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# In Memoriam

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Dr. Raymond Nai-Wen Tang (1928-2003)

Dr. Raymond Tang, Head of the East Asian Library, 1969-1979, and Head of the Chinese Division, 1979-1991, at the University of California, Berkeley passed away on June 30, 2003 after a short period of illness. A native of China, he spent his childhood during the Sino-Japanese War and the Civil War in Mainland China. He graduated from National Taiwan University in 1956 with a B.A. in English. He then obtained an M.A. in English from Marquette University in 1961. One year later, he graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Library Science. Before joining the UC-Berkeley Library in 1969, he was the Chinese Reference Librarian in Columbia University's East Asian Library from 1964 to 1966, and the Assistant Head and Chinese Curator of the University of Michigan's Asia Library from 1966 to 1969.

During the 1970s, shortly after the U.S. and China normalized relations, Raymond Tang went to China to acquire materials for the UC-Berkeley Library. In those days, such trips were rare and materials obtained were highly valuable for research in Chinese studies in the U.S. He was instrumental in acquiring the important Ho-Chiang Collection of Buddhist medieval manuscripts and scriptures for Berkeley, which documents the evolution of Buddhist works in China, Korea, and Japan. His purchase of *Guo Yu*, a Chinese rare book, marked the seven millionth book in the UC-Berkeley Library. He was Chair of CEAL (Committee on East Asian Libraries, Association for Asian Studies) from 1971 to 1973, and an editor of the CEAL Bulletin from 1968 to 1973. While working in Berkeley, he managed to continue his doctoral studies at Stanford, and obtained his Ph.D. in Chinese Literature in 1982. Colleagues in UC Berkeley's East Asian Library still remember his good sense of humor and friendly personality. After his retirement, he taught in China for a short period of time and then returned to the Bay Area to spend the rest of his life with his wife and children in their Orinda home.

An accomplished scholar and librarian, Dr. Raymond Tang had a rich life and a happy family. A few months before his death, he composed the following poem as a reflection on his life journey in the new country he had fondly adopted:

The Seagull

Snowy wings  
Outstretched

Soaring through  
Blue skies  
White clouds  
Over azure seas

Ocean he calls home

In depths of white clouds  
He hides

His unfulfilled  
Dreams

His unfulfilled dreams live on. We marvel at what a remarkable life Dr. Tang had and all the accomplishments he achieved.

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