

and then for the Asiatic Society of Bombay as a vice-president. She continued to guide doctoral students and to make sure that her former students who were teachers had international conference experience; she also continued to extend help and encouragement to foreign scholars. She taught as a visiting professor at Agnes Scott College and at Carleton College. Her academic work focused on the social and political history of western India and included the British influence on Gujarat and the history of the Parsis. Most recent is her work on archeological evidence of Parsi history; she directed a study on the excavations in Sanjan and worked toward the restoration of the sacred Bahrot caves. She published forty-five articles. Her most recent book is *From the Iranian Plateau to the Shores of Gujarat: The Story of Parsi Settlements and Absorption in India*, coauthored with Soonu Dhunjisha and published by the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute in 2002.

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FREDERICK W. MOTE

(June 2, 1922–February 10, 2005)

Frederick W. Mote, professor emeritus of East Asian Studies at Princeton University, died after a long illness in Denver, Colorado, at the age of eighty-two. Regarded even among leading scholars in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and China as one of the twentieth century's preeminent students of traditional Chinese civilization, Professor Mote wrote, edited, and translated numerous books, scholarly articles, and essays on subjects ranging from classical Chinese philosophy to military history and from the study of great cities such as Suzhou and Nanjing to the ways in which poetry, painting, and other arts could be used to gain a fuller understanding of Chinese economic, social, and cultural history. Mote was one of a very small number of academic pioneers instrumental in transforming the study of China and East Asia in the United States from a neglected backwater at most colleges and universities to a mature field with high standards and a distinguished record of scholarly achievement. He effected this important change through his publications; his teaching at Princeton University and the University of Washington; and his years of service to organizations such as the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China (of which he was a founding member), the Chinese Advisory Committee of the Modern Languages Association, the Inter-University Board for Chinese Language Studies in Taiwan (which he chaired from 1961 to 1964), the Committee on Studies of Chinese Civilization of the American Council of Learned Societies (which he chaired from 1974 to 1978), the editorial board of the journal *Asia Major*, the Smithsonian Council, and the Visiting Committee of the Freer Gallery of Art.

Mote enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) early in 1943. A Chinese-language course that he had taken during the summer of 1942 at George Washington University caused his superiors to transfer him to a military unit at Harvard University, where he participated in a special language program that was

directed by the eminent Sinologists Y. R. Chao and Lien-sheng Yang. Thus began Mote's intensive involvement with a language and a civilization that he came to love, admire, and for all intents and purposes make his own. After completing his work at Harvard, Mote was first assigned as an interpreter for Chinese nationals who were undergoing military training in the United States. He then was selected to join the newly established Office of Strategic Services (OSS) as a noncommissioned officer.

Mote continued to serve in China until early 1946, when he was transferred back to the United States. Discharged from the military in April of that year, he was admitted to Harvard, where he originally intended to complete his undergraduate studies. However, the call of China proved to be too strong, and Mote soon decided to leave the United States and sail for Shanghai. He enrolled as an undergraduate at Nanjing University, where he specialized in the history of premodern China under the direction of the eminent historian and member of Academia Sinica Wang Chongwu. Mote received his bachelor of arts from the university in 1948, probably the first Westerner ever to do so. It was during his time in Nanjing that he also met his future wife, Ch'en Hsiao-lan, and his lifelong friend and fellow 1948 Nanjing graduate, Ch'en Ta-tuan, who later became a treasured colleague at Princeton. As a fellow of the Fulbright program, Mote did graduate work in Peking and Nanjing in 1948–49 before accepting a position as a language officer in the Political Section of the American embassy in the weeks immediately following the founding of the People's Republic of China in October 1949. Just before leaving China for the United States in 1950, he and Ch'en were married in Nanjing.

Shortly after the Motes arrived in the United States, Mote entered the graduate program of the Far Eastern and Russian Institute at the University of Washington in Seattle. Among the distinguished East Asian specialists with whom he studied and worked in the early 1950s were George E. Taylor, Franz Michael, Vincent Y. C. Shih, Hellmut Wilhelm, Hsiao Kung-ch'üan, and Li Fang-kuei, the last of whom served as Mote's dissertation director. In 1953 a Ford Foundation fellowship enabled Mote to spend a semester at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, where he compiled and edited *Japanese-Sponsored Governments in China, 1937–1945: An Annotated Bibliography* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1954), which is still used by students of modern East Asian history today. Also in 1954, he completed his doctoral work in Sinology at the University of Washington with a dissertation on the political and cultural history of mid-fourteenth-century China entitled "T'ao Tsung-i and his *Chokeng lu*." The period encompassed by this study—the momentous transition from the Mongol Yuan dynasty to the Chinese Ming dynasty—was one to which Mote would return frequently in his later work.

Mote was appointed assistant professor of Chinese studies in Princeton's Oriental Studies Department in 1956. Princeton remained his academic home until his retirement from teaching in 1987. His first few years at Princeton were spent establishing a rigorous Chinese-language program and working with the noted librarian James Shih-kang Tung to improve the facilities and expand the holdings of the university's Gest Oriental Library. The arrival on the Princeton campus in 1959 of Ch'en Ta-tuan and Marius B. Jansen provided further support for Mote's efforts, which included establishing an interdepartmental undergraduate program in East Asian studies in 1961. Mote and Jansen were successful in securing financial support from the John D. Rockefeller and Ford foundations, the Carnegie Corporation, and the U.S. Department of Education, which enabled the university to acquire a wealth of new materials for the Gest Library, establish a highly regarded Chinese Linguistics Program (which Mote directed from its inception in 1966 until 1974), and add a

number of new East Asian specialists to the faculty. In the mid-1960s, Mote, Ch'en, and Princeton also were instrumental in the establishment of a summer Chinese Language School at Middlebury College, which, under Ch'en's direction, quickly became recognized as one of the finest summer language programs in the country.

Mote was a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship in 1961, and early in the 1960s he published four highly acclaimed works on the history and culture of fourteenth-century China. In 1964 Mote took a leave of absence from Princeton to serve as an advisor on Chinese education for the Thai government. Mote was long interested in the ethnic, cultural, and other connections between southwestern China and northern Southeast Asia; his time in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and other places in Thailand enabled him to research and write three articles on the origins of the Thai people and many of their political institutions that proved to be very important to the study of early Thai history. During his time in Thailand, Mote also worked on a scholarly project that would occupy him off and on for the rest of his life: an English translation of Hsiao Kung-ch'üan's monumental history of Chinese political thought, *Zhongguo zhengzhi sixiang shi*. The first volume of the translation was published by Princeton University Press in 1979, and Mote was working on the second at the time of his death.

In 1966 Mote, Jansen, and other colleagues successfully persuaded Princeton to convert the East Asian wing of the Department of Oriental Studies into an independent Department of East Asian Studies. Once that department was formally established in 1969 with Jansen as its first chairman, Mote oversaw the continued development of an academic program that both allowed and encouraged undergraduate and graduate students interested in China to explore the linkages among history, literature, art history, religion, sociology, international relations, and contemporary politics. Along with Jansen, Marion J. Levy, Wen Fong, William W. Lockwood, Ch'en, Kao Yu-kung, James T. C. Liu, T'ang Hai-t'ao, T'ang Nai-ying, and others, Mote helped build an academic community at Princeton that not only approached the study of Chinese civilization from a rich interdisciplinary perspective but also saw China in a broad regional context. Many of Mote's graduate students did minor fields in Japanese history, and most graduate students in Japanese history also did work on China. Those graduates have gone on to pursue careers involving East Asia not only in the academic world but in government, law, and business as well.

Mote used his chairmanship of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Committee on Studies of Chinese Civilization to argue forcefully for the need to strengthen existing Chinese library holdings on a national level. In 1968 he became a member of the Executive Group of the Committee on East Asian Libraries. An Association of Research Libraries Center for Chinese Research Materials was established; at several points over the ensuing years, Mote and colleagues at Princeton and other universities were able to secure foundation grants to support the center. This early effort was followed in 1973 by the establishment under the auspices of the ACLS and the Social Science Research Council of a Task Force on Chinese Libraries and Research Materials, which Mote chaired until 1975. Mote obtained funding from the ACLS and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton to support the preparation of a revised catalog of the Chinese rare books held in the Gest Library collection. This was followed by additional catalogs and the acquisition of microfilms of rare Ming- and Qing-dynasty materials held in Taiwanese and Japanese collections.

Despite his busy committee and administrative work at both the university and national levels, the late 1960s and early 1970s saw Mote continue to work on a wide range of scholarly projects. In addition to writing thirteen meticulously researched

entries for the *Dictionary of Ming Biography*, in 1968 he published a widely acclaimed article on Chinese political thought in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. That was followed in 1971 by his second book, *The Intellectual Foundations of China*, which grew out of lectures that he had prepared for his undergraduate course on Chinese thought, a course that was so highly regarded on the Princeton campus that it drew graduate-student and faculty auditors from a wide range of academic fields. These years also saw Mote return to an area of research in which he long had been interested, Chinese urban history. In 1977 he published a seminal article on Nanjing in *The City in Late Imperial China*, which made creative use of a dazzling array of primary and secondary materials to introduce readers to key aspects of the city's social and cultural history not just in the late fourteenth century but also throughout the Ming period. The mid- and late 1970s also saw Mote produce articles on military history; on the ways in which Chinese poets, artists, reformers, and others had used "the past" in their art and political programs; and on the important role played by food in the social, religious, and cultural life of China during the Yuan and Ming periods. Mote and Dennis Twitchett coedited the two volumes of the *Cambridge History of China* that were dedicated to the history of the Ming dynasty; Mote contributed chapters on the rise of the dynasty in the mid-fourteenth century and the period from 1465 to 1505 and a chapter entitled "Chinese Society under Mongol Rule, 1215–1368" to volume 6 of the Cambridge series.

In 1981 Mote wrote two chapters, one coauthored with Princeton colleague Lynn T. White III, dealing with changes in the political structure of China over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that appeared in the edited volume *Modernization of China*. That was followed by twenty-three entries on Ming history in the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of China* (1982); a spirited debate with Professor William Theodore de Bary on Chinese intellectual history, which appeared in two issues of the journal *Ming Studies* (1984, 1986), a two-volume *Research Manual for Ming History*, which he coauthored with Howard L. Goodman (1985); and an article, "The Intellectual Climate of Eighteenth-Century China" (1988). In the mid-1980s, Mote was instrumental in the launch of the *Gest Library Journal* (later renamed the *East Asia Library Journal*), a publication of which he was especially proud and for which he wrote no fewer than five articles between 1986 and 1990. In 1989 Mote collaborated with Professor Wen Fong to organize an exhibition entitled "Calligraphy and the East Asian Book" for the university's art museum. The exhibition catalog, which Mote coauthored with his former student Chu Hung-lam, was published first in a special edition of the *Gest Library Journal* (1988) and a year later by Shambhala Press.

Following his retirement from Princeton in 1987, Mote and his wife moved permanently to their mountain home in Colorado, where they had spent most summers and sabbaticals since the mid-1960s. There, surrounded by scenery that he loved and by his own formidable library, Mote continued to work on the *Cambridge History of China* and write on a wide range of topics, including an article "China in the Age of Columbus" in *Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration* (1991).

Much of Mote's time during the 1990s was spent working on his last book, *Imperial China, 900–1800*, which was published by Harvard University Press in 1999. Like his earlier *Intellectual Foundations of China*, this book grew out of one of his undergraduate courses at Princeton, in this case his legendary "Later Chinese Empire." Based on a lifetime of study and reflection, the book's thirty-six chapters contain the most comprehensive and sophisticated survey of this period of Chinese history in any language. *Imperial China* is a stunning achievement that is unlikely to be superseded

for decades to come. It is fitting that shortly after the work appeared in print, Mote was elected to the American Philosophical Society.

Mote had battled serious health problems since the early 1980s, but even after the publication of *Imperial China* he continued to pursue both old and new projects. In 2002, for example, he published yet another article on Ming poets and their poetry, and at the time of his death he was working on the second volume of his translation of Hsiao Kung-ch'üan's magnum opus and on a personal memoir about the momentous changes that he had witnessed in the study of China's history during the twentieth century.

Although most of his friends and academic colleagues knew him as Fritz, most of Mote's students had great difficulty bringing themselves to use this name, as they held him in such high esteem that anything less than "Professor Mote" somehow seemed inappropriate. Whether it was in his undergraduate lecture courses or his graduate seminars, his extraordinarily thoughtful and detailed comments on papers and dissertation chapters or his warm and witty notes and letters from Princeton or the mountains of Colorado, his students found him to be the model Confucian scholar and teacher that he himself had found so appealing in the Chinese classics. Like the poet Kao Ch'i, Mote "found delight in the company of his students." They, in turn, were keenly aware of how very privileged they had been to be included in that company.

For more than fifty years, Mote was ably supported in everything that he did by his wife. When China was in turmoil during the Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s, another friend and Princeton colleague, the late Marion J. Levy, was overheard to remark that he was not overly concerned about the possibility that Chinese civilization might soon collapse. If that were to happen, he went on to say, he would just "call Fritz and Hsiao-lan and ask them to put it back together again."

A full obituary with bibliography will be published in volume 50 of *Ming Studies*.

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