

Dear Reader,

**What is this?** Welcome to the first official publication of the “European Association for the Study of Chinese Manuscripts” (EASCM). It takes the form of a newsletter that will be issued in irregular instalments to report about the activities and the status of the association as need arises. At the same time, it may provide a forum for scientific notes, exchanges or even longer research articles, for sharing information on conferences, workshops, internet and print publications, as well as individual members and institutions. Last but not least it may give the association and its members an additional sense of unity.

**Contents** This first issue contains: • a brief introduction to the association, its history (p.1), statutes (p.2), and present membership (p.5); • a report on the meeting of May 20 in Paris (p.7) including several projects presented at that meeting (p.8); as well as information on • the next workshop to be held in Zürich (p.9). It concludes with • some more remarks about the newsletter itself (p.9).

## THE ASSOCIATION

**History** The European Association for the Study of Chinese Manuscripts was founded at the Second Hamburg Tomb Text Workshop held from February 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004, by all participants present. The organizers and some participants had already come together discussing similar topics at the (first) Tomb Text Workshop in Hamburg, Germany, from July 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000, and the unabated success of these meetings organized by Prof. Michael Friedrich and Matthias Richter (both Hamburg University) as well as the increasing importance of early Chinese manuscripts seemed to call for a more permanent framework that would facilitate exchange among scholars in Europe where this kind of research has only just began to gather momentum.

The papers read at the two Tomb Text Workshops have been published (or in some cases at least abstracted) in *Monumenta Serica* 51.2003 and *Asiatische Studien/Études Asiatiques* 59:1.2005 respectively. Abstracts of the two Tomb Text Workshops have

also been published in *Guójì jiǎnbó yánjiū tōngxùn* 国际简帛研究通讯 (*International Research on Bamboo and Silk Documents: Newsletter*) 6.2000 and 4:1.2004. These publications may provide an overview of the range of interests that brought the members of the association together. Generally speaking, they center around early Chinese manuscripts brush-written on wood, bamboo, or silk. But related topics or fields, like inscriptions, archaeology or later manuscripts written on paper, are also felt to be of considerable import.

The first managing committee of the association as elected during the foundational meeting in 2004 consists of Prof. Michael Friedrich as chairman, Prof. Marc Kalinowski (Paris) as vice-chairman, Imre Galambos (London) as secretary, and Matthias Richter as treasurer. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the committee and a few additional members responded to a call of Prof. Kalinowski and convened in Paris to take stock and talk about future developments of the association. At this meeting, the association welcomed several new members, planned the next general assembly and workshop in Zürich, and decided upon the establishment of this newsletter and its editor. For further details about the meetings in Paris and in Zürich see below.

**Statutes** Since the association was founded in Hamburg, it was decided to have it registered as a non-profit organization under German law. The following is a legally non-binding English translation of the German original, kindly provided by Matthias Richter.

Statutes

(as of 28th September 2004)

§ 1 Name, Seat, Business Period

- (1) The name of the association is “European Association for the Study of Chinese Manuscripts”. It is going to be entered into the German register of associations and will from then on have the additional designation “e.V.” for “registered association” (“eingetragener Verein”).
- (2) The association has its legal seat in Hamburg.
- (3) The business period is the same as the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose, Non-Profit Making Association

- (1) It is the purpose of the Association to initiate and encourage the research on Chinese manuscripts, and to further the academic exchange between scholars engaged in this field within Europe, and also to create and expand the contacts with other associations, institutions, and individuals outside of Europe as well, who are engaged in research on Chinese manuscripts.
- (2) The statutory purpose is realized in particular by
  - organizing academic conferences on a topic with the main emphasis on the study of Chinese manuscripts and associated problems, and also
  - by publishing the conference contributions. The arrangements for publication are decided by the

general assembly of members.

(3) The Association pursues exclusively and directly charitable aims as defined in paragraph "Tax-privileged Purpose" ("Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke") of the relevant German regulations (Abgabenordnung). The Association is a non-profit organization; it does not primarily pursue economic targets. The Association's asset must only be used for the statutory purposes. The members do not receive any allowances from the Association's assets. No individual is allowed to benefit from expenses, which are alien to the purpose of the Association, or from disproportionately high remunerations.

### **§ 3 Membership**

(1) Irrespective of their places of residence or work, membership is open to all such persons who in their academic work are engaged in the study of Chinese manuscripts, and whose admittance is recommended by at least one existing member of the Association.

(2) The decision on admittance rests with the managing committee.

(3) Membership is terminated

a) by death;

b) by a notice of withdrawal, which has to be presented in writing to the managing committee, and which comes into effect at the end of each calendar year;

c) by exclusion after a violation of the Association's interests which can be decided upon by the managing committee following a hearing of the member in question; within four weeks of the exclusion decision having been announced, the excluded member can demand the decision being put to the next regular general assembly; until that time, his membership rights and obligations are suspended;

d) by deletion of membership; this is admissible if a member is still in arrears with membership dues despite having received two written reminders by the managing committee; the deletion of a member can only be decided upon by the managing committee, after three months have passed since the sending of the second written reminder, which must include an explicit warning of the impending deletion.

### **§ 4 Membership Dues**

(1) All members are expected to pay membership dues. The level of the annual contributions and the due date are set by the general assembly.

(2) It is at the managing committee's discretion to decide that certain groups of members or certain individual members may be exempt from payments or pay a reduced rate.

### **§ 5 Managing Committee**

(1) The managing committee of the Association consists of a chairman, a vice-chairman and at least one other member.

(2) The general assembly of members determines the number of additional managing committee members.

(3) Legally and privately, the Association is represented by any two members of the managing committee.

- (4) The managing committee is entitled to adopt rules of procedure.
- (5) The managing committee is elected by the general assembly of members for the period from the election to the next regular general assembly of members. The managing committee remains in office up to the statutory election of a new managing committee.
- (6) If a member of the managing committee leaves during his/her period of office, the committee has the right to co-opt a regular member of the Association for the remainder of the left member's period of office.

#### **§ 6 General Assembly of Members**

- (1) The general assembly of members convenes at the Association's conference. A general assembly of members has to be convened at least once every four years.
- (2) Furthermore, the general assembly of members has to be convened if this is required in the interest of the Association, or if a group of members, representing at least 20% of all eligible votes, present this demand in writing to the managing committee, clearly stating their reasons and purpose.
- (3) The managing committee has to issue written notifications of a general assembly of members at least four weeks prior to the proposed date of the meeting. This notification must also include the agenda of the meeting. The date of the dispatch of the invitation letters is the date of invitation.
- (4) The managing committee nominates the chair of the meeting.
- (5) Unless defined differently by the statutes, each regularly convened general assembly of members is quorate.
- (6) In the general assembly of members, each member has one vote. Voting rights may be transferred to another member by means of a written proxy. This authorization has to be issued anew for each general assembly of members.
- (7) Resolutions and elections are carried by the simple majority of votes cast. Decisions regarding a change in the statutes require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the votes represented, who need to represent at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the entire membership.
- (8) The voting method is decided by the chairman. However, a secret ballot is required if requested by  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the votes present.
- (9) Any decisions by the general assembly of members are to be recorded and the minutes signed by the chairman.
- (10) It is up to the managing committee to decide upon a written voting method for the general assembly of members. At least  $\frac{1}{5}$  of members have to take part in this decision. This does not apply to any changes to the statutes.

#### **§ 7 Dissolution**

- (1) The Association can be dissolved at the resolution of the general assembly of members with a majority of 80% of the votes represented, representing at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the entire membership.
- (2) If the Association is dissolved or terminated or if its tax-privileged purposes no longer apply, its asset is to be used for tax-privileged purposes. Decisions about the use of the asset may only be carried out with approval of the revenue office.

§ 8 Interim Regulation

If any parts of these statutes meet with objection from the court of registration, the managing committee is empowered to change the statutes in compliance with those objections.

**Membership** As specified in the statutes, every scholar or institution, whose professional interest is certified by a member of the association, may apply for membership. The membership fees stand at 100,- Euros for institutions and 25,- Euros for individuals. Students (up to Ph.D. candidates) pay a reduced fee of 12,50 Euros. Recognition of student status is subject to the committee's decision.

Presently, the association consists of the following members:

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### **THE MAY 20 MEETING**

**Protocol**    The following members of the association and its managing committee convened on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Centre de Recherche Civilisation Chinoise within the building of the Collège de France at 52, rue Cardinal Lemoine: Wolfgang Behr, Françoise Bottéro, Michael Friedrich, Enno Giele, Marc Kalinowski, Matthias Richter, Alain Thote, and Olivier Venture. Marianne Bujard and Michael Nylan attended only in the afternoon.

Treasurer Matthias Richter presented the balance of the association which then stood at a plus of 298,33 Euro. Not yet included in this balance were the membership fees of those five members (Bottéro, Bujard, Nylan, Thote, and Venture), who joined

the association on the occasion, as well as a few fees of previously joined members that were still due. It was decided that these monies will be used for future workshops.

As regards EASCM workshops that are to continue the previous Hamburg Tomb Text Workshops, it was agreed to try and hold them regularly at bi-annual intervals. It was agreed that the next workshop will be held in Zürich in 2008 (see below). Furthermore, it was general consensus that the workshops should not become too large, attaining the format of a big conference, but instead be limited in the number of participants and concentrate on well-defined subjects. As long as the association stays small enough, it could be possible that a workshop serves as a venue for the association's general assembly, but in case it continues to grow which is probable, the idea to link the general assembly with a major European sinological conference, like the bi-annual meetings of the European Association for Chinese Studies, seems commendable.

Also discussed was the possibility of EASCM creating and operating a website and organizing a summer school. The possible realization of these enterprises in the future will depend on additional funds and manpower. In the meantime, it was decided to further the communication between members by creating the EASCM Newsletter (see below).

One purpose of this communication and also a purpose of the Paris meeting is and was to inform each other about ongoing individual, group, or institutional projects that relate to manuscripts. Individual projects and fields of interest of EASCM members shall be dealt with in future issues of the newsletter in connection with introducing individual members. As to group or institutional research, four ongoing projects were outlined:

1) Our Paris hosts reported about their book project on excavated manuscripts ("tomb texts") that is presently conceived at the Centre de Recherche Civilisation Chinoise. It lays special stress on codicology. Four scholars are scheduled to divide their labors roughly as regards the following subjects: classification and contents of manuscripts (Marc Kalinowski), archaeology (Alain Thote), codicology and research database (Olivier Venture), character analyses (Françoise Bottéro).

2) Michael Friedrich sketched the large-scale "Research Project on Manuscript Cultures in Asia and Africa" that has been launched at the Asia-Africa-Institute of the University of Hamburg. It combines the research efforts of about a dozen scholars from various fields working individually or in research groups. Their aim is to "focus[...] on the role of the manuscripts themselves, and only secondarily [on] the content they convey." ([http://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/MRG/index\\_e.html](http://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/MRG/index_e.html), as of 18.05.2006) Affiliated are the Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project, Matthias Richter's finished research project "Manuskriptologie des chinesischen



Altertums” (Towards a Methodology for the Study of Ancient Chinese Manuscripts, 2002-2005) (<http://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/MPC/index.html>, last visited 25.07.2006); as well as scholars working in the field of Ethiopian Studies among others.

3) Enno Giele reported about the projected volume *Early Chinese Manuscripts* that is scheduled to become part of the series “Handbuch der Orientalistik” published by Brill, Leiden, the Netherlands. The book that will try to analyse brush-written documents from the Zhànguó to the Sānguó periods in comprehensive fashion, by illuminating their archaeological, historical, material, social, linguistic, palaeographic, and intellectual contexts, is currently undertaken as a joint effort by Wolfgang Behr (Bochum), William G. Boltz (Seattle), Enno Giele (Münster), Martin Kern (Princeton), and Matthias Richter (Hamburg).

4) At the Paris meeting itself it was decided to combine two existing databases of Chinese manuscripts into one: the one that Olivier Venture has recently compiled in connection with the project mentioned under (1) and the “Early Chinese Manuscripts” database of Enno Giele (<http://www.lib.uchicago/earlychina/res/databases/decm/>, as of 09.01.2000, last visited 25.07.2006). The two will hold further meetings to accomplish this.

### **THE ZÜRICH WORKSHOP 2008**

**Time and Topic** The next EASCM workshop (actually the first that officially goes by this name) will be hosted by Prof. Robert H. Gassmann. It will be held from June 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Zürich, Switzerland. After a long discussion at the Paris meeting, it was decided that the topic should be: “The *Genius Loci* of Chinese Manuscripts.” Contributions should try to relate manuscripts to their place of provenance (origin or discovery) and discuss what cultural, regional, local, or situational aspects they betray. A proper call for papers will follow in spring 2007.

### **THE NEWSLETTER**

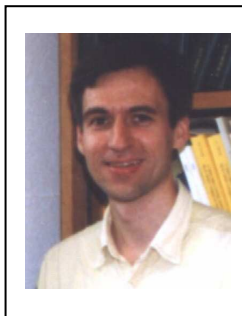
**Distribution** The EASCM newsletter is available in PDF format only and distributed by the editor using e-mail to all members of the association. It may be distributed further by any recipient as he or she sees fit to academically interested parties free of charge, electronically or as printout, but only as a whole and without any textual or editorial change. A centralized distribution of printouts is not considered at this point.

**Languages** This first issue is made up almost entirely of text written or compiled by the editor, unless otherwise specified. For future issues other EASCM members or interested guest authors are invited to contribute relevant information,

academic notes, or even articles. All contributions should be written in English as this is destined to reach the widest possible readership and to be most unproblematic for editing. Alternatively, other common European languages, like French or German, may be used, or languages important for the field, like Chinese or Japanese. In any case, however, the editor reserves the right to reject or abbreviate contributions, be it for technical reasons or as regards contents. All contributions should be sent to the editor ([giele@uni-muenster.de](mailto:giele@uni-muenster.de)) in electronic format, preferably as a *Word* file.

**Editor**

Here is, who has been talking to you in this newsletter: Future issues will hopefully introduce other EASCM members in similar fashion.



Enno Giele, M.A. 1995, Freie Universität Berlin, Chin. & Jap. Studies. Ph.D. Diss. 2001, Freie Univ. Berlin, Chin. Stud. Since 2002, wissenschaftlicher Assistent (assistant professor) at the Institut für Sinologie und Ostasienkunde of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany. Many years of doctoral research were spent at the Academia Sinica in Táiběi. Publications include *Imperial Decision-Making and Communication in Early China. A Study of Cai Yong's Duduan*,

Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2006; "Signatures of "Scribes" in Early Imperial China," *Asiatische Studien/Études Asiatiques* 59:1.2005:353-87; "'Yū' seikō: Shin Kan jidai wo chūshin ni" 「郵」制攷——秦漢時代を中心に (Tomiya Itaru, tr.), *Tōyōshi kenkyū* 63:2.2004:1-37; "Using Early Chinese Manuscripts as Historical Source Materials," *Monumenta Serica* (St. Augustin) 51.2003:409-38. Research interests include institutional, social, and cultural history of the Qín 秦 and Hàn 漢 empires, especially on the basis of excavated manuscripts, as those from Jūyán 居延, Dūnhuáng 敦煌, Lǐyě 里耶, Zhangjiāshān 張家山, or Yǐnwān 尹灣.

**Logo**

The logo on the front page contains the seal script character for the ancient word yù 聿, "brush." It is not difficult to see in it a hand holding an implement as if in writing. Usually the hand element is displayed on the right side of the implement. This particular graph with the hand on the left side is taken from Zhōu Fǎgāo 周法高 (gen. ed.): *Jīnwén gǔlín* 金文詁林 4 (卷三下), Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 1974:1804. It is proposed as a fitting symbol for the self-definition of the association.

Münster, 25.07.2006