

# **SOAS Library: why it is special**

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**with contributions from subject librarians,  
past and present<sup>(1)</sup>**

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## Summary

- I. At a time of financial uncertainty and economic downturn, this paper presents a case for the unique quality and value of SOAS Library, including its Archives and Special Collections, within the context of area studies in the UK.
- II. The paper offers a broad overview of the history and background of the Library's collections, noting particularly language scope, support for existing research and new trends in scholarship, and commenting on the Collection Development Policy currently under review.
- III. The paper then focuses on each of the regional collections relating to Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Coverage of these does not follow a standard format but highlights themes or particular elements of significance, reflecting the diversity and individuality of the collections through both historical development and support for current teaching and research.
- IV. The two long-standing subject collections, Art & Archaeology and Law, are then considered. Art & Archaeology material has always been collected and maintained by a specialist subject librarian, with support from colleagues for collecting publications in the languages of the regions. Law, however, while located as a discrete collection, was until very recently the responsibility of the subject librarians for the regions with reliance on the Senate House Library and that of the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) for the discipline itself.
- V. – VII. The Archives and Special Collections is a constituent part of the Library collections which provides immense added value. The paper summarises the types and content of the archival and manuscript resources of SOAS, including recent electronic developments.

## I. UK OVERVIEW

There are three major categories of libraries and archives with Asian, African and Middle Eastern collections in the UK:

- National libraries such as the British Library, the National Library of Scotland and the National Archives. These institutions have important legacy/historical collections on Asia, Africa and the Middle East, often associated with Britain's colonial past;
- Libraries and archives attached to specialist or research institutions, either specifically related to a region such as the Royal Asiatic Society, or where part of the collections have an Asian, African or Middle Eastern content (often significant but not always obvious) such as the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Imperial War Museum, the National Art Library at the V&A, and the Royal Zoological Society. These lesser known collections are a valuable and under-utilised resource;
- University library collections, either specialist institutions such as SOAS, or larger university libraries with collections supporting departments or centres of Asian, African or Middle Eastern studies within a general university, such as the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

In the UK, university teaching and research, and the supporting library collections, have been shaped by the recommendations in the 1947 Scarborough Report,(2) the

1961 Hayter Report,(3) the 1986 Parker Report,(4) and the 1993 Hodder-Williams Report.(5) All of these, even the most recent, date from an era when library collections were still predominantly made up of print and archival resources and the post-war division of the world into defined areas was reflected in distinct area studies collections in libraries. Area studies centres developed and were supported by print resources in university libraries.

A number of library groups, together covering Asia and Africa trace their origins to a Conference on the Acquisition of Library Materials from Asia, held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in 1967.

Academics and ideas are more mobile than physical library collections. Area studies centres may close or relocate and become separated from their collections. For example, the Centre for South East Asia Studies at the University of Hull closed and its academic staff were absorbed into East Asian studies at the University of Leeds but the library collections remain at Hull.

Academics with an interest in Asian, African or Middle Eastern studies (an interest that might be disciplinary as much as regional) do not have to be attached to the main regional studies institution. SOAS is the major centre for Asian, African and Middle Eastern studies in London, but this has not stopped academics with an interest in Asian politics or African economics from being based at LSE or elsewhere.

Many academics with an interdisciplinary, cross-regional approach to a subject may primarily be interested in the discipline (such as development studies or gender studies) rather than identify with a specific region, and will turn to resources from a range of regions. For example, many students, academics or researchers using a South Asia collection might not identify themselves as Indologists or South Asianists, or those using Chinese material might not identify themselves as Sinologists, yet they need to access resources on and from these regions for their individual courses or research. And, increasingly, research funding is awarded to intra-university, cross-disciplinary and trans-regional projects.

SOAS Library is the obvious and, very often, the first port of call for resources to support research and study.(6)

## **II. SOAS LIBRARY**

### ***II.i. History and background***

SOAS Library has been regarded as the leading national library for Asian, African and Middle Eastern studies since the publication of the Hayter Report in 1961. The only other institution in the UK with such strong, comprehensive African, pan-Asian and Middle Eastern holdings is the British Library, which is wholly reference and “closed access” with no option for readers to browse.

The Hayter Report “... recommended that SOAS Library should be regarded as a national library, and given additional direct funding to support levels of staffing and collections far beyond those affordable to the School.” Indeed, “[i]t was the impact of this additional funding and subsequent financial settlements which enabled the Library’s collections to grow at such a tremendous pace during the 1970s and 1980s ...” so that by 1986 the Parker Report “... rightly hailed the Library as ‘the jewel in the School’s crown’”. (7)

Additional financial support has continued to date (currently from HEFCE under the “National Research Library” banner) to fund directly the specialist collecting and staff. The Library is unique in bringing together extensive regional African, Asian and Middle Eastern research collections in one building and, up to now, almost entirely on

open access, with the collections primarily arranged according to their area studies focus.

“The Library’s early collections were enhanced significantly both by gifts and other donations and by trips to Asia and Africa by members of SOAS staff ... Retiring academics, both from SOAS and other institutions, regularly present their personal libraries to the School, thus making available important works which are frequently out-of-print and difficult to acquire. ... [Donations] of particular significance have been the bequest of books and papers on the Philippines by Ifor B. Powell, the Hardyman Collection on Madagascar and the Burma Campaign Memorial Library. These donations have been particularly important as they have helped to extend the Library’s coverage across the School’s vast regional remit ... [I]t is frequently through the presentation of materials gathered by private collectors and specialist groups that the Library is able to maintain coverage of other areas.”(8)

The historical collections, particularly pre-1960s published material as well as the unpublished papers and manuscripts in the Library’s Archives & Special Collections, are of national and international importance. Material acquired in the past 40 years or so is, however, likely to be held at other libraries (in national libraries and in a range of university and special libraries) in the UK and in the USA, Europe and Australia as well as – to varying degrees – throughout Asia, Africa and the Middle East. For this material, SOAS Library holds a less comprehensive collection for each country compared with some libraries in Asia and the USA. The strength of the SOAS Library collection is that it covers the whole of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as opposed to concentrating on one country or region (as is often the case with US and other university libraries).

SOAS Library has important holdings of pre-1960s Asian and African published material that in many cases is not available in the countries of origin. Either the material was not collected or it has been lost through war, natural disaster or the effects of a tropical climate. For post-1960s publications SOAS Library’s collections cannot be said to be unique or rare and during budget cuts, notably in the 1980s, the collections suffered. Moreover, the explosion of publishing, first in print and more recently in electronic format, has had a huge impact on libraries’ acquisition and collection development capabilities. SOAS Library’s more recent collections, particularly in African, South Asian and South East Asian languages (and increasingly in Arabic, Chinese and Japanese) are representative rather than comprehensive in coverage.

Considering the scope as well as the nature of teaching and research at SOAS, which primarily serves the UK higher education community, this is appropriate. Comprehensive collection is more suited to small research libraries with highly focused specialization.

## ***II.ii Languages of the collections***

The collections are divided into two main categories: the languages of Asia, Africa and the Middle East and European languages, primarily English.

### Regional languages

- The Library’s priority is to collect material in the languages of Asia, Africa and the Middle East currently studied in the School. However it also maintains and develops collections of languages never or not currently studied, both for anticipated future need within the School and as a national research library.

## SOAS Library: why it is special

- Where there is limited European-language publishing, or where the bulk of serious publishing and scholarship is in the language(s) of the region the Library collects in depth.
- Where English, or other European languages, dominate publishing and scholarship (as in parts of Africa, South Asia and South East Asia), the Library selectively acquires local and regional language publications. The aim is to build up representative collections in regional languages of contemporary and classical literatures, works on language and grammars, religious texts, law (including customary law) and political or historical works.
- The Library acquires translations from Asian, African and Middle Eastern languages into English (and into other metropolitan languages, particularly French). Genres so collected include, principally, contemporary and classical literature and also major, seminal or core religious, historical and political texts.

### English and other metropolitan languages

Material in English, whether published in Asia, Africa and the Middle East or in the UK, Europe, North America and Australasia, forms the bulk of the European language collection.

The Library actively collects

- languages of the (former) colonial powers in Asia, Africa and the Middle East – including primary materials and contemporary literature and works of scholarship – e.g. works in Dutch on Indonesia, in French on Indochina and the Middle East; in Russian on the Caucasus and Central Asia, and in French and Portuguese on and from Francophone and Lusophone Africa.
- current publications in European languages (mainly English and French) which are official/business or literary/academic languages of parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, e.g. English in South Asia and parts of South East Asia; English, French, Portuguese and Spanish in parts of Africa.
- studies of the Turkish and Muslim empires in Europe (e.g. in the Balkans and the Iberian peninsula), including publications in the languages of these regions.
- works of scholarship in other European languages, e.g. German scholarship on Middle Eastern, Turkic, Indic, Tibetan and Chinese studies.

### ***II.iii Supporting research***

As the research library for the School and a National Research Library for Asian, African and Middle Eastern studies, a priority for the Library is to develop the research collections, building on existing strengths. It pays particular attention to those areas for which it has special responsibilities under cooperative arrangements, but needs to be alert to changes in area studies in UK higher education and how these impact upon library provision nationally.

“The most distinctive feature of SOAS Library staffing structure is the regional and subject librarian grouping, comprising those who are specialists in the language and publications of a region of Asia or Africa. Their responsibilities embrace the selection and cataloguing of new library materials and the provision of reference and higher-level research support to students and staff. They collaborate closely with opposite numbers in other libraries around the world ...”(9)

### ***II.iv Collection Development Policy***

The duality of SOAS Library is that it collects for national and international scholarship as well as serving the teaching and research needs of the School. And it has been through the “legacy” collections, combined with its primary role of supporting the teaching and research of its parent institution, that the Library most supports the national and international research community.

The latest Collection Development Policy revision, now in progress, breaks with tradition in that a structured approach is adopted in order to identify and follow current research and anticipated research trends and benchmark holdings against selected research libraries internationally:

- liaising closely with academic staff to clarify individual teaching and research interests;
- matching these against existing SOAS collections;
- comparing SOAS Library holdings for these with other national and international collections;
- identifying SOAS collection strengths (research level) and weaknesses (teaching or “basic/selected” level);
- following up accordingly.

### ***II.v Regional organization and focus***

SOAS Library’s holdings are organised within seven regional collections: Africa; China/Inner Asia; Japan/Korea; Islamic Middle East/Central Asia; Ancient Near East, Semitics & Judaica; South Asia and South East Asia (including the Pacific Islands). There are also separate collections for Art/Archaeology, Law and the Humanities/Social Sciences (including non-regional inter-disciplinary and cross-regional material).

Within SOAS Library, the distinct regional collections and specific issues in developing and managing such collections mean that regional librarians have a strong, ongoing identification with their particular region and languages. This has been a strength so long as research and teaching have traditionally concentrated on the languages, literatures and cultures of Asia and Africa – and area studies have delineated and defined what was taught and researched at SOAS.

### ***II.vi Supporting new trends in scholarship***

These days, the nature of teaching and research at SOAS (and in the higher education community at large) is changing, encompassing a greater range of inter-disciplinary and cross-regional studies where researchers increasingly identify with one or more disciplines rather than an area and seek more non-regional and inter-disciplinary material. In addition, there is a distinct shift towards using primarily English-language material.

While the Library continues to collect heavily in the languages of Asia, Africa and the Middle East (and in European-language research materials pertaining to these regions), it is also developing the collections in new directions, following the broadening teaching and research interests of the School. These include global concepts in cross-regional and inter-disciplinary studies that embrace and incorporate Asia, Africa and the Middle East while not being bound by them. Examples are migration, diaspora studies, gender studies, race and ethnic relations,

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comparative religion, development studies, terrorism and counter-terrorism, violence and conflict, financial management, diplomacy, energy resources and more.

“The growth of disciplinary activity in the School, particularly in the social sciences, has resulted in an overwhelming demand for English language publications about Asia and Africa, rather than literary and other works from the regions themselves ... [This and other] changes have increased demand for information skills training to be delivered by qualified librarians to students as part of their degree studies.” (9)

In order to assist students develop core skills (such as note-taking, research and presentation skills as well as library resource and information skills), the Library acquires material supporting these, including works on essay and thesis writing, designing and carrying out surveys, and study techniques.

The Library has responded to the growth in interdisciplinary and cross-regional studies in creative ways:

### Expanded range of resources

The range of resources (both print and online, accessible on- and off-campus) has been expanded hugely:

- academic staff and research students have been canvassed to identify and prioritise journals, electronic journals and databases needed for their research and teaching;
- funding has been directed towards electronic subscriptions to support these wish-lists;
- logging into electronic resources by SOAS students and academic staff has been extended off-site wherever possible, to ease access to materials (although this is not possible for external users).

### Subject librarians

Staff restructuring has made possible an extended team of subject librarians supporting the full range of disciplines in addition to the traditional regions studied and researched at the School. Working closely with the regional librarians (and the two existing subject librarians for Art/Archaeology and Law) are subject librarians for Anthropology/Linguistics, History/Religions and Politics/Economics/Financial Management.

Every department in the School now has its own specialist, liaison librarian. Subject librarians can also now provide a level of cover for one another, not previously possible, during leave or illness.

### New services

A number of new services have been introduced:

- online subject guides for regions and subjects, designed and maintained by specialist librarians, are freely available on the Library’s webpages;
- information skills training is available for students at all levels, from first-year undergraduates to PhD candidates, and for academic staff;
- subject librarians prepare electronic reading lists by working with undergraduate and postgraduate course lecturers to link directly from the course BLE (Bloomsbury Colleges virtual learning environment) to the full text of journal articles, where held by the Library) or to the SOAS Library catalogue record (where not available as full-text). A service much

appreciated during its pilot phase, priority is now given to first-year undergraduate course reading lists as these are the students most in need of support in locating in-house resources.

## ***II.vii Library Transformation Project***

The present library was designed and built in the early 1970s for the needs of a small research institute in which there was rough parity between research and undergraduate students, with about 300 of each, and fewer than 200 taught masters students, totalling approximately 800 students.

The regional layout and the specialist staff were primarily centred on the classical “Orientalist” subjects based on the regional languages and literatures, although politics, economics and anthropology already had a presence. There was no archivist, and the archives and rare books occupied part of one floor of the Library. The opening of the Library in 1973 was a significant moment for the School as it enabled all the various collections and departmental libraries to be brought together in one place for the first time in its history.

Since that time SOAS has changed radically and grown significantly, not least in student numbers, but the Library organisation only recently began to implement its own changes to meet the current and anticipated future needs of the School.

The Library Transformation Project, with a mix of funding from HEFCE, SOAS and the Wolfson Foundation, seeks to accommodate growth in line with the School’s ten-year vision and strategy<sup>(11)</sup> and to create space through reconfiguration and extension of the accommodation. The aim is to adjust an old and very inflexible building to meet the needs of modern and diverse study and research styles. In particular, the Library seeks to enhance research facilities through:

- refurbishment of the atrium and the upper floors;
- increased study and quiet reading spaces;
- reorganisation of library book stock, with busier and more heavily-used (mainly English-language) materials on the lower floors ascending to the quieter atmosphere of the research collections on the higher levels);
- rethinking of staff accommodation to facilitate access to a range of support services;
- new roof windows and lights and louvres to the atrium;
- improved thermal conditions allowing a better flow of air;
- increased levels of daylight.

## **III. REGIONAL COLLECTIONS**

### ***III.i AFRICA***

Material on and from Africa has been collected since the foundation of the School (as the School of Oriental Studies) in 1916, although Africa was not included in the name until much later and there was no separate Africa Section in Library until the 1960s.

The significance of the 1960s for African studies:

- The Hayter Report (1961) initiated the era of area studies. For example, the SOAS Department of African Languages and Cultures had grown to about 25 academics covering the whole continent by the early 1980s – when financial

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and other constraints reduced these to nine through retirements and cut-backs

- The “Invention” of African history as a discipline by Roland Oliver (whose papers are now in the Library’s Archives and Special Collections). Africa was at last considered to have its own history.

### Coverage

The SOAS Library is the principal academic library in the UK for African studies and, unusually, it covers the whole of Africa. It is therefore the Library of first resort for many students and researchers, whether in the UK higher education community or otherwise.

### European language collections

The bulk of the collections are in English, but a substantial minority of what the Library purchases is in the metropolitan languages of the colonies: chiefly French as the other principal presence, but also Portuguese as the third largest, with some Spanish, Italian and German. Other European languages are represented where there is no obvious historical link with Africa but research and scholarship is undertaken, such as in Russian and Polish.

The Library holds the most extensive French-language collections on and from Africa in the UK. The collections also include significant materials on Lusophone Africa – the only such in the UK. A grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation in the early 1970s enabled the Africa Librarian to visit Portugal and buy many local publications. The collection also includes a number of Italian publications of the Fascist period on particularly Ethiopia and Somalia.

The Library has built up unparalleled holdings of African literature in English and the other metropolitan languages of Africa (French and Portuguese) in a range of genres, including a substantial collection of literary criticism. The Library’s extensive collection of Francophone literature from northern, western and central Africa is unique in the UK.

During the Apartheid era the Library collected a range of publications from within and outside South Africa covering all perspectives – many visiting South Africans were amazed to find books and journals here which were censored and unobtainable in South Africa – and often unobtainable post-apartheid as out of print.

Government publications: the policy is to acquire these where possible. But with over fifty countries, many of them with no direct links to Britain, this has not been easy. The aim now is to concentrate on Anglophone countries (bearing in mind other UK academic libraries’ collection policies) but be selective for Francophone and Lusophone.

Law: the policy is to acquire laws and law reports from all African countries except South Africa where Roman-Dutch law applies (collected by the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies). The Law Department for a long time had a strong interest in customary law and there was a strong African law presence in the Department. This has changed as the political circumstances of African countries changed; scholarly interest now lies more in thematic law (e.g. human rights, gender, migration)

Change in focus: It is interesting how the older parts of the collections are much more traditional in coverage and focus. African studies began with a focus on history, archaeology, language, anthropology, religion (traditional and Christian), folklore &c. After a period in which Africa tended largely to be seen, even by the scholarly community, in terms of famine and civil war, African studies have now

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become much more vibrant and relevant to the contemporary world – music and performance (film, theatre, dance), art, development studies, globalization, media, migration and diaspora, financial management, governance – as well as the more traditional disciplines.

### African Languages Collection

This is a unique collection in the UK and Europe, perhaps worldwide. As befits its national research role, the Library seeks to acquire material in and on all African languages rather than simply support languages taught and researched at SOAS. The collection goes down to pre-university level, as far as children's literature in some cases, in order to provide representative examples of languages in which little is written or published. Certain languages (e.g. Somali, Swahili, Hausa, Yoruba) are substantially published, and at a range of levels. For others there is very little published (or at least obtainable), maybe almost nothing outside official publications and school textbooks.

### Africa Department Library

This collection belonging to the Department of African Languages and Cultures was given to the Library in 1973. It was a hybrid collection, containing multiple copies of teaching texts but also – and more interestingly – a huge amount of material from the early part of the 20th (and occasionally late 19th) century in and on African languages. This was the period when African languages were being studied intensely by the missionary societies for evangelical purposes, and English scriptures and classic literary works like Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* translated into them. In certain cases, African languages, traditionally oral, were written down for the first time. The Library holds an excellent collection of Christian texts in African languages, such as the Bible and constituent parts of it, prayer books, classic literary works. There are also many practical publications – for example, on basic hygiene, health care, agricultural techniques – for use by the local populations. The collection is only partially catalogued and much of it is still held in store.

### African Language Texts Project

This project – run by Dr. Michael Mann (of the Africa Department) in 1990/91 with external funding from the Boston Colonial Experience Project – created a database and printed catalogue of African language texts (excluding purely linguistic and teaching materials) held in SOAS Library, both in the main collection and in the Africa Department Library.

### Somali language collection

Several SOAS academics have been very helpful in building country or language collections. For example, the late Prof. Bogumil Andrzejewski who travelled and worked a great deal in Somalia always purchased local publications for the Library. Prolonged civil war destroyed most libraries and universities – but SOAS holds an outstanding collection of what are now quite possibly unique or rare local Somali-language publications

### Named collections

- Society for Libyan Studies Library

The Society for Libyan Studies, now based at the Institute of Archaeology in University College London, promotes and co-ordinates the activities of scholars working on the archaeology, history, linguistics and natural history of Libya. Its

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extensive library collection, covering a broader geographical area, is extremely significant in its fields. The Society gave its library to SOAS in 1974 on permanent deposit. New material is added regularly as the Society publishes or purchases works in these fields.

- Hardyman Madagascar Collection

This unique personal collection was donated to the Library in 1991 by the late Rev. James and Marjory Hardyman. Born in Madagascar and son of a missionary there, James Hardyman himself served as a missionary in the country until his retirement in 1973. This astonishing collection of books and journals, built up over a lifetime from boyhood, focuses exclusively on Madagascar and is far wider and deeper than the Library's own. It covers a broad swathe of subjects in addition to church and mission history and in a variety of languages including more French and Malagasy than English – and some Welsh. The collection is unparalleled worldwide and attracts visitors from Madagascar as well as the international scholarly community. It complements and connects neatly with the SOAS Archives and Special Collections which holds the archive of Council for World Mission, for whom James Hardyman served as archivist during his retirement, weeding and preparing the archive for transfer to SOAS.

- Onitsha Market Literature Collection

This is a selection of about 140 Nigerian popular pamphlets from the 1960s. They are part of a literary phenomenon that developed after the end of World War Two, coinciding with a spurt of literacy growth and increase in Nigerian-owned and operated printing presses along with other factors. It ended with the Nigerian Civil War (the Biafran War). The pamphlets were sold in the market in Onitsha in the Eastern Region of Nigeria, and mostly printed in and around the area. They were written for and purchased by the increasing number of the literate and semi-literate population, were mostly in English, and ranged widely in scope. Many were fiction (particularly relating to love and marriage), but the bulk dealt with factual subjects, mainly "self-help" and advice on dealing with the problems of life (economic and social). The SOAS Collection is a fraction of what was published and there are similar collections held in other research libraries in the UK (e.g. British Library) and the United States.

- Furniss Hausa Popular Literature Collection

This collection of popular Hausa-language fiction, much of it written by women, was built up by Prof. Graham Furniss at SOAS and came to the Library in 2007 after he had finished using it for his research. While individual items are flimsy and non-academic, the collection as a whole possesses immense research significance.

- Gifford African Christianity Collection

This collection of mainly English-language local publications on African (especially West African Christian sects) was built up by Prof. Paul Gifford at SOAS and presented to the Library on his retirement in 2009. Again, individual publications may not be particularly significant or academic in themselves, but as a collection it possesses valuable research significance. The collection is yet to be catalogued.

### National responsibilities

- SCOLMA (the UK Libraries and Archives Group) (12)

SCOLMA was founded in 1962, following the Hayter Report's recommendations for the creation of inter-university committees to cover "library needs" in a co-ordinated manner and the allocation of resources both to the development of existing libraries serving the field and to new centres being established and building up new

collections. SCOLMA's purpose was to provide a forum for librarians and others concerned with the provision of materials for African studies in libraries in the United Kingdom. SOAS Library has always been a key member and the Africa Librarian has always served on its Committee, usually as one of the office-holders.

The SCOLMA Area Specialization Scheme (13) was initiated in 1966/67 as a cooperative scheme whereby certain member libraries assumed responsibility for obtaining publications from a particular country or group of countries or in a particular subject field. SOAS Library has been unusual for the large number of countries for which it has taken responsibility, reflecting its own broad coverage:

- North Africa and the Horn: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia (i.e. the whole, excluding Libya)
- southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Madagascar
- west Africa: Nigeria

SOAS also holds responsibility for African vernacular languages, reflecting its own unique collection.

- MELCOM (Middle East Libraries Committee)

A similar arrangement is in place for libraries with Middle Eastern collections. SOAS Library holds responsibility for collecting publications on North Africa (excluding Egypt), in Arabic and other regional languages as well in French and English, in the humanities and the social sciences [see below: paragraph III.vi]

### **III.ii CHINA AND INNER ASIA**

The China and Inner Asia collection covers China, including Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Mongolia, Tibet, Eastern Siberia and East Asia in general.

It is the largest collection of materials on modern and contemporary China in the UK and is one of the most important China libraries in Europe. The collection is a rich research resource for both individual and corporate users. Consisting of some 200,000 volumes in total, the majority are written in Chinese; 20,000 pamphlets; 6,000 Japanese-Sinological works; a considerable amount of material on microform, including local Chinese newspapers of the 1950s and 1960s in microform, some kept up to date; important missionary archives, and some 2,000 periodical and newspaper titles, over 500 of which are current Chinese titles; about 120 atlases. The strengths of the collection include a law collection, statistical, economic, and provincial yearbooks, and a growing collection of e-resources.

It is a rich resource for modern and contemporary China studies and a solid working basis for the study of pre-modern China. The collection covers vernacular languages; politics and government; foreign relations; anthropology and ethnic minorities; business, finance and economics; law; modern Chinese literature and language; military studies; overseas Chinese; press and media; women's studies and the Chinese Communist Party.

The collection is well-used by the UK and international research community, particularly for its historical collections such as the Chinese literature of the 1920s-1930s and its Republican periodicals.

The European Association of Chinese Studies (funded by the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation) provides annual travel grants for European researchers to visit libraries in Europe. On average, three to four such researchers visit SOAS every year, and acknowledge SOAS Library in their resulting theses or publications.

### Morrison Collection:

Assembled by Dr. Robert Morrison (1782-1834), the first Protestant missionary to China, in Guangzhou and Macao from 1807-1823 and important in the history of cultural contacts between China and the West. He translated the Old and New Testaments into Chinese, compiled the first Chinese-English dictionary (published 1823) and a Chinese grammar. The collection contains over 800 Chinese titles, mainly 17th and 18th-century Chinese blockprints. Subjects include medicine, astronomy, Buddhism, Daoism and literature as well as history and philosophy. This unique Chinese collection at SOAS has attracted scholars from all over the world especially on the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Robert Morrison's arrival in China. A recent publication, West, A.C., 1998, *Catalogue of the Morrison Collection of Chinese books*, London: University of London School of Oriental and African Studies (funded by the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation) is now online and freely accessible worldwide.

### Marsden collection

These printed books and manuscripts were collected by the Orientalist and numismatist, William Marsden (1754-1836), who was involved in the East India Company and later held a post at the Admiralty. The collection includes some Chinese books and unique old travel books related to China. He translated Marco Polo into English.

### Johnston Collection

The library of Sir Reginald Fleming Johnston (1874-1938) was bequeathed to SOAS after his death. He was a British administrator, first in Hong Kong (1898-1903) and then in Weihaiwei district, Shandong Province (1904-1918) and oversaw the District's return to China in 1930. He was English tutor to Puyi, last Emperor of the Qing Dynasty (1918-1925), and later joined SOAS as Professor of Chinese (1931-1937).

The collection comprises some 16,000 volumes, mostly in Chinese and English, with some in Japanese and Sanskrit. It is rich in Buddhism and 1920s Chinese literature, including mountain chronicles. Johnston was well-connected to those in high positions, including well-known authors. His collection includes autographed editions of Hu Shi (1891-1962) a Nationalist diplomat, philosopher and scholar, the poet Xu Zhimo (1897-1931) and an album of paintings by Chen Shu (1612-1682) dedicated to Johnston. This collection is considered to be one of the finest collections of Chinese and Far East books in the UK.

### Pre-20th-century books and manuscripts

Books: c. 20,000 volumes of pre-modern Chinese books. This includes over one thousand bound volumes of Ming dynasty edition (1368-1644) and over eighteen thousand volumes of Qing dynasty block-print editions (1644-1911). Many of these titles are rare and provide a rich source of material for scholars and students studying Chinese literature, history, philosophy, law, medicine, popular beliefs including Buddhist and Taoist works, and institutions.

Manuscripts: include the Yongle dadian (Yongle encyclopaedia), the world's largest known encyclopaedia - compiled between 1403 and 1408 during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) under the direction of the Yongle Emperor. The work was in 11,095 volumes, covering all that had ever been written on the Confucian canon, history, philosophy, literature and the arts and sciences. Most of it was burnt in the fire during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, with fewer than 400 volumes of the set surviving into modern times. Many are in private collections outside China; SOAS has six volumes of the encyclopaedia.

### Pre-1949 Chinese periodicals

Sixty pre-1949 Chinese journals and magazines published in China, most of them originals published in Shanghai and not held in any other libraries. These capture the literature, culture, advertisements and politics of the time and many have colourful illustrations.

### China coast newspapers, late 19th-early 20th century

Thirty China coast newspapers of the 19th and early 20th century published in London, Hong Kong and China relating to commercial and political relations between China and Europe. They are invaluable primary sources of information about aspects of the politics, commerce and culture of times past and present, offering the researcher time-stamped facts, perceptions and reactions of the contemporary participants in historical events. The articles, photographs, letters, advertisements, and obituaries of the daily and weekly press bring to light events rarely detailed in official sources. They are objects of study in themselves, reflecting the views and biases of their respective editors and publishers, and casting a revealing light upon local, national, and international issues.

The newspapers are fragile and out of copyright – a resource highly suitable for digitization, thus making them internationally accessible via the web without fear of further damage.

### Hong Kong collection

SOAS is the only library in the UK which actively collects material on Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Government Office Library was donated to SOAS in 1997 after Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty, and consists of c. 800 volumes of western books and periodicals on Hong Kong and 228,000 pages of newspaper cuttings on microfiche.

The newspapers cuttings are items selected from Hong Kong government information bulletins, proceedings of the British Parliament and the Legislative Council in Hong Kong, press releases and a wide range of Hong Kong and United Kingdom newspaper and periodical articles. They date mainly from the 1970s and 1980s, with a few from the 1960s.

This collection covers the gaps in SOAS Library's own Hong Kong Collection, and it reflects the history, politics, economics and the people of Hong Kong and the relations between China, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom which is an invaluable resource for researchers.

### Modern China collection

The Hayter Report (1961) advocated modern studies in the fields of history, geography, law, economics and social studies and emphasised the concept of area studies. Funds were made available to the Library to support research and teaching in these new areas.

The Contemporary China Institute was established in 1968 (and merged with SOAS Library in 1972) to support advanced research and training in modern Chinese studies, to promote publications, and to find a way of disseminating knowledge of contemporary China to a wide audience. It included H. McAleavy's library of mainly modern popular literature and material social life (donated in 1970).

When the library and archives of the old London Missionary Society (now the Council for World Mission) was deposited at SOAS in 1973, its extensive collection of old

Western books on China, assembled by a medical missionary, William Lockhart, in the 19th century came with it.

During the 1980s, because of the increased demand in teaching and research, the Library set up a Chinese law collection which was heavily used by several law firms at a time when law materials were difficult to find elsewhere.

SOAS Library holds some 400 titles of Chinese yearbooks and annual statistical compendia covering provinces, cities, economic zones and individual industries as well as other economic and social developments.

The library also holds some 5,000 volumes of Japanese material on Chinese studies.

### Databases

Chinese databases tend to be expensive. SOAS Library subscribes to the China Academic Journals as part of a UK libraries consortium and has individual subscriptions to a number of other databases.

### China Library Group & European Association of Sinological Librarians (14)

The subject librarians for China are members of the China Library Group and the European Association of Sinological Librarians.

## **III.iii JAPAN & KOREA**

### History

The original collection was transferred to the newly founded School of Oriental Studies from the London Institution in 1917. Quite soon the collections of B. Ponsonby-Fane and Sir Henry Partlett were added to the School. Those are the origins of today's collection. The next major acquisition took place at the end of World War Two when books originally kept in Japanese embassies and consulates in London and Europe were transferred to the collection.

The collection benefited from the Scarborough Report (1947) stressing the importance of acquiring Chinese and Japanese language materials. The Library was able to spend £4,000 on Japanese language materials between 1948 and 1950 and these form the core of the collection.

The collections have been widely supported by external donors in recent years: Academy of Korean Studies, Japan Foundation, Kasumi Kaikan, Korea Foundation, Korean History Compilation Committee, Mitsui and Company Ltd., Toshiba International Foundation and many other organizations and individuals.

### Japan

The Library holds some 100,000 items on Japan. The collection is one of the largest and oldest in Europe and is particularly strong in pre-modern history and literature, religious studies, film studies, and Japanese linguistics. The section has built up a collection of pre-Meiji (1868) woodblock prints and manuscripts. Most of the 270 titles were donations from Lord Harlech and Mr. Frederick Anderson. For details see: Chibbett, D.G, Hickman, B. and Matsudaira, S., 1975, *A descriptive catalogue of the pre-1868 Japanese books, manuscripts and prints in the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, London: Oxford University Press.

### Korea

The Library has collected some 40,000 items on Korea. The collection is the largest in Europe, and is focused on history, literature, music, and Korean linguistics. It

includes materials from North Korea, which were difficult to acquire until recently. Materials from North Korea were acquired through exchange with East European libraries between the 1970s and 1980s. The Library has purchased selected North Korean materials to support research in SOAS in recent years.

#### Japan and Korea Library Groups

The subject librarian for Japan and Korea is a member of both the Japan Library Group (15) and the Korea Library Group.

### **III.iv SOUTH ASIA**

The legacy collections on South Asia reflect 19th and early/mid-20th century British involvement in the region, so material on the sub-continent is well represented,

SOAS Library has actively built up research collections relating to South Asia (covering present-day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka) and, to a lesser extent, on the South Asian diaspora. These include publications on and from South Asia, in the languages and cultures, arts and humanities, and law and social sciences.

#### Current strengths

As well as continuing to collect a representative collection of material in the languages of the region, the large size and growth of the collections in English on South Asia is an indication of the regional context. English is an important language in parts of South Asia, used in business, administration, publishing, education and in academic research. Much of the academic research is conducted in English and there is a thriving English language publishing and bookselling trade.

Noteworthy is the large collection of original English-language literature (novels, short stories, poetry and dramatic works) published in South Asia and among the diaspora communities, particularly South Asian diaspora writers in the UK, North America and Australasia.

The Library has especially strong collections of films from India, built up to support the growing interest, at both teaching and research level, by the South Asia Department and the Centre for Media and Film Studies

Substantial research collections have been developed in a range of South Asian languages, ancient and modern – beyond what is taught or researched at the School. These include Sanskrit and Pali, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

The Dey Bengali Book Fund is donation by Mr. & Mrs. Dey, on their retirement from SOAS after many years (not based the Library) for the purchase of books in the Bengali language published in India.

#### Religion

The Library develops and maintains a range of material relating to the religions of South Asia, the sociology of religion and translations of religious texts. Coverage includes Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Islam and Christianity in South Asia; also Buddhism in India, especially on the history of Buddhism and the Buddha. Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka and on Mahayana Buddhism in the Himalayan kingdoms of Nepal and Bhutan.

## Law

The collection of South Asian law, including religious and customary law, is unrivalled in the UK and possibly worldwide. SOAS has responsibility for South Asian law in the University of London. The library collects all the India Law Reporter and individual law reports. All legislation, court reports and official gazettes are collected for South Asia.

The following are extensively collected:

- All India Law Reports
- Bombay Law Reporter
- Indian Law Reports (for various states)
- Pakistan Legal Decisions
- Kerala Law Times

## Databases

Significant among a number of subscriptions, SOAS Library subscribes to the Bibliography of Asian Studies, a specialised bibliographic database that is a valuable tool for teaching and research. The library also subscribes to Manupatra, a legal database containing the laws and case reports from India.

## Oral Archives

The Library's Archives and Special Collections carries some important oral material relating to British India and the Raj. This consists of a collection of cassette copies and transcripts of 82 interviews on which the BBC series Plain Tales from the Raj was based. The interviews were conducted in both Britain and India between 1972 and 1974.

The series was first broadcast in 1974. The men and women interviewed, the majority of whom were British, describe their experiences of life and work in India from the closing years of the nineteenth century until Independence in 1947.

Further transcripts focus on the British in India Oral Archive Project. There are cassette copies and transcripts of 77 interviews with both British and Indian subjects covering the pre- and post- Independence period.

There are also tapes and transcripts of interviews carried out in 1997 in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in preparation for a BBC World Service series on the Partition of India. Most of the tapes are in English but some interviews were recorded in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali or Punjabi.

## Fürer-Haimendorf Photographic Archive

The photographic archive of Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf (1909-1995), held in the Library's Archives and Special Collections, includes photographs, cine-film and written materials. Reflecting his fifty years of scholarship, the collection is widely recognised as the world's most comprehensive study and visual documentation of tribal cultures in South Asia and the Himalayas in the mid 20th century. It is especially valuable because it documents these cultures before many changed rapidly with the advent of external civil administration after the mid-twentieth century.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the archive was selected by CeDAAME (the School's new Centre for Digital Asia, Africa and the Middle East) for its first digitisation project, Fürer-Haimendorf Photographs Online.

### South Asia Archive and Library Group (SAALG) (16)

The South Asia Library Group was formed in 1967 and changed its name in 2001 to South Asia Archive and Library Group to acknowledge the presence of a number of archivists amongst its members. It consists of representatives of libraries, archives and other institutions in the United Kingdom with some degree of specialisation in South Asian Studies.

The aims of the Group concerned the acquisition and use of books, manuscripts and archival materials in the field of South Asian studies, co-operative bibliographical projects and other matters which can be served by common consultation. The Group meets twice annually and the South Asia Librarian serves on the committee that organizes the two annual conferences.

### **III.v SOUTH EAST ASIA**

The legacy collections on South East Asia reflect 19th and early/mid-20th century British involvement in these regions, so material on the region is well represented,

From the early days as the School of Oriental Studies, SOAS Library has collected material relating to South East Asia in the arts and humanities and, increasingly over time, in the social sciences. This included not only Burma/Myanmar, Malaya, Singapore and Borneo (where Britain had a direct interest) but also Siam/Thailand, the Netherlands East Indies/Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The collections also cover Aboriginal Australia, Maori New Zealand and the Pacific Islands)

In addition, the Library focuses on regional groupings (ASEAN, APEC, ASEM) and on historical and contemporary cross-boundary geo-political areas such as Indo-China (Annam, Tonkin, Cochin-China); Borneo; Malaya and the Straits Settlements; the Malay Archipelago; the Mekong Valley Region; the Dutch/Netherlands East Indies; and the South China Sea (including the Spratly Islands).

As well as continuing to collect a representative collection of material in the languages of the region, the large size and growth of the collections in English on South East Asia is an indication of the regional context. English is an important language in parts of South East Asia, used in business, administration, publishing, education and in academic research. Much of the academic research is conducted in English and there is a thriving English language publishing and bookselling trade.

#### Languages and literature

The holdings in and on the languages of the region are outstanding, as SOAS is one of the few academic/research libraries in the UK to collect. The Thai literature collection is of particular significance and heavily used. In addition, the Library is developing its collection of South East Asian literatures in English (mainly Singaporean, Malaysian and the Philippines) and the English literatures of diaspora communities.

#### Film

The Library supports a growing collection of South East Asian films on DVD (particularly Thai, Indonesia, Malaysian, Vietnamese and Singaporean film) with publications on films and the film industry; film scripts, and works by and about particular directors and actors.

#### Religion

The Library develops and maintains a range of material relating to the religions of South East Asia, including Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism,

## SOAS Library: why it is special

Shamanism, Animism and folk beliefs – and also the relationships between the different religious traditions within South East Asia.

The Library acquires material on religious and customary law (adat). This includes detailed coverage of Islamic law from a South East Asian perspective.

### Australasia and the Pacific Islands

SOAS Library holds an important collection on Australian Aborigines and New Zealand Maori languages, anthropology and on land rights. Material on the Pacific Island is strongest on linguistics and anthropology.

### Vietnam Exchange Programme

SOAS Library had an exchange programme with the National Library of (North) Vietnam in Hanoi, and so holds an important collection of Vietnamese and English language material dating the 1960s and 1970s.

### Marsden Collection

Relevant to the region but held in the Archives and Special Collections are some important Malay manuscripts, including the Light Letters, including several hundred Malay letters, primarily received by Captain Francis Light and his business partner, Captain James Scott, from rulers and dignitaries of the Malay Sultanates. These Malay documents formed part of the collection of William Marsden, bequeathed to King's College London Library by William Marsden's widow in 1835 and 1837. They were transferred from King's College London to SOAS Library shortly after the School's foundation in 1916

### Powell Collection

Ifor Ball Powell, was a Rockefeller scholar who spent 3 years in the Philippines in the late 1920s and whose interest continued after his return to the UK. As well as his papers (housed in the Archives and Special Collections), his sizeable library of Philippine publications has been incorporated into the South East Asia collection.

### Burma Campaign Memorial Library

The Burma Campaign Memorial Library is a comprehensive collection of memoirs, histories, biographies, autobiographies, diaries, personal narratives, essays, letters, fiction and poetry about the war in Burma from 1942 to 1945. The collection also contains historical information on Burma's neighbouring countries, such as the Indian National Army, the Gurkhas, China-Burma-India Theatre and the Burma Road.

### Southeast Asia Library Group (SEALG) (17)

The subject librarian for South East Asia is a member of the Southeast Asia Library Group. Aware of the difficulty of obtaining material from South-East Asia in the late 1960s, the Group's founders aimed to explore means of cooperation through sharing the services of staff travelling to South-East Asia for book-buying in the field, exchanging information on holdings and potential for loan or photocopy, and compiling union lists of periodicals and theses.

### **III.vi ISLAMIC MIDDLE EAST & CENTRAL ASIA**

#### Overview

The SOAS collections relating to the Middle East and Central Asia are unique in that while the British Library and the Bodleian Library at Oxford University have similar coverage, only SOAS Library keeps the bulk of its materials on open access and thus available to browse or borrow.

The Islamic Middle East covers a very wide area both geographically, stretching over three continents, and linguistically, with languages that are spoken from the western tip of north Africa to the farthest reaches of Siberia.

In broad terms the section comprises material on the Arab Middle East (including Egypt and areas formerly under Arab rule like Spain and Sicily) and Arabic; Iran and Iranian languages – ancient and modern (including ancient Persia and its religions); Turkey (including parts of the Balkans formerly under the Ottoman Empire) and Turkish; the Caucasus and Caucasian languages; and Afghanistan and the Republics of former Soviet Central Asia. The division of Central Asia in SOAS Library between the Middle East and the China collections is based on the Turkic languages and peoples being in the former, and the Mongolian and Tibetan languages and peoples in the latter. Materials in the collection are in all European languages as well as in the vernacular languages of the area.

#### Languages

The linguistic spread is extremely wide. The one Semitic language, Arabic, comprises the bulk of the collection and includes works on all subjects with special emphasis on Islam, Arabic language and literature and Middle Eastern history. There is a particular focus on works in Arabic from and about the countries of north Africa.

Iranian languages include more than seventeen ancient and modern languages, principally Modern Persian (Farsi), but also significant collections in and on Old Persian, Balochi, Kurdish and Pashto.

The Turkic languages collection includes Turkish (by far the largest) and also sixteen derived languages – most prominently Uzbek, Uighur (Uygur), Azeri and Kazakh.

#### History

The foundations of the collections on what was then called the Near and Middle East were laid in the old London Institution, which was taken over by the School at its inception. The University of London Library and the libraries of two other colleges, University College and King's College, transferred to the School their Oriental books in exchange for western-language material from the Institution's collections, although Hebrew and Syriac were excluded. Donations were also received from the British Library, the India Office Library and a number of private benefactors.

#### Marsden Collection

Foremost amongst these foundation collections was the library of the noted Orientalist, William Marsden, one of the founders of the Royal Asiatic Society and later its Treasurer and Vice-President. After resigning from the post of First Secretary at the Admiralty in 1807, Marsden devoted his remaining life to his Orientalist studies and presented his printed books and manuscripts to King's College in 1835, from where they were later transferred to the School. This was the forerunner of a number of other valuable collections.

## SOAS Library: why it is special

### Major purchases

- library of Martin Hartmann, a major figure in modern Islamic studies before World War One (1920)
- collection of Sir Thomas Arnol, the first Professor of Arabic at the School (1930)

### Significant donations

- over 100 Persian manuscripts were received as part of a larger collection of Oriental manuscripts donated by Mr. R.C. Reid
- a valuable library of European printed books dealing with Turkey and the Turks, known as the Auboyneau collection, came to the Library in 1949
- Mr. C.J. Edmonds presented his excellent Kurdish collection in 1957
- the library of Sir Norman Anderson, presented in 1976, strengthened the Islamic law collections as well as containing many other notable items, including personal papers

### Manuscripts and rare books

The Library possesses over 200 Arabic manuscripts, some 400 Persian and 45 Turkish, and a few in Coptic and Ethiopic. Some of these are especially rare and beautiful, the finest example being perhaps Husayn Va'iz Kashifi's *Anvar-i Suhayli* which contains 27 exquisite Persian miniatures. Other manuscripts are interesting for their illustrations and calligraphy, particularly some of the Qur'an, and for their history, such as the Persian *Guide of Kings* composed by Jeronimo Xavier, S.J., and addressed to the Mughal Emperor, Jahangir, in 1609 A.D.

In addition, the Library was able to acquire microfilm copies of the remaining five books needed to complete its holdings of the limited editions from the press of that most fascinating printer, Ibrahim Muteferrika, a Hungarian by birth who fell into slavery but later became the founder of the very first Turkish press in Istanbul in 1729.

The personal bookplate of Ras Tafari (afterwards Emperor Haile Selassie I) is to be found on several early printed Ethiopian works.

### Personal papers

In recent years the Library has been building up its collections of unpublished documents and records, in addition to individual manuscripts and such papers as came with original collections like those of William Marsden. The extensive missionary records which have been received are concerned with areas other than the Middle East, but some personal papers should certainly be noted.

The Paget Collection comprises papers of William Paget, sixth Lord Paget, Ambassador Extraordinary to Turkey, 1693-1702 and 1705-06, and were deposited on permanent loan by the Marquess of Anglesey in 1964.

The papers of Lt.-Col. D.L.R. Lorimer (1876-1962) cover historical, geographical and particularly linguistic topics arising out of his career in India and southern Persia.

### Published catalogues

Forbes, L., 1968, *Catalogue of printed books, 1500-1599, in the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, London: SOAS. This includes a short list of Arabic and Hebrew books printed before 1600.

Gacek, A., 1981, *Catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts in the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*, London: SOAS.

#### Yale-SOAS Islamic Manuscript Gallery (YS-IMG) Digitization Project (18)

This project, funded by JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and NEH (U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities) Transatlantic Digitisation Collaboration Grants, is a pilot to create an archive of and a gateway to Islamic manuscripts. The materials selected comprise important manuscripts, related manuscript catalogues and language dictionaries held separately in their two library collections. The intention is to make available in electronic format all the tools that the scholar requires to work on manuscripts.

The project aims to:

- create an integrated set of full-text digital resources supporting manuscript research from manuscript catalogues and dictionaries, many of which exist only in printed form with publication dates from the 19th century;
- augment existing digital collections of Arabic and Persian manuscripts by scanning, depositing and indexing selected Yale- and SOAS-held historical manuscripts;
- develop an infrastructure to integrate manuscripts with related reference resources by building a suite of tools that will analyse digitized materials and construct internal cross-references for connecting the materials in the archive.

Yale University Library possesses one of the world's largest and richest academic libraries and is a world leader in digitising Arabic manuscripts. SOAS Library, while much smaller, holds probably the biggest collection of its type specialising in the study of the whole of Asia, Africa and the Middle East with extensive collections of raw materials in both Western languages and the vernaculars of the areas of its interest.

#### National responsibilities

##### MELCOM (Middle East Libraries Committee) (19)

MELCOM was founded in 1967 at a time of expansion of Middle Eastern studies in Britain following the 1961 Hayter Report. Resources were being allocated to the development of existing libraries serving the field and to new centres being established and building up new collections. The Hayter Report itself had recommended the creation of inter-university committees to cover "library needs" in a co-ordinated manner, and MELCOM was the first such venture in the field of Orientalist librarianship.

The main function of MELCOM has always been to provide a forum for personal contact, discussion and exchange of information and ideas among Middle East library specialists and bibliographers in the UK. The Middle East has been defined for this purpose as meaning the Arab world, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel (but excluding Hebraica and Judaica), Iran, Afghanistan and the Muslim and Turkic peoples of the former Soviet Union, in all cases since the rise of Islam.

The MELCOM Area Specialization Scheme deliberately followed the example of its sister group for African studies, SCOLMA, and allocated the collection of "lesser-used" materials to particular libraries. Lesser-used materials were defined as specialised monographs on modern (post-1800) studies: pamphlets, party political publications, newspapers and vernacular periodicals. Although the scheme has gradually declined from its original aim, SOAS Library is one of eight nationwide which continue to maintain specialist acquisition programmes – SOAS collects

publications on and from North Africa, including Libya but not Egypt, in the humanities and social sciences.

### ***III.vii ANCIENT NEAR EAST, SEMITICS, JUDAICA***

#### History

The Ancient Near East, Semitics and Judaica section of the Library dates from the foundation of the School in 1917, the nucleus having been formed by transfers from University College and King's College London. The Semitic languages of Ethiopia were taught from the outset, and modern Hebrew entered the curriculum soon afterwards. A chair, specifically in Ancient Semitic languages, was established in 1948, and another in Semitic languages as a whole, in 1961. From this period, library acquisitions were governed by a more specific policy, and real efforts were made to develop the collections on a systematic basis.

The Hebrew language books comprise nearly half the section, the remainder being divided up between the other Semitic languages (excluding Arabic), and Western language books.

#### Ancient Near East

The Ancient Near East collections comprise books on the languages, literatures and cultures of Ancient Mesopotamia, Syria, Anatolia and Israel. Primary and secondary source material is acquired in these areas, being central to teaching and research at SOAS. In 1970, these collections were considerably enhanced by the bequest of the library of Professor C.J. Gadd, making them one of the best in the United Kingdom. SOAS also holds extensive journal runs in this area. In addition to the Akkadian, Sumerian, and ancient Anatolian languages, there are good collections in other languages of the Ancient Near East, such as Ugaritic, Aramaic and Syriac. The texts and translations of the Syriac section are an excellent support for the study of Eastern Christianity. There are smaller but good working collections on ancient Egypt, Egyptian, Coptic and the Byzantine Empire.

#### Semitics and Judaica

- Israel-Palestine studies (in Western languages)

This collection comprises material on the history, culture, politics and society of Israel/Palestine from ancient times to the present and supports the teaching and research needs of SOAS. Examples are the 39 volume series, *The rise of Israel*, which includes facsimiles of 1000s of source documents covering the history and politics of this area, and various law reports, such as the *Laws of the State of Israel*, and ordinances of the mandatory government of Palestine. Much valuable information is to be found in several yearbooks and various statistical abstracts. Also of special interest is: Fuller, T., 1650, *A Pisgah-sight of Palestine and the confines thereof: with the history of the Old and New Testament acted thereon*, London: Printed by J.F. for John Williams at the signe of the Crown in Pauls Church-Yard - the SOAS copy of which has marginal notes by the well known poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

- Hebrew languages

This collection comprises books on Jewish history and Judaism, and all aspects of Israel/Palestine studies. It has been considerably enhanced through a systematic collection development policy and a number of donations. Many specialist publications of Hebrew linguistics have been acquired over the years, as well as works on society, politics, demography and religion. Notable are the complete

facsimile edition of the Sassoon manuscript of Maimonides' commentary on the *Mishnah*, and facsimiles of some noted *Haggadot*, such as the Sarajevo *Haggadah*.

- Modern Hebrew literature

The modern Hebrew literature collection is central to the teaching and research interests of SOAS and recognised as one of the best in the United Kingdom and Europe. In January 1986, the Library was fortunate to be able to acquire many items from Dr Meir Gertner's collection in Hebrew and Jewish studies. Dr Gertner, who had been a lecturer at SOAS from 1957 to 1972, was a prolific writer, whose articles were published in many Jewish journals and periodicals of Middle Eastern interest. Over the years, there has been ongoing liaison with the Jewish Studies librarians at University College London, to discuss matters of mutual interest, and to avoid duplication in some areas.

- Yiddish language bequests

The Yiddish collection covers the areas of Judaism, Jewish culture, politics, sociology, history, language and literature. The bulk of this collection, acquired mainly in 1983, is made up of the bequests of the Stencl, Leftwich and Whitechapel Yiddish material, which makes it one of the major Yiddish collections in the United Kingdom, especially in the areas of Yiddish language and literature. The Yiddish language material constitutes a key support to the teaching and research of modern Hebrew language and literature, the study and understanding of which cannot be fully appreciated without an understanding of Yiddish. Many standard 19th and 20th century Hebrew writers also wrote in, and spoke Yiddish.

- Stencl Collection

Avrom Stencl was a noted Yiddish poet well known in Berlin literary circles in the 1920s and 1930s, who lived in London's East End from 1936 until the time of his death in 1983. The Stencl collection comprises about 2500 items of 19th and 20th century Yiddish and Hebrew literature, a number of periodical runs (notably Stencl's *Loshn un lebn* which he edited for over forty years) and invaluable archival material, which consists of Stencl's correspondence with many noted Jewish writers, cuttings from Yiddish newspapers, manuscripts of other Yiddish works, and a collection of Stencl's own manuscripts and proof-sheets of articles. Were it not for the timely intervention of some concerned individuals, it is likely that the entire collection would have been disposed of by the local council.

- Jewish studies in Western languages

This collection has been developed primarily as a support for teaching courses at SOAS. It has grown particularly over the last 30 years in response to expansion in teaching in the area of Judaism and Jewish music.

- Ethiopian Semitic languages

This collection comprises chiefly the classical language known as Ge'ez (or Ethiopic), used traditionally by the Ethiopian Church, and modern dialects based on it, particularly Amharic and Tigrinya. The collection covers mainly religion, language, literature and history and contains some relatively rare items, especially in Amharic. The collection supports the teaching and research needs of SOAS and beyond as the only other library in the United Kingdom with a comparable collection is the British Library. The Ge'ez material includes source texts and translations for the study of Ethiopian Christianity, part of the areas of the study of Eastern Christianity at SOAS.

Hebraica Library Group (20)

The subject librarian for Semitics and Judaica is a member of the Hebraica Library Group

## **IV. SUBJECT COLLECTIONS**

### ***IV.i ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY***

This is a subject-based collection relating to Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

While the School was formed as a language teaching and research institution, books on art and archaeology were well represented in the early history of the Library's collections, reflecting the fact that art, art history, architecture, and archaeology were some of the most popular subjects of the School's public lectures in the 1920s. By the 1950s, the School's collection on art and archaeology was already strong on Indian and Islamic art, including almost complete sets of the various series from the Archaeological Survey of India, starting from the mid 19th century.

Courtauld Collection

In 1950, the collector and scholar, Sir Percival David (1892-1964), presented his collection of the world's finest Chinese potteries and porcelains to the School, prompting the transfer of the Chair in Chinese Art and Archaeology (the first such in the UK) from the Courtauld Institute of Art to the Percival David Foundation and then, in 1957, the transfer of the Courtauld Library's Asian collection to SOAS. The Courtauld collection comprised 3,750 books, approximately 15,000 photographs, 7,000 lantern slides and other materials. The main emphasis of this collection was on the art and archaeology of China and East Asia, including a large section of Chinese and Japanese texts. In addition there were sections on India, Southeast Asia and Central Asia. The collection was combined with the books already held in the SOAS Library.

Eumorfopoulos Collection

The Courtauld collection, enriched with many gifts and bequests, includes items bequeathed by, the art collector and businessman, George Eumorfopoulos (1863-1939). A notable item from his bequest is one of the twenty extant sets of gigantic monochrome collotype prints mounted as twelve hanging scrolls of the 7th century wall paintings in the Main Hall of the Horyuji temple in Japan. The prints, which were produced in 1935, comprised four large scrolls, each about 3 metres high and 2.5 metres wide, and eight smaller scrolls, each 3 meters by 2 meters. The original Hōryūji wall paintings were irreparably damaged by fire in 1949, and thus these full-size facsimiles are the surviving record of their beauty and magnificent scale. In October 2007, one of the large scrolls was shown in an exhibition entitled *Objects of instruction: treasures of the School of Oriental and African Studies* in the Brunei Gallery. Eumorfopoulos' immense personal library also includes a number of books on East Asian art in Chinese and Japanese texts, a number of rare Oriental art books and periodicals published in Japan in the early 20th century

Gulbenkian Art Room

The transfer of the Courtauld collection led to the establishment of a separate section of the Library for Art and Archaeology, housed first in Woburn Square and then in the Warburg Institute before being moved in 1962 to the Percival David Foundation in Gordon Square; it finally moved to the new SOAS Library building in 1973. The new

Art reading room was named the Gulbenkian Art Room in acknowledgement of the Gulbenkian Foundation's generous donation towards the building.

### Significant gifts

Acquisition of items during the first half of the School's history was distinguished by gifts from notable people, the School's teachers and governors. Frederick Anderson, governor of the School from 1917-1939 and Lord Harlech, Chairman of the Governing Body from 1945-1951, presented 18th – 19th century Japanese colour prints, book illustrations, and sketch albums. The most outstanding part of the collection comprises portraits of kabuki actors by Shunshō, Shunkō and Shun'ei of the Katsukawa school in the late 18th century. These were also shown in the Brunei Gallery's 2007 exhibition.

### Objects of Instruction: Treasures of the School of Oriental and African Studies, Brunei Gallery exhibition (2007) (21)

- A magnificent 12.5m long painted scroll, depicting the procession of the Korean delegation to Japan in the mid-17th century. This detailed pictorial record in brilliant colour and gold on paper has been published several times in Japan and it has also been on display at the British Museum. The scroll was one of the items bought by Professor Frank Daniels from a large sum made available as a result of the Scarborough report in 1947. His book buying trip to Japan in 1950 also enabled the Library to purchase a rare complete set of Kōgei, a journal of Japanese folk crafts, 1931-1951
- Two examples from the Chinese woodblock prints collection of deities, New Year pictures, calendars, theatrical pictures and historical events, produced mainly from 1880-1920
- Portraits of kabuki actors by Shunshō, Shunkō and Shun'ei of the Katsukawa school in the late 18th century

### Library displays

Three more examples of the Chinese prints are on public display throughout the Library:

- A late 19th century print, depicting an episode from a popular Ming dynasty romance (outside Gulbenkian Art Room);
- A 17th century Suzhou print symbolising the perfect harmony of the three main Chinese doctrines - Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism (inside Gulbenkian Art Room);
- A 19th century print near the staircase depicting a travelling scholar accompanied by his servant in winter (Level C)
- A fine example of an ink rubbing of incised stone stele depicting Guanyin (Level C).

### Formats

Today, the materials relating to art and archaeology collection are in diverse formats.

Print material: Approximately 50,000 books and several hundred periodical titles. Books and periodicals in Asian vernacular languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Arabic. Turkish and Hebrew are well represented.

Non-print material: Photographs, slides, sketches, prints, rubbings, paper cuts and more recently, audio-visual material such as videos and DVDs.

Slides, a vital resource for the teaching of art history in the 20th century, have been replaced by digital images on databases or on the internet. In the latter case, a number of digital images from the selection of the School's Japanese prints, Chinese albums of paintings and the 18th century Ottoman costume books are available through the Bridgeman Art Library.

The photograph collection, which was acquired mainly through gifts, comprises albums of black and white and artistic hand-coloured photographs of India, the Middle East and East Asia from the 1880s to the 1940s, along with a vast number of individual photographs. Of special interest is a collection of the early photographic records of Buddhist painting and sculpture of Dunhuang in China in 1935.

### Grants

The Art and Archaeology collections have been fortunate in continuing to receive grants and funding from external sources, such as the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures to purchase Japanese art books, the Metropolitan Centre for Far Eastern Art Studies to purchase East Asian art books published in Japan, and royalties from a digital images project with the Bridgeman Art Library.

### External Library Groups

The subject librarian for Art and Archaeology is a member of ARLIS/UK & Ireland: the Art Libraries Society (22) and the Library Committee on the History of Art.

## ***IV.ii LAW***

The Library develops and maintains significant legal collections on the countries of Asia, Africa and the Middle East (excluding the Roman-Dutch jurisdictions), not otherwise available in the United Kingdom. The material is in European, Asian and African languages and includes current legislation, law reports, official gazettes and monographs.

The collection is particularly strong on customary law, Islamic law and the laws of South Asia (India, Pakistan and Bangladesh).

### South Asian Law

For Indian law, the library collects the main All India Reporter containing current case reports and legislation for India. The library also collects individual law reports for each state. The library collects the Bangladesh Legal Decisions and Dacca Law Reports containing current case reports and legislation for Bangladesh. The library collects the All-Pakistan Legal Decisions and the Pakistan Law Reports containing current case reports and legislation for Pakistan.

### Databases

SOAS Library subscribes to a variety of specialised databases. These include access to the primary material of the United Kingdom, European Union, United States and International law (Westlaw, LexisLibrary, HeinOnline, Oxford Reports on International Law and Justis). The library also subscribes to a number of databases containing foreign law – iSinolaw, Beida LawinfoChina and Chinese Studies Online for Chinese

law (in Chinese with English translations); Manupatra for Indian law and LawnB for South Korean law.

### Law Librarian

The post of subject librarian for Law was created in 2003 in order to provide much-needed, focused support for the Law School. Traditionally, the subject librarian for each region has selected law publications on and from the region, and in relevant regional languages.

The Law librarian is concentrating on collection development for the discipline which includes building the foreign, international and comparative law collections.

### External library groups

The Law librarian is a member of IALL(23) (International Association of Law Libraries) and an active member of BIALL(24) (British and Irish Association of Law Librarians). Each of these associations represents the interests of legal information professionals and provides a forum (nationally and internationally) for networking and information sharing.

SOAS is also a member of the FLARE Group(25), a collaboration between the major libraries collection law in the UK, alongside the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Bodleian Law Library, Squire Law Library and the British Library. It is working to improve the coverage and accessibility of foreign legal materials at the national level and to raise expertise in their use.

## **V. ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS** <sup>(26)</sup>

### ***V.i COLLECTIONS***

SOAS Library holds an important and expanding collection of archives and manuscripts relating to Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Two thirds of these comprise archives and papers documenting the activities of a number of major British missionary societies, and of individual missionaries, making SOAS the leading centre in the United Kingdom for mission studies. There are significant holdings of business archives; a substantial number of collections relating to East Asia; rich African language and literature holdings and an immense range of manuscripts and scholarly papers relating to East Asia, South and South East Asia and the Pacific.

Papers of scholars, writers, travellers, and other significant figures whose life or work is important to the study of Africa and Asia are actively acquired. Amongst figures represented in our collections are: A. J. Arkell; Jean Boyd's papers on Nana Asmau; Robert Wellesley Cole; Thomas Fox-Pitt; J.S. Furnivall; Andrew Hake; J. T. Hardyman; James Legge; Francis Light; D.L.R. Lorimer; Solomon Plaatje; Ifor B. Powell. Charles G. Richards; William Sewell; Abraham Nahum Stencl.

An extensive range of descriptive lists and catalogues is kept in the Special Collections Reading Room. The online SOAS Archive Catalogue currently includes over 35,000 records, including collection descriptions for all of the catalogued archive collections.

### Administrative and Diplomatic papers

Most of these relate to East Asia, an area of special strength, and include papers (dated 1860-1943) of leading members of the Chinese Maritime Customs, such as Sir Robert Hart and Sir Frederick Maze. A recent development has been the

acquisition of collections of former members of the China Consular Service, including Sir Chaloner Alabaster, Sir John Pratt, P.D. Coates and Sir Alwyne Ogden. The Library also holds the papers of Sir John Addis, Ambassador to China from 1972-1974.

### Business archives

In 1975 the Library acquired the archive of John Swire & Sons. The company, known in the East as Butterfield and Swire, first dealt in textiles but subsequently switched to shipping, sugar refining and dockyard work. Other business interests represented include records of the Guthrie Corporation, relating to the financial administration of its Malaysian plantations, and papers of Sir William Mackinnon, co-founder of the British India Steam Navigation Company in 1862 and Chairman of the Imperial British East Africa Company from 1883 to 1895. The Library also holds an extensive collection of the papers of Sir Charles Stewart Addis, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, 1883-1945.

### Missionary archives

Following the completion of the new Library building in 1973, the School began to take in deposits of modern archives and to build up its collections of private papers. About two thirds of the holdings document the presence and work of British Protestant missionaries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. There are approximately 950,000 documents, some 19,000 photographs and, in the missionary libraries, about 20,000 published works of memoirs, histories, annual reports, missionary magazines and translations. Organisations represented include the China Inland Mission, the Council for World Mission, the Methodist Missionary Society, the Conference of British Missionary Societies and Christian Aid.

### Language and Literature

There are rich collections on the languages and literature of Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Africa is particularly well-represented with papers of such scholars as R.C. Abraham, J.W.T. Allen, G.P. Bargery, W.A. Crabtree, M.M. Green, M. Guthrie, P. Hackett, G.W.B. Huntingford, Sir H.H. Johnston, F.W. Parsons, A.N. Tucker, A. Werner and W.H. Whiteley. Important literary collections include typescripts of works published in the Heinemann African Writers series while the Boyd Collection contains manuscript copies of the writings of the Nigerian woman poet, Nana Asma'u (1793-1865), who wrote in Fulfude, Hausa and Arabic.

Collections of scholars working in other areas include papers of Sir Thomas Arnold, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the University of London (1921-1930) and Sir Denison Ross, first Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies (1916-1937). In addition, the missionary archives contain many references to the compilation of dictionaries and grammars, and to the translation of the Bible, and other publications, into a large number of languages.

## ***V.ii Manuscripts***

The Library holds more than 2,500 individual manuscripts. Of these about 2,000 are in the languages of Asia and Africa. A number of the manuscripts originally formed part of the extensive collection of the Orientalist, William Marsden (1754-1836), author of *Dictionary of the Malayan language and Grammar of the Malayan language* (London, 1812).

Many of these manuscripts are in Malay, reflecting Marsden's major interest, but there are a number of manuscripts in Persian, Arabic, the Indian languages and Chinese – some of them rare and valuable. In 1835 Marsden presented most of his manuscripts to King's College London; these were later transferred to the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Later benefactors have included Mr R.C. Reid, who donated the D.D. Dickson collection of 109 Persian manuscripts in 1942 and Mrs E. Hichens whose donation of the William Hichens and W.E. Taylor collections has been a significant contribution to the Library's important holdings of Swahili manuscripts.

A benefactor of particular significance is Miss Ouseley who, in 1921, donated a sixteenth-century, illuminated, manuscript copy of Husain Va'iz Kashifi's *Anvar-i-Suhaili*. This outstanding manuscript was produced for the Mughal court in India in 1570, soon after Emperor Akbar's atelier commenced its activity. One of only three copies of its kind in the world, the manuscript is not only one of the finest productions of this period but also testimony to an experimental phase in which the artist in various ways breaks away from the conventional format found in Persian manuscripts for a more original formula.

About 109 languages are represented in the manuscript holdings. These include, principally, 400 Arabic manuscripts, 93 in Chinese, 32 in Japanese, 56 in Javanese, 135 in Malay, 360 in modern Indo-Aryan languages, 400 in Persian, 250 in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit (including some on palm leaves and birch bark), 75 in Swahili and 45 in Turkish. In addition there are several hundred individual manuscripts in western languages, chiefly in English, consisting of letters, diaries, unpublished memoirs and reports.

### ***V.iii Oral Archives***

#### Plain Tales from the Raj

A collection of cassette copies and transcripts of 82 interviews, conducted in Britain and India between 1972 and 1974, on which the BBC series *Plain Tales from the Raj* (first broadcast in 1974) was based. The men and women interviewed, most of them British, describe their experiences of life and work in India from the closing years of the nineteenth century until Independence in 1947. See *Plain tales from the Raj: a catalogue of the BBC recordings*, (London, 1981).

#### British in India Oral Archive Project

The British in India Oral Archive Project was a continuation of the *Plain Tales from the Raj* series. It comprises cassette copies and transcripts of a further 77 interviews with both British and Indian subjects covering the pre- and post- Independence period.

#### Partition of India

A set of 83 tapes and transcripts of interviews carried out in 1997 in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in preparation for a BBC World Service series on the Partition of India. Most of the tapes are in English but some interviews were recorded in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali or Punjabi.

#### Sounds Interesting

The Methodist Missionary Society oral archive project "Sounds Interesting" was begun in 1991 and comprises recordings (cassettes and summaries) of 140

interviews with former missionaries, both lay and ordained, from all areas of the Society's work.

#### Tape Recordings

A number of manuscript and archive collections contain tape recordings, notably those of J.W.T. Allen, E.G.A. Henderson and H.V. Hodson.

### ***V.iv Photographs***

There are approximately 26,000 photographs in the Library's Archives and Special Collections which have been donated or deposited with archives or private papers collections. Many of the photographs await detailed cataloguing but it is apparent that while the vast majority date from the first half of the twentieth century, there are a significant number of nineteenth century photographs.

Most of the photographers were amateurs though the work of Samuel Bourne in India, Sir John Kirk in East and Central Africa and John William Lindt in Papua New Guinea is represented in the holdings. Photographs are to be found with the papers of Sir Charles and Sir John Addis; the Bowra Papers and other Chinese Maritime Customs papers; the Durand and the Moraes Papers; the Barbara Whittingham Jones papers; the Lorimer Collection; and the Powell collection which is particularly good on photographs of tribal peoples in the Philippines.

#### Missionary Photographs

This collection comprises albums, photographic prints, glass-plate negatives and lantern slides. For the most part they form part of the official archive and were used by the various missionary societies in publications and as illustrations for exhibitions and lectures. A number of photographs are marked up for publication. Other photographs have been received with collections of papers of individual missionaries and are more informal and personal in nature.

The range of subjects covered by the collections is vast, showing groups of converts, pupils, medical and mission staff and mission buildings as well as depicting the lives, work and pursuits of indigenous peoples; means of transport; historical events and topographical scenes. The Council for World Mission archive has the largest number of photographs, approximately 11,000 and these relate to South and Central Africa, China, India, Madagascar and the Pacific. Significant collections are also to be found in the archives of the Methodist Missionary Society (West Africa; China, India); the China Inland Mission (China and South East Asia); and the Presbyterian Church of England (China and Taiwan).

A selection of over 2,000 images from the missionary archives held at SOAS have been digitised and are available on the *Internet Mission Photography Archive*.

## **VI REGIONAL PAPERS**

Note: Countries are included in each region according to the UNESCO definition

### ***VI.i Africa***

#### General

[Relating to more than one region of Africa]

- Abraham, Roy Clive
- African Writers Series

## SOAS Library: why it is special

- Allen, John Willoughby Tarleton
- Barnes, Leonard John
- Christian Aid
- Conference of British Missionary Societies
- Council for World Mission
- Guthrie, Malcolm
- Hackett, Peter
- Johnston, Sir Harry Hamilton
- Mackinnon, Sir William
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Movement for Colonial Freedom
- Portuguese Colonies Collection
- Portuguese Colonies Collection
- Werner, Alice
- Whiteley, Wilfred Howell

### Central Africa

[Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, Zaire]

- Earthy, Emily Dora
- Fox-Pitt, Commander Thomas
- Millman, William
- Moore, Reginald John Beagarie
- Sabin, Margaret Katherine
- Shaw, Mabel
- Thomson, John Boden
- Zimbabwe/Rhodesia Constitutional Conference

### East Africa

[Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Reunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda]

- Blatch, Gledhill Stanley
- Blatch, Gledhill Stanley
- Hake, Andrew
- Hardyman, James Trenchard
- Huntingford, George Wynn Brereton
- Perlman, Melvin Lee
- Richards, Charles Granston

## SOAS Library: why it is special

- Tucker, Archibald Norman
- Uganda (Bunyoro) Materials (Southall, Roger)

### North Africa

[Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, the Sahara and Tunisia]

- Arkell, Rev Anthony John
  - Holt Collection of the Mahdi
  - Kom Ed Dik Collection
  - Michell, Roland Lyon Nosworthy

### Southern Africa

[Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Saint Helena, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe]

- Benson, Mary
- Christian Concern for Southern Africa
- Hake, George Gordon
- Pearce, Reginald Frederic George
- Plaatje, Solomon Tshekishoi
- Shembe, Prophet Isaiah

### West Africa

[Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Western Sahara]

- Bargery, George Percival
- Bovill, Edward William
- Boyd, Jean
- Club de Dakar
- Cole, Dr Robert Benjamin Ageh Wellesley
- Committee for Peace in Nigeria
- Green, Margaret Mackeson
- Kaduna Housing Survey
- Mackenzie, Melville Douglas
- Nigerian Civil War Collection
- Parsons, Frederick William

## ***VI.ii Asia***

### General

[Covering more than one region of Asia]

- Addis, Sir John Mansfield

## SOAS Library: why it is special

- China Inland Mission
- Christian Aid
- Conference of British Missionary Societies
- Council for World Mission
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Movement for Colonial Freedom
- Presbyterian Church of England, Foreign Missions Committee
- United Society for Christian Literature

### East Asia

[China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Korea DPR, Korea R, Macau, Mongolia and Taiwan]

- Addis, Sir Charles Stewart
- Alabaster, Sir Chaloner
- Aylward, Gladys
- Beckingsale, Laura
- Bowra Papers
- Carpenter, John Baker
- China Association
- Coates, Patrick Devereux
- Evans, William
- Geller Diaries
- Hart, Sir Robert
- Legge, James and Hannah
- Mann, Ebenezer and Mabel
- Maze, Sir Frederick
- McLean, David
- Ogden, Sir Alwyne George
- Pratt, Sir John Thomas
- Royal Institute of International Affairs, Far East Department
- Scott Family Papers
- Sewell, William Gawan
- Swire, John (John Swire & Sons Ltd)
- Wedlock, Dora and Teddy

### South Asia

[Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sikkim and Sri Lanka]

## SOAS Library: why it is special

- Arnold, Sir Thomas Walker
- Baké, Dr Arnold A.
- Banks Photographic Collection
- British in India Oral Archive
- Cousins, (Ethel) Constance
- Dundas, Henry and Robert
- Durand Papers
- Higgins, John Comyn
- Hodson, Henry Vincent
- Lorimer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Lockhart Robertson
- Mackinnon, Sir William
- Mills, James Phillip
- Moraes, Francis Robert
- Mutiny Scrapbooks
- Pandey, Bishwa Nath
- Reay, 11th Baron (Donald James Mackay)
- Ross, Sir Edward Denison and Dora Ross

### South East Asia

[Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam]

- Agence France Presse
- Baker, Alan Custance
- Blythe, Wilfred
- British North Borneo Papers
- Cromwell, Tom Pearson
- Furnivall, John Sydenham
- Guthrie Corporation
- Hall, Daniel George Edward
- Henderson, Eugenie Jane Andrina
- Jones, Barbara Whittingham
- Light, Captain Francis
- Malayan Union Papers
- Melanesian Mission
- Philippine Republican Government
- Powell, Ifor B. (Collection on the Philippines)
- Ray, Sidney Herbert

- Serdang Central Plantations

### Middle East

[Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian AR, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen]

The following collections all contain material relating to the Middle East:

- Anderson, Sir James Norman Dalrymple
- Arkell, Rev Anthony John
- Christian Aid
- Holt Collection of the Mahdi
- Kom Ed Dik Collection
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Michell, Roland Lyons Nosworthy
- Movement for Colonial Freedom
- Paget, William, 6th Baron Paget
- Stencl, Abraham Nahum

### ***VI.iii Oceania***

[American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuata, Wallis and Fatuna and Western Samoa]

The following collections contain material relating to Oceania:

- Christian Aid
- Conference of British Missionary Societies
- Council for World Mission
- Francis, David Lloyd
- Melanesian Mission
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Movement for Colonial Freedom
- Ray, Sidney Herbert

### ***VI.iv Europe***

The following collections contain material relating to Eastern and Western Europe:

- Council for World Mission
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Movement for Colonial Freedom

## ***VI.v Americas & the Caribbean***

### Caribbean

[Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Monserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands]

- Christian Aid
- Conference of British Missionary Societies
- Council for World Mission
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Movement for Colonial Freedom

### Central America

[Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama]

- Christian Aid
- Movement for Colonial Freedom

### North America

[Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, Saint Pierre and Miquelon and the USA]

- Christian Aid
- Council for World Mission
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Movement for Colonial Freedom

### South America

[Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela].

- Christian Aid
- Council for World Mission
- Methodist Missionary Society
- Movement for Colonial Freedom

## **VII. Online Developments**

### ***VII.i Centre for Digital Asia, Africa and the Middle East (CeDAAME)***

SOAS has recently received a grant from JISC to set up the Centre for Digital Asia, Africa and the Middle East (CeDAAME), with the primary aim of developing a SOAS strategy for the digitisation of its resources.

### ***VII.ii Fürer-Haimendorf Photographs Online***

CeDAAME's first digitisation project features the photographic archive of Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf (1909-1995). This collection, which includes photographs, cine-film and written materials, is widely recognised as the world's most comprehensive visual documentation of tribal cultures in South Asia and the Himalayas in the mid 20th century. It reflects his fifty years of scholarship and is widely recognised as the world's most comprehensive study of tribal cultures in South Asia and the Himalayas. It is especially valuable because it documents these cultures before many changed rapidly with the advent of external civil administration after the mid-twentieth century.

### ***VII.ii Livingstone Online***

Images of David Livingstone's letters held at SOAS Library are now available to view through the Livingstone Online project.

Livingstone Online is a research project based at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL. Its aims are to collect together and edit Livingstone's medical and scientific correspondence online, mounting digital images and transcripts of original manuscripts held in different repositories across the country.

At SOAS, Livingstone's correspondence and papers are found with the archives of the London Missionary Society (LMS) and relate largely to his period of service as a missionary of the Society between 1840 and 1857 in their African mission field. These comprise over 100 original letters from Livingstone to LMS officials, family and friends, largely dating from the 1840s and 1850s, in addition to a series of letters known as the 'Bruce Livingstone Collection', comprising letters from Livingstone to his father-in-law and fellow missionary, Robert Moffat, between 1844 and 1857. There are also 15 letters written by Livingstone's wife, Mary (née Moffat), 1852-1855, directed to the Society.

### ***VII.iv Guide to the Archive of the English Presbyterian Mission***

The guide gives a historical overview of the development of the English Presbyterian Mission in its overseas mission fields, outlines the records available in the archive at SOAS Library and showcases a number of fascinating images taken from the photographic collection. On February 9th 1945, the Presbyterian Church offices in London were struck by a V2 rocket, destroying many of the 19th and early 20th century records. Surviving records include minutes, correspondence, reports on mission work, financial papers, individual and subject files, printed materials and photographs, dating from the late 1840s to the mid 1970s.

Production of the guide has been made possible by funding from the United Reformed Church and the Council for World Mission and marks the completion of a project to re-catalogue the archive online, now available through the SOAS Archive Catalogue.

## **CONCLUSION**

Recently designated one of five National Research Libraries by HEFCE (and, for the moment at least, in receipt of funding as such), SOAS Library has long been acknowledged as the exemplar of a specialist academic library supporting area studies for Asian, African and Middle Eastern studies. It has always "punched above its weight" – a library far more extensive than that expected of a specialist college within a large university.

The run-up to the School's centenary in 2016 seems an appropriate time to recap and review the nature, scope and development of the scholarly collections as a whole – as distinct from all the other services, processes, activities and organization that make up the Library. This paper, by addressing each specialist collection individually and in turn, shows that the Library is in fact even greater than the sum of its parts.

Barbara Spina  
Head, Teaching and Research Support  
SOAS Library  
26th April 2010

## ENDNOTES

- 1) My thanks to the following colleagues for their contributions: Peter Colvin, Jotika Khur-Yearn, Fujiko Kobayashi, Nicholas Martland, Peter Salinger, Sue Small, Sarah Spells, Farzana Whitfield, Yoshiko Yasumura.
- 2) Scarbrough Report (The Earl Scarbrough), 1947, *Report of the Interdepartmental Commission of Enquiry on Oriental, Slavonic, East European and African Studies*, London: Foreign Office
- 3) Hayter Report (Sir William Hayter), 1961, *Report of the Sub-Committee on Oriental, Slavonic, East European and African Studies*, London: University Grants Committee
- 4) Parker Report, (Sir Peter Parker), 1986, *Speaking for the future: a review of the requirements for diplomacy and commerce for Asian and African languages and area studies*, London: University Grants Committee
- 5) Hodder-Williams Report (Prof. Richard Hodder-Williams), 1993, *Area Studies in the United Kingdom: a report to the Area Studies Monitoring Group*, Bristol: [University of Bristol]
- 6) My thanks to Nicholas Martland from whose paper information in this section is drawn: Martland, N., 2008, *Asian area studies librarianship in a globalised, inter-connected world: death or transformation?* Paper presented at a NACIRA [National Council on Orientalist Resources] Conference, 9 December 2008. pp.3-4
- 7) Webster, K. and Seton, R., "The SOAS Library and archives", pp.129-45 in Arnold D. and Shackleton C. (eds.), 2003. *SOAS since the 60s*, London: School of Oriental and African Studies, p.120 and p.134
- 8) *ibid.*, pp.135-6
- 9) *ibid.*, pp.137
- 10) *ibid.*, pp.137
- 11) *2016: a vision and strategy for the centennial*, London: SOAS.  
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/directorate/soas2016/file23384.pdf> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 12) See: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/library/scolma/> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 13) See: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/library/scolma/events.htm#specialization> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 14) See: <http://www.easl.org/index.html> [viewed 21 April 2010]

## SOAS Library: why it is special

- 15) See: <http://www.jlgweb.org.uk/home.html> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 16) See: <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/bldept/apac/saalg/> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 17) See: <http://www.sealg.org/> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 18) Information taken from: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/ysimg/> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 19) See: <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/MELCOM/> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 20) See: <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/hebraica/hebraicam2.htm> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 21) See: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/news/newsitem36448.html> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 22) See: <http://www.arlis.org.uk/> [viewed 21 April 2010]
- 23) See: <http://www.iall.org/> [viewed 27 April 2010]
- 24) See: <http://www.biall.org.uk/> [viewed 27 April 2010]
- 25) See: <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/flare/flare> [viewed 27 April 2010]
- 26) Information mostly taken from:  
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/archives/collections/>