

July 15, 2014

An anecdotes about Ms. Tung-King Ng

I recall the following interesting experience related by Ms. Ng (Asian Head Librarian from 1960-1987) as if I heard it from her yesterday.

One winter evening in the 1970s, when Ms. Ng got home from the Asian Library at UBC, she felt very tired after a long hard working day. She wanted to take a short nap for just half an hour or so before starting to cook her dinner. Still, in her work clothes, she took her nap, but when she awoke, the clock on her bed-side table indicated a little after 8 o'clock. She thought it was already the next morning. Quickly, she jumped from her bed and hurried to her garage, because in those days the UBC Asian Library opened at 8:30 am. It was a typical rainy day in the grey winter time in Vancouver and the morning and evening looked the same. When she parked her beloved 1960's Beetle at the UBC parkade, she heard a parting salutation by someone, "Good night!." Then, she realized that it was not next morning, but was still the same evening after her work. Scratching her head, she drove home again. This little story illustrates how much she devoted herself to the UBC Asian Library. No wonder Mr. Yim Tse, Chinese librarian (1968-1998), used to call Ms. Ng affectionately a "workaholic."



Tung-King Ng and Tsuneharu Gonnami (2010)

Ms. Tung-King Ng is already sorely missed by family, colleagues and friends. As one of the latter I appreciate this opportunity to be able to pay my last respects to her professionalism.

Tsuneharu Gonnami, Japanese Librarian (1969-2002)

Note:

Tsuneharu Gonnami first shared this article with the UBC Asian Library in July 2014, after the passing of Ng on June 11. It was later published in the *Journal of East Asian Library*, n.159, October 2014, p.97.