

Obituaries

RAM B. MAGAL (1923–2000)

Sadly, I bring you news of the death of Ram B. Magal. Professor Magal was the Director of Programs, Fulbright House, New Delhi, from 1964 to 1968 and 1971 to 1983. In this capacity, his unabashed enthusiasm for international studies facilitated the research and happiness of generations of scholars. He had returned to India from Columbia University in 1952 to start the LVD College in Raichur, Karnataka. He also served as Associate Director, Callison College, Bangalore from 1968 to 1971.

I was fortunate to host his visit to the University of Pennsylvania during his 1998–99 trip to Philadelphia, when he eagerly absorbed every detail of activity at the Center for the Advanced Study of India, the South Asia Regional Studies department, and the South Asia collection at Penn's library. On a blustery day in driving rain, he bounced about with absolute glee as he shared stories of earlier days in Indo–U.S. educational exchanges, told captivating stories about his remarkable historic collection of Indian stamps, and conferred with Penn's South Asia bibliographer about the origins of undocumented old photos in Penn's collection. While serving as a walking, indeed galloping, encyclopedia, though, he was ever mindful to make the very human connections that weave scholars, stories, and institutions into possibilities for ever-greater research and exchange. He decided to tackle the mysteries of e-mail at an age when many would have been content to rest, and his short visit at Penn continues to bear fruit in links he made between students and mentors, connecting Tamil Nadu and Japan, Philadelphia, and Delhi.

Professor Magal died peacefully in Hyderabad on 12 January 2000, at the age of 76, just hours after greeting his new granddaughter, Lalitha Mohika. He was a raconteur, philatelist, scholar, *bon vivant*, and also a genuinely decent and generous human being. He is greatly missed.

Professor Magal is survived by his wife, Indira, currently visiting with relatives in Philadelphia; by two daughters in the Philadelphia area, documentary producer Uma Magal and computer programmer Anu Magal; by a son, Simha Magal, Professor of Management Information Systems at Bowling Green State University; and by three grandchildren.

VICTORIA FARMER
University of Pennsylvania

GEORGE EDMOND TAYLOR (1905–2000)

George Edmond Taylor was born in Coventry, England, December 13, 1905. Educated at Coventry Grammar School, he completed his BA degree at the University of Birmingham. As a Commonwealth Fund Fellow, he studied at Johns Hopkins University and Harvard University. He went to China in 1930 as a Harvard-Yenching Fellow and then served as a Professor of History at the Central Political Institute in

Nanking, 1933–35. During 1936–37 he held a Leverhulme fellowship in Chinese Economic History in London, returning to be a Tutor of European History and Politics at Yenching University, 1937–39. Whilst in China, he played an active role in resistance to the Japanese occupation, and was reportedly to be arrested just as he left China to take up a new opportunity in America.

Taylor was invited in 1939 to join the faculty of the University of Washington, with the objective of translating the Department of Oriental Studies, which had been founded by The Reverend Herbert Gowan in 1909 into what was to be the Far Eastern Institute and Department of Far Eastern and Slavic Languages. With the American entry into the World War II, he left his academic post and was appointed Deputy Director, Pacific Area, of the U.S. Office of War Information, and later the Acting Chief of the Far Eastern Division of Cultural Affairs of the OWI. In these capacities he did not “ride a desk” in Washington, but spent extended periods in China during the war. Ambassador Charles Cross noted in memorial remarks that Taylor had organized American scholarship for a better understanding of the Chinese allies and the Japanese enemy. He encouraged Ruth Benedict to undertake the work that resulted in publication of *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*. Cross also commented that Taylor had been one of the strongest proponents of a peace offer to the Japanese which would allow the Emperor to remain on the throne.

Taylor himself wrote influentially on the situation in the Pacific. On the eve of America’s entry into the war, he wrote a short report *The Struggle for North China* (1940) which provided an immediate background of the evolution of the crisis and the nature of the Japanese occupation. In 1942, his *America in the New Pacific* drew both upon extensive “academic” study and a deep personal knowledge of China and the Chinese people under the Japanese invasion. He also was among the scholars who criticized the use of the atomic bomb in bringing the war to its conclusion.

Following the end of the war, George Taylor returned to Seattle to take up the direction and shaping of the Far Eastern (soon Far Eastern and Russian) Institute and Department of Far Eastern and Slavic Languages. At the University of Washington, a cohort of outstanding scholars was assembled. While the major focus was upon East Asia and the Soviet sphere, Taylor also saw the beginning of the Tibetan studies program at Seattle and created a temporary academic home for the late Swami Agehananda Bharati.

During his time at Seattle from 1947 to 1975, and particularly in the period up to the late 1960s, Taylor, colleagues such as Franz Michael and Helmut Wilhelm and younger scholars such as Jack Dull made an enormous impact on the internationalizing of the University of Washington’s curriculum. Thousands of undergraduates flocked to the survey course on modern East Asian culture, history and politics, Far East 210. (I recall, as an undergraduate at Northwestern University, reading the textbook that Taylor and Michael produced, *The Far East in the Modern World* when I took an equally legendary course taught there by William McGovern.)

The Institute was noted for the strength of its scholarship, and also as a scholarly center not associated with any ideological or emotional enthusiasm for the government and ruling party of the People’s Republic of China. Professor Andrew Nathan of Columbia University, quoted in the *New York Times* of April 20, 2000, observed that in the ideological divisions of China studies at that time, Taylor was said to have always “conducted himself with courtesy and (to have) kept those disputes at a level of scholarly discourse.” Beyond his own academic work, Taylor was well known as a statesman of the University of Washington faculty. His collaborations extended beyond the conventional East Asian focus; a notable example being his collaboration

with an English department faculty colleague, George Savage, in writing a play, *The Phoenix and the Dwarfs* (1943).

Following his retirement from the University of Washington in 1975, George Taylor turned to various new arenas of public service and played an active role in new organizations dedicated to promotion of world trade and world understanding. He was one of the founders of the Seattle World Affairs Council and established the Washington World Affairs Fellows Program. He helped establish the Kluckhohn Center for the Study of Values in Bellingham, Washington, and it was through this activity that he became an active friend of the Lummi Indian nation. At the conclusion of a memorial service dedicated to his memory, held at the University of Washington on May 7, members of the Lummi nation performed two songs of honor at the conclusion.

George Taylor was a man of music and possessed of a dry wit. The home which he shared with his wife Roberta and their children, was a crossroads for local and visiting scholars and friends. Following the death of his first wife in 1967, George married Florence R. Kluckhohn who also expired. He later married Margaret Perthou Taylor, who survives him, along with two brothers in England, a son and two daughters, and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren.

I last saw George Taylor at a Seattle Opera production a few months ago. He was "going strong" and at 94 still looked dapper, handsome, and remained very acute. His mind never stopped working and, in seminars and colloquia, often he would ask the most insightful question or offer the comment of greatest impact. He truly lived up to the promise of a wish, the source of which I do not know, "may you die young, and as late as possible."

FRANK F. CONLON
University of Washington