

## Appendix C

### Dr. George Ernest Morrison and his library

Summary of ENOKI Kazuo's "Dr. G. E. Morrison and the Toyo Bunko. In Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Transfer of Dr. G. E. Morrison Library to Baron Hisaya Iwasaki" (*Memoirs of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko*, no. 25, 1967, pp. 1-57) by TANAKA Issei

George Ernest Morrison (1862-1920) was an Australian who studied Medicine at Melbourne University and Edinburgh University. He became a resident correspondent in China of *The Times* in 1895, after having stayed in Thailand and Cambodia. Moving to Peking in 1897, he sent accurate correspondences about China and the Far East. (Supplementary information by TANAKA)

Dr. Morrison established a diverse and thorough collection of books, which contained in 1917 about 24,000 works in European languages, including some six thousand pamphlets, about one thousand maps and engravings, more than one hundred sets of periodicals and serials, and some manuscripts.

The library was originally stored in a building that formerly belonged to Ma Chien-chung 馬建忠 at the center of the legation quarter in Peking and was moved to the Palace of Prince Ssu 肅親王府 on June 24, 1900, a few hours before the legation was destroyed by fire at the height of the Boxer Uprising. Afterwards, Morrison housed the books in a long, low fire-proof building annexed to his own Chinese style residence on Wang-fu-ching Ta-chieh 王府井大街, known as Morrison Street, in Peking. He devoted more than twenty years to getting the books together and spent a large part of his income on them. It was at that time the one and only systematic collection of European books on China all over the world.

Apart from maps which were yet to be catalogued, the content of Dr. Morrison's library has been analyzed according to the language and the name of authors in alphabetical order in the *Catalogue of the Asiatic Library of Dr. G. E. Morrison* in two volumes, published in 1924 by Toyo Bunko, the Oriental Library. In the "Introduction" to this Catalogue, Dr. Morrison explains nature of his collection as follows:

"From the Catalogue an estimate can be formed on the completeness of the collection. Eleven languages are represented by considerable numbers of books, namely, English, French, German, Russian, Dutch, Latin, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, and Danish, while there are a few works in Norwegian and some in Hebrew. Finnish, Polish, Turkish, Hungarian and Welsh."

"Among the books are many which do not directly belong to China. They are books dealing with Central Asia and Siberia with Japan, Siam, Indo-China and the Straits and a few on the Philippines, a study of which has often been essential to the students of the China question. Some deal with sport in India, Burma, Siam, and Ceylon. Instead of discarding them, I have included them in my Catalogue. For this reason, my library is described as an Asiatic Library, and not simply as a Library of Books on China."

According to this introduction, Dr. Morrison started to establish his library for the reason of his personal need when he arrived in Peking in 1897, where there was no serious library and where there had been no attempt to form a collection of works on any special subject, other than the missionary question, dealing with China. However, the truth was that the collection was begun long before he had any definite idea of coming to China, and that it was since his stay in Peking that he systematically purchased every available book on China, and the neighbouring parts of Asia in every European language and constantly searched the book catalogues of the world for books relating to it. It was a fine combination of liberal expenditure of money with a keen and affectionate interest, which resulted in

the most complete collection of works on China ever made.

It is of no question that the library of Dr. Morrison was the most comprehensive collection of works on China in 1917. There are many books which are not catalogued in *Bibliotheca Sinica* of H. Cordier.

Dr. Morrison's library consists in such an exhaustive and systematic collection of not only rare and old works, but also contemporary working books concerning almost all the subjects on China. To say nothing of books on the humanities, including the political, social and economic sciences, many works relating to natural history, including ornithology, entomology, and ichthyology, have been collected. Collections of more than one hundred complete or nearly complete sets of periodicals and serials, of 46 old and modern editions of Marco Polo, including the first Latin printed edition of 1485, 10 editions of Sir John Mandeville. 10 editions (1485?-1725) of Mendoza, 3 editions (1614, 1678 and 1762) of Mendez Pinto of 17th and 18th centuries, of Blue Books, Customs Publications, British Consular Reports, Missionary Reports and Publications by the missionaries on China, with special reference to the so-called Rites Controversy, are a few examples to show how much exhaustively Dr. Morrison tried to make his library.

Together with MS, journals, letter books of Lord Macartney, a logbook of his ship and other printed publications concerning his Chinese mission, including the original sketchbook in water colour of William Alexander, a painter who accompanied Lord Macartney. There is also a Chinese-Latin Dictionary formerly in the possession of Sir John Barrow who was also attached to the Embassy. The collection moreover includes a unique copy of *An Autobiographical Memoir of Sir John Barrow*, London, 1847, interleaved throughout and filled with additions and corrections in Barrow's autograph, evidently prepared for second edition, which was never published. The collection of more than 500 dictionaries of the various Chinese dialects, about 500 publications on the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), and nearly 200 books concerning the Boxer Uprising and the Siege of Legations in Peking, is another example of the thoroughness of his library. As a rule, Dr. Morrison tried to get as many editions and translations as possible of the same book. This was his principle not only with modern publications, but with earlier ones. The best example of exhaustiveness of Dr. Morrison is his collections of about 6,000 pamphlets and offprints of articles. Actually, many of these pamphlets are unique and a mine of sources for the study of political, economic and cultural problems at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. As correspondent to *The Times* and the political adviser to the President of the Republic of China, Dr. Morrison was more interested in current problems related to China than did a scholar specialized in Sinological studies. Among these pamphlets, there are many which could be obtained and collected only by a man of his status and interest. The pamphlets contain even such things as *Programme of the Entertainment given by the President [Yuan Shih-kai] in the palace on January 12th, 1914*, or *Programme of Reception given by the Mayor of the City of New York to the Commercial Mission of China on January 18, 1915*, or a confidential report of Mayer A. W. S. Wingate on the construction of railways in Chinese Empire.

As Dr. Morrison's library became well known among book dealers in Europe who made a specialty of works on the East, it had been their custom when a rarity fell into their hands to offer it to Dr. Morrison. But, sometimes Dr. Morrison competed with other persons in order to acquire a book which he wanted to obtain. When he came to Japan, he went to Kanda in Tokyo to buy for his library.

Dr. Morrison was not a mere collector or a bibliophile. He started his collection for his personal necessity as a correspondent to *The Times*. This was the reason why his library was not a mere collection of rare and old editions, but a working-library for practical purposes. As was mentioned before, he used to make marginal notes and indexes to his books for his own later reference. Dr. Morrison used to have his books bound in rather luxurious way. And the library which was transferred to Japan stimulated Japanese binders who studied the Western traditional way of binding after Dr. Morrison's example. This means that books in his collection were of his personal interest and affection, including few which he listed in his *Catalogue* as "uncut copy".

It was in 1912 when he first thought of selling his library. In a letter addressed to Mr. W. W. Rockhill of the date of July 9, 1912, he wrote as follows: "I am wanting to leave China and return to

Australia. There is no prospect of advancement for me and I cannot live on my salary. Accordingly I have asked *The Times* to let me have on Nov. 1st by which time I shall have been 17 years in their employment. My library I may have to sell. I shall deeply regret parting with it, but I see no alternative for I have no money outside of it. There seems some prospect of the Japanese buying it. I believe it is absolutely unique. It has cost me eighteen years labour and 12,000 Pounds and I am asking for it 40,000 Pounds. It has been valued at a higher figure than this. I have it stored in a fire proof building. My index cards alone number more than 12,000 and some of the cards represent individually 150 volumes. My collection of maps etc. is also very complete.” And, in spite of his acceptance of the post of political adviser to the President of the new Republic of China, which promised him such a high salary as 35,000 Pounds a year and also in spite of his continuing of the purchase of books for his library, he sold five years later his collection to Baron Hisaya Iwasaki for 35,000 Pounds. In the sale were included index cards, also the numbered book covers, in which the pamphlets were lying, also the large case with trays in which the maps, prints and engravings are stored, and also the drawers containing the cards.

What made him decide to sell the fruit of his effort sustained for more than twenty years? Firstly, he needed money. Though he was getting a salary of 35,000 Pounds from the Government of China, “the cost of living went up so enormously and the price of silver rose to such an unapproachable degree”, that he had hardly enough to live on in 1917. His salary was just half what it was two years ago. He wanted money to make him independent and to make all provision he could for the future. Secondly, he found that the work to keep his library up-to-date taxed his time and energies to a degree that he was no longer able to sustain.

In this way, when it was known that Dr. Morrison intended to have his library sold, a rushing demand for the purchase came from various quarters such as Harvard University, Yale University, California University, Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, then U.S Minister to Peking, and from many other influential sources in America. But the negotiation for purchase fell through, because Dr. Morrison wished to have his library retained in the Far East where it would serve to some degree in recalling his association with the Far East.

In the spring of 1917, Junnosuke Inouye 井上準之助 (1869-1932), governor of the Yokohama Specie Bank, and Masunosuke Odagiri who was in Peking as the managing director of the branches of Yokohama Specie Bank in China, keenly felt the necessity of acquiring the library by Japan and asked Professor Kazutoshi Ueda 上田萬年 (1867-1937), then Dean of the College of Literature, the Imperial University of Tokyo, for the value of the collection. At the same time, Inouye and Odagiri successfully persuaded Baron Iwasaki to purchase the library. The sale contract was signed on August 29, 1917, between Dr. Morrison and Odagiri, representing Baron Iwasaki. And under the supervision of Mr. (later Professor Dr.) Mikinosuke Ishida, who was specially sent to Peking for the transfer, the book were packed and carried by rail as far as Tientsin, from which were shipped to Yokohama by the Takasago Maru of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line, Baron Gonsuke Hayashi 林権助, then Minister of Peking, asked the Chinese Government authorities for the protection of this valuable cargo in transporting from Peking to Tientsin. A quota of policemen were specially dispatched by the Peking Metropolitan Police Board to protect the transportation to the Peking-Mukden Railway Station outside the Chienmen Gate.

Thus, the packed library arrived at Yokohama on September 26, 1917, and came to Shiodome Goods Railway Station on the following day. It was temporarily held in storage in a warehouse at Saga-cho, Fukagawa, which was within the compound of a villa owned by Baron Iwasaki.

A severe rainstorm overtook Tokyo at the end of September and intensified in its fury the following morning with a tidal wave over Fukagawa district. Unfortunately, these books were partially soaked by water in their packed condition. The packed library was removed intact to the Iwasaki Home building in Marunouchi at once and necessary repairing measures were adopted without delay. The drying, cleaning, rebinding of books and other necessary measures that might be considered proper were adopted under the supervision of Mr. Mikinosuke Ishida. And, except only a few which were destroyed, nearly all books were completely saved. In the meantime, a temporary office to look into the affairs regarding the Morrison library was opened in a northern corner of No.26, Mitsubishi Building, No.14, Nakadori, Marunouchi, Tokyo, where the library was removed for the readjustment.

The transfer of the library to Tokyo was deeply regretted by people who wanted to keep this unique collection in China as well as by parties interested in its purchase. But the relocation was an epoch-making event in the history of Asiatic studies in Japan, which succeeded in becoming predominant politically and economically in the northeastern part of Asia after the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905). Japanese intended to develop studies on Asia on a more active and intensified scale. Thus, the coming of library of Dr. Morrison very much stimulated and encouraged the scholars engaged in this field of study. There had been a long tradition of Chinese studies in Japan and several systematic collections of Chinese books, but there had been none of European publications on China and its neighbouring territories. Moreover, it coincided with the rising tide of interest on the part of specialists in a new type of Chinese and Central Asian studies based on new materials discovered both in China and in Central Asia. Dr. Morrison sold the library on three conditions. First, the books shall be kept collectively in a same place, naming the collection Dr. G. E. Morrison Library in order to distinguish his name from that of Robert Morrison, the first Protestant Missionary who came to China. Second, Morrison takes no exception to measures to include the books into a large library with the same purpose as others. Third, it will be open to the free access to serious students. In conformity to the will of Dr. Morrison, Baron Iwasaki purchased many books yet uncollected by Dr. Morrison, as well as new publications, and at the same time, expanded the sphere of books with the Morrison Library as the integral part, all of which were placed at the disposal of students.