

## Obituary

### Robert Ruhlmann (1920–1984)

We note with regret the death of Robert Ruhlmann, Professor of Chinese at the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris, who was killed on April 13, 1984, in a head-on collision in the Saint Quentin area of France.

Ruhlmann was born in Strasbourg in November 1920. He began his study of Chinese at the Ecole Normale in Paris. He soon left academia to join the French Resistance, in which he rose to the rank of captain. He was decorated with the Croix de Guerre for his part in the spring 1945 campaign against the Germans, and he returned to his studies, first in Paris and then in Peking, where he was associated with the French Sinological Center from 1947 until he was expelled in 1953. He taught at the Institute of Oriental Languages after his return to Paris, and he was a frequent visitor to the People's Republic. Most recently he taught French literature at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Ruhlmann's professional interests ranged from the heroes of traditional fiction to the modern writer Luxun and his successors. His real passion, however, was the Chinese theater; he knew its plots, actors, instruments, lore, and evolution as few other Westerners have. His last major achievement was the 1982 conference on Chinese Literature of the War of Resistance Against Japan, which he organized, and its colloquium volume, *La Littérature chinoise au temps de la guerre de résistance*. Professor Ruhlmann was married in Peking in 1951 to the late Lois Qian.

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