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## Institutional News

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## **INSTITUTIONAL NEWS**

### **Columbia University's C. V. Starr East Asian Library Honors Donald Keene**

NEW YORK, August 6, 2012 – Columbia University's C. V. Starr East Asian Library recently honored Professor Donald Keene with a plaque in its historic reading room in recognition of his ongoing support of the Japanese Studies Collection.

Professor Keene, who taught at Columbia for over fifty years, is one of the world's leading Japanese literature authorities and a pioneer in establishing the modern study of Japan. Due in large part to his generous support – Professor Keene has donated books, journals, as well as funds - the Japanese Studies Collection currently holds over 312,000 volumes of print materials, 34,000 microforms, many important electronic resources, as well as the Barbara Cartis Adachi Collection on Bunraku, 1962-2003.

Professor Keene donated two particularly special collections: the collection of Letters to Donald Keene from Japanese literary figures, 1952-2004 and Abe Kōbō Collection, 1933-2002. In 2006, he provided the initial \$200,000 to enable the Starr Library to acquire one of the library's most important collections: the Makino Mamoru Collection on the History of East Asian Film, a collection that focuses on print materials mostly related to Japanese film that were collected over the course of fifty years by former documentary filmmaker and film researcher, Makino Mamoru.

"Through the plaque, we express our deepest gratitude to Professor Donald Keene for his generous support of the Japanese Studies Collection. The plaque will become one of the most visible landmarks in our reading room, and I hope others will follow in Professor Keene's footsteps in supporting the library," Starr Library Director, Jim Cheng, said.

Professor Keene has published over fifty books in both English and Japanese and is the president of the Donald Keene Foundation for Japanese Culture.

The plaque was endowed with additional support from the Department of East Asian Language and Culture, the Donald Keene Center for Japanese Culture, as well as faculty and library staff members.

(From a press release by Columbia University Libraries/Information Services News)

### **Harimaze Byōbu Documents Returned to Yale**

On Friday, Oct. 5, 2012 Yale University held a ceremony to commemorate the return of the Harimaze Byōbu documents, originally assembled at the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo, to the Yale Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The documents were part of a donation to Yale of over 300 cultural treasures selected to highlight the history and culture of East Asia that was organized by the Yale Association of Japan and sent to New Haven in 1934. The Harimaze Byōbu documents date from the early twelfth to the eighteenth centuries.

Researchers from the University of Tokyo Historiographical Institute attending the ceremony at Yale included Ebara Masaharu, director of the Institute, and Kondo Shigekazu, a professor at the Institute, who played a major role in identifying one of the screen documents as one signed by the famed 12th-century monk, Chogen. Ebara and Shigekazu, along with six other researchers from the Institute, spent the following week at Yale examining the Beinecke's Japanese collections, as part of a five-year, grant-funded research project that has already brought them to the Beinecke several times.

"The Harimaze Byōbu documents are one of Yale's unique treasures. . . .," said Ellen Hammond, Curator of Yale's East Asia Library. "We are very grateful that our colleagues at the Historiographical Institute were willing to lend us their expertise to ensure that this important part of our shared history is properly preserved and protected for the future."

(From a press release by Yale News Releases)