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Subject Fw: Stony Brook gets 2,600-volume collection of Chinese cookbooks

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To kristen.nyitray@stonybrook.edu
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Subject Stony Brook gets 2,600-volume collection of Chinese cookbooks

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Stony Brook gets 2,600-volume collection of Chinese cookbooks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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STONY BROOK, N.Y. -- Stony Brook University said it has received a donation of 2,626 Chinese cookbooks -- the largest such collection in the world.

The donation includes related magazines, videos, slides and other materials collected by Jacqueline M. Newman, a retired professor of nutrition and lifetime lover of Chinese cookbooks, the university announced Tuesday.

The collection, which totals more than 7,000 items and is valued at \$400,000, is being unveiled on Wednesday -- in time for the Chinese New Year, which starts Jan. 29. It will be housed in the special collections department of the Melville Library.

Newman, a retired Queens College professor, said she hopes the collection does more than just produce interest in Chinese cuisine.

"I'm looking to broaden the conceptualization of food because it has anthropologic, sociologic, cultural and historical significance and more," she said.

Stony Brook officials said Newman's collection is the largest collection of English-language Chinese cookbooks in the world.

"This is as special as it is important," Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny said. "It is a very important collection for understanding the Asian-American community, and it will help support our curriculum. It fits perfectly into our development of a comprehensive Asian Studies Center. This will be the nucleus for building very important surrounding collections."

Newman has collected Chinese cookbooks for about 50 years, since she got her

first one as a wedding present. She wrote her doctoral thesis on changing Chinese food and habits in New York City.

She is editor and publisher of Flavor & Fortune, a quarterly about the science and art of Chinese food, and in 2004 she published a book, "Food Culture in China," and edited "Chinese Cuisine & American Palate: The Art & Science of Chinese Cooking."

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