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An Anecdote about Ms. Tung-King Ng

I recall the following interesting experience related by Ms. Ng, Asian Head Librarian from 1960 to 1987, as if I heard it yesterday from her.

One winter evening in the 1970s, when Ms. Ng got home from the Asian Library at UBC, she felt very tired after a long hard working day. She wanted to take a short nap for just half an hour or so before starting to cook her dinner. Still in her work clothes, she took her nap, but when she awoke, the clock on her bed-side table indicated a little after 8 o'clock. She thought it was already the next morning. Quickly, she jumped from her bed and hurried to her garage, because in those days the UBC Asian Library opened at 8:30 am. It was a typical rainy day in the grey winter time in Vancouver, B.C., Canada and the morning and evening looked the same. When she parked her beloved 1960's Beetle at the UBC parkade, she heard a parting salutation by someone, "Good night!" Then she realized that it was not next morning, but was still the same evening after her day's work and nap. Scratching her head, she drove home again.

This little story illustrates how much she devoted herself to the UBC Asian Library. No wonder Mr. Yim Tse, Chinese librarian (1968-1998), used to call Ms. Ng affectionately a "workaholic."

Ms. Tung-King Ng is already sorely missed by family, colleagues and friends. As one of the latter I appreciate this opportunity to be able to pay my last respects to her professionalism.

Tsuneharu Gonnami, UBC Asian Library Japanese Librarian (1969-2002)