Editorial Note

Edwin G. Beal

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EDITORIAL NOTE

It is with a degree of pride, as well as with a certain amount of apprehension, that I have agreed to assume for one year the task of Editor of the CEAL Bulletin. A word of explanation may be in order. It is my recollection that at the 1963 meeting in Philadelphia of CALRFE (Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East, whose name was changed in 1967 to Committee on East Asian Libraries), there was some discussion of the need for a better and more continuing exchange of information among librarians concerned with East Asian collections. In the spring of 1963, shortly after I had been appointed Chairman of CALRFE, I began to collect items which I believed would be of interest to my colleagues in other institutions. Some of these crossed my desk in the course of a normal day's work while I was Head of the Chinese and Korean Section of the Orientalia Division, Library of Congress. My first Newsletter, which was dated May 22, 1963, consisted of six pages, was typed by our Section secretary, and was sent to some 25 to 30 persons. I continued to produce a Newsletter through no. 14, dated March 21, 1966.

Over the years this modest little Newsletter has grown into a much more elaborate Bulletin, with a formal title page, area Editors, and a subscription list. Its continued existence has demonstrated that there was a need for this type of communication among East Asian librarians. The period of most rapid growth and development began while James S.K. Tung, Curator of the Gest Oriental Library at Princeton University, served as Chairman of the parent Committee. This development continued while Thomas Kuo, Eugene Wu, and Hideo Kaneko served as Committee Chairperson, and while Richard C. Howard was Chairperson of the Subcommittee for Publications. Theirs is indeed a hard act to follow.

Though I can take some pride in having begun the Newsletter which later developed into the CEAL Bulletin, I am somewhat apprehensive about the future. There are several reasons for this. The first is that, since I have retired from active service in the Library of Congress, items of the type which I incorporated into the early issues of the Newsletter no longer come to me automatically in the course of a day's work. I am therefore dependent upon all of you to send me items which you believe may be of interest: to inform me of conferences and meetings, of institutional programs and personnel changes, and of recently received publications of interest. Please also inform me of writings which could appear as articles or as special reports. (To facilitate editing, I request that any material you send to me for the Bulletin be double spaced, with wide margins.)

My second reason for apprehension arises from problems of cost. I am writing this note on May 26, 1980. The Bulletin, therefore, has just passed its 17th birthday, and like all teenagers, it needs money. Furthermore, it can no longer depend on parental allowances from the Association and its Regional Councils. Subscriptions, though very helpful, do not cover the cost of reproduction and distribution. We are therefore con-
considering the possibility of increasing revenues by accepting a limited amount of advertising from bookdealers and publishers. This suggestion was made to me by Eugene Wu; it had also been proposed to the Executive Group last year by Mr. Tung. I have consulted with the AAS Secretariat on this, and have circularized my views to the Executive Group. The responses I have so far received have been positive and helpful.

I look forward to receiving the active cooperation of all members of CEAL in my efforts. This is, after all, your Bulletin; and it can only be as good as you help me make it

Edwin G. Beal, Jr.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Program Suggestions Solicited for 1981 Annual Meeting

It is not too early to start thinking about and making plans for panels to be presented at the 1981 Annual Meeting to be held in Toronto. Within the framework of the Association for Asian Studies programming, it is anticipated that two panel sessions will be allocated for library and library related topics. It would be helpful to have suggestions, proposals, or paper outlines submitted between now and August in order that appropriate scheduling and presentation may be considered in time for the Program Committee Meetings to be held in early September.

Miwa Kai
AAS Program Committee Member for 1981
East Asian Library
Columbia University