of its development. This civilization is solidified in ancient architecture and various kinds of relics, and condensed in the writing of different media. And of course, it is still alive in our non-material cultural heritage. There is no doubt that antiquarian and rare books and the various media of cultural heritage have experienced endless disasters of war-ridden years, natural calamities, and man-made calamities. Only approximately one per cent has survived in good condition. According to incomplete statistics, in China there are about 30 million volumes of old books made before 1911 of which 2.5 million were made before 1795. These books are collected in our China National Library, public libraries, university libraries, museums, and monasteries. There are 2.7 million volumes of old books collected in the China National Library. These valuable, antiquarian books trace the footprint of the Chinese nation's development, record the course of the Chinese nation's civilization and its connotation, embody the Chinese nation's spiritual value and mode of thinking, and reflect the Chinese nation's abundant imagination, great vitality, and creativity. These collections are a great achievement of the wisdom of the Chinese people, and they are an important part of the world's cultural heritage.

The Chinese government, libraries, museums have paid special attention to the preservation and conservation of these antiquarian books. On the basis of the general survey, we compiled and published the "Bibliography of Chinese Ancient and Rare Books" in the 1990s. In recent years, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance have been manufacturing reprints of the rare books. We have carefully chosen more than seven hundred titles of rare books to reproduce. Last year, we started to make a preservation plan for Chinese special collections of rare books in order to put into effect the classification and protection of rare books. The preservation conditions for rare books have improved as the Chinese economy has developed. To sort out and reprint the antiquarian and rare books has been a remarkable achievement. We have sorted and punctuated 2.5 billion characters in

Chinese antiquarian and rare books and digitized 1.5 billion characters from these books. There is no need for reticence. The preservation and conservation of these antiquarian and rare books is still a very deep worry. Disasters from insects like silverfish, the calamities of water, i.e. leaks and floods, and fire happen occasionally. We feel extremely anxious due to the fact that there are certain numbers of rare books that are at risk from storage in simple and crude conditions. With each passing day they are damaged seriously from acidification.

The purpose of holding an international conference to study the history of Chinese calligraphy and printing culture is to draw the outline of the development of book history clearly and to try to understand ancient Chinese printing techniques. Anyway, through this seminar we must bring to the attention of the entire society this important human cultural heritage and the great importance of preserving rare books and manuscripts. We hope by putting forward advanced preservation techniques to protect rare books that this abundant and valuable cultural heritage will be preserved and carried forward from generation to generation bringing benefits for future generations. We have great expectations for the great achievements of this conference.

With best wishes for the great success of this preconference.

**A CONGRATULATORY LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE
SOCIAL CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CULTURAL
MINISTRY OF THE STATE COUNCIL**

Liu Xiaoqin, Deputy Director of the Social Cultural Department
of the Cultural Ministry of the State Council

Dear Respected Dr. Marian Koren, former Standing Committee Member of the IFLA Governing Board,

Dear Respected Dr. Susan M. Allen, Chair of the Standing Committee of IFLA RBMS,

Respected Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, the 2006 IFLA RBMS Preconference has a grand opening in beautiful Hangzhou. First of all, I would like on behalf of the Social Cultural Department of the Cultural Ministry to show my warm welcome and sincere thanks to all the participants. I would like to give special thanks to IFLA RBMS and the scholars and specialists who show concern for and support of the preservation of Chinese calligraphy and print cultural heritage. This preconference is hosted by IFLA RBMS and the Cultural Department of the Zhejiang Provincial Government, and it is sponsored by the Zhejiang Library. I would like to express my cordial thanks for the hard work and excellent arrangements made by the hosts, sponsor and the co-organizers.

Progress and the advancement of human civilization is the great result of the common effort of creativity and wisdom of the peoples all over the world over thousands of years. And it is also the great achievement of mutual exchange experiences, mutual study, and mutual promotion among different countries and various nationalities. China is one of the great Four Ancient Civilizations in the world. China's splendid civilization has ancient origins and a long development. Chinese characters are the only surviving written characters of the four such written characters in the world, and these are the only ancient characters that have been handed down, developed, and applied to the present day. Chinese written characters have changed frequently resulting in a new look and a sense of progress with each passing day. Writing tools and the art of calligraphy are unique, and by making them better known they excite romantic charm and endless fascination.

The creation and advancement of the techniques of paper making and printing are the Chinese people's great contribution to human civilization. Ancient Chinese calligraphy and printing experienced development that was distinctive and outstanding. On July 13, 2006, at the 30th UNESCO World Heritage Conference held

in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Yin Dynasty Ruin (ca. 15th century B.C.) in China's Anyang (Henan Province) was officially entered into the "List of the World Heritage." The Yin Dynasty Ruin is a place where there is a great quantity of inscriptions on bones and tortoise shells that were found and unearthed there, and it was the glorious starting point of Chinese written characters. Chinese calligraphy and printing culture has been employing the same techniques for more than 3,000 years progressing from inscriptions on bones and tortoise shells, to writing on bamboo and silks in the Yinshang Dynasty (16–11 century BC) until paper was created, improving and popularizing these activities from the West Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–8 A.D.) to the Jin Dynasty (256–420 A.D.); engraving was also practiced in the Yinshang Dynasty and the Zhou Dynasty (1027–221 B.C.); the Chinese calligraphy brush was developed and used in the Chin Dynasty (221–206 B.C.); followed by the creation, improvement, and spread of the use of wood-blocks for printing, letter board printing, and register printing. All of these excellent achievements of Chinese civilization belonged not only to China but also to the world. Other countries and nationalities also made an important contribution to the advancement and development of writing and printing techniques.

In the process of the continuous development of Chinese characters, writing and printing techniques, the important role of Zhejiang Province should never be taken lightly. The civilization found in the Zhejiang Province had accumulated a very profound foundation. The Hemudu Cultural Ruin (before 4600 B.C.), the Liangzhu Cultural Ruin (before 3300 B.C.), and the Majiabang Cultural Ruin (before 4750 B.C.) all show their radiance and beauty to one another in the Zhejiang Province. Early in the Qianlong Emperor Period of the Song Dynasty (1041–1046 A.D.), an ordinary person in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, Mr. Bi Sheng, created the letter board printing technique based on great improvement and development of wood block printing. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368–1911 A.D.) Zhejiang took the lead in developing China's commercial economy and became first in the manufacture of printed materials, the book trade, and book collecting. Tianyi Ge Library in Ningbo City, the earliest surviving library in China, has a history of 440 years. Its collections of the local chronicles and the records of those candidates who passed the civil examination provided its own color and character. The architecture and the collection of wood blocks for printing in the Jiaye Library in Huzhou City have exerted a tremendous influence on library work. Wenlan Ge Library, which was the Emperor's Library in the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911 A.D.) is the only existing one of the three Emperor's libraries in South China, and it is located on beautiful West Lake, Hangzhou. The collection of "Si Ku Quan Shu" ("four vaults" of classics, history, philosophy and the collected works of literature) is well preserved in the Zhejiang Library, where it enjoys a legendary and glorious status. All of these examples of civilization: calligraphy and printing, were handed down by our ancestors, showing that persistently the people of Zhejiang paid special attention to and took good care of their cultural heritage, and made a special and great contribution to carrying on human civilization.

Civilization based on writing and printing has consistently accompanied the footsteps of human progress. The traditional civilization should be continued. The excellent cultural heritage should be preserved; it should be carried on; and it should be spread. At the present time in China, the traditional techniques of papermaking, wood block printing, letter board printing, and Chinese calligraphy brushes are well kept traditions, carried forward, applied, and developed in Zhejiang Province achieving great, beneficial results for society as well as for the economy. We have to work hard continuously to make the most of the favorable opportunity brought about by this international seminar, further strengthening international academic research and exchange. We must study and use the advanced experiences and achievements of other countries for reference. At the same time, we can promote mutual understanding and cordial friendship among countries and nations, as well as among different civilizations, and thereby bring about a great advance in societal harmony and world harmony. Intense, world-wide popular interest in the Chinese language is growing more and more each day, and it is evidence of the tremendous influence of Chinese culture on the world and various, frequent culture exchanges. We are sure that the Chinese people have the duty and ability to preserve, use, and carry forward our excellent national traditions, our civilized heritage in order to make a great contribution to the development of human civilization, and to contribute to the harmony and beauty of the world in the future. With best wishes for great success of the Preconference.

Thank you very much!

THE GREAT INVENTION WITH EVERLASTING IMMORTAL MASTERPIECES

Yang Jianxin, Chairman of the 2006 IFLA Pre-Conference Preparatory Committee
in Hangzhou, and director of the Cultural Department
of the Zhejiang Provincial Government, China

ABSTRACT

This paper describes Zhejiang as one of the cradles of Chinese civilization and identifies its great historical contribution to the invention of printing techniques. The paper is illustrated with examples from Zhejiang, China, such as the flourishing of wood block printing, letter board printing, the manufacturing of paper and calligraphy brushes, the development of libraries, and the prosperousness of local history and genealogy records.

KEYWORDS

Wood block printing
Letter board printing
Library
Records of local history
Genealogy

As a glorious model and a resplendent achievement of the great wisdom and creative spirit of the Chinese people, who are supposed to be descendants of Yandi and Huangdi, the invention of wood blocks for printing and the letter board for printing are a great historical contribution to human civilization and progress not only for the Chinese nation but also for the whole of mankind.

Zhejiang Province, which is located on the west bank of East China Sea, is one of the birth places of China's culture and civilization. In the last few decades, archaeologists have found "The Jua Huqiao Ruin of more than 8,000 years," "The Hemudu Ruin of more than 7,000 years," "The Majia Bing Ruin and Luojiang Ruin of more than 6,000 years," "The Songze Ruin and Liangzhu Ruin of more than 5,000 years," etc. in Zhejiang Province. All these historical ruins embody a vast reservoir of rich pre-historical information and have become important original evidence of 5,000 years of Chinese tradition and civilization. Our ancestors in Zhejiang Province have created a striking and brilliant historical civilization by remolding nature and through social evolution. According to a survey carried out at the beginning of the 1980s, the density of cultural heritage relics found in the

earth in Zhejiang Province took second place in China. There are 132 Chinese sites which were named as an “Important Relic Preservation Spot.” Zhejiang Province ranked fifth in China. There are 279 sites at the provincial level named “Important Relic Preservation Spot.” On May 20, 2006, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China issued the first group of “The List of China National Non-materials Cultural Heritage.” There are forty four items from Zhejiang Province which are included, and Zhejiang Province was ranked first place among all the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government. Mr. Yang Shikong, who was a scholar of the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 A.D.), wrote a preface in the book, “Lian Zhe Ming Xian Lu (A Record of Famous Persons in Zhejiang Province),” praised Zhejiang saying: “There is a place on earth, where gather the hills and streams together with roaring rivers and seas. The humane studies are deeply loved from generation to generation and shouldered the heavy responsibilities in all fields.” The accumulation of the riches and wealth of the humanities, the exact details of a long history, and so many important historical events and delightful stories of China’s cultural history which took place in this rich and fertile land have been handed down like fire wood and fire.

1. ZHEJIANG IS THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF WOOD BLOCKS AND LETTER BOARDS FOR PRINTING

Zhejiang is one of the places of origin of China’s wood blocks and letter boards for printing. Sources from long ago have perpetuated this fact. According to the historical records, wood blocks for printing started in the Tang Dynasty (618–907 A.D.). During that time in the center of Zhejiang Province, a book store sold the collected poems of Bai Juyi and Yuan Zhen in an edition printed by wood blocks. During the epoch of the Five Dynasties (907–960 A.D.), the use of wood blocks for printing was in vogue in Hangzhou. The printed Buddhist classics of “Yiqie Rulai Bimi Quanshen Sheli Baoqie Yin Tuoluoni Jing” were found after the Lei Feng Pagoda was in ruins. The size of this Buddhist classic is 7 chi and 6 cun (about 250 cm.) These Buddhist classics were printed on sturdy paper, which was made of the best mulberry paper fibre and engraved and printed by Qian Chu of Wuyue King in the eighth year of the Emperor Kai Bao during the North Song Dynasty (975 A.D.). There were 84,000 copies printed, which were described in this Buddhist classic. Mr. Wang Guowei has said in *Liang Zhe Gu Kanben Kao* (A Textual Research of Ancient Printed Books in Zhejiang), that, “The typeface, which printed in the book from Zhejiang was upright and foursquare. The letters were engraved with mellow and full. Among the quality of the Song Editions, Zhejiang’s edition always took the first rate. The books of wood blocks for printing edition in the Imperial College of Song Dynasty were almost all printed in Hangzhou, like the book of ‘Qi Jing Zheng Yi,’ like the book of ‘History,’ like the book of ‘The Three Histories of Han Dynasty,’ like the book of ‘Seven histories of