various periodicals and monographs, and published a vast amount of his own works. After 1949 he became a research fellow at the history department of the Academia Sinica and held honorary posts in various scholarly and political organizations, among them the Chinese Historical Society, the CPPCC, and the Fourth and Fifth Peoples’ Congress. After the downfall of the “Gang,” he was fully rehabilitated and given a leading position at the history department of the newly established Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. He died in Beijing on December 25, 1980.

Ursula Richter
University of Munich

Jung-pang Lo (1912–1981)

Jung-pang Lo, Professor of History, Emeritus, University of California, Davis (known to his numerous friends as J. P.), suffered a fatal heart attack on April 5, 1981. Having been forced into retirement by two strokes almost a decade before, he maintained an active and fruitful life of scholarship despite failing health.

There are few scholars in the field of Chinese history who can boast a wider range of interests, either chronologically or topically, than J. P. His contributions to understanding of the ancient Ch’in-Han period in the fields of warfare and transportation, produced at the University of Washington in the early 1960s, are of great value. His K’ang Yu-wei: A Biography and a Symposium (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1967), a labor of love, remains a basic work on the life of the great modern reformer-philosopher who was his forebear. His “Policy Formulation and Decision-making on Issues Respecting Peace and War,” in C. O. Hucker, ed., Chinese Government in Ming Times: Seven Studies (New York: Columbia University Press, 1969) and his contributions to the Dictionary of Ming Biography (1976) are much appreciated by specialists in Ming history.

Lo’s greatest contribution to the study of Chinese history is likely to be his work on the sea power and maritime expansion of China. He pioneered on this subject in a series of authoritative articles: “The Emergence of China as a Sea Power during the Late Sung and Early Yuan Periods” (FEQ 11, 2 [Feb. 1955]); “The Decline of the Early Ming Navy” (Orient Extremus 5, 2 [Dec. 1958]); and “Maritime Commerce and Its Relations to the Sung Navy” (Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient 12, 1 [1969]). Just before his death, he completed a book-length study in draft form, entitled “Empire Across the Western Ocean: Seapower and the Early Ming Navy, 1355–1449.” It is Lo’s conclusion that the great naval expeditions, although cut short by Peking in the 1430s, paved the way for the extension of “Maritime China” to almost every land in Southeast Asia. This manuscript is the fullest reconstruction of the Ming maritime exploits to date and is being edited for publication by his friends with the cooperation of Mrs. Lo.

To bring this work to press will be the most appropriate memorial to this gentle and good person—this dedicated scholar. Those of us who saw him during the past decade found him thin and wan, but nonetheless retaining his characteristic humor and enjoyment of life, even while pursuing his painstaking research and writing.

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