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# From the chairperson

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## from the chairperson

It is a very great privilege to present to you this Special Commemorative Issue of the Committee on East Asian Libraries Bulletin, an auspicious beginning for the second hundred issues of our publication. This volume is both a celebration of East Asian librarianship and a milestone for the field, recording achievements of the past, the status of the present and visions of the future. Most of all, the essays compiled here give us a testament to the people who have made the Committee on East Asian Libraries the effective organization that it has been forty or so years now. In this regard, I want to emphasize the importance of the scholarly articles as well as the memoirs and the essays analyzing current and future trends. The range of topics and variety of treatments found here is impressive. Those of us who have been working in East Asian collections for some time will find it hard to stop the flood of memories that come to mind as we read these pages. Those who are new to the field should read carefully, for the wisdom and knowledge that is presented here is the best introduction to this field that you could ever hope to find. On behalf of everyone who will benefit from these writings, I extend the gratitude of the entire field to all the contributors. You have done a marvelous service for us and we appreciate it!

Special thanks must first of all go to Tsuen-hsuei Tsien, Professor Emeritus of the University of Chicago and Curator Emeritus of its East Asian Collection. Despite a heavy load of other commitments, Dr. Tsien graciously agreed to serve as Guest Editor of this Special Commemorative Issue. Through his extensive network of students, colleagues and friends throughout the world, he was able to attract many contributions that might otherwise have been impossible to obtain. In his role as Guest Editor he worked closely on the many editorial decisions required for this large production with Edward Martinique, who served as Copy Editor. Needless to say, editing the copy of a volume this complex required extraordinary commitment on Ed's part as well. To him, once again, CEAL is indebted. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention that the original idea for this volume came from Emiko Moffitt, in a letter she wrote to me shortly after I became Chairperson of CEAL. As many of you already know, Emiko retired during the Fall. She has always been a dedicated librarian, a font of creative ideas, and an inspiration to many of us -- in this case her idea was simply wonderful!

Since I have mentioned retirement, I should note that Thomas Kuo, one of the contributors, has also retired. Reading his memoirs of his term as CEAL Chair, I could not help but think back on our many colleagues who were active in those days. In my case, I thought, of course, especially of two people who were very important in my career: James Shih-kang Tung and Shizue Matsuda. I was very lucky to have worked under the tutelage of these two wonderful librarians who served as mentors to help me find my way in this field. Thinking back on those days I realize how fortunate I was to catch them both and learn from them before they retired. Even though it may seem, on the surface, that librarianship has changed and continues to change, what I learned fifteen to twenty years ago from Mr. Tung and Matsuda-san has never lost its currency. The message I would like to convey to young librarians coming into this field is this: in a very short time we will see a generational shift in our field, so please try to learn as much as possible from more experienced and dedicated colleagues while you can!

The upcoming CEAL meeting will present many opportunities for us to discuss the papers in this volume as well as in other recent issues of the Bulletin. Please come prepared for such discussions! The program outline is on the next page. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

