



12-1-1993

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Edward Martinique

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Martinique, Edward (1993) "A Short History of the CEAL Bulletin," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 1993 : No. 101 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1993/iss101/4>

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A Short History of the *CEAL Bulletin*

What is referred to as issue number one of the *Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East* (CALFRE) *Newsletter* (no number appears on the typescript) is dated May 22, 1963 and was issued from the office in the Library of Congress of the Chairman of CALFRE, Edwin G. Beal, Jr. As the name of the Committee suggests, much of this first issue is taken up with the contemporaneous problems and successes of acquisition of East Asian research materials. The movement toward the combining of bibliographical information for the benefit of all interested parties is already clearly evident in this first issue. Also appearing is information on East Asian library personnel, a topic continuing up to the present day.

From the very beginning, the *Newsletter* reported on the many ongoing CALFRE projects for a union catalog, liaison with other organizations devoted to East Asian studies, reporting on the current situation and plans for the future taking place within member institutions of the Committee, and the like. The vision of a union catalog of East Asian library materials has been and is still moving closer to its realization. The publication of the large book catalogs of the major library collections in America during the '70s and '80s was a major step toward that goal as was the Library of Congress' *Union Card File of Oriental Vernacular Serials* of the '60s. The current enlargement of the database of the OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. with the retrospective conversion of many large East Asian collections (at present, the Harvard-Yenching Library and the University of California, Berkeley, East Asian Library; most recently, the University of California, Los Angeles, East Asian Library and the University of Michigan Asian Library) brings us closer and closer to the fruition of that vision. Opening up a wider vista of worldwide bibliographical information is the creation of the seminal database of the Chinese Rare Books Project of the Research Libraries Group, Inc.

In *Newsletter* no. 7 (December 1, 1964), Dr. Beal mentions the survey made by Tsuen-hsui Tsien of "the Present Status and Personnel Needs of Far Eastern Collections." Since that time Dr. Tsien has conducted similar surveys every five years until the one for 1979/80, published in February 1982 in *CEAL Bulletin* no. 67. In the February issue (no. 86) of the *Bulletin*, the first *annual* survey was printed and this has continued until the present. In the near future, the Task Force for Annual Review and Survey of Library Resources intends to study the surveys and recommend improvements in reporting the statistical information requested.

That the Committee has been active in associating with other organizations, both national and international, having the same goals as the Committee is attested to as early as May 19, 1964, with an invitation to a Hong Kong book dealer to visit CALFRE in the United States (*CEAL Newsletter* no. 5, page 3. The Committee has also formed relations with the International Association of Orientalist Librarians; the International Federation of Library Associations; the many liaison groups with Chinese, Japanese, and Korean organizations interested in library cooperation; the American Library Association; and, most recently, the

Association of Research Libraries in the Association's Foreign Acquisitions Project. Two librarians especially active in this area were Warren M. Tsuneishi and Yukihiisa Suzuki, although many other members were also very active.

The Chairman of the Committee was also the producer of the *Newsletter* until issue no. 24 (May 15, 1968) when Raymond N. Tang is listed in the masthead as Editor of Newsletter, continuing until issue no. 29 (May 15, 1969) when, presumably, the responsibility for producing the *Newsletter* returned to the Chairman. Area editors for China, Japan, and Korea had already been active collecting and editing material for the *Newsletter*. The name of the Committee itself changed with the publication of *Newsletter* no. 20 (July 1, 1967). The CALFRE became the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) and, accordingly, the *Newsletter* became the *Committee on East Asian Libraries Newsletter*.

Issue no. 40 (June 1973), thirty-seven pages in length, was the first issue to be bound in covers as a periodical. The increase in copy for each issue led finally in July 1976 to the creation of the Subcommittee on Publications with Richard C. Howard as the Subcommittee's Chair. The final change to be made to the publication up to the present time was the change in issue no. 53 (July 1977) from the term *Newsletter* to *Bulletin*. There will soon be discussion by the Committee to change its name to Society and, presumably, the name of the publication to *SEAL Bulletin*.

The paragraphs above indicate the continuing activity of this remarkable group of librarians who have produced a unique and very beneficial contribution to American, and worldwide, librarianship. The articles following all bring out this character of special devotion these librarians have brought to their profession. Their publication, the *CEAL Bulletin*, is a chronology of their activities throughout the fascinating and edifying career of the Committee on East Asian Libraries.

(Edward Martinique)