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From the Editor

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From the Editor

Forty-five years ago, on May 22, 1963, Edwin G. Beal, Jr., then Head of the Chinese Section in the Orientalia Division of the Library of Congress, issued the first newsletter of the Committee on American Library Resources in the Far East (CALRFE). Dr. Beal was then Chairman of that Committee, which would later become the Committee on East Asian Libraries (1967) and later the Council on East Asian Libraries (1995). The publication of the group underwent similar name changes, from *Newsletter* to *Bulletin* (1977) of the Committee on East Asian Libraries, to *Journal of East Asian Libraries* of the Council on East Asian Libraries.

The first newsletter, mimeographed on Library of Congress letterhead paper, begins “Dear Colleagues . . . and Friends, Herewith my first attempt at a Newsletter.” Dr. Beal first reports that permission was received from AAS for the Committee to issue a Newsletter and then goes on to write of technical processing questions, acquisitions, and personnel matters—items specific in content to the era and particular libraries, but in topic and theme, familiar to all of us today. This first issue, as well as later issues of our organization’s publication, can be found in the online Digital Collections of the Harold B. Lee Library of Brigham Young University, at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/dlib/spc/jeal/>. Reading through them gives one a wonderful understanding of the history of our organization and East Asian collections in the United States. When I read several of the issues recently, I especially noticed the dedication of all involved in the enterprise of acquiring and making available materials from East Asia for scholars and students in the U.S. and their commitment to making information and resources available. I also noticed how apt a phrase “colleagues and friends” has been to describe our association with each other in this work.

Decades have passed since that first newsletter, and the name of our organization has changed, and also the name of our publication. What has not changed is the dedication and commitment that we feel to our shared enterprise of making information about East Asia available to all who need and use it, and our sense of being colleagues and friends engaged in this joint effort. In this issue of the *Journal* we celebrate the life and contributions of one of these colleagues, Naomi Fukuda, who dedicated her life to the work of libraries and scholarship.

One of the things I like best about being Editor of the *Journal of East Asian Libraries* is that it helps me become a friend and colleague of contributors to *JEAL*. I have exchanged emails with many of you and others from around the world about articles and reports, and I have learned so very much by working closely with contributors and their writings. I welcome and am grateful for the chance to do this.

To thrive, our journal needs the same sense of shared dedication and commitment that have long characterized our profession. From its first issue forty-five years ago, our organization’s publication has always reflected the interest of its members in giving the best quality library service to patrons and in promoting high standards for the profession of East Asian librarianship. Thank you for trusting me to be a part of this good work.

Gail King
Editor, *Journal of East Asian Libraries*