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Institutional and Member News

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INSTITUTIONAL AND MEMBER NEWS

Cornell University acquires the Maeda Ai collection: Following completion of a successful two year effort to raise necessary funding, the Wason Collection on East Asia, Cornell University Library, has acquired the extensive private library of the late scholar and critic of Japanese literature, Maeda Ai. Maeda's library contains more than 12,000 volumes of monographs, and several thousand issues of serials. It includes approximately 500 titles (2000+ volumes) of late Edo and early Meiji stitchbound books, chief among which is the diary of the former Bakufu retainer and early Meiji journalist, Narushima Ryuhoku, recently published in Japan in a limited photoreprint edition. The Maeda Bunko is a marvelous treasure trove for scholars interested in the development of modern Japanese literature in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and, reflecting the wide ranging interests of its former owner, is rich in important material on all aspects of popular culture.

To celebrate the acquisition of the Maeda Bunko and to express gratitude toward Professor Maeda's wife and children and the generous benefactors of the Maeda Bunko, the Wason Collection, Cornell's East Asia Program, and the Society for the Humanities sponsored a two day symposium, "Empire of Readers: the Book, 'Literature,' and Mass Culture in Modern Japan." The symposium was held November 6-8 on the Cornell University campus and included presentations by leading Japanese and American scholars of early modern and modern Japanese literature. During the symposium important items from the Maeda Bunko were on display in Kroch Library.

(Frederic Kotas)

Japan Foundation Supports Popular Culture Studies at Cornell: With a second year of generous support from the Japan Foundation, Cornell University's Wason Collection on East Asia has added further to its collection of materials, both primary and secondary, on post-war Japanese popular culture. Those materials, especially when combined with holdings of the Maeda Bunko, make Cornell University Library an important national resource for students of nineteenth and twentieth century Japanese popular culture. Japan Foundation support during the first year of funding was used to acquire books; the current year of funding will make possible the addition of audio-visual materials, including numerous feature films, recordings of *kamishibai* performances, and popular music of the Showa period.

(Frederic Kotas)

New Chinese Bibliographer/cataloger at Pittsburgh: Ms. Haihui Zhang has been appointed Chinese Bibliographer/Cataloger of the East Asian Library of the University of Pittsburgh beginning June 1, 1998. Ms. Zhang came to the East Asian Library from the RLG Chinese Rare Book Project at Princeton University, where she worked as a cataloger of Chinese rare books from 1993 to 1998. Prior to her employment at the RLG Chinese Rare Book Project, Haihui Zhang worked in Renmin University Library in China as a Bibliographer and Cataloger from 1982 to 1990. Her publications include *A Sorted Index to Contemporary Theses on Chinese History 1949-1984* (Zhonghua shuju, 1992) and *Catalog of Chinese Rare Books in the Library of Renmin University* (Renmin University Press, 1991). She holds a BA in History from Renmin University in China and an MLS from Emporia State University in Kansas. Her telephone number is 412 624-5652, and her e-mail address is haihuiz+@pitt.edu.

(Peter Zhou)

Japanese Studies Librarian at the University of Kansas: Ms. Michiko Ito, a recent graduate of the University of Hawaii's Library and Information Science graduate degree program, was appointed Japanese Studies Librarian at the East Asian Library of the University of Kansas, effective October 18, 1998.

Ms. Ito received her BA degree in History from the Metropolitan University in Tokyo, Japan, and a MA degree in History from the University of Hawaii. She can be reached via email at mito@mail.lib.ukans.edu, by phone at 785 864-4669, and by fax at 785 864-5311.

(Vickie Fu Doll)