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A Note from the Chairperson

Committee on East Asian Libraries

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The publication of this issue of the CEAL Bulletin has been delayed due to circumstances that have been largely beyond our control. We regret the inconvenience this may have caused and assure our readers that every effort will be made to have future issues published on schedule.

Since beginning my term as chairperson of CEAL last March, I have reviewed the many East Asian library activities that were discussed at our Chicago meeting and at subsequent meetings held under the auspices of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission at Ann Arbor in May and at Columbia in June. As reported in this issue of the Bulletin, these activities cover an impressive range of library concerns, including automation, bibliographic control, collection development, regional and national cooperation, coordination of acquisitions, resource sharing, collection surveys, romanization, word division, and implementation of uniform cataloging rules. Our past chairperson, Hideo Kaneko, may well take pride in having guided our organization through a most challenging and productive period.

Among current CEAL concerns, perhaps none will prove to be more critical in the time ahead than the rapid progress being made toward the automation of library records in East Asian scripts and the impact this development will have on the techniques and practices now employed in a large number of East Asian libraries to maintain bibliographic control of their collections. Specifically, this concern has been expressed in the widespread interest among East Asian librarians in the question whether the Library of Congress will continue to make available to all libraries its catalog records for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean materials in both the vernacular and romanization in printed card form after LC has begun to input these records into the automated database of the Research Libraries Group. This question will be of particular concern to those libraries not having access to this database.

This concern has been communicated to the Library of Congress in a letter addressed to Mr. Joseph H. Howard, Assistant Librarian for Processing Services. For the information of our readers the text of this letter has been included in a special appendix to this issue of the Bulletin (see p. 63). Another letter to LC on this subject written by Thomas H. Lee, in his capacity as Chair of the ALA Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials, is reproduced in the section of this issue devoted to technical processing (see pp. 45-46). We have also received letters from a number of CEAL members confirming that for their institutions LC printed cards in both the vernacular and romanization will continue to be indispensable for the cataloging of their current CJK acquisitions.

It is our understanding that a statement on the continued production and distribution of CJK printed cards is now under preparation by the Processing Services of LC.