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In Memoriam: Dr. Shizue Matsuda

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In Memoriam

Dr. Shizue Matsuda, 1921-2018

Dr. Shizue Matsuda was born on May 14, 1921, in Honolulu and raised in a traditional Japanese-speaking family. At the age of eleven, she moved back to Japan where she was educated. She received her bachelor's degree in Library Science from Keio University and served for eleven years as Head of the National Research Council's Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission Library.

In 1960, she received a fellowship from the American Medical Association for travel to the United States to visit fifty-two libraries. In 1962, she returned to America to study at Columbia University. She received a B.S. cum laude in Oriental Studies and Anthropology and an M.S. in Library Service, both in 1966. She worked as a part-time indexer at Columbia's Parkinson's Disease Information Center, indexing Japanese medical articles for input into a computerized information system from 1964 and 1968. During this time, she also began work toward the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Chinese literature. She held several fellowships, including a National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship (1966-70) and the Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship (1970-71). In 1972, Matsuda was appointed as East Asian Studies Area Specialist at Indiana University Libraries. She received a Ph.D. in 1978 in Chinese literature from Columbia University with the dissertation entitled, "Li Yu 李漁: His Life and Moral Philosophy as Reflected in His Fiction." In 1980, she was promoted to the rank of Full-Librarian at Indiana University in recognition of excellence in her teaching, research, and publications.

She faced a difficult situation in 1972 when she became the East Asian studies librarian at Indiana University Libraries: a large uncatalogued backlog and a shortage of staff. However, she was able to modernize the library's operations and at the same time develop a substantial Japanese Reference Collection. She expanded the exchange programs with prominent libraries in China and Japan and applied successfully for grants, such as those from the Japan World Exposition Commemorative Association and the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission for book acquisitions.

During her professional career, she made substantial contributions not only at IU where she was responsible for collection development and reference work in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean studies, and taught courses in Japanese bibliography but also to the field of East Asian librarianship more generally. As one of the few female East Asian studies librarians in the 1970s, Matsuda was genuinely respected by her peers in the community of East Asian libraries and librarians.

Matsuda was a tough-minded, hard-working, and outspoken figure throughout her distinguished career, she has been a proponent and pioneer of cooperation and resource sharing among East Asian libraries. At the 1978 Workshop for Japanese Collection Librarians in American Research Libraries, she gave a presentation on "Resource Sharing: A View from a Smaller Collection." Among the proposals, she put forward in that paper was the compilation of a union list of current subscriptions to Japanese periodicals. With the endorsement of the participants in the workshop, she received funding for the project from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and characteristically completed the project in short

order. The result was published in 1980 as *Current Japanese Serials in the Humanities and Social Sciences Received in American Libraries* (digitized in 2009). Its publication has opened the door to the development and advancement of interlibrary loan activities for Japanese serials publications.

In addition to her many achievements, Matsuda served as a visiting scholar at Tokyo University (1982) and as an exchange professor at Tenri University (1983-84). She served not only as a consultant to some East Asian libraries in North America, including the Ohio State University Libraries but also as a mentor to junior Japanese studies librarians. Outside of her job, Matsuda was a talented practitioner of traditional Japanese origami and calligraphy.

At the time of her retirement, Matsuda received heartfelt tributes from her colleagues. Jurgis S.A. Elisonas (also known as George Elison, Chairman and Professor Emeritus of East Asian Languages and Cultures Department) said “Shizue has been a tireless and wonderfully cooperative worker on behalf of the Asian studies collection in our library. I appreciate the cordiality with which she agreed to teach courses in Japanese reference methods for the Department of East Asian Languages. She is a person of rare qualifications.” Philip West, then Director of the East Asian Studies Center, added “We will miss her dedication, her impressive language skills, and her knowledge of East Asian vernacular materials.” Matsuda herself has been quoted as saying, “I am not going into a hole called retirement, and I am not going to take it easy.”

She remained active in academic pursuits and daily life even after retirement in 1986. She continued to work on writing projects, and published many articles in library journals in Japanese and English, including *Dear General MacArthur: Letters from the Japanese During the American Occupation* (2001), which is an English translation of 拝啓マッカーサー元帥様 : 占領下の日本人の手紙 (1985). She also took Spanish lessons and served as President of an Indiana University-sponsored retirement organization at one point.

Dr. Shizue Matsuda, Librarian Emeritus, East Asian Studies Librarian, Indiana University Libraries passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 16, 2018, in Bloomington, Indiana.

Notes

1. For news of her retirement, see *Journal of East Asian Libraries*, no. 81 1987, pp. 29-30.
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1987/iss81/10?utm_source=scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1987/iss81/10&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages
2. An announcement on the passing of Ms. Shizue Matsuda was sent to the Eastlib listserv on March 17, 2019.

Submitted by Wen-ling Liu