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Retirements

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RETIREMENTS

Ma Tai-loi, Director of the East Asian Library at Princeton University, will retire at the end of October 2014.

Ma Tai-loi originally studied in Hong Kong University under such luminaries as Rao Zongyi and P. K. Yu, before enrolling into the legendary Far Eastern Librarianship program in Chicago under Tsuen-hsuei Tsien in the fall of 1970. After graduation two years later, he started working full-time in the East Asian Library at Chicago, while at the same time studying under Ho Ping-ti for a PhD he received in 1987, with a dissertation entitled "Private academies in Ming China (1368-1644): historical development, organization and social impact." In that year he became Curator of the East Asian Library at Chicago, having worked his way up from cataloger to head of cataloging previously, and remained in that position until 1997.

Ma Tai-loi filled many positions nationally in the library field: member of CEAL's Technical Services Committee, CEAL's representative on the ALA/CCAAM committee from 1985 to 89, member-at-large of the general CEAL board (1989-92), and chair of the CEAL Committee on Chinese Materials (1993-96). When chair of the Chinese Materials Committee, in 1994 Ma Tai-loi successfully made CEAL stand tall when a cartel monopolizing book prices in China was forming, and in 1996 he negotiated with the National Library of China to organize a joint seminar of CEAL and the Chinese Library Association during the sessions of the IFLA conference in Beijing. In 1997 he became president of CEAL. As CEAL president, Ma Tai-loi liked to write editorials for its bulletin, attacking the improper use of the word "vernacular" for what are written, even classical languages; promoting the use of foreign records; and otherwise inviting the attention of CEAL membership to important issues. His many other contributions to CEAL include service on several task forces; notably he was the chair of the 1993-1994 ARL Foreign Acquisitions Project for Chinese Materials. He also lectured on collection development at the 2004 Luce Summer Institute of East Asian Librarianship: China Focus.

Besides his considerable contributions as a librarian, Ma Tai-loi is also a scholar. He is an acknowledged specialist on Lin Shu, discovered the chronologically very first essay that discussed the literary merit of the novel *Jing Ping Mei* (by Xie Zhaozhe), and discovered, a contemporary poem demonstrating that Song Jiang had indeed surrendered, proving Mao Zedong's argument wrong (a discovery acknowledged positively by Deng Guangming, a prominent member of the presidium of the Chinese Historiography Association and President of the Chinese Song History Research Association.) All done before full-text databases could be searched!

In late 1997 Ma Tai-loi moved to Hong Kong to be the head of the Fung Ping Shan library in that city, and in 2001 he became the Director of the East Asian Library at Princeton. As a Ming scholar and a rare book specialist, Tai-loi was well familiar with Princeton. Already in 1991 he had been asked to be a member of the Advisory Board of *The Gest Library Journal*, later the *East Asian Library Journal*, which initiated in this country the current field of the

history of the Chinese book. It was stated then by Frederick Mote that, as far as the Gest Library was concerned, Tai-loi was an insider, but that it was difficult to classify him in any particular field, since, like the eminent sinologists of old, his meticulous critical judgment touched upon almost every aspect of Chinese civilization.

At Princeton, Ma Tai-loi took a leadership role in various digitization projects (and facsimile republications) of rare books, in cooperation with, among other entities, the Academia Sinica and the National Library of China, and also publishers such as the Zhonghua shuju. He remained part-librarian, part-scholar, within the last decade his attention mainly devoted to reconstructing the collections and activities of a famous collector from the late Ming, Xu Bo. His collated and annotated compilation of the bibliographical essays and library catalog of the Xu family will be published in the coming months by Shanghai guji chubanshe.

Following his retirement Ma Tai-loi will relocate to Chicago.

(From an Eastlib posting by Martin Heijdra, Princeton University East Asian Library)

K. T. Yao, (Kuang-tien Yao 姚張光天), China Specialist Librarian at the Asia Collection of the University of Hawaii at Manoa Library, retired on August 29, 2014, after many years of service there and significant contributions to CEAL.

(From an Eastlib posting by Rohayati Paseng, University of Hawaii at Manoa Library)

Louis Chor retired June 30, 2014 from the University of Alberta Libraries. Educated in Hong Kong and Canada, he worked first for libraries in Hong Kong before serving for over twenty-five years as East Asian Librarian at the University of Alberta Libraries. In addition to giving careful, forward-looking attention to collection development and cataloging in his capacity as East Asian Librarian, Mr. Chor over the years contributed thought-provoking essays on Chinese culture to *JEAL*.