As a student of medieval history at the University of Tokyo concentrating on scholarly research published in the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-centuries, I was fortunate to find in our library the collection entitled “Liebermann Bunko”—that is, the personal library of the great Anglo-Saxon legal historian Felix Liebermann. This collection contains Liebermann’s research materials, articles written by him, and even annotations in a copy of his great masterpiece, *Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen*. The fact that this collection resides in the Library of the University of Tokyo (hereafter the LUT) is not well-known outside Japan. In the following pages, I will thus present some features of the Liebermann Library. The discussion will address 1) How his library came to Japan; 2) The history and methodology of its classification; 3) The contents of the library and, especially, the characteristics of annotations displayed in Liebermann’s personal copy of *Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen*

How Liebermann’s personal library came to Japan

In 1925, Felix Liebermann lost his life in a car accident. This occurred not long after Germany had been defeated in the First World War in 1918. In 1924, the Dawes Plan for German reparations had been put into operation. In the fourth year of this schedule of reparation—1927—the LUT used this funding to purchase Liebermann’s personal library. At this time, the LUT was in a state of disarray, having suffered a collapse in the earthquake of 1923. Soon after that catastrophe, a committee for the restoration of the LUT was organized, including

\* I would like to express my gratitude to the librarians of the Library of the University of Tokyo, especially Ms Junko Hanaoka and Mr Kouichi Ueda, the Emeritus Professor Takeshi Kido of Tokyo University, Professor David Rollason of Durham University and the participants of the Liebermann Conference, and last but not least, the editors of this book, for their kind help and advice.
outstanding scholars of law and economics.\textsuperscript{1} They had already both purchased and been given many books in Western countries.\textsuperscript{2} These are the circumstances under which the Liebermann Library was bought and came to Japan. The LUT has a catalogue compiled in 1937 of books bought in the fourth year of the Dawes Plan (1927),\textsuperscript{3} which lists Liebermann’s personal library.\textsuperscript{4} Ms Hanaoka, a librarian of the LUT, informs me that the library itself has no further records concerning the process of this purchase.\textsuperscript{5} Further research may fill in more of the history: for example, how the Liebermann family came to put the library up for sale, or details of the transaction with the committee of the LUT. I am hoping to find relevant documents in the archives of the Foreign Office or the Ministry of Finance in Japan.

**History and Methodology of Classification of Liebermann’s Library**

Next I would like to address the size of the Liebermann Library and the characteristics concerning its classification. The 1937 catalogue counts 3,780 books and 1,762 pamphlets.\textsuperscript{6} The latter are mainly offprints of articles published in academic journals. The newer online

\textsuperscript{1} Ms Hanaoka informs me that this group included, among others, Zennosuke Nakagawa and Sakae Wagatsuma, famous legal scholars, and Kozo Uno and Itsuro Sakisaka, influential economists.

\textsuperscript{2} For example, the libraries of Hugo Preuss and Friedrich Neubecker.

\textsuperscript{3} [A300:A-2-Japan:U. Nat. 19]. I use square brackets throughout for call numbers of the LUT. Genzaburo Yoshino, who later became a distinguished editor and writer, notes that many books donated or bought for restoration remained unclassified when he was a librarian of the LUT in the late 1920s and the early 1930s. Considering that the first catalogue of Liebermann’s Library was made in 1937, ten years after its acquisition, some time was required to organize these collections. (Information supplied by Ms Hanaoka).

\textsuperscript{4} Another catalogue states that Liebermann’s library was bought in the third, not in the fourth year of the Dawes Plan (information from Ms Hanaoka). Anyway, we can set the date of purchase at 1926 or 1927.

\textsuperscript{5} Personal communication by e-mail from Ms Hanaoka, who kindly checked many records on the history of Tokyo Imperial University to provide background for this paragraph.

\textsuperscript{6} This 1937 catalogue was made to estimate how much Liebermann’s library was worth. The total purchase price for Liebermann’s library was 45,000 DM, about 22,500 Japanese Yen at that time. The librarian who made the 1937 catalogue calculated every book as worth 6 Yen and every pamphlet as 0.2 Yen. As a result, the real “value” of Liebermann’s library was estimated slightly higher than the cost price.