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From the President

Bill McCloy

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of CEAL:

This issue of the *Journal of East Asian Libraries (JEAL)* is a full one, incorporating more reports from our successful San Diego Conference as well as new contributions from CEAL members on varied aspects of the East Asian Library field. Though March 2001 still seems far off, CEAL committee members are already working hard to prepare more excellent workshops and programs for next year's conference, to be held in **Chicago**. The schedule is close to being finalized, and soon you should begin to hear more details about themes, speakers and meeting times. It is still not too late to make your suggestions known or to volunteer to participate in CEAL activities. Use the inside cover of this issue as a guide and contact the chair of the committee that corresponds to your interest.

As I write this message, "Day One" for **Pinyin conversion** is only one week away. The Library of Congress, the bibliographic networks, and countless CEAL members are "putting in overtime" training staff, preparing user aids, and educating constituents on what to expect and how to cope with the enormous changes this will bring. Hopefully, by the time we meet again, this massive project will be, as they say, "substantially complete" and we can finally stop talking about it!

Another momentous project now coming to fruition is the publication of a new edition of the **CEAL Directory**, scheduled to be mailed out to all of you later this week. Many thanks are due to CEAL Secretary, Doris Seely who compiled it, to Eddy Harrison who helped with proofreading, and to Rob Britt who is preparing the file for mounting on the CEAL Webpage. Including East Asian scripts in both the printed and the online versions has added an extra level of complexity to the preparation, but I know we will all benefit from the extra effort these dedicated individuals have put into it.

Speaking of the **CEAL Webpage** (<http://purl.oclc.org/net/ceal>), if you haven't visited it recently, please check it out. While the present reworking of the page began with basic information about CEAL, more information is being added each day, including links to other webpages dealing with East Asian Studies, to homepages of CEAL member libraries, and (soon) to CEAL statistics.

The subject of **statistics** needs some explanation. You will note that this issue of JEAL includes a revised version of the CEAL statistics that were published in the February 2000 issue. It cannot be stressed enough that this is a highly unusual situation. It was done because the University of Toronto's Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library was inadvertently left out of the February compilation though they submitted their statistics before the deadline. The CEAL Executive Committee felt strongly that this wrong should be righted while stressing that we will not be making a habit of issuing corrections and additions. Some other CEAL libraries, for one reason or another, did not submit last year's revised statistical forms. Hopefully, with one more year to gather the new statistics, our next compilation will be more complete and will more accurately reflect our entire

membership, thus enhancing the research value of this important compilation. I would encourage you to annotate the statistics pages in the February issue to refer to the new, more complete compilation in this issue. Many thanks to Vickie Fu Doll for her *continuing* work to make our CEAL statistics complete, accurate, up-to-date, and *online*! Keep a watch out for the forms for the 1999-2000 statistics. It won't be long!

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