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From the Chairperson

Ken Klein

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From the Chairperson

June 15, 1994

The text on this issue's cover comes from The Analects, chapter 3, in which Confucius is asked why rectification of names is so necessary. "If names be not correct, language is not in accordance with the truth of things. If language be not in accordance with the truth of things, affairs cannot be carried on to success. When affairs cannot be carried on to success, proprieties and music will not flourish...." was the reply.

The ballots by which the membership was polled on whether or not CEAL's name should be changed will be counted the first week of July. If a majority has voted "no" then we will continue working under the name "Committee on East Asian Libraries," which has certainly represented us proudly for many years. If, on the other hand, we decide as a group that a change is in order, the choice of a new name will have to be made while keeping all that we do and hope to do in mind. It will have to take into consideration our relationships to the Association for Asian Studies, to other organizations of East Asian librarians, and to the broader field of librarianship. And it should also represent how we intend to confront the library and information challenges of the coming years.

Whether or not we can manage to express all that in the few short words of our name, these are matters we all have to keep in mind. Over the next two years, we hope to draw the AAS membership at large into a closer dialogue with us over matters of scholarly communication. We ourselves are straining to keep up with, if not always ahead of, the rapidly advancing changes in electronic communications for East Asian languages. And, as the value and stature of scholarship and literature in China, Japan, and Korea make themselves increasingly evident to Western scholars in fields other than East Asian studies, the collections we oversee will be called on more and more to serve new and disparate demands.

We live in exciting times; we have the potential, perhaps even the obligation, to help make our own field ever more stimulating. Let's endeavor, in the process, to observe proprieties and to make beautiful music together.

Ken Klein