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Editorial Note

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EDITORIAL NOTE

With the 1979 Annual Meeting my term as Chairperson of CEAL expires. I take
leave of office with much appreciation for the opportunity of service for the
past three years, and with an even greater sense of gratitude for the way you
have all responded to CEAL's call for help and support. Building on CEAL's
past accomplishments, we have been able to move steadily forward in search of
practical and realistic solutions to the outstanding problems confronting
all East Asian libraries. That some progress has been made in this task
during the past three years is due entirely to your faithful support of CEAL
as a professional organization and to the dedication and outstanding performance
of all CEAL Subcommittees. Our thanks also go to the AAS Board of Directors,
the China and Inner Asia Council, the North East Asia Council, the American
Council of Learned Societies, the Ford Foundation, and the Japan-United States
Friendship Commission, without whose support CEAL could not have carried out all
of its activities. In addition, the Library of Congress has offered coopera­
tion and advice; officers of LC on all levels have made themselves available
to hear our suggestions and, on occasion, our complaints. We believe CEAL has
developed a sound working relationship with LC which should be conducive to
future productive discussions of problems of mutual concern. The American
Library Association and all research libraries that collect East Asian materials
have likewise been supportive of CEAL's endeavors. To them we are most grateful.
While external assistance such as we have received will always remain indis­
pendable to CEAL's work, the primary responsibility of developing the field
rests with us. CEAL's role as the catalyst in the East Asian library field
will surely only increase in importance as time goes on. I urge all of you
to become even more involved in CEAL's activities in the future and to pledge
your continuing support, for in the final analysis, CEAL is only as strong as
its members' commitment.

As a forum for discussion and information exchange, the CEAL Bulletin has been
the most visible of CEAL's activities. The publication, from all indications,
has been a brilliant success. The credit for this success for the past three
years goes first to Richard C. Howard, who, as Editor of the Bulletin, has spent
an untold amount of time soliciting and editing manuscripts. The editorial
chores are many and cannot be appreciated except by those who have gone through
similar experiences. To Dick Howard go our congratulations and gratitude for
a difficult job well done. CEAL Bulletin correspondents Thomas C. Kuo and
William S. Wong (China), Miwa Kai and Eugene Carvalho (Japan), and Sungha Kim
(Korea), have been most conscientious in gathering news items in their respective
areas of concern. The Bulletin would have been poorer without their contributions.
We also salute those who have contributed articles, publication notes, and
other news items which greatly enriched the contents of the Bulletin and enhanced
its usefulness as a professional journal. Preparing the manuscript for each
issue of the Bulletin for publication and distribution completes the editorial
process. In this final phase of the publication routine, we have been extremely
fortunate in having had the unexcelled and dedicated assistance of a large group
of people. Rodney Lister, Pam Hays, Jennifer Bennett, and Lucy Altree, all
of the Harvard-Yenching Library, typed the manuscripts, copied vernacular
script, proofread, prepared mailing labels, and saw each completed copy safely
on its way to the ARL Center for Chinese Research Materials in Washington, D.C.,
(P. K. Yu, Director) for last-minute corrections, printing, and distribution. There, Ingeborg Knezevic worked with the printer, and with the assistance of other CCRM staff members also distributed the issues. Rodney Lister has prepared the annual Directory and has also been responsible for subscription correspondence and records, as well as other paperwork related to CEAL activities. At the AAS Secretariat in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Victoria Spang and now Caroline Hackett, AAS Comptroller, have provided excellent help in the receipt and disbursement of funds and in the maintenance of CEAL financial accounts. Carol Jean Johnson, Administrative Officer of the AAS, has been unfailingly courteous and helpful in logistical support for the CEAL Annual Meetings and other administrative matters. To all of the above, who have made possible the smooth functioning of CEAL for the last three years, I remain personally very grateful.

Lastly, may I say that my tenure as CEAL Chairperson has been a most rewarding experience. You have been very kind in your encouragement and this is deeply appreciated. The road to be traveled by East Asian libraries remains a long and arduous one. I have no doubt that CEAL members, under the leadership of the next Chairperson, will rise to meet each challenge as it arises.

(Eugene W. Wu)