Chinese Rare Books, Preservation, & Digitization

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Chinese Rare Materials

- Over 800 titles, in 12,000 printed volumes, predating 1795 善本
- Over 4,000 titles, in more than 80,000 volumes, predating 1911 古籍
- 22 Song and 16 Yuan imprints 宋元本 (960–1368)
- Ho-Chiang Collection of Buddhist Sutras
- Manuscripts 稿鈔校本
- Imprints published in Chinese in Japan and Korea before 1900 漢籍和刻本及朝鲜刻本
From the collection of Liu Chenggan: The Works of Lü Zuoqian (1204)
宋刻本

由两种宋刻本配补而成的《後村居士集》

Song engraving:
The Works of Liu Kezhuang (1249)
元刻《天目中峰和尚廣錄》
Yuan engraving: Vast Record of the Monk Zhongfeng of Tianmu
明版
《玉茗新詞四種》

Ming engraving: Four Dramas with New Lyrics, by Tang Xianzu (1618)
Master Fang’s Catalog of Ink Cakes (1589)
朝鮮刻本

《十竹齋書畫譜》

Korean imprint: The Ten Bamboos Studio Manual of Painting
明末清初钱谦益手稿

Draft manuscript in the hand of Qian Qanyi (1582–1664)
清翁方綱經學手稿五種

Five Manuscripts on the Confucian Classics, by Weng Fanggang (1733–1818)
金石拓片 2,700
余種
Rubbings

熹平石經殘石
Fragment from the Xiping Stone Classics (175)
東漢
四川樂山
崖墓石刻

Eastern Han
(25–225) cave
tomb relief,
Leshan,
Sichuan
Inscription from Mt. Tai (726)
Preservation Needs & Challenges
Items treated by previous owners using traditional techniques
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Items treated by previous owners using traditional techniques
Items less successfully treated using traditional techniques
Items less successfully treated using traditional techniques
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Items in need of treatment—but what kind?
Challenges

• Funding & scheduling
• Differences in theories & approaches to conservation
• Differences in background & training
• Lack of appropriate materials
• Digitization is not an alternative to preservation