A Word from the Chairperson

Hideo Kaneko

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1979/iss59/3

This From the President is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Just as this Bulletin is as good as all of us could make it to be, CEAL will only be as good as its membership makes it; I urge you to continue your support of our CEAL activities.

As follow-up of the discussions that took place at the last CEAL annual meeting, two new temporary subcommittees have been organized: Subcommittee on CEAL Procedures and Subcommittee on Library Access (see pages 12-13). The former is to study the CEAL Procedures, especially the organization and election of the Executive Group, Chairperson, and Subcommittees. These revisions are to be recommended at the next annual meeting. Your comments and recommendations for this study would be most welcome. Please direct them to the Subcommittee Chairperson, Eugene Wu. The CEAL Procedures currently in effect is published in this issue as an Appendix for your reference. The latter subcommittee is to study the present state of access to the East Asian collections in North America by outside scholars and to assess the problems involved. The Subcommittee Chairperson, Philip Yampolsky, would appreciate your cooperation in making available the information necessary for the study.

As I began my tenure of the CEAL Chairmanship this spring, I asked all the subcommittee members to remain in their capacities for one more year to maintain continuity, and most people have complied. In addition, a few new names have been added to some subcommittee rosters. In any case, procedural changes and changing needs may warrant more drastic reorganization of our subcommittee activities next year.

Another crucial question we are now facing is how to strengthen CEAL and ready ourselves to meet the challenge arising from all quarters in the troubled time. As you know, the ACLS-ARL-SSRC East Asian Library Program was inaugurated last year with John Haeger as Director. The program and its Joint Advisory Committee took over the work initiated by the ACLS Steering Committee for a Study of the Problems of East Asian Libraries in 1975, which is to tackle the whole matrix of problems facing the East Asian libraries and implement solutions. It has now become apparent that there are no easy or once and for all solutions at this time, but we must steadily move toward solutions through a series of measures while being vigilant to protect and to lobby for our interests in view of rapidly developing technology and changing library scene in America. Although implementation of various measures for bibliographic control, collection development, and technical and personnel areas has barely begun, the ACLS-ARL-SSRC East Asian Library Program (which was never meant to be a permanent program) will be in operation only for a few more years, perhaps one or two more years. CEAL must take over the function of the program to coordinate our work and projects at the national level and formulate national policies in close coordination with various national and regional programs of the American
library community. The question is what do we need to make CEAL an effective organization speaking for the East Asian library community with authority and power. Perhaps the Executive Group must be vitalized and called to a meeting two or three times a year, while the Chairperson or an executive director might be salaried by CEAL on a part-time basis with at least enough office and travel funds to represent CEAL’s interests before organizations such as LC and at professional and national meetings relevant to our work.

The Subcommittee on Technical Processing (STP) has been the most active of the CEAL subcommittees, and it is currently the only permanent subcommittee of CEAL. The Subcommittee Chairperson, Thomas H. Lee, has written a proposal to make structural changes of the subcommittee as to organization and selection procedures of its membership, etc. This will be dealt with as a part of the deliberations by the Subcommittee on CEAL Procedures. STP is now urged to write another proposal for its projects which will be presented to the ACLS-ARL-SSRC East Asian Library Program for funding. The program would be able to provide out of its operating budget for this year a small sum of seed money to STP and CEAL for the purpose of starting the process of strengthening these organizations.

At this time, we should draw up a master plan to make CEAL, STP and other subcommittees, if warranted, truly functioning organizations. The proposal may be presented at the December meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for discussion and recommendation for funding.

The last but not least, the most pressing issue before us now is that of pinyin. The results of the STP survey on pinyin have been duly presented to LC, but CEAL is also asking an extension of the deadline to October 31, 1979 to submit additional comments and information on this vital issue. We must carefully weigh the merits and demerits of the changeover to pinyin in 1981, against those of other options in the light of all the technical information available to us. LC has been urged to finalize its decision only after a more exhaustive study of the technical and practical problems involved in this issue, and after taking full cognizance of opinions of the East Asian library community.

(Hideo Kaneko)