

morning. I learned from him how to treat my own students and tried my best to follow his path.

Edward Wagner dedicated his life to the understanding and elucidation of Korean life, and his loss will be felt deeply by all who knew him and worked along with him in that endeavor.

JAMES B. PALAIS
University of Washington

MAY KYI WIN (1947–2002)

Daw May Kyi Win, associate professor and curator of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection in the Northern Illinois University Libraries, died February 23 at her home in DeKalb. She was born in Rangoon, Burma in 1947 just after the end of World War II. Her father was a successful businessman.

May Kyi Win received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1971 and her Diploma in Library Science in 1973 from the University of Rangoon. She was U Thaw Kaung's student, one of his first diploma graduates from the newly constituted Library School at the University of Rangoon. According to John Badgley, University of Washington, she acquired her impressive command of English by listening to the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) during a period when the teaching of English was banned in Burma. She served as Division Chief of the University Central Libraries and a part-time instructor in the Department of Library Studies at the University of Rangoon from 1974 to 1989.

In 1990, May Kyi Win was hired as curator of the Southeast Asia Collection at Northern Illinois University. She was the only native Burmese curator in the United States and was a member of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies as well as the Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University. She also was a member of the Board of the Burma Studies Foundation.

During her tenure at Northern Illinois University Libraries, she contributed to the Burmese collection and the mainland Southeast Asia collection through her expertise in languages (Burmese, Thai, and Pali) and her knowledge of the literature of the region. The Burmese collections at Northern Illinois University are among the world's largest outside Myanmar. In addition to her duties as collection development and reference librarian in the Southeast Asia collection, she was the chief cataloger of Burmese language materials. "May Kyi Win worked tirelessly to improve the collection, to secure additional funding, and to provide first-rate service. Her passing is an immeasurable loss to the University libraries, the Northern Illinois University community, and international scholarship," commented Arthur P. Young, dean of University Libraries.

May Kyi Win was the author of two books, *Historical Dictionary of Thailand*, with Harold E. Smith, and *Historical Dictionary of the Philippines*, with Artemio R. Guillermo. She was working with Smith on a revised edition of the Thai dictionary at the time of her death. Since 1995, Win was editor of the *Bulletin of the Burma Studies Group* of the Association for Asian Studies and published an annual bibliography on Burma. She also was compiling an on-line topical bibliography of

Burmese, Lao, and Cambodian materials in the Southeast Asia Collection as part of a National Security Education Program grant to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

May Kyi Win will be remembered as a kind and willing mentor to students, a user-centered reference librarian, and a person of strong faith and high moral character, said colleagues. “She will be long remembered for her selfless service to others,” said Richard Cooler, director of the Center for Burma Studies. “Her deep sense of charity extended to all things, both great and small.”

She is survived by her father, U Aung Thein; siblings in Myanmar, Pyone Pyone Maw, May Kyi Lay, Han Sein, May Kyi Ihawy, and Hla Han; and her niece, Soe Soe Nyien, a student at Northern Illinois University.

RICHARD COOLER

SUSAN RUSSELL

Northern Illinois University