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RETIREMENTS

A Tribute to Amy Ching-Fen Tsiang on Her Retirement

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Retiring as Librarian Emeritus in January 2010 at UCLA, Ms. Amy Ching-Fen Tsiang (蔣吳慶芬) made substantial contributions to the field of East Asian librarianship in a career spanning more than forty years. Born in Guangdong, Ms. Tsiang grew up in Taiwan and received her Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Missouri at Columbia. She began her professional career in 1968 as the Senior Descriptive Cataloging Librarian at St. Louis Public Library. In 1969 she was appointed Chinese Cataloger/Reference Librarian (1969-1974) of the then Oriental Library at UCLA. For the next forty years, she moved upwards in the UCLA library system from Head of Chinese Division (1984-1990) to Head of Cataloging Division (1990-1998), and retired in 2010 as Head of the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library (1999-2009).

Ms. Tsiang was an active participant in and organizer of many prominent projects related to the online cataloging of East Asian materials. Her 1988 article "Experiences in OCLC CJK Online Cataloging at the UCLA Oriental Library" described the trainings and strategies the cataloging staff of UCLA's Oriental Library, one of the eleven test sites in North America, implemented while testing the OCLC CJK online system. As project manager of UCLA's CJK retrospective conversion (recon) project, she conducted a survey of the recon projects and efforts among North American East Asian libraries and collections. The survey finding, entitled "Retrospective Conversion of East Asian Materials," was published in October 1990. Between 1997 and 2000, she was heavily involved in the planning and implementation of the pinyin conversion of East Asian materials. As a result, a series of articles on this project, from summary reports to the final report, were published by her and other members of the CEAL Task Force on Pinyin Conversion. In 2006 she shared her experience of cataloging outsourcing at UCLA in another article, "Cataloging Outsourcing: Practice and Thinking." A seasoned cataloger, Ms. Tsiang contributed to Chapters 1 (General Rules for Description) and 12 of *Descriptive Cataloging of East Asian Materials: CJK Examples of AACR2 and Library of Congress Rule Interpretations*, posted on the home page of the Library of Congress' Cataloging Policy and Support Office.

In 1999 Ms. Tsiang was appointed Head of the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library. She carefully and persistently maintained and developed the East Asian Library, opening new areas for and building on existing strengths of Chinese,

Japanese, and Korean collections in response to the changes in academic programs. In "Sixty Years of the East Asian Collection at the University of California, Los Angeles" (2010, *Collecting Asia*), she pointed out the direction of "the East Asian Library [which] is now moving into a multiformat, multimedia, and multidisciplinary environment, and purchases/subscribes to many electronic resources from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States."

Over the years, Ms. Tsiang worked successfully to obtain internal and external funds and grants for the development of the East Asian Library. In spite of the economic challenges in California, she was able to raise more than \$100,000 each year for the East Asian Library from endowments, grants, and East Asian program support. Upon her retirement, she established the Amy Ching-Fen Tsiang Legacy Endowment for the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library at UCLA. Congratulating Ms. Tsiang in a letter, UCLA Chancellor Gene Block wrote: "your gift is a fitting complement to your tireless efforts . . . I offer my profound gratitude."

Ms. Tsiang was a member of ALA, CEAL, and the Chinese-American Librarians Association (CALA) and served on the CEAL Committee on Chinese Materials (2005-2008, 2002-2005) and CEAL Committee on Technical Processing (1987-1990, 1996-1999), on the CEAL Executive Board as Member-at-Large (2002-2005), and as CALA President (2003/2004). She gave numerous presentations, both regionally and internationally, and served as a mentor to junior librarians. Her many contributions earned her the CALA Distinguished Service Award (2000) and the CALA President's Award (2008).

In addition to her distinguished professional achievements, Ms. Tsiang is an acclaimed singer and mimic. Gifted with a beautiful voice, a talent for impersonation, and a bright personality, her performances are a delightful addition to any gathering. Some of us will remember her singing the lyrics from the Chinese folk musical "Butterfly Lovers: Liang Shanbo 梁山伯 and Zhu Yingtai 祝英台." As much as we will miss Ms. Tsiang, we are happy that she will have time to pursue her interests in various community works and sports. She plans to spend more time taking care of her father and visiting her two sons. She also assured us that she will keep in close contact with her colleagues in the East Asian library profession.

Kenji Niki retired in the spring of 2011. A native of Japan, Kenji graduated from Sophia University in 1973 and then came to the United States and studied Asian studies at St. Johns University in New York City, where he worked as a librarian from 1979-1983 and 1992-1999. From 1983-1999, Kenji served as the Japanese Curator at the Columbia University C. V. Starr East Asian Library. From 1999-2001 he was Japanese Studies Librarian at the University of Michigan Asia Library, where he oversaw the continued growth of Japanese materials and provided public

services through reference work and research consultations. From 2003 to 2008 he served as Interim Co-Administrator. His strong commitment to the traditional skills of bibliography and his mastery of Japanese publishers and booksellers was an invaluable asset to the University of Michigan Japanese studies community. During his career as a librarian, Kenji was always a generous mentor to younger librarian colleagues. He was active in the Council on East Asian Libraries and its Executive Board, the Japan Foundation Library Support Advisory Group, and the National Coordinating Committee for Japanese Library Resources.

Excerpted from Brian Vivier, "Kenji Niki Retirement," *Densho* (Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan), Fall 2011, p. 5.