

Interest In Oriental Studies

By RUTH EARNSHAW

AS a service to scholarship in the Pacific Area, several years ago the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations began a list of scholarly studies in progress in the United States (and in the field), which were concerned with Russia and/or the U. S. S. R. The tentative edition of this list met with such an enthusiastic response that in the course of time it was expanded to include studies dealing with China, Japan, and other countries of the Far East. The 1935 edition has just been distributed, and an analysis of its contents in regard to the studies of China and other countries of Asia, excluding Russia and/or the U. S. S. R. gives a very interesting index to the status of such research in the United States.

It should be stated that this list does not attempt to be definitive, nor to include completed studies; at best, an analysis will indicate trends of interest in the year 1935. Except for the Russian studies, information was obtained principally from the learned journals and official lists of theses and dissertations.

The following table gives at a glance the distribution of the total 224 studies now in progress, classified under sixteen academic disciplines, anthropology, economics, education, geography, geology, history, international law, language, law, literature and arts, mineralogy, paleontology, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology.

(Discipline)	CHINA	JAPAN	RUSSIA and/or U.S.S.R.	MISSEL- LANEOUS
Anthropology	1		3	
Economics	8	5	13	4
Education	1		2	1
Geography			2	
Geology			1	
History	6	2	63	2
International Law			5	1
Language	1	1	2	1
Law			1	
Literature		1	13	
Mineralogy			1	
Paleontology	1			
Philosophy	1		1	
Political Science	14	7	16	
Psychology	1	1	1	
Sociology	11	5	10	7
	45	22	135	22

In the table we have indicated the number of projects concerned with China, Japan, and Russia and/or the U. S. S. R., lumping under "miscellaneous" the following countries: Hawaii, Philippine Islands, Samoa, Malay Peninsula, India and Manchuria. The preponderance of Russian-Soviet studies is to be explained by the fact that they have been collected and listed over a longer period of time, and information has been obtained from individuals as well as from the academic journals.

It is at once apparent that China is not being made a major field of interest in geography, geology, international law, law, literature, or mineralogy. Perhaps this is not surprising, since, as already stated, this list deals mainly with work done under the auspices of American institutions, and research in natural sciences particularly requires field work. Consequently such studies are to be found among the projects of individuals or fellows of foundations. In fact, since the publication of the list, we have received information from individuals carrying on private research projects in geography, in China. Chinese literature naturally can be studied to better effect in China, where library facilities are more extensive, and Chinese scholars are better equipped to handle it than are westerners. The apparent lack of interest in Chinese law is difficult to explain, and one hopes it is just the inadequacy of our information that gives this impression. Surely this field offers a wealth of research material of very immediate importance and great social value. International law studies for China have been listed under political science in this edition.

American scholars appear to be more interested in the political phenomena of China than in any other phase. Titles of theses in this section include such as these: "International Relations of Tibet", "Sino-American Relations 1911-1919", "Extra-territoriality Outside of Treaty Ports", "Relations of China with her Nationals in the South Pacific Area," "Hongkong, a Study in Colonial Government and Administration", etc. Among political science studies properly listed as Russian and/or U. S. S. R., are three concerning political relations between China and the Russian or Soviet government.

Next to political science in interest, comes sociology, and eleven scholars at least are delving into the wealth of China's social order. Two of these deal with the Chinese family system, and four with Chinese in American situations, studies in adjustment and assimilation.

It is interesting to note that of the eight studies in Chinese economics, six are being carried on by scholars known to have command of Chinese language. This is important as an index of the value of such studies when completed, because it means that primary source material may be used. Two historical studies on Sino-Russian relations should be mentioned here, as being of equal interest to both countries, although they are being carried on as Russian studies.

In 1930, Mr. E. C. Carter of the American Council of the P. R. completed a study of the curricula of American colleges and universities, in which he attempted to find out which institutions were paying attention to studies relating to China and Japan. At that time the ten institutions with the largest number of courses listed as of 1929-1930, were:

University of Washington	26
University of California	25
Harvard University	16
Stanford University	15
Columbia University	13
University of Chicago	10
University of Pennsylvania	10
Radcliffe College	6
University of Minnesota	6
University of Southern California	4

In 1935, we find twenty institutions (including foundations offering fellowships) fostering thirty-eight research studies dealing with China. (The remaining seven are under private auspices.) Columbia leads with twelve studies, and Stanford is next with three. Other institutions with two studies apiece are: Southern California, Chicago, Minnesota, Johns Hopkins, and New York universities. It would appear from the nature and variety of the studies at Columbia that the Far Eastern countries were a recognized part of research in other departments than that of Chinese language and literature—a healthy situation academically.

While the survey of 1930 did not include the foundations, it should be noted here that the Rockefeller Foundation, the Guggenheim, and the Social Science Research Council are all assisting in one or more Far Eastern research projects.

In regard to Japanese studies, we find them more widely distributed among the universities—twenty-two projects among eighteen institutions. Three of them are under University of Chicago auspices, two each under Columbia and Clark universities. (Information from Northwestern University was lacking when the list was made up; it is necessary to state that this institution has been most active in the middle west in encouraging Japanese study.)

The whole list of projects, excluding the Russian, now in progress under the auspices of some institution, totals eighty-two. These are distributed among twenty-eight different institutions, with a concentration of nineteen at Columbia, eight at the University of Chicago, and five at Stanford. Clark University, Johns Hopkins and the University of Hawaii are interested in four studies each; these are especially mentioned because they were not included among the ten universities leading in Far Eastern studies five years ago.

The American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations plans to issue a new edition of this list of work in progress each year. It will be most interesting over a period of time to note which institutions are actually producing research in Oriental material, and which academic disciplines turn their attention to the east. Will political science and sociology continue to lead? Will there be an increase in interest among western educators in eastern education? Will western theologians and religionists develop Oriental studies? Will linguists and psychologists investigate the problems of the Orient? It will be a significant chapter in American academic history to observe.

THE LITTLE CRITIC

EDITED BY LIN YUTANG

T'ao Yuanming's "Ode to Beauty"

(陶淵明“閑情賦”)

T'AO Yuanming stands out in my mind not only as one of China's greatest pastoral poets, but also as one of the greatest genial spirits that ever lived in China. He was not a poet of love and romance, but the one "Ode to Beauty" which he wrote turned out to be one of the very best love poems we have in Chinese literature. An English rendering could never hope to preserve the beauty of its language, but even such an attempt could not, I hope, altogether destroy the strange beauty and fineness of its sentiment. The original form of the poem is a "fu", a kind of prose-poetry, running in parallel constructions of indefinite sentence lengths and without a regular rhyme, somewhat similar to the literary form of the Psalms. For this reason, I am using this form in the following offhand translation. Section Two has a more definitely poetic form than the other sections. It is important to note, however, that it is both in accordance with the Chinese poetic tradition and the poet's express intentions as stated in his foreward that the Ode ends as it does in Section Three—in sadness, resignation and restraint.

O! thou who, blessed with an ethereal charm, surpasseth thy generation of women; thou whose fame spreadst far and wide through the power of thy beauty.

Comparable to the jade in thy girdle is thy purity, and matching the secluded orchid flower is the subdued fragrance of thy body. Thou goest about this common world with thy kind, gentle ways, while thy innermost thoughts dwell upon Elysium.

Ah, that morning so soon passeth into eve, and human life is so full of toil! Why be so immersed in thy sadness and why so seldom are thy smiles, seeing that we all live within the span of a hundred years?

Lifting up the red curtain, thou sittest austerely, and quietly thou playest upon the low-toned *seh* to amuse thyself; with a careless grace move thy slim, white fingers and in dazzling speed playest about the light of thy white sleeves.

Quick as lightning glittereth the liquid lustre of thy eyes, and thou smilest and seemest yet not to smile.

And before thou art half through with thy tune, fall gradually the shadows of things upon the walls of the western chamber, whilst the sad melody floateth and entereth the forests and white clouds nestle by the hills.

Thou liftest up thy head and lookest upon the clouds and thou bendest thy neck and musest over the sounding string instrument. A veil of charm investeth thy demeanour and gentle and exquisite are then thy ways.

* * *

Thus hath thy sweet melody moved me, and I would fain go and speak with thee with our knees close together. I would fain go and pledge thee my love, but restrain myself lest thou shouldst think me presumptuous.