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## Eizaburo Okuizumi (1940-2013)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### **Eizaburo Okuizumi (1940-2013)**

Eizaburo Okuizumi, the Japanese Studies Librarian at the University of Chicago Library since 1984, died on July 21, 2013, at the age of 72. During his 29-year tenure at the Chicago East Asian Collection, he greatly enhanced the strength of the Library's Japanese collection, which is widely regarded as one of the best in the United States.

Mr. Okuizumi was a researcher on U.S.-Japan wartime and post-war relations and authored and edited more than 200 publications, including many bibliographic studies on the history of the Allied Powers' occupation of Japan after World War II and on the Japanese-American in North America. One of his largest projects was the compilation of a 148-volume set of historical materials on the experiences and achievements of "Early Japanese in North America." He recently edited and republished *Seattle's Japanese Language Readers, 1920-1930* and a new edition of a collection of haiku by Seisensui Ogiwara, *On the Balmy Wind: Hawaiian Haiku, the Flowers and Fruits: Continental Haiku, and the Driving Lines to the Horizon*, in the series *Records of the Early Japanese in North America* in Japan.

Many faculty members and students at the University of Chicago received reference and bibliographic assistance from Mr. Okuizumi across the decades, and he was a key member of the East Asian Library in Regenstein. "His elegant style, warm collegiality and deep service orientation will be missed by colleagues and patrons alike," said Judith Nadler, Director and University Librarian. Yuan Zhou, Curator of the University of Chicago East Asian Library, wrote of Mr. Okuizumi, "He has been a very dedicated librarian who devoted his last 29 years here in Chicago to build our Japanese collection and to serve not only faculty and students on our campus but also many scholars and patrons elsewhere who came to use our collection or contacted him for assistance. He was a kind, gentle, collegial, and warm-hearted colleague that many of us here at Chicago enjoyed working with. As a senior Japanese Studies librarian, he was also well respected for his knowledge and rich experience in the field by his colleagues in this country and in Japan. His passing away is a true loss to our East Asian Collection. He will be greatly missed."

Highly respected internationally, Mr. Okuizumi was honored by the Government of Japan in 2004 for his work to promote U.S.-Japan relations. In a letter expressing his condolences, Noritada Otaki, Director of the National Diet Library in Tokyo described Mr. Okuizumi's passing as "an immense loss for Japanese studies librarians in North America, and indeed, all the people involved in academic research who have benefited directly and indirectly from his longtime devoted work."

Born in Japan, Mr. Okuizumi received his B.A. in Library Science, B.A. in Political Science and Law, and M.L.S. from Keio University in Tokyo. From 1965 to 1974, he served as Acquisitions Librarian at Keio University. From 1974 to 1983, he served as Japanese Bibliographer at the library of the University of Maryland, College Park. For many years, he was a Visiting Scholar at Meisei University and Hosei University in Japan.

Mr. Okuizumi is survived by his wife Keiko, daughters Yuri Okuizumi-Wu and Kaoru Okuizumi, and five grandchildren, as well as two brothers in Japan.

A memorial service for Mr. Okuizumi was held at the Quadrangle Club on the University of Chicago campus on October 3, 2013.

(From an obituary in the *University of Chicago Library News* posted August 21, 2013, and an Eastlib posting by Yuan Zhou, The University of Chicago)