Recent Bibliographic Sources on Mainland China†

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In the China Handbook, edited by Wu Yuan-li, John T. Ma compiled a very painstaking survey of Mainland China bibliography, which he concluded in the summer of 1972. It is my intention with the following presentation to attempt a humble continuation to Ma’s survey. I shall therefore review the bibliographic situation as regards Mainland China for the period roughly from 1970 to 1977.

The political events after the death of Mao Tse-tung brought hope for more productive publishing activity on the mainland, but so far this is more noticeable in the natural sciences than in the humanities, social sciences, or—in particular—bibliography. The old communist secretiveness and reluctance to allow access to all the information has not yet disappeared. There are no union catalogs, authoritative annual lists of publications, or comprehensive national bibliographies of the publishing output on the mainland. We have to rely on our own ingenuity and patience to find out what has been published. Our survey is merely facilitated by the fact that the output of books and periodicals on the mainland is still comparatively small, considering the size of the country and its huge population.

If we turn, first of all, to material in non-Chinese languages, there are two outlets for such materials to the outside world: the Guoji Shudian and the National Library of Peking.


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The Guoji Shudian is a Peking-based bookseller acting as agent for the Foreign Languages Press, Peking, which is the main publisher of non-Chinese (particularly English) material in Communist China. The Guoji Shudian is sending out catalogs direct, but at the same time is leaving much of its advertising to its agents abroad, which are: in Hongkong, the Peace Book Company, an official agent, and—in other countries—bookdealers who act as unofficial agents, such as China Books and Periodicals in San Francisco, New York, and Chicago, or the Peking Book House in Evanston, III, and others, to name only two of several in this country. Occasionally, English-language material is also advertised in the *Peking Review*, notably, a long list of scientific periodicals launched after the so-called Cultural Revolution. Although they are mainly in Chinese, they may have English tables of contents and abstracts, and they uniformly carry Latin subtitles, such as Acta Botanica Sinica and Acta Physica Sinica.

As the second source for non-Chinese material published in Communist China, I mentioned the National Library of Peking. This institution is almost the only one authorized to conduct international exchanges. (The Geology and Palaeontology Institute of the Academia Sinica, located in Nanking, is also sending out its journals direct to exchange partners abroad.) For the purposes of exchange, the National Library of Peking sends out exchange lists, which give a good idea of newly published Chinese, as well as non-Chinese, works. Most of the material will also be mentioned in the catalogs of the Hongkong bookdealers. However, since there is a paucity of bibliographic information, the Peking Library exchange lists certainly deserve mention in this context.

Turning now to Chinese material published on the mainland, there has been—on and off—some kind of national bibliography, the *Chʻüan-kuo hsiao shu-mu*, with annual cumulations in a *Chʻüan-kuo tsung shu-mu*, but these publications were classified as "internal," and therefore not accessible to foreigners. (Cf. Harald Richter, "Neue chinesische Wörterbücher," p. 225, n. 1.
Full bibliographic citations for this and other works appear in the Bibliography.) The publication of these bibliographies was interrupted in 1966 by the so-called Cultural Revolution, but—according to an announcement by the Center for Chinese Research Materials in its newsletter No. 12 of February 1973—the Ch’üan-kuo hsìn shu-mu resumed publication with its No. 287 dated June 1972, compiled by the National Library of Peking. Judging from the fact that the Center offers reprints of it, it is no longer available in the open market.

The Guoji Shudian, in a way similar to that in which it advertises non-Chinese materials, is sending out catalogs of all Chinese production meant for distribution abroad in monthly, booklists, Chung-wen t’u-shu mu-lu, but also uses the Hongkong bookdealers to advertise these mainland publications. The Hongkong dealers in turn invariably also offer the products of other mainland or mainland-connected publishers, in particular the items of the San-lien Shu-tien (Joint Publishing Company), which is a Peking-based state enterprise with a branch office in Hongkong. Last year the San-lien Shu-tien sent out monthly lists of new publications, Shu-k’an pao-tao, and in addition annual catalogs in 1976 and 1977. Other communist bookstores in Hongkong do the same, as evidenced by the Ch’u-pan hsiao-hsi, a combined list of Chung-hua-shu-chü and Shang-wu yin-shu-kuan. Although all of these are catalogs and not bibliographies in the strict sense of the word, they may serve as bibliographies for lack of anything better.

For one entire annual period, namely from June 1976 to June 1977, a selective checklist of mainland publications has appeared in a Taiwan magazine, the Chung-kung yen-chiu (Studies on Chinese Communism). In its No. 129 of 15 September 1977, pp. 129-40, it lists the most important publications that have reached the outside world from the mainland during the period. In the past there had been very rarely publication announcements or news in mainland periodicals or newspapers. In one exceptional instance the Kuang-ming jih-pao of 15 September
1977 surveyed in a rather short article all the commemorative publications on the occasion of the first anniversary of Mao Tse-tung's death. However, a different trend seems to have set in recently. The Jen-min jih-pao of 29 January 1978, p. 4, carried the advertisements of two publishers, the Hsin-hua shu-tien and the Jen-min wen-hsueh ch'u-pan-she. (Cf. also Y. S. Chan "The new era of Chinese publishing...." in Newsletter, No. 25 (March 1978), pp. 1-6, published by the Center for Chinese Research Materials, Washington, D. C., alleging that the Ta-kung-pao is now carrying book news every week.)

In the above we have dealt with the limited bibliographic aids provided by Communist China itself as regards its own publications. We now turn to the bibliographic activities outside mainland China and note here a large number of very creditable efforts. However, presumably due to the large expanse of the field and the deluge of non-Chinese writings on China, no comprehensive bibliography on the scale of Yuan Y'ung-li's China in Western Literature and Lust's Index Sinicus have made their appearance. The closest we have in this respect is the annual Bibliography of Asian Studies, compiled by a committee of the Association for Asian Studies. A private firm, G. K. Hall & Co., has prepared cumulations for the periods 1941-65 and 1966-70, but technically not very effective. The Bibliography of Asian Studies has fallen somewhat behind due to problems in compilation. At present, the 1975 publications (books and articles) are being compiled into a bibliography that will hopefully come out later this year. The gap is still wider in the case of the Paris-based Revue Bibliographique de Sinologie, of which vol. 11, for 1965 publications, was published toward the end of last year. In Japan the Kyoto-based Toyogaku bunkenshūmoku shows a 2-year gap; it published last year the bibliography covering 1975 publications. The latter two annual bibliographies, however, concern themselves more with earlier Chinese periods, rather than with the study of contemporary China,
Similarly, Skinner's *Modern Chinese Society: An Analytical Bibliography*, although comprehensive in scope (1644-1970/71) and volume (three large tomes), has its inherent limitations by focusing on societal phenomena and by being selective, rather than attempting exhaustiveness. Mention could perhaps also be made here of Andrew J. Nathan's *Modern China, 1840-1972: An Introduction to Sources and Research Aids*, which was published in 1973. This is an extremely well-selected concise reference tool for the period indicated in its title.

However, a somewhat more concentrated introduction, targeting exclusively on materials on Communist China has recently been provided by two publications: one is the *Resources and Curriculum Guide* by Posner and de Keijzer, and the other is Patricia Blair's *Development in the PRC: A Selected Bibliography*. Both are excellent in their different ways, each written with a different purpose in mind. The Posner–de Keijzer *Guide* is to help teachers at schools and colleges in the United States select textbooks and devise curricula so as to improve teaching about China. For this purpose it lists not only books, but also films, tapes, and other audiovisual materials and introduces the bibliographic section with a long essay section, written by various experts on teaching about China. On the subject of audiovisual material, mention should be made of the *Guide to Chinese Audiovisual Materials* by Eugene Ching and Nora C. Ching, of K. L. Pratt and D. W. C. Gray, *China: An Index to European Visual and Aural Materials*. The Posner–de Keijzer *Guide* was supplemented last year by Robert Goldberg's *Recent Materials on China and U. S.—China Relations*, as advised in *Focus on Asian Studies* 39 (Winter 1977): 25.

The Blair bibliography, dated December 1976, focuses on Communist China’s economic and social development experience. Its entries for the most part date from 1970 to mid-1976. As an introduction it reproduces an essay by that most eloquent writer on communist China, A. Doak Barnett, entitled: “Development in the PRC, the Political and Social Context.”
As another comprehensive bibliographic tool on contemporary China we may also mention the *China-Handbuch* (in German) edited by Wolfgang Franke with the assistance of Brunhild Staiger. Even those not familiar with German will be able to benefit from the bibliographic references at the end of the articles.

Less broad in scope but still comprehensive in its way is Li Yu-ning’s “A Selected Bibliography of Humanities and Social Science Publications in [Communist] China since 1969,” concentrating on Chinese source material exclusively, mostly dating from 1971 and 1972.

While there exist—to my knowledge—only the abovementioned attempts at comprehensive bibliography with regard to Communist China, the last few years have seen a number of specialized bibliographies on certain fields or aspects of Chinese political, intellectual, and cultural life. A useful listing of such bibliographies may be found in the newsletter June 1977 of the Chinese Librarians’ Association in California. It is a list compiled by George C. Cheng and George W. Huang, entitled “China: A Bibliography of Bibliographies in the English Language.” In the following I wish to mention a few of the more important and interesting of these specialized bibliographies that have come to my attention.

In the field of political science, there is *The Cultural Revolution in China: An Annotated Bibliography*, by James C. F. Wang; *Bibliography of Literature Written in the PRC during the Campaign to Criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, July 1973 to December 1974* (U. S. Central Intelligence Agency); *Mao Tsetung and the Ts'ungyi Conference: An Annotated Bibliography*, compiled by Wu Tien-wei; and *The Provinces of the PRC: a Political and Economic Bibliography*, by John Philip Emerson and others, a bibliography of provincial source material available in the U.S.

In the field of international relations: *The PRC and the Developing Countries* by Günter Siemers; and *China and America,*
Bibliography of Interactions, Foreign and Domestic, compiled by James M. McCutcheon.

In the field of art and archaeology: The T. L. Yuan Bibliography of Western Writings on Chinese Art and Archaeology, edited by Harrie A. Vanderstappen.

In the field of law: The PRC and International Law, a Selective Bibliography of Chinese Sources, by Paul Ho.

In the field of medicine and health care: the very comprehensive work of Shahid Akhtar, Health Care in the PRC: A Bibliography with Abstracts. This includes (pp. 13-19) a good listing of general reference works on Communist China. It also quotes the earlier compilation by L. C. Yu, "Selected Bibliography on Recent Development in Medicine and Public Health (in Communist China.)"

In the field of science and technology: Science in China, a short but effective compilation by T. R. Liao. It quotes, for instance, the very comprehensive compilation by Genevieve Dean, Science and Technology in the Development of Modern China: An Annotated Bibliography. The latter work is of broad scope and contains sections on medicine and public health, population control, environmental control, etc.


of Readings, 1949-1973, by Elizabeth Croll; and the sections on Asia in Women and World Development: an Annotated Bibliography, compiled by Mayra Buvinic.

In the field of biography: Li T’ien-min, “Biographies of Chinese Communist Personalities,” and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency’s Directory of officials of the PRC.

In the field of language and literature: Paul Fu-mien Yang, Chinese Linguistics: A Selected and Classified Bibliography, is very comprehensive (anything published after 1900) and its 3,257 entries are from all over the world. Language Contact and Language Planning in China (1900-1967), a Selected Bibliography, by Rosaline K. W. Chiu, is specifically on language contact, dialect contact, and standardization of the language.

There are two subsections of language and literature that deserve special attention, namely, the question of dictionaries and the question of translations.

On dictionaries, a very ambitious project is being attempted by the CETA (Chinese-English Translation Assistance) Group: the compilation of a list of all existing Chinese dictionaries with bibliographic details and location guides. As a preliminary step, they published A Compilation of Chinese Dictionaries by Sandra Hixson and J. Mathias. Another fairly comprehensive bibliography is Robert Dunn’s recent Chinese-English and English-Chinese Dictionaries in the Library of Congress.

As to Mainland China’s activities in this field, we have an interesting report by a West-German student, Harald Richter, who, after his return from studies in Communist China, published a detailed report: “Neue chinesische Wörterbücher” [New Chinese dictionaries] in Oriens Extremus.

In the troublesome field of new communist terminology, where we used to have help only from Doolin and Ridley’s creditable Chinese-English Dictionary of Communist Chinese Terminology and the Han-Ying tzʻu-hui shou-tsʻe which apparently
has been smuggled out of Communist China and then reprinted somewhere in the U. S., we saw last year the addition of three newcomers: one from Berkeley, one from Hongkong, and one from Taiwan. The Berkeley one is *Chinese Dictionary of Contemporary Usage*, compiled by Chi Wen-shun. The Hongkong one is called *Glossary of Chinese Political Phrases*, compiled by Lau Yee-fui of the Union Research Institute, and the Taiwan one, which has so far not yet been received in our library, is called a *Comprehensive Dictionary of Chinese Communist Terminology*, compiled by the Institute of International Relations, Taipei, Taiwan. For those who can use German, we may even add a fourth, namely *Chinesisch-Deutscher Wortschatz: Politik und Wirtschaft der VR China* [Chinese-German Glossary: Politics and Economy in the Communist China compiled by Helmut Martin and Tienchi Martin-Liao.

Speaking of dictionaries, we should not omit mention of the excellent new *New English-Chinese Dictionary* published on the mainland and then also in Hongkong, "edited under the inspiration of the great victory of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, and published in the excellent situation of the deepening of the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius," to quote the foreword, which, however, should not detract from the excellence of the work itself.

On the question of translations, we should first of all mention the creditable *Bibliography of Studies and Translations of Modern Chinese Literature, 1918-1942*, by Donald Gibbs and Li Yun-chen. Although it covers mainly the pre-1949 period and is less relevant to communist literature, it attempts to provide the much overdue continuation to Martha Davidson's work. As to translation services handling the more current documents and information from Communist China, we mostly still rely on the Hongkong Consulate-General series, the Joint Publications Research Service, and the other sources mentioned by John Ma in the article initially referred to. Important as providing standard English translations are of course also the Chinese com-
munist periodicals in English, such as *China Reconstructs* and the *Peking Review*. Fairly new is a semiannual magazine of Chinese–English translations, *Renditions*, published by the Centre for Translation Projects of the Chinese University of Hongkong, but it concerns itself mainly with classical Chinese literature. For modern mainland literature in English translation we have *Chinese Literature* from Peking. Since the late 1960s, a series of translation magazines has been published by M. E. Sharpe, Inc., of White Plains, N. Y., at one time calling itself IASP, the International Arts and Science Press. Its series are: *Chinese Education, Chinese Economic Studies, Chinese Law and Government, Chinese Sociology and Anthropology, Chinese Studies in History, and Chinese Studies in Philosophy*.

Discussions of bibliography should always include dissertations, because even a bad dissertation will usually have a good bibliography on the dissertation topic. In this field we are eternally grateful to Frank Shulman, who, together with Leonard H. D. Gordon, provided us with *Doctoral Dissertations on China, 1945–1970* and in March of this year produced the continuation covering the years 1971–75. (The University Microfilms International recently sent out a pamphlet with the misleading title, *The People's Republic of China Doctoral Dissertations*, adorning the cover with Mao's head and the 5-star emblem. Neither is it what the title promises nor is it alphabetical as the preface promises.)

Finally, a word on how to keep up with new publications. Basically there is no other way than to watch announcements and book reviews in the relevant periodicals, such as the *Journal of Asian Studies* or the *China Quarterly*. Special attention is invited in this context to the rather inconspicuous *China Exchange Newsletter* published in Washington by the Committee on Scholarly Exchanges with the People’s Republic. Each newsletter contains a bibliography of most recent books and articles on Communist China in particular reports by recent visitors to Communist China which at times appear in hard-to-trace,
obscure, or highly specialized periodicals unknown to the non-specialist. Another useful checklist may be found in China Aktuell, the German monthly from the Hamburg Institute for Asian Studies, which has an English supplement entitled “PRC Official Activities and Monthly Bibliography.” There is also the Dutch China Informatie with its current bibliography on China. Many of the oldtimers, such as the China News Analysis, the newsletter of the Association for Asian Studies and the bulletin of its Committee on East Asian Libraries, the Asia Documentation Service of the Hamburg Institute of Asian Affairs, and the Focus on Asian Studies, which focuses on elementary and secondary classroom teaching on China, all are continuing to do an excellent job of informing on new publications. Some, though, have fallen by the wayside, such as the Union Research Service and the China-Analysen from Frankfurt, Germany. However, new periodicals with bibliographic significance keep appearing, as for instance, the China Geographer (1975) Modern China (1975), New China (1975) China Now (1970), and the Modern Chinese Literature Newsletter (1975).

If the above is not an exhaustive listing of all research aids on Communist China, I hope to have at least given a rough outline and perhaps stimulated interest in others to supplement my listings.

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