持久的禮物

1929年2月2日，馮平山先生致信香港大學校長韓禮德爵士，透露有友人願意捐贈十萬元以建造中文圖書館，探詢香港大學的意見，作出建館承諾。馮平山先生表明建館的目的之一是為香港大學成為中國捫藏與保存中國古籍的中心；二是藉此圖書館，鼓勵港人研究我國文化。

馮平山先生為成立圖書館，不遺餘力。獲得大學的承諾後，即成立基金作為圖書館的維持經費。他更聯同建築師在三個月內訂購各種所需建築及設備，為建設新館提出戰略。他於1929年4月20日完成圖書館的落成。大學為紀念他的捐贈，將圖書館命名為「馮平山圖書館」。他於1932年12月14日病逝，港督派驛馬將馮平山圖書館主持開幕典禮，而香港中文圖書館的發展，由此踏上新的里程。

戰前歲月（1933-1941）

1933年1月，校方將大學圖書館自1912年起收藏的三萬一千冊中文圖書，移進馮平山圖書館。戰後數年，通過接收贈書和利用大學積儲和資金所得利息購書；館藏略有增加。至1941年12月，藏書約四萬九千冊。其中書籍包括一些珍貴書籍，多種中文典籍及1934年以前出版的香港中文報紙。

當時，圖書館開放予公眾人士使用。1934年至1938年間，每年的有九千九百次到館數。香港在戰前缺少適合的文博活動地點，因此，圖書館亦經常舉辦各類活動，深受喜愛的是1940年2月的「廣東文物展覽會」。展覽會展出超過二千件文物，八天的展期，參觀人數達近二十萬，是戰前在香港舉行最受歡迎的展覽之一。

七七事變，日本全面侵略中國，香港是當時唯一安全的避風港。1938年6月，廣州廣州藏書家將藏書移至馮平山圖書館，以避戰火。1941年初，南京國立中央圖書館借用馮平山圖書館接收由北平捐贈，預備寄存在美國華盛頓圖書館的珍貴書籍約三萬冊，以保存文獻。隨後，香港在戰前和戰後還在香港大學復建，馮平山圖書館也開放予該校五百多位學生使用。

太平山難戰爭在1941年12月爆發後，馮平山圖書館被用作軍事設施。在《軍事》中，張愛玲記述了在廣州哈山時的二個回憶：「在廣州哈山的那時，我只能在馮平山圖書館發現了一本《羅賓漢》。馬上將其取走，後來幾次都得不起來。房頂上有一個高射炮，成群的彈雨點，一顆顆的彈雨落了下來，我躲在裡面，只希望至少等我看完了吧。」
英軍在1941年12月25日下午4時投降，香港隨即陷入無政府狀態。當天晚上，報紙和書店無人看守的圖書館和教育機構的書被掠奪和焚燬。幸好，馬會圖書館有三名雇員留守，歧視到書被掠奪時，館員便將書籍聽任書架，結果夕討
又去衣物積聚，館內藏書得以保存，未受破壞。

日軍在1941年12月30日接管鴻平山圖書館，將
在市面收購的書籍，包括大學書樓和高等法院
圖書館等藏書，集中存放富。至1943年，進
同一藏書館及大學圖書藏書約七萬九千册，
超過三十七萬冊書籍儲存館內，在戰事期間，
館員一眾倉促整理和保存這批書籍的工作。

1944年9月，日本政府將鴻平山圖書館改為「
聰明部立圖書館」，日本在1945年8月14日投
降，日軍隨即退返賀營，香港陷入無政府狀態，
圖書館再次面臨被掠奪的危機，可幸有班員
留守，他們與武裝部隊抗爭，結果貴重物品雖
然被殺，書籍則分毫無損。幾位忠誠館員的館
員，留守長達五天才得到其他同事的支援。

大學在日治期間受到嚴重破壞，然而，其他
部門如圖書館在戰後和淪陷期間受到的損
害，相對較小。配合大學復校，鴻平山圖書館
在1946年開業。數載後，館名改為校方文化
及圖書館，並在1970年更名為「圖書館」。圖
書館在1951年3月6日，大學
教授會與鴻平山圖書館聯署大學圖書館
長的管理，成為大學圖書館系統的成員。

在這期間，圖書館編目採用以鄭永祥《中圖書
分類法》為主，杜威簡稱法為輔，及康斯坦書
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整合（1953-1986）

1953年，鴻平山圖書館遷出地方給中國藝術及
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圖書館

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珍珠書舘—九龍城（1955）

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珍珠書舘—九龍城（1955）
邁向數字化圖書館（1986-）

在過去26年，馬鞍山圖書館致力將業務自動化及建立電子書籍。1986年11月，開始使用電腦處理購書工作，為圖書館電腦化揭開序幕。隨後數年又逐步改進系統，直至1991年香港大學圖書館引入INNOPAC系統。馬鞍山圖書館亦在1996年將圖書目錄資料轉移到新系統。從此，書目目錄和東方語文資料目錄合而為一，不但讓讀者可以同時檢視中英文書目，更重要是，透過馬鞍山圖書館在公共服務和採購工作上，與大學網圖書館徹底整合，2002年2月開始，馬鞍山圖書館向世界最大的書目庫OCLC提供目錄資料，讓圖書館書目資料與海外圖書館分享。同時，圖書館又以《美國圖書館協會分類法》取代沿用多年的混合分類法，在編目工作上與國際接軌。

中國改革開放後，出版業蓬勃發展，為圖書館建立一個支援大學教學及研究工作的電子書，提供了新的契機。近年館藏有可觀的增長，至2012年6月，藏書逾一百萬冊，期刊超過一万三千種，電子書的增長更快，館藏電子書已超過二十萬冊。

馬鞍山圖書館現位於圖書館舊址大廈四至六樓，空間短缺是一個老問題，約六十一間書庫存放閑置書籍，以騰出空間容納新書。即便如此，圖書館仍深受讀者歡迎，自2011年到2012年度，除了館藏電子書借閱廣泛而外，讀者借閱書籍也超過十二萬冊。

展望將來

作為香港第一間擁有按需要建造的館舍的圖書館，馬鞍山圖書館現在正積極發展成為一間沒有傳統的圖書館，未來的擴展主要將三方面，一是增購更多文獻資料；二是利用現代信息科技將獨特的館藏數碼化，便利讀者使用，圖書館將於二零零六年來建立的堅固基礎，在這個數碼時代，繼續作爲知識寶庫，為讀者提供優質服務。

歷任館長

1932-1934 林振
1934-1935 陳德漢
1935-1960 佐正環
1960-1961 周寶賢
1961-1965 顏國權
1965-1970 胡國初
1970-1973 蘭維之
1973-1978 黎健保
1978-1989 李志方
1989-1997 蒙美霖
1997-2001 戴慶文
2001- (Mr Lam Tung)
2001- (Mr Chan Kwok Po)
2001- (Ms Ng Tong King)
2001- (Mr Tong Bok Yim)
2001- (Dr Ken Lai Bing)
2001- (Ms Joyce Wu)
2001- (Mrs Sidney Fung)
2001- (Mr Li Shu Tim)
2001- (Mr Lee Chik Fong)
2001- (Dr Ma Tai Loi)
2001- (Dr Wan Yiu Chuen)
AN ENDURING GIFT

On 2 February 1929, Mr Fung Ping Shan (鴻山) wrote ostensibly on behalf of a friend to Sir William Hornell, then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, offering a generous donation of $100,000 for building a Chinese library. He had two objectives in mind when making this offer: firstly to make the University of Hong Kong the chief centre in South China for the collection, storage and preservation of ancient Chinese literature and classics, and to make the staff and students of the University champions and custodians of China’s history and culture; and secondly to ensure that the library should be open to the public of Hong Kong to inculcate and encourage among the Chinese community a love for the study of the language and tradition and culture of their motherland.

He was so committed to the library that he established an endowment for the library’s maintenance. He also made a three-week trip with his architect to study the design of sixteen modern libraries in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces in order to advise on the architectural design of the library building. Unfortunately, he passed away on 2 August 1933, and so he was unable to witness the completion of the library. Named in his memory, the Fung Ping Shan Library (鴻山圖書館) was opened by William Peel, then Governor of Hong Kong, on 14 December 1933.

PRE-WAR YEARS (1933–1941)

In January 1933, an initial stock of some 31,000 volumes, which had been built up as the Chinese collection of the University of Hong Kong Libraries since 1912, was transferred to the Fung Ping Shan Library. The library collection grew in subsequent years through book donations and new purchases from the interest generated from endowment funds and allocations from the University. By December 1941, there were nearly 49,000 volumes in the collection, including some rare titles. It also kept complete runs of Hong Kong Chinese newspapers published after 1934, and a variety of Chinese periodicals.

The Library was open to the public - on average some 9,000 users read in the Library annually from 1934 to 1938. It was also used as a venue for holding exhibitions owing to the lack of exhibition space elsewhere in Hong Kong. The Cultural Heritage of Guangdong exhibition was probably the most notable. Held in February 1940, with more than 2,000 artefacts on display, it attracted more than 200,000 visitors over eight days and was, undoubtedly, one of the most popular exhibitions ever held in pre-war Hong Kong.

Hong Kong became a safe haven when Japan invaded China in July 1937. In early 1938, three private collections from Guangzhou were deposited in the Library for safekeeping. In early 1941, approximately 30,000 rare books, purchased in Beijing for the National Central Library at Nanjing, were also held in the Library waiting to be shipped out. As a result, some 100,000 Chinese books, in addition to its own collection of 49,000 volumes, were deposited in the Library before the Second World War broke out. In addition, the Library was also open to the 500 students of Lingnan University who were continuing their studies on the University of Hong Kong campus.

The Library was turned into a military facility when the Pacific War broke out in December 1941. It became a bombardment target after anti-aircraft guns were installed on the rooftop of the building. Zhang Ailing (張愛玲), a HKU undergraduate in those days, served as an air defence attendant in the Library. Later she wrote in Zhang Kan (張勘)’s book "I found a set of Xing shi yin yuan (星夕因緣) in the Library and included myself in it. The vicinity was heavily bombed and bombs were getting closer and closer. I only hoped that I could finish reading the book".
JAPANESE OCCUPATION AND POSTWAR RECOVERY (1941–1953)

Hong Kong fell into anarchy immediately after the British surrendered at 4 pm on 25 December 1941, and several unattended libraries and educational institutions along Bonham Road were looted and burned to the ground that night. Few staff members remained on duty in the Fung Ping Shan Library to look after the books. Looters broke into the Library over night and took away clothing and food but left the books untouched, having been convinced by the staff that they were of no value.

The Japanese took control of the Fung Ping Shan Library on 30 December 1941, and soon afterwards they made use of the Library to store the books they had confiscated, including those from the Hoko Hoi Library (學會圖書館) and the Supreme Council Library. In 1943, more than 370,000 books, including 79,000 volumes belonging to the Fung Ping Shan Library and the University of Hong Kong Libraries, were housed in the Library. Staff members were engaged in the preservation, cataloguing, and accessioning of these books until the end of the war.

The Fung Ping Shan Library became the Library of the Government of the Occupied Territory in September 1944. When the Japanese surrendered on 14 August 1945, the Library was once again under threat of looting, which continued unabated when the Japanese soldiers retreated to their barracks. In this chaotic period, a few library staff managed to take charge of the Library before a group of armed looters could break in. Following negotiations, the intruders finally agreed to take away the valuables but to leave the books untouched. This faithful staff was not relieved until five days before other colleagues could offer assistance.

The war years were disastrous to the University. However, the Library was more fortunate than many other departments in that it suffered comparatively little damage during the actual hostilities and occupation. It was re-opened in 1946, in conjunction with the University’s first post-war academic session. Considerable efforts were made immediately after the war to identify books now scattered as well as books from those collected from outside, and to return them to their rightful owners. Yet, the Library suffered from a manpower shortage and insufficient funds budgeted for the war. The collection was in poor physical condition and a backlog of thousands of books simply piled up waiting for processing. Both the University Librarian and the President of the School of Chinese urged the University to take action to make improvements, and on 6 March 1951, the Senate decided to place the Library under the management of the University Librarian. Since then, the Fung Ping Shan Library has been a member of the University of Hong Kong Libraries system.

CONSOLIDATION (1953–1986)

The Library took on an additional role in 1953, when space was allocated to the Museum of Chinese Art and Archaeology. Besides assuming the role of a library and a museum, it continued to serve as a venue for holding cultural activities, including public lectures and exhibitions of Chinese paintings in the 1950s. These activities were well received by the general public and helped enrich the cultural life of Hong Kong.

Since the mid-1950s, there had been numerous discussions on moving the Library into the new Main Library building, which was planned to alleviate space problems in the western collections. A final decision to move the Library was set forth in October 1958, and with the approval of the Fung Family, the move to the third floor of the new Main Library took place between 29 January and 8 February 1962. This completed the integration of the Fung Ping Shan Library into the university library system. The historical building that the Library occupied for three decades was then renovated into a new building for the Fung Ping Shan Museum, which officially opened on 31 January 1964, by the son of Fung Ping Shan, Sir Kenneth Fung Ping Fan (方秉費).

Great progress was made in building up the collection, with its holdings increased by 170% in just three decades—from 100,000 volumes in 1956 to 270,000 volumes in 1986. Apart from books for supporting teaching and learning, the Library also expanded great efforts in collecting valuable items including local gazetteers, genealogies from clans in Guangdong and Hong Kong, contemporary, and 283 periodicals on literature, history, fine arts and archaeology published between the 1900s and the sino-Japanese war, as well as publications of government departments and academic institutions in Guangdong province in the Republican period.

Equally noteworthy was the development of its collection of rare materials. Two of the private collections deposited in the Library during wartime, Nanhai Huang shi Qu xue zhai (南海黃氏圖書館) and Lusui Shi Zhi su shi (羅氏實志史) were added to the library’s collection. Rare manuscripts belonging to Wuxing Liu zhi jia yu tang (吳興劉氏家楳堂) were added to the book collection. Thirty rare books, particularly the Po Li (《博禮》) and Professor Liang Hong (梁鴻) (《梁鴻》), were included in the collection. The rare book collection of the Fung Ping Shan Library is now one of the largest in Hong Kong, with over 700 titles in 14,000 volumes, including 4 Song Dynasty editions, 18 Yuan Dynasty editions, block prints from the Ming Dynasty, as well as numerous manuscripts from the Ming and Qing Dynasty.

This period also witnessed the adoption of a hybrid classification scheme to replace the system which the Library used since its inception. The Chinese subject headings based on the Library of Congress’ List of Subject Headings. In 1978, a gift exchange network with the most important private book collections in mainland China. To enable users to browse the more popular books, the Library housed its collection, and made the Library more user-friendly. Shortage of space became an acute problem in the mid-1980s with the growth of the library collection and the rare population.
TOWARDS A DIGITAL LIBRARY (1986-)

Central to the development of the Fung Ping Shan Library over the past twenty-six years has been the automation of library operations and the development of its electronic contents. The Library began computerisation in November 1988, with the use of an in-house microcomputer system for processing book acquisitions. Enhancements were made to the in-house PC-based system over subsequent years, extending its capabilities to perform cataloguing and serials control. The Chinese online public access catalogue was introduced in December 1991, demonstrated to Sir David Wilson, then Hong Kong Governor, at the official opening of the Main Library New Wing.

Despite the technical limitations of this in-house system, it enabled a successful transition to an online bibliographic access before the availability of an integrated automated library system capable of handling western and East Asian languages. In 1996, the library migrated to the INNOPAC system and for the first time Chinese-Japanese-Korean catalogue records of the Fung Ping Shan Library could be searched along with the western language collection. This also served as an important catalyst in fostering the integration of the Library’s technical and public services with those of the University of Hong Kong Libraries system. In February 2002, the Library began to contribute catalogue records to OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.), one of the world’s leading bibliographic utilities. This major international collaborative effort has enabled the Library to share catalogue records with its counterparts in other parts of the world. At almost the same time, a decision was made to adopt the Library of Congress Classification system for East Asian language materials, replacing the hybrid system that had been in use since the 1960s.

During this period, the Chinese publishing industry flourished in unprecedented ways following the opening of China. This has provided an excellent opportunity for the Library to further develop its collections in order to meet the expanding teaching, learning and research needs of the university. The Library’s print collection has grown significantly, and as of June 2012 it holds more than one million volumes and 17,000 periodical titles. Equally impressive has been the increase in electronic resources, as evidenced by its E-book collection of over 2.3 million titles.

A shortage of space remains a significant problem for the Library. The Library now occupies the entire sixth floor of the Main Library Old Wing and part of the fourth and fifth floors. Some one-sixth of the Library’s print collection has been sent to an off-campus storage facility in order to alleviate space problems and to accommodate the addition of new titles. The Library remains a popular resource among teachers, students and researchers. More than 170,000 library books have been read in the year 2011/2012, in addition to the very heavy use of its myriad electronic resources.

IN THE FUTURE

As the first library in Hong Kong provided with purpose-built premises, the Fung Ping Shan Library is now striving to become a library without walls. The challenges ahead are mainly two-fold: firstly, making more content available by acquiring them in the market and digitising unique titles in its collection; and secondly, utilising modern information and communication technologies to allow the contents to be easily accessible in a user-friendly manner. With a solid foundation built over the past eighty years, the Library will continue to fulfill its role as a repository of knowledge and deliver quality services to users in this digital age.

LIST OF LIBRARIANS

1932–1934
Mr Laim Tung (林錦)
1934–1935
Mr Chan Kwan Po (陳光波)
1935–1950
Ms Ng Tung King (伍夢清)
1950–1961
Mr Tong Bok Yin (彤伯欽)
1961–1965
Dr Kan Lai King (甘來庚)
1966–1979
Mrs Joyce Wu (吳鴻傑)
1970–1977
Mrs Sidney Fung (馮愛西)
1978–1989
Mr Lai Shu Tim (黎樹添)
1989–1997
Mr Lee Chik Fong (李哲方)
1997–2001
Dr Ma Tai Loi (馬泰來)
2001–
Dr Wan Yiu Chuen (溫偉全)