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From the President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an honor and a privilege to undertake the duties of CEAL President. I will do my best to help CEAL continue to be an effective and relevant professional organization.

CEAL members owe many thanks to Abraham Yu for having served with distinction as president for the past three years. We are also grateful to Ellen Hammond and her Election Committee (Martin Heijdra, Sun-Yoon Lee and Abraham Yu) for having conducted a highly efficient election of officers and board members, and to Wooseob Jeong for having prepared the electronic ballots that made it so easy for members to vote and for the committee to tally up the results.

I look forward to working with Kris Troost (Duke University), who was elected Vice President/President Elect; Toshie Marra (UCLA), who is our new Treasurer; Ellen McGill (Harvard University), who was elected Secretary; and Kuniko Yamada McVey (Harvard University) and Hong Xu (University of Pittsburgh), who were selected to be Members-At-Large. The Executive Board thanks the outgoing officers and board members for their service to the organization and the profession: Sarah Elman, Treasurer; Joy Kim, Secretary; Bob Felsing and Kris Troost, Members-At-Large.

The 2006 meetings were successful because of the efforts of many people. The hotel site and meeting rooms accommodated our sessions very adequately. Special thanks go to Peter Zhou and his colleagues at the University of California-Berkeley for arranging the Fellowship Dinner and tours of the Berkeley campus; Dongfang Shao for arranging a tour of the Stanford University libraries; to Xiaoxin Wu for arranging tours of the Ricci Institute of Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco; and to Setsuko Noguchi and Ai-lin Yang for helping arrange the much-appreciated SCCTP Advanced Serials Training session.

Each of the small group and committee sessions featured interesting professional presentations and exchanges. Afterward, several executive board members remarked that many of the papers and discussions touched on topics that fall within the purview of several of the standing committees, and wondered if we should try holding cross-committee sessions or panel discussions at next year=s meeting. CEAL members, what do you think? Do you feel that we could reorganize our schedule in this manner to present some issues of broader common interest?

I anticipate an eventful year ahead. As proposed during the Plenary Session, CEAL plans to form a Task Force on Multiscript Capabilities in Local Systems. An LC-CEAL CJK cataloging internship was approved by the CEAL Executive Board, and then by Library of Congress management. A description of the program and call for applicants will be forthcoming in the near future. And, of course, the proposed merger of OCLC and RLG will affect us all; we eagerly await developments.

I was pleased to write to Randy B. Olsen, University Librarian at Brigham Young University, to thank him for the extraordinary generosity of the BYU Library in contributing the money necessary for back issues of the *CEAL Bulletin* and *JEAL* to be made available on the web. Now the official voice of the Council on East Asian Libraries and its predecessor, the Committee on East Asian Libraries, including announcements, minutes of CEAL meetings, reports of conferences and ongoing projects, statistical summaries, and substantive papers on issues of professional interest to librarians, are available to the whole world.

The gift from Brigham Young was made possible through the good offices and continuing efforts of Gail King, who has served as editor of *JEAL* for many years with distinction and a high degree of professionalism. Her high standards, meticulousness and punctuality have elevated *JEAL* as a professional publication. By conceiving of this project, preparing the back issues for digitization, and working effectively with Brigham Young University to make this project a success, she has shown extraordinary dedication to her profession, and has made a very significant contribution to the field of East Asian librarianship. We are most fortunate that Gail has consented to serve as *JEAL* editor for three more years. Thank you, Gail!

Philip Melzer, President