

## 1937

The history of the East Asia Library at UW officially began with the reception of a \$4,200 grant from the Rockefeller



Foundation to purchase a small number of Chinese literary works. These Chinese materials were shelved in the "Oriental Seminar Room" in Suzzallo Library.

## 1941

The library received a \$1,200 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for the cataloging of Chinese and Japanese materials.

## 1943

The University of Washington participated in the American Library Association's program of cooperative purchase in China. ALA provided \$1,000 to UW's Department of Far Eastern Studies for such purchases.

## Early 1940s

A small number of Korean materials were donated by UW students from Korea, forming the start of the Korean collection.

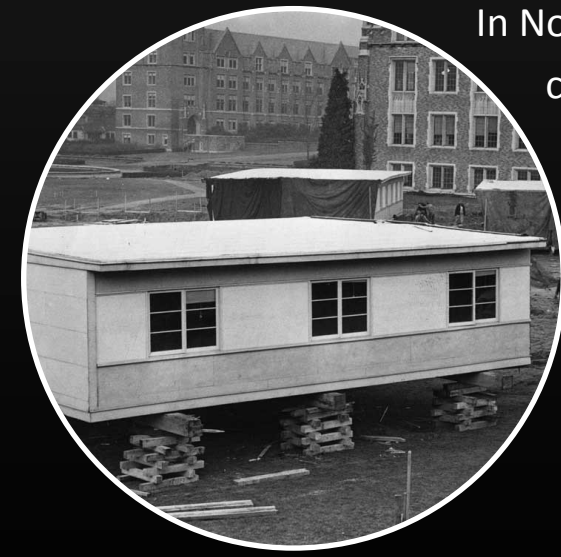
## 1947

The collection was formally renamed the "Far Eastern Library" (FEL) and became a branch of the University's main library.



In September, Ruth Krader became the first curator of the Far Eastern Library.

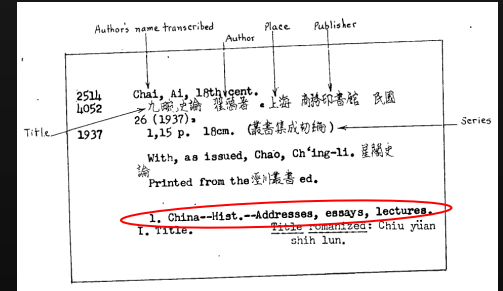
The George Kerr collection was purchased with the \$10,000 Rockefeller grant received in 1945—forming the basis of the Japanese collection. For the first time, a full-time Japanese assistant was added to the library staff.



In November, the Far Eastern Library collection was moved to a temporary wooden building next to the main library, the so-called "unheated shack."

## 1954

After housing the materials for two years, the Far Eastern Library was able to purchase outright the personal collection of Joseph Rock, which contained over 3000 volumes, including many rare and valuable items in Chinese and Western languages. Some books, such as gazetteers from southwestern China, were held by no other North American libraries.



## 1958

For the first time, FEL staff began to add subject headings to card catalog records for newly cataloged items, increasing the catalog's convenience and efficacy for users.

# 1940

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In May, a \$4,300 Rockefeller grant for the purchase of Chinese books doubled the size of the collection. By December, the library's total holdings numbered 431 titles in 20,837 volumes.

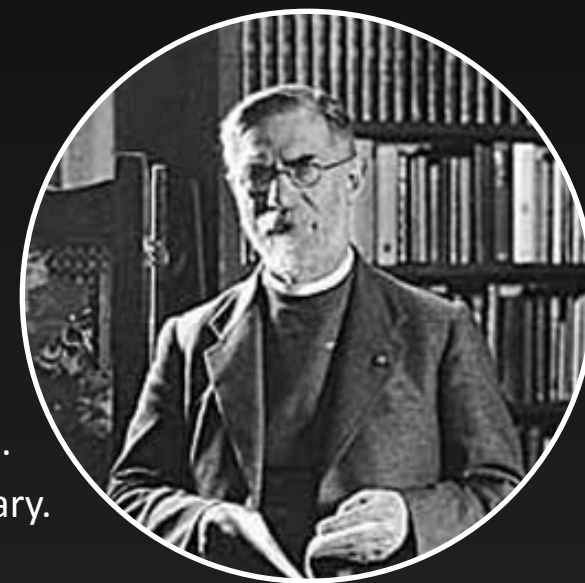
## 1942

By June, the collection had grown to 25,773 volumes.

# 1945

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\$2,000 was received from the University's research fund for the purchase of Herbert H. Gowen's personal library.



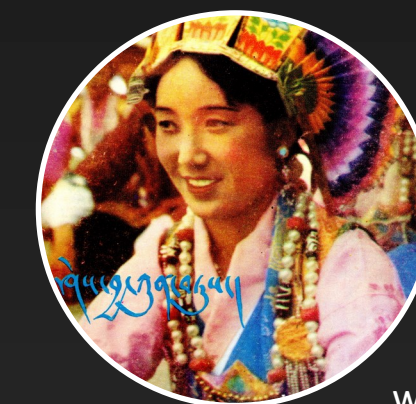
Also that year, the Far Eastern Institute was established at UW with \$75,000 in funding from the Rockefeller Foundation; along with that was a grant to the Institute for the purchase of materials for Far Eastern and Slavic Studies: \$20,000 for Chinese, \$20,000 for Russian and \$10,000 for Japanese.

# 1950

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The Far Eastern Library moved to the basement of Thomson Hall.

## 1952



The Tibetan language program was initiated at UW. Over the next six years it expanded and developed, and during that time, the Far Eastern Library assembled one of the finest collections of Tibetan materials in the world.

# 1955

## 1957

As the library continued to expand rapidly, shelving space became insufficient. The stacks area was expanded in 1957, but space continued to be an issue for many years.



With some of the funds from the 1955 Rockefeller grant, the Far Eastern Library purchased Hellmut Wilhelm's personal collection of more than 1,300 Chinese titles, which dated from the middle of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) through the early Republican era (1912-1949) with subjects covering Chinese history, literature, and religion.



## EAST ASIA LIBRARY 1937-2017

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