

Obituaries

Geoffrey Hudson (1903–74)

Geoffrey Hudson was one of the pioneers of the study of the contemporary Far East in Britain, first as a fellow of All Souls' College (1926–54) and thereafter as a fellow and Director of the Centre for Far Eastern Studies at St. Antony's College, Oxford. He won the Davis exhibition in Chinese as an Oxford undergraduate while working towards his first in classical Greats. *Europe and China: A Survey of Their Relations in History Before 1800* (1931), published when he was still in his twenties, combined his interests in these two civilisations and exhibited a unique knowledge of the histories of both. From an early date he concentrated also on Japan; *The Far East in World Politics* (1936) revealed a deep understanding of the dynamics of Japanese diplomacy.

In appearance and temperament, Geoffrey seemed an archetypal kindly, absent-minded professor. But he was never one for the ivory tower. One of his All Souls' colleagues in the 1930s described him as a fierce opponent of appeasement, and the outbreak of World War II marked the end of his purely academic career. He headed the Far Eastern section of the Foreign Office's research department and, though he returned to Oxford in 1946, he became a regular commentator on Asian and World affairs, most notably and continuously for the *Economist*, but also in most of the major journals on either side of the Atlantic. His last two books—*The Hard and Bitter Peace: World Politics Since 1945* (1966) and *Fifty Years of Communism, 1917–67* (1968)—were evidence of his ability to draw on a lifetime's storehouse of knowledge and yet tell a tale simply.

I got to know Geoffrey in the mid 1950s and like everyone else was struck by his wide-ranging knowledge of world affairs. But despite his learning, he was modest, undogmatic and open to new ideas, and it was possible to disagree with him strongly without ever losing affection for him. He was also extremely generous of his time and energies, and readily agreed to lend his prestige to assist the infant *China Quarterly*. He never refused a request, however much of a chore, and did his share of proof-reading in the early days. He attended meetings of the Executive Committee of the Editorial Board until shortly before his death.

The form of Geoffrey's written contributions to this journal, and the two books on which we collaborated, in a way summed him up. They were always submitted on lined foolscap, handwritten in an elegant copper plate, the hallmark of the courtly scholar that he was. But his manuscripts almost never bore the mark of alteration, a tribute to the clarity of his thought and his grasp of a subject.

RODERICK MACFARQUHAR

Yuji Muramatsu (1911–74)

Yuji Muramatsu, who died in Tokyo on 6 March, a few weeks before his scheduled retirement from Hitotsubashi University, where he had been Professor of Chinese History and Political Economy since 1951, was one of the most remarkable figures in the world community of China scholars. The range of his professional concerns was exceedingly broad, spanning both economic and social history, and the role of ideology, and extending from classical antiquity to modern times. His work on the structure of economic and political power in the countryside in the 19th and 20th centuries, of which the main conclusions are summarized in an article published in 1966,* is a landmark in our understanding of that rural society against which the Chinese revolution was chiefly directed.

If Professor Muramatsu's scholarship does not fit into any narrowly-circumscribed pigeonhole, the man's interests and sympathies were broader still. Deeply attached to tradition (he liked to remind visitors that Hitotsubashi was the oldest public university in the capital, older even than Tokyo University), he was always ready to make the best of the present. Intensely patriotic and steeped in Japanese culture, he was likewise at home in the West, and had cultivated friendships with a wide circle of American and European colleagues, and with many students whom he had taught during visits to the University of California and elsewhere. His knowledge and wisdom commanded respect; his wit, charm and human warmth gained the affection of those who knew him.

Shortly after *The China Quarterly* was taken over by the Contemporary China Institute in 1968, Professor Muramatsu accepted our invitation to become a member of the Editorial Board. He had tentatively agreed to spend a term at the Institute in London in the autumn of 1974, but continuing ill health had cast doubt on this project. Though not entirely unexpected, his passing leaves a void, both in the world of learning and in the hearts of his friends.

STUART R. SCHRAM

* "A documentary study of Chinese landlordism in the late Ch'ing and the early Republican Kiangnan," *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, XXIX (Part III), pp. 566–99.