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In Memoriam

Tokiko Bazzell

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IN MEMORIAM

Naomi Fukuda

Naomi Fukuda ended a long and fruitful life at the age of 99 on August 12 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Ms. Fukuda was one of the great pioneers and mentors in the field of Japanese studies. She graduated from Tokyo Women's Christian University (Tokyo Joshi Daigaku) in 1929 and from the University of Michigan in 1939. She worked at the Library of Congress 1939-1940 and the University of Tokyo Library 1940-1942, and during World War II at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She contributed to the establishment of the National Diet Library in 1948 while working for the Occupation Forces. In 1959, during her tenure as Head Librarian at the International House of Japan, Ms. Fukuda led a field trip to the U.S. This experience prompted her to introduce the then unfamiliar concept of "reference services" to libraries in Japan.

After she left I-House in 1970, Ms. Fukuda returned to the United States, where she brought her dedication and leadership to the Japanese studies field abroad. In the US she worked at the libraries of the University of Maryland (1968-69) and the University of Michigan, from which she retired in 1978. At Michigan she also held the position of Lecturer in Far Eastern Languages and Literatures for the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. During her long career she laid the groundwork for the development of many Japanese collections and taught many researchers and librarians from countries throughout the world.

Naomi Fukuda's numerous publications include the first guide to Japanese reference books, published in 1962 by the International House of Japan, the English version of which was published in 1966 by the ALA as *Guide to Japanese Reference Books*. In recognition of her many contributions she was decorated by the Japanese government in 1984.

(From an Eastlib posting by Tokiko Bazzell)

Editor's Note:

The June, 2008 issue of the *Journal of East Asian Libraries* will be dedicated to articles recording and commemorating Naomi Fukuda's life and her contributions to libraries and Japanese studies.