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From the President

Bill McCloy

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this message, nearly three months have passed since our annual meeting in San Diego. If that memory is fading, this issue of JEAL should begin to refresh it! It includes the reports of several CEAL committees that met there as well as Eugene Wu's keynote address from the Plenary Session "CEAL at the Dawn of the 21st Century" that opened our highly successful conference. Yasuko Makino's article "Japanese Studies for the 21st Century" continues the theme of looking to the future, while several reports highlight planning and training workshops on Japanese studies librarianship in the U.S., Canada, and Japan.

Have we heard too much about Pinyin yet? Two articles deal with the details of the imminent conversion of our Chinese records from Wade-Giles to Pinyin: the "Final Report of the CEAL Pinyin Liaison Group" and an article by Ju-yen Teng on a "total plan" for Pinyin conversion. Finally, there is a tribute to one of our retiring members, Phyllis Wang, an active contributor to CEAL for many years and a beloved colleague whose friendly face will be much missed.

I have two exciting things to report, though many of you may have heard the news already through Eastlib. Both the CEAL Directory and the CEAL website are in the process of being updated. At its second meeting in San Diego, the Executive Committee voted to assign the task of overseeing the website to the Committee on Library Technology. You should hear from them soon about the "new and improved" new website and their plans to keep it current. (Many thanks to Bob Felsing who has shouldered the burden for many years!) Secondly, our new CEAL Secretary, Doris Seely, has volunteered to produce a new edition of the CEAL Directory. If you have not heard from her yet, you undoubtedly will soon.

Now is the time to begin planning for next year's conference in Chicago. Over the summer, CEAL committees will begin planning programs and workshops with the intention of announcing tentative plans in the fall. Please share your ideas and enthusiasm with committee chairs and members. This will ensure that we continue to field excellent programs on issues of interest and relevance to our members.

Bill McCloy, President
Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)