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Glen W. Baxter

Edwin G. Beal

Kenneth K. S. Chen

John King Fairbank

Elizabeth Huff

See next page for additional authors

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In Memoriam: Alfred Kaiming Chiu (1898-1977)

Authors

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IN MEMORIAM

ALFRED KAIMING CHIU (1898-1977)
Having had the honor of being invited by Dr. Chiu's family--friends of some thirty years--to give the eulogy in the course of his funeral service at the family church in Cambridge, I will add little here to the tributes from others to the greatest Asian librarian of modern times. That by no means tells the whole story; he was a great scholar as well, and it was largely because he was a real and very broad scholar that he was a pioneer and seminal librarian.

Some seem to have the impression that Dr. Chiu's scholarship was simply of the Chinese traditional (old-fashioned) kind. Actually, he grew up in a period of great changes in China, earned his Ph.D. in the U.S., and early on was involved with international scholarship. He continued to keep abreast of it to the end of his life, this being reflected in his own interest and, to the long-range benefit of all of us, in the development of the Harvard-Yenching Library and in his services to other collections. He was equally aware of basics and of change, and laid the foundation for both.

All this is apparent, and presented most entertainingly, in Dr. Chiu's "Reminiscences of a Librarian" included in the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, Vol. 24 (1964-65, pp. 7-15), dedicated to him upon his retirement from Harvard. The article brought his brief memoir up to only 1939, but any reader will learn from it not only about his own early life and career, but a great deal about the whole state of world scholarship on East Asia at that time, the key individuals--Asian, American, and European, whom he knew--and his ideas about the future.

Dr. Chiu's invaluable assistance and advice to me began soon after I arrived at Harvard in 1947 as a graduate student, under the illusion that I knew a lot about China because I had been there—an illusion he dispelled with the utmost tact and patience. Our relationship deepened after I became involved in the administration of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, which in those days--until his retirement and for some years thereafter--was in charge of the Harvard-Yenching Library.

As with any organization and any personalities, there were sometimes problems. I shall mention only one, which had both endearing and frustrating aspects. Dr. Chiu's hearing was not good; he used a battery aid that did not work very well, and which he sometimes chose to turn off. This enabled him to misunderstand a question and launch into a lecture about bibliographical and acquisition matters irrelevant to the subject at hand. I thus learned from him, often involuntarily, a lot more about various editions of certain texts than I was, at the time, interested in knowing. But in many cases I was later grateful for the information, which on fortuitous occasions has enabled me to throw in comments giving the impression that I know more about certain subjects than I really do. Doubtless others have similarly benefitted, if that's the word, from bits and pieces of Dr. Chiu's vast knowledge.

Once, when I was in his office about a fiscal matter, our late friend was on the phone trying to deal with a woman who, it seemed, wanted to know how she
could learn to "not be." Dr. Chiu suggested various books in Western languages on Taoism, Zen, and transcendental meditation, none of which satisfied her. When she told him she had thought of consulting the Mikimoto people on pearls, he gave up and asked me to get on the phone. It turned out that the lady wanted to learn how to knot beads.

After his retirement from Harvard, I visited Dr. and Mrs. Chiu while he was developing the central library of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. They gave me a wonderful dinner in their apartment, and had a silk-padded Chinese gown made for me. Mrs. Chiu, always a devoted helpmate and strikingly beautiful to this day, had resisted joining the other Hong Kong ladies in mah-jong and instead was busying herself with volunteer hospital work. When a few years ago they made their first trip to mainland China in many decades, they brought me back a fountain pen that I never use without thinking of this couple, whose friendship will always remain one of the felicities of my life.

(Glen W. Baxter
Harvard-Yenching Institute)

II.

My first meeting with Dr. Chiu took place on the campus of Yenching University in the fall of 1937. I well recall this first meeting, and I remember that even though I was quite young at the time, and had only a very limited understanding of library matters, he took time to explain to me in great detail the procedures which he was following and the reasons for them. I saw then that no student could be so young and uninformed as not to merit his full and enthusiastic attention.

Dr. Chiu was in China at that time to supervise the printing of Chinese catalog cards to be issued by Harvard, for use not only by the Chinese-Japanese Library at Harvard, but by other American libraries as well. He was also supervising the production of the classified book catalog of the Harvard Chinese collection. The first three volumes of this catalog, covering Classics, Philosophy and Religion, and Historical Sciences, were printed and distributed to other American libraries before the outbreak of war in the Pacific. These volumes contained 12,350 entries for 12,195 titles. Copies of printed cards for these titles were distributed to American libraries, which used them in cataloging their own collections. Card for approximately 26,000 other titles had been set up in type, and page proofs had been run off and sent to Harvard before the outbreak of war and the subsequent destruction of the Index Press at Yenching, where the cards were being printed. These detailed figures were sent to me by Dr. Chiu in a memorandum which he wrote only a few months before his death; I had requested them for use in a study being conducted by a committee of the American Council of Learned Societies. Dr. Chiu continued: "These later volumes on Social Sciences, Language and Literature, Fine and Recreative Arts, Science and Technology, and Generalia and Bibliography were microfilmed during the war. Clear prints in card form or book-form sheets can be made from the film." He added that this has been done for the Far Eastern Library of the University of Chicago.
Several years after our 1937 encounter, at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in the spring of 1942, Dr. Chiu proposed the establishment in Washington, D.C., of National Union Catalogs of works in East Asian languages. Since works in the Japanese language were in great demand at the time, we undertook in the Japanese Section of the Orientalia Division, Library of Congress, to develop a union catalog of Japanese books. In early 1945 Dr. Chiu persuaded the Trustees of the Harvard-Yenching Institute to have a microfilm copy made of its classified catalog of Japanese books. Two sets of enlargements of this film were made for the Division of Orientalia. Since the cards carried romanizations of both authors and titles, it was quite feasible to file one set by author and another by title. These reproductions, together with others of catalog cards made in the East Asiatic Library of Columbia University, and secured through the good offices of Mr. Mortimer Graves of the American Council of Learned Societies, were the beginning of the Library's Japanese Union Catalog.

When the Library of Congress initiated its Oriental Card Reproduction Project in July, 1949, Dr. Chiu became one of its most active and productive supporters. Of the more than 88,000 cards produced by this project for work in Far Eastern languages, a very high proportion came from Harvard. During these years, also, Dr. Chiu was very active in the American Library Association's Special Committee on Cataloging Oriental Materials (later, the Far Eastern Materials Committee), which, in cooperation with the Orientalia Processing Committee of the Library of Congress, was developing uniform, standard rules for the cataloging of East Asian publications. These rules were adopted by all major American collections in the spring of 1957, and have been the basis for American cataloging activities in these languages ever since. He was very eager to see true cooperative cataloging put into effect for works in these languages, and he continued to contribute manuscript cards for this purpose after the establishment of the Far Eastern Languages Section in the Descriptive Cataloging Division of the Library of Congress in 1957.

Those who were present at the annual meeting in Boston in 1957 of the Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East (its name was changed in 1967 to the Committee on East Asian Libraries) will recall that Dr. Chiu proposed and strongly recommended the microfilming of the available issues of the *Ta kung pao* and the *Shen pao*. He pointed out that he and his friends had placed subscriptions for these papers when they were students at Harvard in the 1920's, and that ever since then, these issues had been kept in the Chinese-Japanese Library at Harvard. He said that he had done his part, and that it was now up to others to preserve on microfilm the issues which had been collected.

It is pleasant to recall that this has been done. In the Library of Congress we undertook to assemble all the information we could find on these two titles. The Library of Congress then microfilmed the *Ta kung pao*, bringing together in the film all issues which could be located in the Library's own Chinese collection, in the Chinese-Japanese Library at Harvard, in Columbia University, in the Hoover Institution, and in the University of Hong Kong. The film was organized in separate series for the several "editions": Tientsin (later Peking), Hong Kong, Chungking, and Shanghai. The Peking edition ceased publication on September 10, 1966, but the Hong Kong edition is still being filmed on an annual basis. As of January, 1978, the issues on film covered the period November, 1929, through December, 1975; these fill 207 reels.
The information which we in the Library had collected on the available issues of the *Shen pao* was turned over to Mr. P. K. Yu, Director of the Center for Chinese Research Materials of the Association for Research Libraries, which in 1969 was able to offer this title on film (in 103 reels) for the period January 27, 1923, through May 19, 1949. Subsequently the Center located issues for April, 1872, through July, 1912, in the National Cheng Chih University in Taipei; it offered these in an additional 28 reels. Still later the Center located in the Seoul National University Library some of the issues missing from the holdings of other institutions for the years 1931-1937; these were filmed and offered in an additional two reels.

Even after his retirement from Harvard, Dr. Chiu continued his active interest in library problems. I have before me a long and thoughtful letter which he wrote to me from the Walter Library of the University of Minnesota on October 19, 1965, in which he makes a number of important points about union catalogs for East Asian materials in American collections, and comments in lively and illuminating fashion on an earlier communication by Mrs. Mary Wright. The difficulty of some of these problems, their complexity, and their resistance to solution are demonstrated by the fact that more than twelve years later they are still being debated.

Dr. Chiu and his contributions will long be remembered by all who, in one way or another, benefitted by his vision, his energy, and his kindness. He has influenced all of us who have worked in the East Asian library field in the past forty years; and it is fitting that we should honor our teacher.

(Edwin G. Beal, Jr.
Honorary Consultant in
East Asian Bibliography
The Library of Congress)

III.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to recall memories of a respected colleague and friend with whom I worked for thirty years. Dr. A. Kaiming Chiu has not only touched but has deeply affected East Asian research and the libraries on which it depends in ways uncountable and immeasurable.

Early in 1947, when I was Assistant University Librarian at Berkeley, Donald Coney, University Librarian, invited Dr. Chiu to come to the library to survey the Chinese and Japanese materials then in the collection and to advise us as to the best means for organizing them, making them accessible, and systematically enriching them. At that time, Chinese and Japanese books were scattered in various subject classifications in the General Library. As a result of Dr. Chiu's study and counsel, the University Library established in the year of his visit a branch called the East Asiatic Library. The first East Asiatic librarian at Berkeley was Dr. Elizabeth Huff, who had just completed her Ph.D. at Harvard and who had known Dr. Chiu there.

One of my pleasures in coming to Harvard five years later was resuming my association with Kaiming Chiu. I recall so vividly the joy and enthusiasm with which he took me on my first long tour of the Harvard-Yenching Library,
then in Boylston Hall. In 1958, when the library was moved to new and much expanded quarters on Divinity Avenue, apprehensions of disaster came near to nightmare proportions as I contemplated removing and reshelving 325,000 volumes in Chinese and Japanese and, by then, other Asian languages as well. Thanks altogether to the extraordinarily thoughtful and detailed planning of Dr. Chiu, the entire collection was moved with great speed and, even more remarkable, with hardly a volume misplaced. The movers simply had no difficulty in carrying out the plan devised by Kaiming Chiu and getting the volumes in exactly the right places in the new stacks.

The great Harvard-Yenching Library grew from 6,000 volumes when he became librarian in 1927 to 407,000 when he retired (at least from Harvard) in 1965. He never really retired, of course. After his return from Hong Kong, where he was for four years University Librarian of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he resumed work in Cambridge. At the time of his death he was busily engaged in the preparation of a catalogue of the rare book collection in the Harvard-Yenching Library.

All of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with Kaiming Chiu have lost a congenial and greatly admired friend and associate who will be continually missed.

(Douglas W. Bryant
Director
Harvard University Library)

IV.

Seldom in the annals of library history have so many scholars been indebted to one man for so many contributions and services over such a long period of time. For fifty years, Dr. Chiu devoted himself singleheartedly to the profession he loved so much, most of the time with the Harvard-Yenching Library, sharing his vast erudition and phenomenal knowledge of the resources of that library with wave after wave of scholars who came to the library from all over the world. Since his fellow librarians will undoubtedly be discussing his numerous contributions to East Asian librarianship, I shall merely indulge in some reminiscences of a friendship that covered some forty years.

Life often takes some unexpected twists and turns. If some official at the Harvard University Library had not asked Dr. Chiu to take charge of the meager collection of Chinese books then in the Harvard Library, we would not be writing these memorials today.

I first met Dr. Chiu back in 1938, when I was a young instructor at the University of Hawaii, and he was on his way back to China. In 1941, when my family and I were preparing to go to Cambridge to take up graduate studies at Harvard, I wrote to Dr. Chiu enquiring about housing conditions in Cambridge. He replied that housing was available, but that housing was like a pair of shoes; no one can make the decision for another, one has to see it for himself. That struck me as a very sound and practical piece of advice, very aptly put.
As I look back over our years of association at Harvard, the memory of some episodes stand out very clearly. During the early years of the Harvard-Yenching Library, many of the book stacks were in the basement of Boylston Hall. Here and there on the basement walls were openings covered with glass to let in the light. During one particularly heavy rainstorm, Dr. Chiu feared that water would seep in through these openings to flood the basement. He drove to the library in the middle of the night to inspect the place. Luckily no water was seeping into the basement. This was characteristic of Dr. Chiu's dedicated devotion to books.

Another occasion that comes to mind occurred at the subway station at Harvard Square. The Pacific War was drawing to a close and talk of peace was in the air. I was standing on the street level at Harvard Square, when along came Dr. Chiu. It was during office hours, and as we all know, Dr. Chiu was a stern taskmaster who was all business during such hours; only after office hours would he indulge in friendly social conversation. However, on this occasion, Dr. Chiu was in an expansive mood, for victory was close at hand, and there in the midst of the busy human traffic we stood talking about the impending peace. The question of the Japanese emperor came up. Dr. Chiu was of the opinion that the Allies should get rid of the emperor just as in the case of Hitler in Europe. I demurred, saying that the institution of the emperor was different from the position of Hitler and that we should take advantage of the status and authority of the emperor after the war. There we stood discussing the issue for some time, and a lot of passers-by must have wondered what those two Chinese were debating in such an animated fashion.

My last extended association with Dr. Chiu occurred in the spring of 1970, when I was in London doing research on the Tunhuang manuscripts in the British Museum. It so happened that Dr. and Mrs. Chiu were in London at the time, on their way home from Hong Kong. We had a few memorable days together, visiting Dr. and Mrs. Cheng Te-k'un at Cambridge and touring the venerable chapels and colleges of Cambridge University. One day we rented a car to drive out to Windsor Palace and Stratford-on-Avon. Dr. Chiu had just completed his arduous assignment at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and he and Mrs. Chiu were looking forward to resuming their residence in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Consequently, they were in a light-hearted mood conducive to relaxed sightseeing and picture-taking. At Stratford we posed for pictures at the birthplace of Shakespeare and at the site associated with the name of John Harvard. All in all, it was a most pleasant interlude in dear old England.

Dr. Chiu was indeed a giant among East Asian librarians. For his leadership in developing the Harvard-Yenching Library to its present pre-eminent position, and for the guidance he provided to the libraries at the University of Minnesota and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he has earned the gratitude of countless scholars working in the East Asian field. We who have worked with him will cherish the memory of his friendship as long as we live, and count it as one of our greatest blessings to have known him.

(Kenneth K. S. Chen
Emeritus Professor
University of California
at Los Angeles)
Chiu Kaiming did not change during the forty years that I knew him. Of course he grew older, and so did I, for that matter, but he was always friendly, welcoming, interested, and helpful. His vast accumulated knowledge of books was for him a kind of happiness that he enjoyed passing on to others. When Teng Ssu-yü and I were doing our exploratory studies of Ch’ing administration and the origin of documents in the years just before World War II, we worked in the basement of Boylston Hall, where the cement floor might freeze the feet but the overhead pipes would boil the brain. Dr. Chiu kept in touch with us throughout, and was delighted at Ssu-yü’s bibliographic expertness.

I remember his responding so warmly to a visit of Dr. J. J. L. Duyvendak, then the editor of Toung Pao, who expressed his alarm over the vulnerability of the rare book collection in its cage in the basement. How would those unique Sung editions ever get out in case of fire and flood? Dr. Chiu was of course delighted with the move to Divinity Avenue because it gave new space in a more modern building, yet the rare books were still caged in the basement. I do not know the many factors bearing upon this situation, and would rather not explore their extreme complexity, but it was just one of the many things that Dr. Chiu Kaiming lived with and eventually surmounted.

When K. C. Liu and I surveyed nineteenth century materials in the late 1940’s we again had that sense of awe and amazement that a collection should be so comprehensive. Later, in 1953, when I got back from Japan with a considerable bibliographic manuscript developed there with the assistance of Masataka Banno and Sumiko Yamamoto for the study of Japanese works on China, I was not at all surprised when Dr. Chiu delightedly accepted a copy of the manuscript and said that he would be ordering everything that he didn’t have already. This surprising statement by that time left me unsurprised, because I had become accustomed to this all-out characteristic of Harvard’s Chinese Librarian. I mention these bibliographic projects in which I became engaged because they represented a level of effort to get acquainted with the historical literature that could be attempted only at Harvard, and only because Chiu Kaiming with the collaboration of William Hung and many others had created such a library.

My first study in Widener Library was room 98 on the ground floor, a rather cramped space next to the staff social room. Only when I was rescued from it by Provost Paul Buck in the early 1950’s did I find that it had been the original site of the Harvard Chinese Library, the space first assigned for Dr. Chiu’s collection. It was a good place to outgrow.

After this long association of friendly professional relations with a founding librarian who laid the basis for our East Asian studies at Harvard, it was perfectly natural for Professors Reischauer, Craig, and myself to dedicate to Chiu Kaiming our text volume of 1965, East Asia: The Modern Transformation. Our dedication page read, "For Alfred Kaiming Chiu, custodian of the Chinese and Japanese works in the Harvard College Library 1927-29. Librarian 1929- of the Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute at Harvard University "--a bit of administrative precision which indicated that Dr. Chiu had begun as a custodian and had then built a collection which belonged to the Harvard-Yenching Institute--in short, a pioneer starting almost from scratch. He was just enough older than I and so much a part of the landscape from the beginning of my contact with the Harvard establishment.
that I simply accepted his paternal presence as a gift, and indeed that is what it was, the rare gift of a dedicated personality. I know he was very pleased to have a successor with the same sense of devotion to the Harvard-Yenching Library.

(John K. Fairbank
Harvard University)

VI.

I first met Dr. Alfred Kaiming Chiu in the autumn of 1936, when upon the advice of Professor Herrlee Glessner Creal in Chicago, I traveled to Cambridge to build upon the base of his beginning two quarters in written Chinese. The quality of Dr. Chiu that I recall most distinctly was generosity with his time and knowledge. He gave the students enthusiastic tours of the Chinese-Japanese Library reading room, where reference works were shelved, and opening them one after another, defined the particular virtue of each. He also explained his ten card catalogs, all of them with romanized main entries, to the innocents clustered about him. To allow them relief from time to time, he placed two metal wastepaper baskets at the foot of the stairs leading down to the front door of Boylston Hall, so that smokers might relax in their sin.

During the summer of 1938 I worked in the Chinese-Japanese Library putting into alphabetical order the items clipped in Yenching University from many Chinese dictionaries and pasted on 8 1/2 by 11 cards of pure rag stock that had been shipped out from Cambridge. Again Dr. Chiu was cordial as I persevered with my tedious task.

In the summer of 1946 I returned home after an absence of seven years in the Far East. I spent several months at Harvard, submitting my thesis, revising it, and submitting it once more. Dr. Chiu was helpful as before. Soon his library moved, with the Harvard-Yenching Institute, to Divinity Avenue, and Dr. Chiu showed me with tremendous pride the spacious reading room and well arranged book stacks. Another aspect of his geniality was made evident: he took no exception to the fact that Radcliffe dormitory students, from nearby, invaded his warmquarters on winter evenings to study French or chemistry.

In the early spring of 1947 I accepted a library position at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Chiu, upon learning of it, most kindly suggested that if I could tarry for two weeks, he would give me basic instruction in the art of Oriental librarianship. I was happy to accept his offer, and I stayed on, learned what a shelf list is, and made many notes that I carried with me when I went to the West.

It was probably about twenty-five years ago that Dr. Chiu added Korean imprints to his library and changed its name to the Harvard-Yenching Library. It was there, in a social room down the hall, that I last saw Dr. Chiu. The Committee on East Asian Libraries was holding meetings in Boston and was invited to have cocktails at 2 Divinity Avenue. There were about twenty people around the long table. Before each guest was a water glass. Dr.
Chiu came in from the adjoining kitchen, his arms full of bottles, and filled every glass with whisky. "Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere."

(Elizabeth Huff (retired)  
East Asiatic Library  
University of California at Berkeley)

VII.

Dr. A. Kaiming Chiu, the first Librarian of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, was loved and admired as a true scholar as well as a dedicated leader by all who came to know him while he was among us during the formative years of this University in the sixties. His gentle modest ways and his hardworking persevering spirit shall live long in our fond memories of him. As a personal friend of his, I feel a deep sense of irreplaceable loss, and would try to seek comfort in the thought that Kaiming had lived a useful and happy life—in the international arena of scholarly pursuits.

(Choh-Ming Li  
Founding Vice-Chancellor (President)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

VIII.

In 1965 the University of Minnesota Library, duly prodded by the faculty in East Asian Studies and encouraged by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation, made the momentous decision to build an East Asian Library. During the preceding decade a very modest collection, based on the nucleus formed by purchasing the private library of the late sinologist, Diether von den Steinen, had been growing at the agonizingly slow rate permitted by an annual acquisition budget of less than four digits. Suddenly we were told that we could invite a consultant and give him an astronomical, "the-sky's-the-limit" budget of $50,000 for one year to help us on the way toward becoming a usable research library.

It just happened that Dr. Chiu was retiring that year after 36 years as Director of the Harvard-Yenching Library, and without any more than feminine intuition and plain common sense to go on, Professor Chun-jo Liu of our Department of East Asian Languages, who had known Dr. Chiu over a long period, suggested to me, "Why don't you invite Kaiming Chiu?" The brazen and fantastic temerity of the whole idea really grabbed my imagination, and I wrote him immediately, never for a minute dreaming that he would accept. Maybe it was just the improbability and ridiculousness of our situation that appealed to his sense of humor as well as his love of wild adventure. Or maybe it was the irresistible appeal of building another library from practically nothing. Whatever the reason, he accepted our invitation with enthusiasm.
People at the University of Minnesota will never forget the unbelievable richness of the year 1965-66, when, starting in a dusty three-room suite on the fourth floor of the University Library, Dr. Chiu worked tirelessly with the assistance of Paul Cheng, now East Asian Librarian at Cornell University, poring over book catalogs, writing out orders, corresponding with libraries across the country to negotiate the purchase of duplicates. By frequently consulting with the East Asian faculty, he gradually filled the yawning gaps, and gave us within his one year's assignment a genuinely respectable working library. The director of the University Library, a hard-nosed, tight-fisted skinflint to everyone else, was so charmed by Dr. Chiu's wit and sweet reasonableness that he let him over-spend his allotment by nearly 100%. Everyone was dumbfounded, but no one complained.

While he was here at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Chiu lived in austere simplicity in a cheap downtown apartment, spending nearly all his time at the Library or working with members of the faculty, stimulating their research and actually helping to track down materials for particular projects. When the new Wilson Library was built that year on the west bank of the Mississippi, dishearteningly far from our departmental offices, it was Dr. Chiu who persuaded us to accept the far-sighted plan to move the East Asian collection to new quarters across the river, where they have enjoyed far more commodious and pleasant surrounding than they would ever have found in the old building, and where eventually all the departments involved will be housed.

I have mentioned how Dr. Chiu charmed his way into the seemingly stony heart of the Director of Libraries. He accomplished this not by P. R. gimmickry or soft-soaping, but by being genuinely interested in the problems of the library as a whole, not just our own parochial needs. He scored a victory at his first interview when he reminded the director of something he must surely have learned at his alma mater, the Library School at the University of Syracuse. "Wow!" muttered the director under his breath, "He's done his homework!" Later, when other library officials were attempting to subordinate the East Asian collection as merely one of the University's many "special collections" (Children's Books, Rare Rooks, etc.), Dr. Chiu patiently and cheerfully convinced them, using humor and sound logic, that the collection had to maintain a certain autonomy as a separate East Asian Library, with its own librarian and staff. How grateful we are that he won that battle!

People were amazed at how well he could follow what was said in a discussion. After all, English was not his native language, and he only turned up his hearing device when he wanted to catch a particular point. I think that was his secret. If you have to sift through all the irrelevancies that make up the usual "discussion," understanding is reduced to a minimum. By selecting only crucial points, and by listening to them with total absorption, he was able to get to the heart of the matter.

From Minnesota he went on to another creative library-building assignment at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and from there back to his beloved library at Harvard. Helping other scholars gain access to what they needed was his highest joy.

(Richard B. Mather
University of Minnesota)
IX.

The serious study of East Asia can virtually be equated with the development of good collections of books in East Asian languages, and in the history of East Asian libraries in the United States no one has played a larger role than Dr. A. Kaiming Chiu.

When I came as a graduate student to Harvard University in 1931, there were, as I remember, four other graduate students concerned with East Asian studies and a few professors with interests in the field but in scattered departments. Only the newly founded Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute existed as a central nexus of East Asian studies, and at its center stood Dr. Chiu, working almost alone but with boundless energy, dedication, and skill.

The surroundings were far from promising. Harvard had tucked the library away in an unwanted corner—a small portion of dark and dusty Boylston Hall, as it existed after a half century of decay and before its more recent metamorphosis into a semi-modernized building. Only a narrow circular iron stairway, looking better fitted to the cramped quarters of a submarine than a library, connected the reading room with the moldy basement stacks.

The setting was dismal, and the University and American scholarship in general paid little heed to what was then considered a somewhat exotic and very peripheral branch of learning. But Dr. Chiu built steadily and well. With single-minded purpose and unflagging enthusiasm he worked decade after decade to construct one of the truly great East Asian libraries in the world, and he continued his devoted efforts in supplementary tasks even after his retirement. Meanwhile, Harvard and the United States had awakened to the importance of East Asian studies and had discovered that, largely thanks to Dr. Chiu, the library he had helped build had become a shimmering jewel in the crown of American scholarship.

After some years of study abroad, I returned to Harvard as a member of the faculty and in due time became the Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute and later the Chairman of its Board of Trustees. Thus I had the privilege of a lifetime of close association with Dr. Chiu. No one could have been more helpful to those seeking to use the library or more devoted to its continuing growth and mounting excellence. No one could have been a more helpful and thoughtful friend. Here at Harvard, and also throughout the whole field of East Asian studies, all those who knew him will miss him greatly, but will be comforted by fond memories of him personally and a deep appreciation for his great achievements, which have meant so much to us and will continue to have great significance for the generations of students and scholars who will follow us in the field of East Asian studies.

(Edwin O. Reischauer
Harvard University)
I knew Dr. Kaiming Chiu for nearly forty years. Being fond of research work, I have practically lived in the Harvard-Yenching Library off and on since the 1920s, and Dr. Chiu was always unfailingly helpful to me in my quest for materials. He possessed three characteristics by means of which he conquered his enemies, vanquished their annoyance, and eventually made friends all over the world. Those who knew him well will remember him always. He was truly an unforgettable person.

Dr. Chiu will particularly be remembered as 1) a bona fide "servant of the servants of literature," 2) a scholarly cataloger, and 3) a sincere and generous friend. He once briefed me on how to become an amateur librarian and Chinese cataloger in only one hour, to prepare me for my first job teaching Chinese bibliography and historiography and the cataloging of Oriental books. He called my attention then to Margaret Mann's Introduction to Cataloging and the Classification of Books (Chicago: The Library Association, 1930), in the introduction of which the authoress said: "Those who catalog may truly be called the servants of the servants of literature." (p. 2) This statement contained one of the secrets of Dr. Chiu's success.

First let me talk about Dr. Chiu's public spirit. As a graduate student at Harvard, whenever I asked about a book, Dr. Chiu, unlike some reference librarians who might simply refer me to a catalog or a reference book, would immediately go to the catalog himself, check the location, run to the stack, and find the book for me. He would then return, put the book in my hand and say, "Now you can check it out, please." When I thanked him he would reply with a little smile, "Don't mention it please; it is my duty to do so." He did this often, not only for me, but for many others as well. The spiral staircase in the old "Chinese-Japanese Library" at Harvard went upward like the path of a helicopter; even a young person might well have felt fatigued after running up and down it a few times. Dr. Chiu, however, never seemed to be bothered by doing so many times a day. His strong sense of duty overcame his physical frailty. Even as late as 1976, when I asked for his guidance in locating a book, he immediately went from his office on the third floor down to the basement, pulled out all the books on the subject matter, and then climbed up the stepladder to take down four more large cases. He asked me to return later, explaining that it would take him a while to look over these volumes. After some time he came to my desk with a disappointed expression: "I am very sorry to tell you that no library in the United States has that edition." I remember on a few similar occasions in the past, he would apologize repeatedly, saying, "I will send a cable to Tokyo or Peiping to order the book and will catalog it as soon as possible when it is received." In such cases even a short-tempered Hunanese could not get angry at him! He kept the "servant-of-literature" spirit, even in the years after his retirement.

Second, let me mention Dr. Chiu's unique approach to cataloging. Again, a sentence from Mann's introduction is relevant:

...the cataloger must not only record the names of the authors and titles but he must draw attention to their purpose, contents, and relation to other works, bringing together those books which treat the same subject..." (Mann, op. cit., p. 4)
This expresses the same idea as the traditional Chinese criterion, "Ch'u-lei pang-t'ung, t'ung-t'iao kung-kuan." (The principle of inter-relatedness permeates the work of classification.) Under Dr. Chiu's leadership, and that of his able successors, each author entry included tsu, hao, and dates of birth and death. The East Asian books are well classified, to the benefit of all who work in the Harvard-Yenching Library. Harvard's philosophy, that "books in a library are tools collected for public use" sets it apart from those other libraries which adopt a more custodial approach.

Dr. Chiu made other thoughtful and unique contributions. For example, we have all wasted hours on books which proved, on investigation, not to be useful to our research at hand; or we have searched in vain for information on particular authors. Dr. Chiu and his colleagues preserved the brief account of the author and the thesis of the book from the dust cover, whenever it was available, and pasted it into the volume. This service, which should be recommended to other libraries, furnishes the reader a ready reference which may not be available elsewhere.

Dr. Chiu was both a well-trained librarian and scholar in his own right. He viewed things not only from the library administrator's point of view, but also from that of the user; and he served the public well—whether the reader were a professor, a student, an alumnus, or a visitor.

Third, Dr. Chiu was a sincere and generous person. He used to give me keys to the library so that I could use it weekends and evenings. He well understood that to make the trip to Harvard was not easy on an average income, so he enabled me to finish my research as quickly as possible.

Dr. Chiu himself lived frugally; yet he was extremely generous to his friends. Wherever we met—in Cambridge, Hong Kong, or elsewhere—he always invited me to a sumptuous dinner. I always returned the courtesy, and he accepted with pleasure, no matter how busy he was. The name of Harvard has drawn so many research scholars that it would have been impossible for him to entertain all visitors, and yet Dr. and Mrs. Chiu always entertained me graciously. Their invitations were irresistible, even when the pressure of work might have led me to decline the honor.

Now Dr. Chiu is gone forever. He has left an indelible impression on my mind, and a sense of irreplaceable loss. As a great scholarly librarian, he made a lasting contribution to the Harvard Yenching Library; indeed, it may perhaps be called "Kaiming Chiu's Library."

(S. Y. Teng
Indiana University)
In order to meet the growing demand for qualified librarians in East Asian studies in the 1960's, an Institute for Far Eastern Librarianship was held at the University of Chicago in the summer of 1969 as a special training program endorsed by the Committee on East Asian Libraries and the Association for Asian Studies and supported by a grant from the U. S. Office of Education. The six-week accelerated program included a curriculum of three courses each for Chinese and Japanese in Library Resources, Library Systems, and Reference Works.

Dr. Alfred K. Chiu, then Librarian of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, kindly accepted our invitation to teach the course on Chinese Library Systems. His long career as a scholar-librarian and his many professional publications, especially on classification and cataloging, had made him the authority in the field. He wrote a syllabus for the course, consisting of a detailed outline and bibliography for ten lectures on such topics as organization and administration, selection and acquisitions, descriptive cataloging, subject headings and classification, and romanization and indexing. He also brought with him all the sample forms and cards for distribution to some 20 participants in his class. At the age of 71, he was still very energetic and enthusiastic. He lectured three hours a day, five days a week, for two weeks during July 7-20, besides having formal and informal discussions with students and joining in other activities. He sacrificed his vacation and made a special trip to Chicago just for this occasion, which he considered to be a most important opportunity for sharing his knowledge and experiences with the younger generation.

Although his presence here was short, he made a great impression on the minds of all the participating scholars and librarians who had come here to learn the advanced knowledge of the profession and to meet the eminent scholars in the field. His broad knowledge and rich stock of anecdotes concerning books and libraries were fully enjoyed by all the members of the Institute. A picture taken at the Field Museum of Natural History, showing him surrounded by all the fellow members of the Institute (reproduced on page 16 through the courtesy of Robert Petersen) well demonstrates the love and respect given to him. His professionalism, kindness, and devotion will long be remembered by all who knew him. My formal but brief association with him at the Institute has been a most valuable experience and memory in my life.

(Tsuen-Hsuen Tsien
Curator
Far Eastern Library
University of Chicago)
Dr. Chiu with his students at the Institute for Far Eastern Librarianship, University of Chicago, July, 1969. (photograph reproduced by courtesy of Robert Petersen)
I can lay claim to having been an admirer of Dr. A. Kaiming Chiu for more than three decades, and that is a lot of admiring. In fact, I had had the pleasure of reading his first Chinese work on cataloging rules before I went to Boone Library School in Wuchang, the capital of Hupeh Province, China. But we did not actually become acquainted until the fall of 1946, when I had the privilege of serving as his assistant and working in his office for three and a half years. From then on, I became fully aware and appreciative of his true merits which had gained for him the great reputation and high esteem of the many that came to know him in the library field.

Dr. Chiu's unstinting devotion to his duties was a byword. He had a healthy propensity for hard work. His office week frequently exceeded sixty hours. He was, in other words, plural. Every single day, rain or shine, he remained late in his office, often returning in the evenings, sometimes on weekends. He bore his heavy burdens affirmatively, that is to say, he bore them willingly, even happily, if not proudly. Indeed, he gave all his talents and energies to the library he loved. With such dedication for almost fifty years, it is no wonder that the Harvard-Yenching Library has become a model for similar collections in the land.

Dr. Chiu had a genuine personal concern for his colleagues. He was strict, but just, treating everybody equally without the slightest prejudice. Personal friendship never took charge in his library; he stood firm with the adage, "Business is business." Moreover, he was a man who was devoted to his cause, spoke for it with eloquence and worked for it tirelessly. While he was outspoken, even those who disagreed with him had great respect for his wisdom, erudition, ability, integrity, and persistence.

He was also the most friendly, considerate, warm-hearted, and self-effacing of individuals. He had a deep understanding of other people's problems and always offered practical advice to those who called upon him for service. He was a devoted Christian and a fine family man. He was considerably frugal--so much so that he often used both sides of the slips from the pads of paper he kept in his office. His home life was very modest, but to others he was most generous. Recognizing his compassionate nature and his unselfish interest in people, many a friend turned to him for aid.

An inventory of his professional accomplishments would be extensive beyond the bounds of practicality, but a few major ones may be presented:

Singlehandedly, he founded the Harvard-Yenching Library, now the largest and finest of its kind in the United States. In so doing, he also gave great impetus and leadership to the building of East Asian collections elsewhere. His publications are legion; two of them are perhaps worthy of particular mention: (1) *Cataloging Rules for Chinese Books*, published in 1931 by the Commercial Press in Shanghai. This work has since been used as a textbook by library schools and as a working tool by libraries throughout China. (2) *A Classification Scheme for Chinese and Japanese Books*, published in 1943 by the American Council of Learned Societies in Washington, D. C. This was subsequently adopted not only by most of the major East Asian libraries in the United States, but by several others in Europe and Australia as well.
His introduction of the use of romanized entries on catalog cards for books written in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages has become a universal standard in the cataloging of East Asian publications.

After his retirement from Harvard, his professional and academic contributions expanded to broader national and international levels. He was invited in 1965 to serve as the Consultant to the East Asian Library of the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis and in 1966 as the first University Librarian of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. As a result of his efforts, the former has been developed into one of the larger East Asian collections in the Midwest, and the latter into one of the very best Chinese collections in Asia outside of China and Japan.

It was Dr. Chiu who made it a policy long before the Second World War to invite from China every two or three years a young but experienced professional librarian to Harvard-Yenching to receive training in Western library techniques. Again, he contributed immensely to the practice of East Asian librarianship throughout the country, as far as the recruitment of qualified personnel from overseas was concerned.

Mere statistics do little justice to the great contributions which Dr. Chiu made to the field of East Asian Studies. Indeed, it would be difficult for anyone to estimate how many scholarly works—articles, theses, dissertations, and books—have been made available to the academic world within the past fifty years through his bibliographic assistance and expert guidance.

Dr. Chiu was one of the towering figures in the library movement of our time. That his death is a great loss to all of us goes without saying. But he will long be remembered with respect and affection by those in our profession who were privileged to know him as a scholar-librarian of the first rank and as a true gentleman endowed with great modesty and human kindness.

(James S. K. Tung (Retired)
Gest Oriental Library
and East Asian Collection
Princeton University)
鞠躬盡瘁永不退休之裘老

康乃爾大學
鄭保羅

突然之間裘開明博士離開了這個世界的消息，對我而言是一個沉重的打擊。他在香港的留學生教育工作耕耘多年，對香港的教育事業作出重大的貢獻。裘老的離開是一個巨大的損失，對香港教育界來說是一種極大的傷痛。

裘開明博士的人品和專業精神得到了廣泛的尊敬和愛戴。他在香港大學任職期間，不僅在學術領域取得顯著成績，還在學生培養和教育管理方面作出了重要的貢獻。他的離世不僅是香港教育界的重大損失，也是世界學術界的一大損失。

裘老的逝世是一個沉重的打擊，我對他的離世表示深深地哀悼。他的人生是為了教育事業而奉獻的，他的一生是為了教育事業而努力的。他的精神將永遠鼓舞著我們，將他的人生奉獻給教育事業的人們，將永遠銘記在心。
他说了不少意见，以后每逢与他老人家聚会时，他常常谈及图书馆各种问题。他真是‘学到老，做到老’之真传者。

他有几句活语是我念念不忘的。‘图书馆是为学人服务的。’他对于每一个读者，不论是教授或是学生，都一视同仁，竭力为他们服务解决问题。‘不要辜负自己的图书馆，要尽量促进馆际合作。’所以他对于东南亚图书馆，都直接间接作了不少贡献。‘图书馆的发展并非一朝一夕的事，要有毅力，苦干才行。’他教导我们要有事业，专业的精神。

裘师现在已经安息了，可是他还活着，他还活在认识他的人每一个人的心里。