

deposit of rare editions and manuscripts for outsiders. This is the only fire-proof library building in the whole of Shanghai and no doubt the largest modern public library in China. According to its last year's report, the library has on its shelves 360,000 volumes in Chinese and 100,000 volumes in other languages. It contains 700 works of the early and rare Sung editions dating back to the tenth century and about 10,000 volumes of unpublished manuscripts.

Both these cultural centres were burnt down to the ground by the fire of the first Japanese attack on Chapei. From news reports, Chinese and English, it is apparent that the Commercial Press was ruthlessly destroyed on January 29th and the Oriental Library, situated just across the street, was totally destroyed the next morning, shortly before the Japanese were forced to retreat.

Being personally familiar with both these institutions and knowing their cultural value, I, as a Chinese citizen and college professor, deeply lament this great, irreplaceable loss to China and to the world in the field of Chinese studies, and strongly protest against this barbaric vandalism, especially from a nation which from the beginning of its history has shared the glory of our civilization.

Kiang Kang-hu,

Professor of Chinese Studies,
McGill University, Montreal,
February 4th, 1932.