From the President

Philip Melzer

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to CEAL members and friends of CEAL:

The CEAL IFLA preconference, Scholarly Information on East Asia in the 21st Century, was held on Friday, August 19, 2006 at Yonsei University in Seoul on the eve of the meetings of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). The preconference was highly successful. The meeting began with a keynote address from Dr. Satoru Takeuchi, Professor Emeritus, University of Library and Information Science, Japan. Twenty-three papers were presented by librarians and scholars from the United States, Australia, Japan, Korea and Taiwan to 100 attendees. This was an event of which CEAL can be proud: many CEAL members helped organize and plan the meeting, while many others presented papers and attended the meeting.

I am delighted to see that this issue of JEAL includes the guidelines for the cataloging of Japanese rare books that were painstakingly compiled by my former colleague Isamu Tsuchitani, working with Library of Congress Japanese Team catalogers Manae Fujishiro and Hisako Rogerson. The guidelines conform to the Library’s Rare book cataloging guidelines and provide rich detail and many useful examples that others can learn from and follow. Many thanks to Isamu, Manae and Hisako for sharing their deep experience with Japanese rare material in this way. The guidelines are truly a monumental achievement.

I was recently privileged to attend the meeting of the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources. Chair Toshie Marra presided over an informative, collegial and stimulating meeting in which members and guests reported on training, educational and collection building initiatives, as well as relations with publishers, vendors and libraries in Japan. What an impressive record of organization, cooperation and achievement!

A new season approaches - a busy season - and with it a new fiscal year for the government and the Library of Congress. Annual reports are being prepared, and new year activities initiated. Planning proceeds for a reorganization that combines cataloging and acquisitions operations. A five-year strategic plan is being fleshed out by task groups in our department. Even after a busy summer, it looks as though autumn will not provide us with a chance to catch our breath.

I hope that you have a happy and productive autumn.

Philip Melzer, CEAL President