Renovation and reorganization

The Technical Services unit has seen great changes over the summer in physical terms and organizationally. The renovation project of the Technical Services Office, which began in mid June, has been completed, with the Acquisitions and Cataloguing Departments now moved back to the TS Office on the new wing of the 2/F of the Main Library. At the same time, the technical services of East Asian languages (Chinese-Japanese-Korean) materials, formerly part of the Fung Ping Shan Library, have also merged with the Main Library Technical Services. Enquiries regarding the acquisition and binding status of library materials can be directed to the Acquisitions Department, and the cataloguing of library materials to the Cataloguing Department.

Classification consultant

Dr Basil Yang completed his two-month visit as a consultant on Library of Congress Classification to the HKUL from 10 June to 8 August 2002. He made a number of contributions to our CJK (Chinese-Japanese-Korean) cataloguing. During his stay, he demonstrated the use of the Classification Plus software, updated many old Korean catalogue records and conducted a workshop for cataloguing staff on the McCune-Reichauer Korean romanization System.

First Chinese-English dictionary

Iris Chan
Special Collections Librarian specol@lib.hku.hk


This was the first Chinese-English dictionary known to have been published. The author, Rev. Robert Morrison (馬禮遜) (1732-1834), was the first Protestant missionary to China. Since his arrival in Guangzhou in 1807, he had immersed himself in the Chinese language and culture until he died in 1834. He was a prolific writer in both Chinese and English, and his Dictionary of the Chinese Language, which appeared in three parts, was considered one of his greatest works.
Missionary and translator of the East India Company aside, Rev. Morrison was also a well-known scholar. His other magnum opus *A grammar of the Chinese language* (Serampore: printed at the Mission Press, 1815), also in Special Collections (Call no. U 495.15 M882 g), is hailed as the one of the first grammars printed in English.

Morrison noted in the Introduction:

“Letters and the press constitute a mighty engine; in itself innocent, but according to its application, productive of good or evil almost infinite.”

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**Zi Jing Bian**

**The oldest rare book in the collection of the University of Hong Kong Libraries**

M.C. Cheung, Dr. W.C. Wan, and Y.W. Lam
Fung Ping Shan Library

Printed in the year 1234, *Zi Jing Bian* is the oldest book in the University of Hong Kong Libraries collection. Compiled by Zhao Shanliao, a member of the Zhao family ruling the Northern Song Dynasty, it is a collection of sayings or deeds from scholars and statesmen from the Northern Song Dynasty, from 960 A.D. until its downfall in 1127 A.D. These sayings or deeds served not only as rules of conduct and behaviour for those who lived more than 800 years ago, but may also be relevant for people today.