YOSHIKO KASAHARA, 1912–1966

Yoshiko Kasahara was born on March 25, 1912 in Tokyo, Japan. She attended Tsuda Woman’s College where she received her undergraduate training and from 1941 to 1946 she instructed there in English Language and Literature. Later she served as a research officer for SCAP and translated into Japanese Harold Laski’s Reflections on the Revolution of Our Time. In 1950 she received a fellowship from the American Association of University Women to do graduate work at the University of Texas where she received a Master of Arts degree in Sociology.

After receiving her MA Miss Kasahara was awarded the Barbour Scholarship by the University of Michigan which allowed her to continue her graduate work in sociology at that university. In 1953 she received a research assistantship at the University of Michigan and a Population Council Fellowship. She became a Teaching Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of Michigan where she was awarded an MA degree in mathematics and, upon completion of her dissertation in 1958, a PhD degree in sociology.

In 1956 Dr. Kasahara joined the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and worked first in the Census Division and then on the Central Research and Development Staff. She specialized in demographic research but participated actively in a large variety of projects. She wrote many papers and attended a number of international conferences where she represented the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with distinction. She had very high professional standards and was completely dedicated to her work.

Dr. Kasahara (known to her friends as Yoshi) became a Canadian citizen in 1963 and was very proud of her citizenship. She lived a few miles from Ottawa and commuted to the Bureau daily. She had a great love for flowers and birds. Her knowledge of plants and flowers was very extensive and her love of beauty in nature she expressed very vividly in her word pictures. She was also a very good amateur photographer and spared no efforts to achieve pictures of unusual beauty. Landscaping could have been her profession—she was so skilled in it. She was an accomplished linguist and a stimulating conversationalist. She made many loyal friends.


Dr. Yoshiko Kasahara passed away on December 6, 1966, and her death marked the premature end of a brilliant career.

S.G.