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In Memoriam: Dr George “Qingzhi” Zhao

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In Memoriam

Dr George “Qingzhi” Zhao

The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library mourns the loss of our cherished colleague, Dr George “Qingzhi” Zhao, who dedicated 22 years of service to the library. He joined our team on January 4, 2001, assuming the role of Chinese Original Cataloguer and Reference Specialist. Unfortunately, due to health concerns, he had been on long-term disability leave since 2020.

George completed his PhD at the University of Toronto’s Department of East Asian Studies. His dissertation, titled “Marriage as Political Strategy and Cultural Expression: Mongolian Royal Marriages from World Empire to Yuan Dynasty,” was published in 2008 by Peter Lang. The book explores Mongolian royal marriages spanning from the World Empire era (1206–1279) to the Yuan dynasty (1279–1368) in Asia. His academic contributions also extended to teaching opportunities in the US.

As an insightful scholar, George presented research papers on Chinese civilization and culture, leaving a mark on the field. He was an essential contributor to two significant publication projects involving the East Asian Library’s Chinese rare books. These collaborative efforts were undertaken in partnership with Guangxi Normal University Press and Zhonghua Book Company in China.

Beyond his scholarly accomplishments, George was known for his tireless effort and dedication. He fostered a sense of camaraderie that resonated throughout the East Asian Library.

George’s memory will forever remain in our hearts and the legacy he leaves behind will continue to inspire us.

Submitted by Hana Kim