

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Dr Wang Chi, B.S., M.A., Ph.D

Accompanied by books throughout his life, he is well read and has developed a revolutionary system with remarkable librarianship. Bridging China and the United States, he travels between the East and West and has contributed to the friendship between these two countries.

Dr Wang Chi has three major accomplishments. First, he is a veteran in the field of librarianship, having served as the Head of the Chinese Section at the Library of Congress in the United States for decades. An old friend of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, he twice served as the University Librarian of CUHK, from 1970 to 1972 and from 1984 to 1986, making him a prominent leader and contributor in the library's early development. Second, Dr Wang is an internationally renowned scholar, and has authored many important articles and books on Chinese history and US-China relations. And third, he is an unofficial ambassador between China and the United States. He co-founded the US-China Policy Foundation, which has had a broad and far-reaching impact on diplomatic relations between the two sides.

Dr Wang Chi was born in 1932 into a large family in China's Liaoning Province. His father, Wang Shuchang, was a General of the Northeast army who worked with prominent politicians of the Republic of China, including Zhang Zuolin and Chiang Kai-shek. After the Second World War, he briefly stayed in Hong Kong before going to the United States in 1949 to further his studies. After completing high school, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland, and then a Master and doctoral degrees from Georgetown University.

After graduating from the University of Maryland, Dr Wang began serving as a librarian at the Library of Congress, a career spanning nearly half a century. Later, in 1975, Dr Wang became the Head of the library's Chinese Section. During this tenure, he oversaw the expansion of the Chinese collection from 300,000 to over one million volumes, earning its reputation as one of the largest Chinese collections outside Asia and a vital base for the studies of Sinology. When Dr Wang worked in the Far Eastern Languages Section of the library, he participated in a project that used a photocomposing machine purchased from Japan. Under his leadership, the library invented the first catalogue cards with CJK (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) scripts, ending the practice of hand-copying CJK characters to cards. This system is still in use today.

While taking leave from the Library of Congress between 1970 and 1972, Dr Wang was invited by Professor Li Choh-ming, the founding Vice-Chancellor of CUHK, to assume the role of University Librarian. In addition to introducing the use of Library of Congress classification schemes and *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition* in Hong Kong, Dr Wang also shared his vision and counsel on the library's long-term planning and development. In 1984, Dr Wang was invited to CUHK again by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ma Lin, as an Acting University Librarian, to help establish the libraries of the Faculty of Medicine and New Asia

College. Dr Wang's leadership and expertise enabled CUHK to build a new and comprehensive library system at its Shatin campus. The present CUHK library system features the University Library and six sub-libraries. Standing proudly at the University Mall, the University Library features the sculpture, the 'Gate of Wisdom', in front and a learning garden at the basement, making it an ideal place for studies. It has not only benefitted CUHK students, but has also become the envy of students from other institutes.

A student of agricultural science, Dr Wang had aspired to help rebuild his country with agricultural and technological expertise. However, as US-China tensions intensified, he switched to studying history, with a particularly keen interest in politics and diplomacy. In 1969, he received his doctoral degree from Georgetown University and began part-time teaching over there. In addition to publishing a large body of work, Dr Wang taught many distinguished American politicians, including Stapleton Roy, the first US Ambassador to the People's Republic of China after the normalization of diplomatic relations between the countries. Mr Roy is the second son of Andrew Tod Roy, a teacher and Vice President of Chung Chi College in its early development.

An outstanding teacher, Dr Wang became an Adjunct Professor of modern Chinese history and US-China relations at Georgetown University in 1969. The 'Ping Pong Diplomacy' and Henry Kissinger's secret Beijing visit in 1971 paved the way for President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China in the following year. Following President Nixon's China tour in 1972, Dr Wang returned to China for the first time after an absence of decades. Recalling the visit, he said, 'That was my home-returning after leaving for over 20 years. I could feel the change in my motherland was tremendous!' On his trip to China, Dr Wang successfully negotiated an exchange agreement between the Library of Congress and National Library of Peking, and subsequent agreements with major Chinese libraries. After that, Dr Wang visited China several times to help set up US-China liaison offices, and devoted his efforts to promoting educational and cultural exchanges between the two sides. From 1980 through 2001, Dr Wang led six delegations of librarians from the United States and Canada to visit China. His efforts contributed greatly to the internationalization and modernization of China's libraries, and national libraries from Beijing and Washington both invited him to be a consultant. In 1995, he co-founded the US-China Policy Foundation, a platform aimed at strengthening understanding and facilitating exchanges at all levels between the two countries. *The Washington Journal of Modern China*, published by the Foundation in the United States, is considered key reading for American politicians hoping to learn more about China.

Over the years, Dr Wang has become friends with many Chinese and American celebrities. 'The US Ambassadors to China, including Leonard Woodcock, Arthur W Hummel Jr, Stapleton Roy and Jim Sasser, are all my good friends,' he said. Dr Wang also maintained good relationships with Chiang Kai-shek, Zhang Xueliang and Soong Meiling. In recent years, Dr Wang has been the driving force in several historic events, including Soong May-ling's Capitol Hill address in 1995 and the visit of the Chairman of the Kuomintang, Lien Chan, to China in 2005.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his contributions to library science, particularly his involvement in the development of the CUHK Library, as well as his efforts and accomplishments in the academic exchanges and diplomatic ties between China and the United States, I have the great honour of presenting to you Dr Wang Chi, for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.

