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Tribute to Ms. Ai-Hwa Wu

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TRIBUTE TO MS. AI-HWA WU

Ms. Ai-Hwa Wu's early retirement of June 2000 came to us CEAL members as a surprise on one hand, but, to those who are aware of her unreserved piety, on the other hand, as something understandable. Ai-Hwa Wu, through her energetic participation in CEAL, AAS regional meetings, and RLG activities, is widely known and very much respected by CEAL members.

Her dedicated work at the Arizona State University Libraries is highly regarded by those of us who have been fortunate enough to witness it. Although Ms. Wu's invited article published in the special commemorative issue (no.101, December1993) of Committee on East Asian Libraries Bulletin entitled "Late Bloom in the Desert: The East Asian Library Collection and Services at Arizona State University" well summarized the history of the East Asian Collection at Ms. Wu's library, her ever-present modesty attributed the difficult but steady progress in this regard almost solely to faculty members. However, much credit should also go to her. I do not know how many times I heard, not from Ms. Wu herself but from her colleagues at the Arizona State University Libraries, that she had tirelessly presented the case for more attention, more staff, and more support for the Libraries to be able to respond to the needs of East Asian studies patrons, while she had a demanding duty as then Music Cataloger. When a new position of Japanese Studies Cataloger/Area Specialist was filled in 1988, a basic and solid Japanese studies collection both in Western languages and in the Japanese vernacular was already in place at the Arizona State University Libraries through years of Ms. Wu's preceding careful coordination with faculty members as well as with a Science Cataloging Assistant who happened to have Japanese-language skills. In other words, Ms. Wu built up the Chinese studies collection and laid out the strong foundation of the Japanese studies collection, paying attention also to Korean studies titles, at the Arizona State University Libraries.

Through her presentation of papers, moderation of professional panels, as well as service on the CEAL Executive Committee, RLG East Asian Program Committee, and RLG East Asian Studies Advisory Group, Ms. Wu has demonstrated her leadership and has played a mentoring role to junior librarians. She has always been willing to answer questions and to offer her views, when requested, which has been of great help to junior librarians, especially because of her broad-based background gained in the central cataloging and central collection development scenes, not limited to East Asian studies library operations. Her always calm, sincere, and professional attitude has also been very much appreciated by everyone, including senior librarians. Her succinct but unmistakably clear remarks to encourage those of us of less faith have been sources of sound guidance in our professional pursuits.

While many CEAL members and patrons as well as staff members at the Arizona State University Libraries obviously regret Ms. Ai-hwa Wu's early retirement, the new phase of her life with more dedication to the Church will certainly be fulfilling to her through her response to the spiritual quest of her new "neighbors." Blessed be the Lord!

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