

Erwin Reifler (16.06.1903–23.04.1966), a Remarkable Sinologist and Linguist. Some Bibliographical Notes

Hartmut WALRAVENS

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (ret.),
Free University of Berlin (ret.)
Berlin, Germany

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Abstract: Erwin Reifler was an Austrian sinologist who after having studied at the University of Vienna moved to China in 1932 where he worked at universities, as interpreter and finally as professor at the Université l'Aurore in Shanghai. In 1948 he became a professor of Chinese studies at the University of Washington (Seattle). His specialties were etymology, linguistics, and later metrology. He was one of the pioneers of Chinese machine translation. The paper is based on an autobiographical letter by Reifler and supplemented by the inventory of a box of Reifler's archive material which the editor acquired at an American secondhand bookshop and which is now owned by the Berlin State Library.

Key words: Reifler (1903–1966), history of Chinese studies, Chinese bibliography.

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About the author: WALRAVENS Hartmut, Dr. hab., Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (ret.), Free University of Berlin (ret.) (Berlin, Germany) (hwalravens@gmx.net). ORCID: 0000-0002-7418-6966.

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A short biographical sketch

Erwin Reifler was born in Vienna and studied Chinese under Arthur von Rosthorn (1862–1945), former Austro-Hungarian diplomatic envoy to China (Gesandter, 1911–1917), who taught as Honorarprofessor at the University of Vienna from 1922 to 1938/39. Rosthorn's private Chinese library was open to the students and was administered until 1927 by Reifler.

The following notes were taken from a letter by Reifler, of April 17, 1941, possibly written to find new job opportunities after he had to leave Hong Kong:

"1924/27 Assistant to the Professor of Chinese at Vienna University and Librarian of the Chinese Institute

1927/28 Editor of the Chinese News Agency for Europe

1928/30 Member of three Chinese Committees studying Western Public Administration, Public Health and Education

Honorary Chinese Interpreter for the Chinese police officers studying in the Police Academy in Vienna

1931 Doctorate, University of Vienna: State and administration in ancient China

1932 Went to Shanghai. Assistant to Foreign Advisor on Public Administration of the July/Sept. Chinese Government attached to the Municipality of Greater Shanghai. Chinese Interpreter and Translator of his proposals and publications

1932/37 Fellow of the Research Institute and Professor of Scientific German at Chiao-tung [Jiaotong] University, Shanghai

1934/7 Conducting Chinese courses for foreigners

In July 34 appointed Secretary, Recorder and Translator of a Chinese Committee for the investigation of Railway administration in 14 countries, by order of the Ministry of Railways of the Chinese Government. Given 6 months leave of absence by Chiao-tung University for this purpose. In this capacity I circled the globe and returned to Chiao-tung in Feb. 1935

1937, Aug. Moved to Hong Kong

1937/8 Conducted classes in scientific German at Hong Kong University

1938/9 Conducted Chinese courses for foreigners in the Chinese language school of the General Chamber of Commerce, HK.

1939 Summer classes in the Chinese language Summer school of the American Catholic Fathers of the Mary Knoll Mission, Stanley, Hong Kong

In 1938, the Government of Hong Kong was approached by the General Chamber of Commerce in connection with plans for a reorganization of Chinese language studies of foreigners in the colony on the basis of my ideas and proposals.

Addresses on sinology:

A new approach to the Chinese language, before the Arts Association of Hong Kong University, Nov. 1938, published as monograph.

Revolution in sinology, before the RAS North China Branch, Shanghai, Oct. 1939

Sept. 20, 1939 married Henrietta Brown, daughter of Rev. Mendel Brown. Daughter born in HK on June 15, 1940

July 1940 Moved to Shanghai

Aug. 1940 — Appointed professor of philosophy at the National Medical College of Shanghai Instructor in Chinese at the American Junior Chamber of Commerce Language School, Shanghai (in which my theories are applied).

Languages: Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Tibetan, Annamite, Korean, French, Spanish

[He attached a sample of his Chinese dictionary to the letter]”.

1941–1942 Reifler taught Latin and German at the School of Pharmacy of the Aurora University, 1943–1947 he was appointed Professor of Sinology at the Université l’Aurore, the Jesuit University in Shanghai. In 1947 Reifler was invited to attend the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in New York where he met Karl August Wittfogel (1896–1988), the writer and sinologist who after his forced emigration from Germany in 1934 had become a professor of Chinese History at the University of Washington in 1947. Reifler received an appointment as adjunct professor, as of 1948, at the University of Washington.

Reifler was undoubtedly a talented philologist but became better known in Seattle through his cooperation in the Mechanical Translation Project. His later work in the history of metrology did not gain the attention of a wider circle of scholars. He had the reputation of being an excellent teacher, probably also because he used his views on Chinese etymology for didactic purposes.

In addition to his ongoing work on philological issues — primarily paleographic and epigraphic — Reifler conducted research across a wide range of topics, spanning metrological studies of Chinese units of measurement, an early Chinese approximation of the number π , and the development of meteorology, technology, medicine, pharmacology, botany, and other fields in the People's Republic of China.

Erwin Reifler's scholarly work has not yet received the recognition it deserves. Many of his writings are stored in boxes in the archives of the University of Washington in Seattle, where they still await further analysis and appreciation. (Cf. Führer, op. cit. 256).

Erwin Reifler's Chinese library is housed by the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Henrietta Reifler's papers are kept at the Jewish Women's Archive (Brookline, Mass.).

There is also a Henrietta Reifler interview, audio. 4 cassettes and transcript. Interviewer: Isabel Stusser.

Oral History Collection, University of Washington Libraries.

List of Publications of Erwin Reifler (16.6.1903–23.4.1966)

No effort has been made to track down and include a number of machine translation project papers that were co-authored by Reifler or contain contributions also by a number of additional authors.

1927

Staat und Verwaltung im alten China.

Diss. Wien. [unpublished].

1930

China — Anna May Wong [黄柳霜 Huang Liushuang, 1905–1961] und wir. Von Erwin Reifler [...] Berlin.

Der Wiener Tag. 14.8. 1930.

Das chinesische Drama, der chinesische Film und Anna May Wong. Von Erwin Reifler.

Wiener Mittags-Zeitung 16.8. 1930: 5.

Chinesisches Souper in Wien. Die Wiener chinesische Kolonie feiert Anna May Wong. Von Erwin Reifler.

Neues Wiener Journal 6.9. 1930.

1943

The Rosetta Stone of China.

The catholic review [Shanghai] 1943: 16–17, 37.

La langue chinoise à la lumière de la philologie moderne.

Bulletin de l'université l'Aurore III, 4. 1953: 419–434.

Théories sur l'étymologie des caractères chinois.

Bulletin de l'université l'Aurore III, 4. 1943: 684–707.

Yanjiu Zhongguo wenzi zhi xinde 研究中國文字之心得

Kexue huabao [Shanghai] 10. 1943: 5, 212–217.

1944

Etude sur l'étymologie des caractères chinois, la serie 可 [ke].

Bulletin de l'université l'Aurore III, 7. 1946: 31–50.

Chinese characters versus romanization.

China weekly review [Shanghai]. 6. Juli, 1946.

1947

Zhongguo yuwenxue duiyu shijie yuwenxue zhi gongxian 中國語文學對於世界語文學之貢獻.

Dushu tongxun [Shanghai]. Nr 129. 1947: 2–3.

1948

Nature complémentaire des philologies chinoise et étrangères.

Bulletin de l'université l'Aurore III, 9. 1948: 98–106.

1949

La fission de l'atome en sinologie à l'aide de la sémantique comparative.

Bulletin de l'université l'Aurore 1949: 239–254.

1950

Machine translation.

(Studies in mechanical translation.1. 1950).

[Ehrenamtlicher Herausgeber] *De-Hua biao zhun da zidian* 德華標準大字典. *Deutsch-Chinesisches Standard-Handwörterbuch*. Shanghai: Xinhua shudian 1950 (1953, 1955).

1951

Some problems in mechanical translation.

(Studies in mechanical translation 2. 1951).

1952

Mechanical translation with a pre-editor and writing for mechanical translation.

(Studies in mechanical translation 3. 1952).

General mechanical translation and universal grammar.

(Studies in mechanical translation 4. 1952).

Report on the first conference on mechanical translation. June 1952, at M. I. T.

(Studies in mechanical translation 5. 1952).

Report on research results in mechanical translation in connection with the Rockefeller grant for the summer quarter 1952.

(Studies in mechanical translation 6. 1952).

The mechanical determination of the constituents of German substantive composita.

(Studies in mechanical translation 7. 1952).

The MT form class filtering system.

(Studies in mechanical translation 8. 1952).

1953

Elimination and mechanical determination of forms of dual nationality. (Studies in mechanical translation 9. 1953).

The *Studies in mechanical translation* 1–10 were duplicated and circulated to experts. 3–5 were microfilmed by MIT in 1953.

[rev.] Herrlee Glessner Creel, Chang Tsung-Ch'ien and Richard C. Rudolph, *Literary Chinese by the Inductive Method. Volume III: The Mencius, Books I-III* Edited by Paul H. Clyde and Donald Shively.

Journal of Asian Studies 12. 1953: 340.

1954

Linguistic analysis and comparative semantics.

ETC. A review of general semantics 12. 1954: I, 33–36.

Report on the First Conference on Mechanical Translation.

Mechanical translation 1. 1954: II, 23, 25–32.

A short report on the present stage in the development of mechanical translation.

(Studies in mechanical translation 10. 1954).

1955

Ever think of your ancestor! A pious interpretative fraud of early Confucianism and its consequences for the formal and semantic interpretation of the Wen Wang ode.

Monumenta serica 14. 1955: 340–373.

Mechanical determination of the constituents of German substantive compounds.

Mechanical translation 2. 1955: I, 3–14.

The mechanical determination of meaning.

Machine translation of languages. New York: Technology Press of the MIT; John Wiley 1955: 136–164.

1956

Machine translation development at the University of Washington. *Mechanical translation* 3. 1956: II, 33, 41.

1957

Some new terminology.

Mechanical translation 4. 1957: III, 52–53.

The Machine Translation Project at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA.

Proceedings of the VIII International Congress of Linguists. Oslo, 1957: 514–518.

A few striking examples demonstrating the contribution comparative semasiology can make towards historical linguistics.

Proceeding of the VIII International Congress of Linguists. Oslo, 1957: 622–625.

1958

[ed.] *Linguistic and engineering studies in automatic language translation of scientific Russian into English*.

Seattle: The University of Washington Press, 1958.

Contains by Reifler:

17–25: Outline of the project.

31–32: Some new machine translation terms.

1960

[ed.] *Linguistic and engineering studies in automatic language translation of scientific Russian into English, phase II*.

Seattle: The University of Washington Press, 1960.

Contains by Reifler:

1–8: Outline of the research.

11–15: Machine language translation.

57–65: MT linguistics and MT lexicography at the University of Washington.

1961

MT linguistics and MT lexicography at the University of Washington. *Advances in documentation and library science*. Vol. 3, pt. 2. New York, 1961: 841–852.

Current research at the University of Washington.

Proceedings of the National Symposium on Machine Translation. New Jersey, 1961: 155–159.

The solution of MT linguistic problems through lexicography.

Proceedings of the National Symposium on Machine Translation. New Jersey 1961: 312–316.

Outline of the machine translation project at the University of Washington. *Mechanical translation* 6. 1961: 25–32.

1962

Machine language translation.

Digitale Informationswandler. Braunschweig, 1962: 444–507.

Machine translation.

Bulletin of the Medical Library Association. Lexington, Ky 1962: 473–480.
The Chinese-English Machine Translation Project (Grant NSF-G 13579).
Final report to the National Science Foundation. Erwin Reifler, principal investigator.
 Seattle: University of Washington, Department of Far Eastern and Slavic Languages and Literature 1962. 2 vols. 4° IV, 192: 162 p. duplicated.

1965

The philological and mathematical problems of Wang Mang's standard grain measures / Dr. Erwin Reifler.

Symposium in honor of Dr. Li Chi on his 70th birthday. Qingzhu Li Ji xiansheng qishi sui lunwen ji 慶祝李濟先生七十歲論文集 [...] Pt. 1. Taipei, 1965: 387–402.

1970

Erwin Reifler, USA: The archaeological and metrological evidence for an Indus Valley and Sumero-Babylonian origin of the ancient Chinese measuring system.

Proceedings of the 26th International Congress of Orientalists, New Delhi 4. 1970 (1972): 139–162.

1971

The foot of Chou and the span of Han.

Monumenta Serica 29. 1970/71: 419–422.

1984

H.J. Griffin: Ancient Hebrew and Solomonian building construction. Compiled from the notes of Dr. Erwin Reifler. [microfiche]. London: Mansell, 1984.

H.J. Griffin and Erwin Reifler: A comparative history of metrology [microfiche]. London: Mansell, 1984: 5 microfiches.

1998

Erwin Reifler: Semantic parallelism in Job 5.

Jewish Bible Quarterly 26. 1998: 143–148, 216–222.

Contents of a stray box of Reifler's papers

The Reifler papers as today preserved in the University of Washington Library carry the accession numbers 644-7-89-39 (1 box, 18 folders) and 644-2-78-9 (General Correspondence, 1 box), 644-6-86-19 (Writings, 1 box); 644-3-78-10 (General Correspondence (3 boxes), 644-70-52 (Subject series, Machine Translation Project, Reprints, 3 boxes). Rough inventory lists are available from the library.

It so happened that the present editor discovered a box of papers from Reifler's office in an antiquarian bookshop near the Seattle International Airport and bought them for a few

dollars. At that time rumours among local second-hand bookdealers stated that the University Library was somewhat negligent regarding unwanted material and occasionally such papers had allegedly be discovered at the garbage dump. Therefore, there seemed to be no point in restituting this find to the library and risking it perhaps being dumped again. The box was then donated to the Berlin State Library where it is available for use.

Folder

1 Offprint: Carl Hentze: Eine Schamanen-Darstellung auf einem Han-Relief. *Asia Major*. NF 1,1. 1944: 74–77 (1st and last p. added in typescript).

Collet's Subscription rates for Chinese language periodicals.

Rulers of the Yin dynasty (Chinese).

Bronze inscription of the Chou ting-tzu t'ing

Folder *Mao-kung-ting* (2 copies).

Article by Tung Tso-pin (duplicated «for classroom use») 38 p.

Folder

Not for sale — for classroom use only.

(Out of print)

An interpretation of the ancient Chinese civilisation. By Tung Tso-pin. Published by Chinese Association for the United Nations... 1952.

Reproduced for student use by the Department of Far Eastern Languages and Literature, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington.

43 p., 1 pl.

ca. 40 copies:

An interpretation of the ancient Chinese civilization — Diagram.

Folder: Thesen über die theoretischen Grundlagen einer wissenschaftlichen Grammatik. 24 p. (duplicated).

Rundschreiben Nr 1.2 (Arbeitsstelle für mathematische Linguistik und automatische Übersetzung [Hamburg]). 2, 3 p.

Folder

Manfred Bierwisch: Ein Modell für die syntaktische Struktur deutscher Nominalgruppen. 43 p. (duplicated).

Folder

Wolfgang Motsch: Zur Stellung der «Wortbildung» in einem formalen Sprachmodell. 22 p. (duplicated).

Folder

Wolfgang Motsch: Prinzipielles zur Korpusbestimmung. 15 p. (duplicated).

Envelope: «Soft cards» for 6.

File cards with transliteration, characters, code and translation.

Folder

Étude sur les catégories générales applicables aux classifications et codifications documentaires. Rapport rédigé pour l'UNESCO... par Eric de Grolier... Août 1959. Epreuve de travail. P. 1–56 (duplicated).

2 — Catégories générales et expression des relations dans les classifications et codifications documentaires spécialisées. P. 57–103 (duplicated).

Folder: No. 40.

Inscription No. 40. Source: Lo Chen-yü, *K'o chai chi ku lu*, XIII/8a-b.

Folder

Memoranda re: Project policy, procedure. (1960). 21 p. Ms.

Folder: Character lists by articles (first occurrences).

[empty]

Folder

Piao-chun tien-ma pen.

[Xerox copy] 141 p., with translation of the introduction (ms.).

Folder

Publication of inscriptions. 9 p. (duplicated).

Roswell S. Britton: *Fifty Shang inscriptions*. Princeton University, the Library, 1940.

Reproduced for student use: By the Department of Far Eastern and Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington.

126 p.

Folder

JC 1. 11 p.

JC 3. 13 p.

Letter from John S.W. Wasley (McGraw-Hill) to Reifler, July 6, 1961.

Letter from Tom Kaasa, 3 p., to Richard Abel, Portland.

Chinese-English Machine Translation Project: Items to be ordered from OTS Selected Bibliography: Chinese Mainland Science and Technology. 3 p.

Correspondence Ryburn M. Ross (7.6., 19.6.61), Reifler (15.6, 22.6.61); Chinese text attached.

Bibliographic notes (Selected from Science News Letter for December 10, 1960). 11 p. Ms.

Copies of Chinese articles from *K'o-hsüeh t'ung-pao*.

Chinese-English MT Project. Differences between nationalist and communist Chinese telecode. 3 p. 5, 19 p. Ms.

Chinese-English MT Project: Wang K'uei: An opinion on the standardization of colour nomenclature. 25 leaves. Ms.

Chinese-English MT Project: Familiarization with simplified characters and the specialized vocabulary used in Che-hsüeh yen-chiu.... (See soft-cards attached).

Folder

Chinese-English MT Project: Reclassification of all simplified characters. 9 p. Ms.

Folder: Masters of materials for epigraphy.

9 p.

Folder

Kuo Mo-jo: Foreword

[literal and free translation]

Folder

Bibliographic notes

Computer printout: romanization and key.

1 envelope with inscription (from a modern publ.

Matrices for character lists.

Folder

Telegraphic code Chinese-English dictionary (for machine translation). Compiled by Anna Chennault. 353 p.

[Without envelope:]

Sorting by chain formation. A program for a computer handling punched tape. By J.A.Th.M. van Berckel. Nov. 1962. 19 p.

J.A.Th.M. van Berckel: Onderzoek woordfrequentie. Resultaten kranten. Okt. 1962. 85 p.
Essays on and in machine translation by the Cambridge Language Research unit.
Cambridge 1959. Unpag.

Mechanical pidgin translation. An estimate of the research value of «word-for-word» translation into a pidgin language, rather than into the full normal form of an output language. By Margaret Masterman and Martin Kay.

Cambridge Language Research Unit 1960. Unpag.

Envelope

Max Löhr: Bronzetexte der Chou-Zeit [*Sinologische Arbeiten*. 1944]. Bronze texts of Chou times (Chou I). Translated from the German original by students of the course Chinese Epigraphy in the fall quarter of 1963.

Folder

Bell's suggestions.

Without title. Note: Albert N. Schrieber.

Scan Chinese periodicals list from Chao Liu Publication Service. 4 p.

Permanent magnet alloy heat dealing/treatment. 8 p.

What kind of literary works do farmers like. Note: Suggestions by Mr. Charles Bell [and further titles] 23 p.

Envelope: No. 40: Wu Tsun.

(2 transparencies)

Envelope: No. 38:chi-tzu pai-p'an.

Photonegatives (5 transparencies).

Article by Chebyshev with translation.

Cover letter by Ida Rhodes, National Bureau of Standards (1964).

Envelope

Masters (36 pp.) of the introductory sections of Tung Tso-Pin's *Hsi-Chou nien-li p'u*

Detailed listing of characters, telecode numbers and English equivalents for characters figuring in comparative check of project-established semantic units with the STC-Pinyin dictionary. 25 p. Ms.

5 pages from a Chinese-Russ. dictionary. And the processed version: 17 p.

Comparison of Mathew's *Chinese-English Dictionary* with the *Kitaisko-russkii slovar'*. 8 p.

2. The compounds of *wen*. 13 p.

3. The compounds of *fen*. 14 p.

4. The compounds of *kung*. 17 p.

5. The compounds of *fa*. 10 p.

6. The compounds of *ch'u*. 10 p.

7. The compounds of *jen*. 11 p.

8. The compounds of *k'ai*. 10 p.

9. The compounds of *hsiang*. 9 p.

10. The compounds of *tzu*. 16 p.

Ms. without beginning, p. 6–14, carbon copy

Complete listing of Blue Problem Cards to date (1961). 9 p.

JC #1. 32 p.

Stella #1. 24 p.

Huang #1. 7 p.

Huang #2. 7 p.
 Huang #3. 4 p.
 Huang #4. 5 p.
 Huang #5. 7 p.
 Huang #6. 5 p.
 Huang #7. 5 p.
 Huang #8. 5 p.
 Huang #9. 5 p.
 4 original articles. 34 p.
 Huang #1-9. Suppl.
 JC #1. Suppl. 4 p.
 JC #2. Suppl. 4 p.
 JC #3. Suppl. 6 p.
 JC #4. Suppl. 6 p.
 Stella #1. Suppl. 5 p.
 Stella #2. Suppl. 4 p.
 Stella #3. Suppl. 3 p.
 Stella #4. Suppl. 6 p.
 Stella #5. Suppl. 5 p.

Photonegatives: nos. 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37.

Reifler: A short report on the present stage in the development of mechanical translation. [duplicated.] 11 p.

Liu Yung-Ts'uan: Research work in the field of machine translation in the Chinese Peoples' Republic.

[from: *Lending Library Unit Translation Bulletin*. 1960: II, 66–72 [copy]]

Personal bibliographies:

Erwin Reifler [only p. 3]

Chang Kun 1 p.

Vincent Y.C. Shih 2 p.

Richard F.S. Yang 1 p.

Li Fang-kuei [only p. 4]

Abstract of the proposal for a Chinese-English Machine Translation research Project [without attachments].

THE INSTITUTE FOR SEMANTOGRAPHY

A Non-Profit Educational Research Organisation.

Founder and Director: C. K. BLISS, B.Sc.

5 Maroubra Bay Road, Pagewood,
Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

SEMANTOGRAPHY SERIES NO. 116

July 1955

SEMANTOGRAPHY AND PROFESSOR ANATOL RAPOPORT

The following first letter has been written by Professor Erwin Reifler of the University of Seattle to Professor Anatol Rapoport of the University of Chicago. Rapoport is associated with Professor Hayakawa who has written "Language in Action" and who edits the journal on General Semantics; "Etc".

I met Reifler in China where he taught Chinese at the French Aurora University at Shanghai. Actually, he was the first scholar whom I approached and I hoped to receive great help from him, not only because he himself is a teacher of Chinese writing but mainly because he, just as I, was a refugee from Europe. However, he extended no help to me with regard to the recognition of my work, but later in Seattle, he interested Professor Dodd (see Semantography Series No. 70) and wrote also a letter to Professor Rapoport. When I received the copy of his letter to Rapoport, I immediately sent a letter to Rapoport which is re-printed below. However, Rapoport ignored Reifler's suggestion and my letter. He did not answer. Letter of Professor Reifler to Professor Rapoport:

February 28, 1952

Professor Anatol Rapoport
Committee on Mathematical Biology,
University of Chicago,
Chicago 37.

Dear Professor Rapoport,

I wish to draw your attention to the work of Mr. C.K. Bliss of Sydney, Australia who in many years of research has developed a kind of "meaning-writing" which he calls Semantography.

Mr. Bliss conceived the idea of Semantography during the last war while a refugee in China where he became acquainted with the Chinese writing system. Realizing the unique advantages of this system (relative independence from any spoken language, employed by Chinese speaking mutually unintelligible dialects, by the Japanese, Koreans and Annamites speaking languages not related to Chinese and mutually unintelligible, as a common medium of thought communication for the educated among all these peoples), but also realizing its disadvantages (lack of a thoroughly systematic structure on account of natural growth, absence of scholarly planning, resultant complexity, inconsistent use, for instance misuse of symbols on account of phonic identity or similarity, resultant incongruity of many of their meanings, etc. etc.), he set out to develop a graphically extremely simple and structurally systematic kind of writing representing only "ideas" but no speech sounds, a writing which could be adopted by the speakers of any speech community for inter-community thought communication. There is especially one aspect of this writing system which may be particularly attractive to General Semanticians. "Translated into pictorial (i.e. semantographic) language", says Mr. Bliss, "the slogans of dictators and rabble-rousers would create only hearty laughter, because everyone would see at once they were meaningless". That is, only speech that means something can be translated into this system of symbols.

I am sending you, attached, a number of leaflets which will give you some more information.

I believe that The International Society for General Semantics may be interested in hearing Mr. Bliss present his work at its Annual Conference. An invitation to read a paper, while not committing the Society in any academic or financial way, may, on the other hand, contribute to Mr. Bliss' obtaining a travel grant from one of the American Foundations for a lecture tour to this country. Our Linguistic Society has already sent him such an invitation. Mr. Bliss wants to come here in

order to present his idea and the system he has developed and thus have the benefit of ample criticism and suggestions. I know Mr. Bliss personally from China where he first explained his plan to me. He has already published a bulky, three-volume, work on his Semantography, and I may add that Professor Stuart C. Dodd is also very much interested in him.

I shall be grateful for the return of the leaflets when you do not need them any more.

Please remember me to Mrs. Rapoport. With the kindest regards to you and Dr. Hayakawa,

Yours sincerely,

Erwin Reifler.

Letter of Bliss to Rapoport;

Sydney 7th January 1952

Prof. Anatol Rapoport,
Committee on Mathematical Biology,
University of Chicago,
CHICAGO 37, Ill. U.S.A.

Dear Professor Rapoport,

For a number of years I wanted to write to you, but found not the time, or was apprehensive about a discouraging answer. Now, through an advertisement in an American magazine, the Institute of General Semantics became aware of my work. Furthermore Professor Oliver L. Reiser of the University of Pittsburgh - my generous friend - spoke about my work a few days ago in a lecture read to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It was Professor Reiser who suggested to Prof. Hayakawa that he should review my work in ETC. With the same mail Prof. Hayakawa will receive material which he will surely show to you, and I take this opportunity to approach you too, and to send you personally some material for your own bookshelf.

I enclose the leaflet which was drawn up (especially the 4th page) by my Friends of the Institute in order to help me out of my personal material and mental "depression". The 4th page tells of my plight and Professor Reiser was generous to give it to the 40 odd participants of the Annual Meeting of the AAAS.

Nearly a year ago I have sent promotion material to the Library of the University of Chicago, unfortunately with no result. However, the Chicago Teacher College 6800 Stewart Avenue acquired my books. This is the only copy available in Chicago. On page 441 and 574 I have quoted from your writing in ETC after receiving permission from Prof. Hayakawa. You should know that my 3 large volumes are mimeographed (see page 4 of the leaflet mentioned above).

I enclose furthermore a 6 page sheet titled INTRODUCTION TO THE SEMANTICS OF SEMANTIOGRAPHY, a special address to Professor Hayakawa. I am writing to you, asking for a kindly attitude to a new work, which in some respects differs from some of the tenets of General Semantics, but only in so far, that it is in my opinion an improvement. I feel sure that Professor Hayakawa will let you see all the material.

Lastly a request. The United States Educational Foundation in Australia makes available travel grants to Australian students and scholars, provided they attach themselves to a University or other higher Institute of Learning in the States. This means that the Institute has to agree first. Do you think that you could secure such an attitude by the University or other Institute in Chicago. Professors and Students of the University of Sydney have written in eulogistic terms about my ability as a powerful speaker.

Encl.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEMANTICS OF SEMANTIOGRAPHY
(Sem. Series 74)

Brochure Sem. Series No. 6

Russell Facsimile Sem. Series No. 8 Leaflet to Lecture Geological Society Sem.

Leaflet to Prof. Reiser Lecture Sem. Series No. 52

Yours sincerely

C.K. Bliss

Leaflet to Lecture Physical Society Sem. Series 13

Series No. 43

**Эрвин Райфлер (16.06.1903–23.04.1966),
Выдающийся китаист и лингвист.
Некоторые библиографические сведения**

Хартмут Валравенс

Государственная библиотека Берлина,
Свободный университет
Берлин, Германия

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Аннотация: Эрвин Райфлер — австрийский синолог, который после обучения в Университете Вены переехал в Китай и с 1932 г. работал в различных университетах как переводчик, а затем как профессор Université l'Aurore в Шанхае. В 1948 г. он стал профессором китаеведения в Университете Вашингтон (Сеэтл). Он занимался этимологией, лингвистикой, позднее — метрологией, был одним из основателей машинного перевода с китайского языка. Предлагаемая статья основана на автобиографическом письме Райфлера, а в качестве приложения дается описание архивных материалов Райфлера, хранящихся в коробке, которую автор статьи приобрел в одном из антикварных магазинов США, и которая в настоящий момент хранится в Berlin State Library.

Ключевые слова: Райфлер (1903–1966), история китаеведения, китайская библиография.

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Об авторе: ВАЛРАВЕНС Хартмут, доктор филологических наук, Государственная библиотека Берлина, Свободный университет (Берлин, Германия) (hwalravens@gmx.net). ORCID: 0000-0002-7418-6966.

Appendix

A Letter by Erwin Reifler (July 1955) (facsimile)