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Tung-King Ng (1921-2014)

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IN MEMORIAM

Tung King Ng 伍冬瓊 (December 2, 1921 - June 11, 2014)

Tung King Ng, the first Head of the Asian Library at the University of British Columbia, passed away in her sleep at St Paul's Hospital in Vancouver on June 11, 2014 at the age of 92.

Ms. Ng graduated from the Chinese Department, University of Hong Kong on a scholarship with a stellar academic record and pursued library science studies in England. Upon graduating, she returned to Hong Kong where she worked as the Librarian of the Fung Ping Shan Library 馮平山圖書館, the Chinese library of the University of Hong Kong Libraries. In 1958, she received a Rockefeller Scholarship to the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. and UC Berkeley. That same year she also visited major East Asian libraries in North America, including Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and Yale.

Ms. Ng joined the UBC Library as the Head of the new Asian Studies division in December 1960, a year after the acquisition of 45,000 volumes of Puban Collections 蒲坂藏書. For the next 27 years, she provided outstanding leadership and mentorship to the Asian Library staff, in particular the first Chinese and Japanese reference librarians, Mr. Yim Tse 謝琰 and Mr. Tsuneharu Gonnami 權並恒治. Working together, they developed the largest Eastern Asian collection at an academic library in Canada.

"She was a smart, diligent and strong leader and a pleasant person," Mr. Gonnami fondly recalled. "Everyone was happy to work with her." Mr. Tse added, "Ms. Ng was not only my boss, but a mentor throughout my library profession. She guided my way from a student assistant to a library assistant to a librarian."

During her career at UBC, Ms. Ng was also a great friend of students, opening her home to provide reasonable accommodation to students from Hong Kong. Many of those students became life-long friends. Ms. Ng was a devout Christian participating in many activities in her Anglican church including singing in the choir and assisting with administrative work.

A funeral service for Ms. Ng was held in Vancouver at the Anglican Network Church of the Good Shepherd on Friday, June 20, 2014 followed by internment at Ocean View Burial Park.

In memory of Ms. Tung King Ng, the Asian Library of the University of British Columbia held a display of her pictures and publications July 2 - 21, 2014, in the Asian Centre foyer.