

The Fate of the Japanese Embassy Library, Berlin immediately after World War II

第二次世界大戦直後のベルリン
日本大使館図書館の命運

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“The Library of the Japanese Embassy in Berlin”: about 25,000 volumes of books were seized at the Japanese Embassy in Berlin after Germany was defeated in 1945



Gustav Haloun's Letter (8th February 1946)

- Prof. **Gustav Haloun**, Professor of Chinese Studies, University of Cambridge, King's College
- Dr. **C. H. Noton**, Chair of **EPCOM** (Enemy Wartime Publications Requirements Committee), **BIOS** (British Intelligence Objective Sub-Committee), Foreign Office
- Dr. **Hamilton McCombie**, Reader of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, King's College
- Mr. **Hsiao Ch'ien (Xiao Qian)** (蕭乾), Representative of 『大公報』, King's College

SHAEF

(Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces)

CIOS

(Combined Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee)

United States

CIOS



FIAT

(Field Intelligence Agency,
Technical)

Britain

CIOS



BIOS

(British Intelligence
Objectives Sub-Committee)

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- The Library of the Japanese Embassy Berlin is located at the British Sector and it is still intact
- The University of Cambridge is going to establish Japanese Studies as a discipline
- Cambridge University Library has got the largest Japanese Collection, but it lacks modern works
- The books of the Japanese Embassy Berlin suit Cambridge's situation and are seen as an appropriate use for them

Bad Oeynhausen, Herford

- CCG/BE (Control Commission for Germany-British Element) = The military government for the British zone of occupation
- Headquarters of BAOR (the British Army of the Rhine) = the occupation forces after World War II

Joint Intelligence (Sub-)Committee (Germany)

Another Enquiry from Cambridge

- Another Letter from Professor **Ellis Minns** for the Foreign Office
- Professor Ellis Minns was an important member of the Library Syndicate, particularly Japanese and Oriental matters
- Archaeologist

L. H. Foulds' Letter to R. Wilberforce

13th March 1946

“Professor Ellis Minns of Cambridge has asked us whether the Library of the Japanese Embassy in Berlin could be secured for the Cambridge University Library. According to the Periodic Report No.1 of the Enemy Documents Unit dated the 20th September last, the Library is no longer in Berlin, but was evacuated at the end of August and is now held by the G.S.I. Library, British Army of the Rhine”.

E. W. Playfair's Letter to L. H. Foulds
29th March 1946

“We could not officially allow property of this kind to be removed except as a matter of agreed policy.”

“Wilberforce, who has seen the library in Berlin, tells me that it is not very valuable property and that some of more useful books have already been removed by casual looting.”

J. Packman(L.S.E.)'s Report

- A. The Library has been moved from Berlin to GSI Documents Centre, Bad Oeynhausen
- B. GSI Documents Centre has been instructed to dispatch it, complete and intact, to PID Foreign Office
- C. “There is a large Japanese section, nature and quality unknown”, “what appears to be useful Russian section, and also a collection of Polish literature. The latter is often well bound; it shows no signs of having been looted from Polish sources (e. g. library stamps or bookplates) and is probably the result of some individual collector’s interest”

Japanese Embassy Library

- The Joint US-British Control Council/Control Commission Documents Centre (the successor of the SHAEF Documents Centre) at Frankfurt initiated the move of the Library from Berlin to Bad Oeynhausen in August/September 1945
- The Legal Division of the CCG/BE (the Control Commission for Germany - British Element) in Berlin sanctioned the move of the Library

TNA FO 944/100

SHAEF

**(Supreme Headquarters Allied
Expeditionary Forces)**

**Documents Centre
(G-2 Documents)**



**US-British Control
Council / Control
Commission Documents
Centre
at Frankfurt**

Japanese Embassy Library

25,000 volumes

- 5,000 vol. (20%) were donated to the School of Oriental and African Studies and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, at the University of London (2,500 vol. each)
- 20,000 vol. (80 %) in the Intelligence Bureau Documents Centre (Bad Oeynhausen)
- A fair amount of books: Embassy staffs' (Japanese nationals'?) personal property

At the behest of Lt. Col. John Marsden, 5,000 vol. were donated to SOAS and S.S.E.S.(Univ. of London)

Who was Arthur John Marsden (1915-2004)?

- * Head of British Element (SHAEF G-2 Documents)
- * Head of German Documents Office (Joint Intelligence Committee, Germany)

- * Teacher (Housemaster at Eton)
- * Rower (1956 winner of Wingfield Sculls)

Was he related to:

James Weymouth Marsden (Japanese Language Officer)
or/and William Marsden (Orientalist)?

Cambridge is still interested in the remaining 20,000 volumes?

- Cambridge University Library would have an opportunity to put in a bid about these books (23rd May 1946).
- Cambridge seemed to be interested in sending a librarian to inspect them (31st May 1946).

Kenneth Garside (1913-1983)

- Assistant Librarian (Leeds University): 1937-39
- Intelligence Corps, “Intelligence Library”(Bad Oeynhausen): “Major”, later “Lieutenant Colonel”
- Deputy Librarian (University College London): 1945-1958
(John Wilks : Librarian, University College London)
- Both John Wilks and Kenneth Garside : Members of EPCOM
- Librarian (King’s College London): 1958-74
- Librarian (Senate House Library, University of London): 1974-78

Memo of Hugh Durham of the Control Office for Germany and Austria (12 July 1945)

- Garside was replaced by Kirkby
- 80% of the remainder had been disposed of by absorption into the Library of the Intelligence Bureau Documents Centre (IBDC)
- IBDC acted on their own authority in disposing of the remaining books presumably as a matter of expediency since they are moving to Herford.

Letter of G.P. Hampshire (C.O.G.A.) for L.H. Foulds (F.O.) on 18th July 1946

- Balance (80%) of Library has been disposed of
- Some of those books have been absorbed into the collection of the Documents Centre
- Books “of no value whatsoever” have been distributed among local German libraries
- It is regrettable that Cambridge could not have an opportunity to inspect those books