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**FAREWELL, MS. FUKUDA:  
A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT LIBRARIAN**

Eiji Yutani  
Librarian Emeritus University of California, San Diego

In sorrow and condolence I mourn your passing at hakuju, a rare milestone of auspicious longevity, one year short of a centenarian. Yet, this occasion will not overshadow the long journey of your dedication and remarkable achievements in life. Your years of leadership as a pillar of the East Asian library community in North America were like a bright star across the Pacific, casting a guiding web of light. That star has descended and its like will not rise again. So, it is with your friends and fellow librarians that I share a deep sense of personal and professional loss.

You were one of my few and most influential mentors in library studies. By example and thorough instruction, you generously extended your helping hands and shaped my career. While you were a guest instructor at UC Berkeley in early 1960s you taught this newly appointed, inexperienced bibliographer the basics in Japanese acquisitions and the craft of research collection building. One decade later and in Berkeley again, you shared with your former disciple the core of your approach in measuring the status of academic collections through a critical use of shelflist cards and classifications when your nation-wide collection survey was in progress. I recall a memorable encounter with you during the early 1980s, as I was accorded the honor of reviewing a draft of your first subject bibliography in Japanese history; you conveyed to your former apprentice the merits of what may be called generalist librarians' "descriptive" annotations, leaving analytical reviews of selected titles to specialists and scholars in the fields. In so doing, you provided me with the significant events and invaluable experiences of a lifetime.

Your accomplishments and contributions in librarianship both in the United States and Japan are remarkable. While I knew you as a councilor at an earlier time, I became familiar with your research and writings after you had left Japan and started a new career in this country in the 1970s. Your entire career in the United States was hardly long in duration, working at the Universities of Maryland and Michigan for nearly one decade, (1969-1978 until retirement), but the output of those years was astounding. What is noteworthy and even striking about your life work is that you were, by far, exceptional and exemplary in library research and publications. In contrast to many retired librarians of the same generation, enjoying their leisure and travels, you had apparently conceived a grand vision to construct a series of research programs toward the end of your career. You then dedicated yourself to carrying out and completing those projects for the next several years to come.

You steadily initiated and sustained the arduous tasks, one by one, and published several first-rate monographs of enduring significance within the span of less than ten years; a revised guide to Japanese reference books (1979), a nation-wide research collection survey (1981), and two annotated subject bibliographies of collected works: history (1984) and literature (1986), to name a few. A remarkable feat, indeed! You were also instrumental in organizing a select team of several talented librarians to undertake a collaborative project of editing and translating *Nihon no Sanko Toshō - Hoiban*, which culminated in the publication of an invaluable standard reference work, *Guide to Japanese Reference Books: Supplement* (1979). Your many conference papers and lectures in English and in other printed works in Japanese (like your long life) would overwhelm any acknowledgement before an adequate tribute could be made. So, it is an inadequate tip of our hats to you and your great talent and tireless perseverance that we give to one whose projects were culminated during their seventies, after the average person's prime of life. In retrospect it appears that your initial creative energy continued unabated and was finally consummated in the aforementioned distinguished publications, thus crowning your lifework of research and writings. Noted historians, scholars in literary studies and social scientists called them "authoritative," "a major contribution," and "the first...large-scale compilation of national resources."

You were a trailblazer of sorts, playing a pioneer's role in writing and compiling these major bibliographies and reference guides. A case in point: Your in-depth collection survey mentioned above provided a timely impetus, which spurred the beginning of a librarians' movement across the continent. This movement spawned the development of regional and national resource-sharing programs in coordinated acquisitions and collaborative collection building, and eventually interlibrary loan services among Japanese library collections in this country. Your survey had concluded that individual libraries, large and small, alone would not be able to meet the growing needs for research materials in Japanese among scholars and students in the coming years ahead. In short, you were blessed with a lofty vision and pragmatic intellect to set worthy goals. You were also endowed with the organizational skills and the inner strengths of resolve and perseverance to achieve those goals and accomplish them in record time, flinging wide the informational doors to library users in the 1990s and thereafter.

You now stand towering over us, serving as a model to emulate. Alas, we find it formidable to surmount and scale the height of quality and standards that you have firmly established. Yet, your accomplishments live on in those who have followed in your path. You proved yourself to be a librarian par excellence: a researcher/teacher of high caliber and influence who gave all your talent and heart to fellow librarians and above all, people in learning. You will stand as a great public servant, truly dedicated to the calling of the profession. A grateful community of fellow librarians and students honors your talents and achievements. We admire you and will miss you.

In Gassho (prayer).

Eiji Yutani