

many's claims, including the colonies question. In the Far East, he is also still hoping for "appeasement".

Japan's interpretation of "appeasement" is not likely to be different from that of the axis powers in Europe, namely, an invitation to go ahead and do as she wishes. Instead of improving the situation, Mr.

Chamberlain's statement that the "time was not yet ripe for retaliatory measures against Japan" is just the sort of invitation for which the Japanese military have been waiting. If the latter decide to act upon it, and the British eventually lose not only their interests in China but their entire possessions in the Far East, they will have only their own prime minister to thank for their sad plight.

Geneva's Bibliotheque Sino-Internationale

(Contributed)

IN 1933 there was founded in Geneva a scientific institute, destined, it may be stated without exaggeration, to play a not insignificant part in the intellectual life of Europe. It is the "Sino-International Library", which has undertaken the heavy, but meritorious task of spreading the knowledge of Chinese culture in the Occident and of bringing about in this way a better understanding between two great races, with a view to their peaceful cooperation.

It is admitted that the Occident did not lack Chinese books, and sinologists found there, in a certain measure, what they wished. However, nowhere did there exist a complete Chinese Library, representative of the general culture of China.

Until the present there had been lacking a central bureau of information and exchange which could serve at the same time as a reading-room and circulating library. The task of this Institute is to provide the sinologist with indispensable scientific references. But its scope is still wider. On one hand, it facilitates the Occidental student's research into Chinese science, literature and art, and places at the disposal of those interested in the reconstruction of China material on all domains of that colossal undertaking. On the other hand, it expedites studies into representative Occidental works for Chinese sojourning in Europe. It is in short, a China in miniature for Europe, a succinct "résumé" of Europe for the Chinese.

The initiative in this project was taken by Dr. Hu, Director of that department of the Academy of Peiping which maintained foreign scientific relations. Dr. Hu was for many years president of the Association of Chinese Students in Germany. Eminently qualified to judge the intellectual needs of the two races, he submitted the plan to General Chiang Tso-pin, former Chinese ambassador to Germany, and immediately gained his support. Patriotic Chinese did not confine themselves to enthusiastic approbation, but gave their active cooperation: Professor Li Yu-ying, member of the national Academy of Peiping and founder of the Franco-Chinese Institute at Lyons, who had planned for many years to establish a European home for Chinese culture and who was sojourning at that time in Berlin, got into touch with Mr. Wu Tsu-fe, the distinguished philosopher and reformer, and was unceasing in his efficacious support of Dr. Hu. The success of the plan was assured from the time that financial aid was provided by men directing the national reconstruction "Kuo-Min-Tang" Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, M. Wang Ching-wei, President of the Council, M. Sun Fo, President of the Legislative Yuan, M. So Tse-wen, Vice-chancellor and President of the National Economic Council, M. Wang

Shih-chieh, Minister of Education, M. H. H. Kung, Minister of Finance, M. Tsai Yuan-pei, President of the Central Academy at Nanking, M. Tchang Tsing-kiang, Governor of the province of Chekiang, M. Wu Tieh-chen, Mayor of Shanghai, M. Chang Kung-ch'uan, Director of the Bank of China and M. Chou Tso-min, Manager of the Chinese Continental Bank: these are only a few of those who have given financial assistance.

The question as to where the new library should be located, was the object of long and conscientious examination. Owing to the considerable advantages it offers, Geneva won the choice. Situated in a central position, quickly and conveniently accessible to all the important points of Europe, neutral from the political point of view, Geneva justly prides itself on its tradition of intellectual activity. It is the seat not only of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, but also of numerous other international institutions, and it is the meeting ground of the most eminent minds. Its climate is temperate and healthful, its environs marked by a striking charm. If the city of the "Léman" is large enough to offer all the comforts and the varied amusements to stimulate intellectual energies, it is not so to the point of injuring the receptivity of the mind or of diverting spiritual efforts. It is cordially hoped that this choice will meet with the approbation of all, and that occasion will never arise to regret it.

Faithful to the purpose of its creation, and conscious of its responsibilities as a Center, it is the purpose of this Institute to render all service possible to scholars and all others interested in things Chinese. We were always happy to advise those working on dissertations or any other projects within our wide scope, to direct them to the literature bearing on their subjects, and to lend them the pertinent material. We also attend to assembling all theses composed at home or abroad by Chinese students as well as those relative to China written by foreigners. Moreover, we enable Chinese students with limited means to print their theses. We are happy to state that the task of some has been facilitated by the material we placed at their disposal. All inquiries are answered to the best of our knowledge. We exchange sinological works with other libraries or with private persons and we have established an office of sale and exchange, dealing with duplicate copies and unique volumes as well. When new libraries are founded or when existing ones contemplate introducing a Chinese department, or when private collections are begun, we willingly offer our

advice. We make purchases of books for persons or institutions desiring them, without, of course, charging a commission for the service. As the *Central Sinological Office* we have undertaken the compilation of a *general catalogue*, embracing all works related to China. In conformity with the custom of other Chinese libraries, we purchase manuscripts, as well as plates of those documents which have been cast, but for some reason or other never printed.

Sixty-five per cent of the volumes in the "Bibliothèque Sino-Internationale" are Chinese, dealing with a great variety of subjects. Sinological works, some written by Europeans in European languages, some written by Chinese in their own tongue, others translated from Chinese into the other languages and vice-versa, comprise another 25 percent of our collection. The remaining 10 percent consist of European books, in order to offer the Chinese an opportunity of familiarizing himself with the "chef-d'oeuvres" of Occidental culture and its most representative, or at least, most typical, works. In our branch establishment, the Shanghai Library, these proportions, of course, are just the reverse.

We are desirous of collecting the greatest possible number of books on modern Chinese literature. Four fifths of all modern publications are already to be found in the library, which is presented a copy of every newly-published work by the most renowned Chinese publishing-houses, whereas its considerable stock of old works is largely due to the generosity of unofficial persons, particularly of its members.

Thanks to a prosperous development lasting until the beginning of the Japanese aggression, we have been able to unite more than 125,000 Chinese books and manuscripts and about 30,000 European books in our collections. This rapid growth has already twice compelled the Library to move. At first (1933-1934) located in private house, route de Florissant 5. Then for three years it occupied (1934-1937) the magnificent castle of Montalègre, in the immediate neighbourhood of Geneva. Since October 1937 it has been established in the spacious rooms of the former "Palace of Disarmament", in the very centre of the town.

So, the young library contains already an important quantity of books and we wish to emphasize the fact that these comprise the most diverse subjects of human knowledge. While the existing Chinese collections in Europe, which are of exclusive interest to students, contain for the most part works dealing with literature, art, and philosophy, ours, though giving these subjects their due place represents abundantly the *scientific* works of *ancient* authors; for example, we have works on medicine, by almost all writers in field, since emperor Se-non (12675 B.C.) and his successor Huang-ti (see the chapter "selected pieces") as well as on mathematics. China's achievements in the latter science have remained until now almost unknown to Westerners.

We own four bibliographies: (1) of sinologic works in general, (2) of Chinese works translated into European languages, (3) of European works translated into Chinese,

and (4) a bibliography giving sinologic works written by Japanese scholars.

We mention our *editions de luxe*, our rare editions as well as those which are nearly *exhausted*. We exhibit them, adding *epigraphic copies*, manuscripts, *municipal* and *provincial* chronicles, and pictures. To this effect we have accomodated little permanent exhibit-rooms. Every three or six months there is a change of the exhibited objects. When anniversaries of our famous countrymen recur (as for example of Kung Fu-tse, of Sun Yat-sen and others) we organize *special exhibits* of their works and of such as refer to them.

In our reading-room readers find, of course, chiefly books of reference (in Chinese, English, French and German), dictionaries (more than 70 are Chinese, among them several special ones, for example a geographic, a medical, a historical etc...besides Manchou, Thibetan, Mongolian and Japanese dictionaries) daily newspapers and such *periodicals* (Chinese and others written in the principal European languages) as deal with sinology and propagation of Chinese cultures. A *photographical* section is established, as well as a *cartographic* one.

That which confers a particular value to the foundation of the Bibliothèque Sino-Internationale is that its "raison d'être" is not in itself. Rather it means the beginning of the execution of a vast plan, elaborated even to the slightest detail, which envisions an intense cultural exchange between the two worlds. In this respect we mention that the Institute of Geneva is keeping up lasting mutually profitable relations with its branch-establishment the "Bibliothèque Sino-Internationale" at Shanghai.

In conformity with the vast purpose underlying its foundation, the Institute has undertaken various tasks by far exceeding those generally assumed by a library. In order to visualize for the Occidental public the glory of ancient and the rising greatness of modern China, the Library has established in its rooms a very valuable Museum, containing not only scientific documents, and works of art (as for example, precious manuscripts, rare books, costly editions, calligraphic specimens, ancient and modern pictures, drawings of children, bronzes, sculptures, ivory works, artistic photographs, coins, illustrations of the Chinese stage, etc.) but showing also the development of national industry and agriculture as well as their products. (E.g., silks, the different sorts of tea, carpets, furniture, playthings, writing material, dyestuffs, cereals, etc.). The attentive visitor is in a position to get there a very comprehensive view of Chinese customs, Chinese habits of life, as well as of the progress realized by our country since the revolution of 1911, that upset the Manchou dynasty.

A proof of the high esteem in which the "Sino-International Library" is held by distinguished Occidental connoisseurs, is given by the fact that it has been granted a permanent loan of 38 splendid pictures of ancient masters (from Yuan to Tsi) by the Baron v.d. Heydt. They form a part of our Museum (Von der Heydt Collection).

Moreover, the Library functions as a central bureau

of information. All information, indeed, not only of a strictly scientific character, but also relative to Chinese commerce, industries, mines, railways, travelling arrangements, school system etc. . . is being given here, frequently, willingly, and competently. Authors and artists throughout the world when concerned with Chinese subjects, are being freely supplied with all the material they stand in need of.

In spite of its short existence the "Bibliothèque Sino-Internationale" has displayed already an extensive activity in the interest of culture. Already in July 1934 it presented in its own rooms a small exhibit of works of art in which it abounds (as paintings, drawings, costumes, embroideries, old, rare, illustrated works, stone inscriptions, manuscripts etc. . .). Its greatest achievements concerning the cultivation of art was the great "exhibition of Chinese Art", organized by its care in the Kursaal of Geneva (12th Sept. 11th Oct. 1934) which gave a general survey of all epochs and presented objects of art, made of the most various material (bronze, crystal, glass, wood, ivory, stone . . .). The number of visitors was considerable and critics expressed themselves in a very complimentary manner regarding the exhibition. Even greater was the success of the exhibit of drawings of Chinese children (in 1935), in which pedagogic and artistic circles were especially keenly interested.

Altogether the Library organizes at short intervals exhibits showing objects of art, photographs of landscapes, architectures, theatrical and cinematographic scenes, costumes. Such an exhibit of costumes is just taking place, while we are writing this. All this manifold activity of our Institute has been so far crowned with full success, as is proved by the enrichment of its collections, by the steadily increasing number of its readers and visitors, by the fact, that it is at present connected with the most famous scholars, who give very flattering opinions regarding its merits. Yet, the Institute does not limit its activity, great as it may be, to the cultural domain. It constitutes also the most important and most effective centre of propaganda for China in Europe. It was already so in times of peace, for it had made itself the centre of social gatherings, where Chinese and distinguished Westerners freely met, formed and kept up friendly relations and where, thanks to such personal contact, cultured Occidentals were enabled to realize what the Chinese really were and what they want. To that end the

Library had founded and sustained a club, had given frequently and especially during the sessions of the League of Nations receptions in which diplomats, scholars, authors, the high officials of the League of Nations and of the International Labour Office took part, had organized language courses and lectures, in which competent speakers dealt with the most various subject relative to China. The same purpose was served by the projection of Chinese standard films. The Library has also edited two illustrated trilingual monthly reviews "Orient and Occident" catering to scientifically and artistically interested circles, and "China Illustrated" of a more popular character, catering to the broad masses of the public. It has also worked for the benefit of poor Chinese students residing in Europe.

If such was the activity of our Institute in the interest of China in times of peace, you may easily realize how important a part it has now to play, when unhappy China is invaded by cruel aggressors, who she is gallantly resisting with all her power, when the necessity of informing the foreign nations about the rights, the aspirations and the needs of the Chinese people makes itself felt more than ever. At the very outset of the war, thanks to the initiative of the "Sino-International Library" there was founded the "Association of Chinese Women in Switzerland" working for the benefit of the refugees and civil victims of the war. In close cooperation with our delegation, not only has it succeeded, by holding meetings, organizing lectures and evening parties, and applying to generous personalities and societies, in raising more than \$20,000. It has also collected pharmaceutical articles, rolls of bandage, warm garments for the refugees and many other useful things. By sending regular "communiqués" to the foreign press it renders Japanese defamations ineffectual, informs the public regarding the progress of our heroic fight as well as the atrocities committed by our enemies. The most distinguished Chinese patriots, including M. Wellington Koo, our ambassador at Paris, have proclaimed aloud the usefulness of its activity.

This activity is bound to increase still more the future, for, we are fully aware, that much as the Institute has done, more remains to be done. Yet, if we are to attain our lofty aims for the benefit of our beloved country in times of war as well as in times of peace, we need encouragement, such as the active support of all well thinking Chinese.

Will Danzig Be The Tinder Box?

By WEI KONG-LI (魏康立)

THERE is that huge, threatening sword again, swinging with unearthly tempo between the very much mooted Polish Corridor and East Prussia over the old Free City of Danzig, the latest apple of Hitler's eye. It is the ugly sword that had fatally descended on Austria and mutilated the body of Czechoslovakia to the rhythm of Chamberlain's lyrical panegyrics to the godheads of totalitaria. And it is the same sword that is now giving the jitters to the

hopefuls and euphemists who have been clambering precariously on the expensive policy of appeasement.

When ambitions Hitler goosestepped into, Vienna, the hands of the world were involuntarily thrown up in silent horror including those of Chamberlain and Daladier who were too overawed to do more than dismiss the unpleasant atrocity with a mere shrug. When the integrity of erstwhile Czechoslovakia was first threatened by means of stiff