Dr Stephen Qiao Retires from Cheng Yu Tung East Asia Library

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Dr Stephen Qiao Retires from Cheng Yu Tung East Asia Library

Our dear colleague, Dr Stephen Qiao, retired from his position as the Chinese Studies Librarian at the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, University of Toronto Libraries, on June 30, 2023.

Stephen has made invaluable contributions to the University of Toronto Libraries and the East Asian Library community during his time with us. His expertise and dedication have been a great asset to our community, and we will miss him greatly.

Stephen has developed an outstanding Chinese Studies collection, supported the East Asian Library's rare book digitization projects, and worked on the library's Chinese rare book bibliography compilation and publication projects. He has also served as Acting Director at the same library, as well as Chair of the Committee of Chinese Materials (2016–2018) under the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) and Chair of the Committee for Professional Activities in the Society for Chinese Studies Librarians (2018–2020).


Stephen holds an MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA, MA, and PhD from Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China, in the field of Anthropology. He was an Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology, Sun Yat-Sen University.

Beyond his professional achievements, Stephen is also a fascinating individual with personal research interests in anthropology, Chinese archaeology, East Asian librarianship, and Chinese rare book studies. He has contributed to many library publication projects, including “Leaves of Enchantment, Bones of Inspiration: The Dawn of Chinese Studies in Canada” (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, 2010), “Archaeology of Coastal South China in Regional Interaction Perspectives” (Guangxi Normal University Press, 2016), and “An Annotated Bibliography of Chinese Rare Books in the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, University of Toronto” (Guangxi Normal University Press, first edition in 2009, revised/enlarged edition in 2019). He has also published numerous articles in various academic journals and made presentations at international forums and conferences.

Stephen’s contributions and collegiality have been highly valued and admired by his colleagues, the teaching faculty, students, and the wider scholarly and East Asian library community. We are sure you will join us in thanking Stephen for his service and friendship, and in wishing him a fulfilling, healthy, and happy retirement.

Submitted by Hana Kim