Obituaries

Chao-ying Fang (1908–1985)

Chao-ying Fang, scholar, historian, bibliophile, and long an Adjunct Professor of Columbia University, acquired his love of books and interest in history at Yenching University, where he was much inspired by the late Professor William Hung.

In 1933 Chao-ying left China for the Library School of Columbia University. In New York he married fellow graduate of Yenching University, Tu Lien-che. They worked together at Harvard for a time, and in 1934 they worked at the Library of Congress with Arthur Hummel on a compilation that was ultimately published as Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1943). After serving on the China desk of the War Department during World War II, Chao-ying participated with Lien-che in the Chinese History Project that was conducted for several years at Columbia under the directorship of Karl A. Wittfogel. Subsequently, Chao-ying was employed at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the Australian National University, Canberra.

The Fangs returned to Columbia in the mid-1960s to participate in a new project on Ming biographical history, sponsored by the Association for Asian Studies. When the Dictionary of Ming Biography, 1364–1644 (ed. L. Carrington Goodrich and Chao-ying Fang [Columbia University Press]) was published in 1976, Chao-ying’s part in the work was acknowledged by his being identified as co-editor. It is not too much to say that his name thereby became immortalized in the annals of Western sinology as the co-compiler of the two most monumental works of sinological scholarship that have been produced in this country. One of his subsequent projects, a volume of translations of selected biographies from the noted collection Ming-ju hsiieh-an [Case Studies of Ming Confucians], jointly edited with Julia Ching, will be published by the University of Hawaii Press this year.

In the spring of 1985, Chao-ying returned to China to lecture at Peking University, on the site of his alma mater Yenching University. While there, he suffered a sudden heart attack and succumbed a day later. We have lost a fine scholar, a delightful colleague, and a warm friend. He greatly enriched our lives.

WM. THEODORE DE BARY
Columbia University

David M. Farquhar (1927–1985)

David M. Farquhar died in Los Angeles on August 9, 1985, after a lengthy battle with emphysema. At the time of his death he had been professor of premodern Chinese history at the University of California, Los Angeles, for twenty-one years. He had first become interested in East Asia during his teens, when he tried to teach himself Japanese from a Rose-Innes character dictionary. He pursued his passion more seriously in the 1950s, when he studied with Li Fang-Kuei, Nicholas N. Poppe, and
Helmut Wilhelm at the University of Washington, and then went on to Harvard. He prepared his Ph.D. in History and East Asian Languages and Literatures during the golden age of such scholars as Francis W. Cleaves, John K. Fairbank, Robert Hightower, Edwin O. Reischauer, Benjamin Schwartz, and Lien-sheng Yang.

Having tackled Mongolian, Manchu, and Tibetan, in addition to Chinese, Japanese, Russian, German, and French, David was one of a small cadre of specialists who carried forward research on the history of the Altaic peoples, especially the Mongols, and their relations with the Chinese. In his articles on Oriet Chinese tribute relations, on Manchu Mongolian policy, or the use of Buddhism in Ch’ing frontier government, he combined a Sinological respect for textual pitfalls with a broader historical sense of Inner Asia as a dynamic source of vitality in the imperial tradition. In spite of increasing physical debility, he was able before his death to complete the manuscript of the book that he had been working on for over fifteen years, The Government of China Under Mongolian Rule, 1260–1368. This is a reference work, providing a detailed description of the Yuan government. David intended it “to encourage further exploration of this least studied epoch in late imperial Chinese history.” His wife Norma will carry the manuscript through publication.

Friends, colleagues, and students will remember him for his meticulous standards of scholarship, and for his modesty and sense of vocation. On the “exotic” fringe of Asian Studies, he worked without great expectations of reward, or even notice, but with enormous devotion to learning as a cause in itself. His classroom was a place where his exasperation at shoddy evidence gave way to generous excitement in the face of excellence.

Those who wish to make a gesture in remembrance may do so by contributing to a newly established fellowship fund for the study of premodern Chinese history: the David M. Farquhar Graduate Support Fund. Contributions should be marked payable to The Regents of the University of California and identified as contributions to the Farquhar fund. They should be sent to the Department of History, UCLA, Los Angeles, California 90024.

Charlotte Furth
California State University, Long Beach

Kendall Wayne Folkert (1942–1985)

Kendall Folkert, Associate Professor of Religion at Central Michigan University, and Thomas Zwicker, a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, were killed in a road accident outside the city of Ahmadabad, in Gujarat, India, on October 29, 1985. They were engaged in collaborative fieldwork on religion and everyday life among contemporary Jains.

Folkert received his B.A. degree in Religion from Western Michigan University in 1964. As a Fulbright Scholar in 1964–65, he studied religion with Carsten Colpe in Göttingen. Folkert received the S.T.B. degree cum laude from Harvard Divinity School in 1968 and the Ph.D. degree in the Study of Religion in 1975 from Harvard University, where he studied with Daniel H. H. Ingalls, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, and John B. Carman. In 1972, Folkert carried out research as a Fulbright-Hays Fellow at Banaras Hindu University and with Pandit Ambika Datta Upadhyaya in Banaras. This led to Folkert’s dissertation, “Two Jaina Approaches to Non-Jainas: Patterns and Implications.” He was the author of several articles, including the new Jaina chapter in Charles J. Adams, A Reader’s Guide to the Great Religions, 2nd ed. (New