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DU KE PRESENTED LETTER OF RECOGNITION

On March 10, 1999 at the Plenary Session of the CEAL Annual Meeting in Boston, Mr. Weiyiing Wan read and presented a letter of appreciation on behalf of CEAL to Professor Du Ke, former Director of the Library Department of the Ministry of Culture of the People’s Republic of China. Not only was Professor Du the primary moving force behind the development of Chinese libraries and librarianship for the last two decades, he has also been a major promoter of international cooperation of libraries and library professionals. The letter reads:

For more than two decades, Professor Du Ke has been the primary moving force behind the development of Chinese libraries and Chinese librarianship. During his tenure as the Director of the Library Department, the Ministry of Culture, from 1980 to 1998, his leadership in the National Library of China as its Executive Deputy Director from 1987 to 1989, and his professional leadership in the Chinese Library Association’s Board of Directors, he has made lasting contributions to the development of the infrastructure of the Chinese library systems, the development of library laws and standards, and the promotion of international cooperation of libraries and library professionals. The comprehensive report on Chinese library developments, Dansdai Zhongguo Di Tushuguan Shiye bears eloquent testimony to his contributions.

The China National Microfilming Center for Library Resources, which since its establishment in 1985 has been under the guidance of the Library Department, has microfilmed all major Chinese newspapers published between 1870 and 1949, thousands of major journals, and tens of thousands of rare books and manuscripts. This is unprecedented and unparalleled achievement not only in preserving human records and expressions of inspiration and aspiration, but also in national and international resource sharing.

In all aspects of Chinese library development, one cannot but notice and admire what his vision and leadership has created for the country and for the world. It is the great achievements and legacies such as his that brings to mind the stanza of a well-known American poet:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Professor Du was a member of the Chinese Library Delegation that visited the United States in 1973, making the beginning of many splendid blossoms of Sino-American library-exchange. As the Secretary-General of the Beijing IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations), he not only orchestrated the most successful international professional forum, it was his wisdom and endeavor that created the first IFLA panel devoted to East Asian Studies Librarianship, of which the Council on East Asian Libraries was the proud collaborator.
As a token of our admiration and respect, CEAL is honored to present to Professor Du this letter of appreciation with our best wishes for good health and good cheers.

On behalf of the Council on East Asian Libraries,

Dr. Tai-loi Ma, President.