

# Obituaries

KANDA NOBUO

(October 2, 1921–December 30, 2003)

The death of Kanda Nobuo, one of Japan's top specialists in the Manchu language and early Qing history, was a great loss to the field of East Asian studies. He was born to and grew up in a literary family famous for its collection of Chinese rare books. His father, Kanda Kiichirō (1897–1984), was the director of the Kyoto National Museum, an authority on Chinese bibliography and calligraphy, and a prolific author, whose voluminous complete works recently came out (Kyoto: Dohosha, 1983–97). After graduating from Taipei High School in Taiwan in 1941, the younger Kanda was admitted to the University of Tokyo, where he majored in Oriental history, with a focus on the early Qing dynasty, and received his BA degree in 1943. Two years later, he became a special student as well as a teaching assistant in the graduate school of the same university. Since 1949 he taught Oriental history at Meiji University until his retirement in 1992. He helped and inspired numerous students.

Like his father, Kanda was a very productive scholar. As early as 1948, he started to publish articles on Qing history. He continued studying and publishing even after retirement. Frequently he did research in collaboration with friends. In 1957 he and his team were honored by the Japan Academy with an award for their achievement. Because of his breadth of interest in Chinese history, his publications covered a wide range of topics, such as early Qing officials, source materials, political institutions, the imperial house, the Eight Banners, and many others, all important to the Qing dynasty. His book on the Ming and Qing dynasties was included in the Great World History Series (Tokyo: Sansen shuppansha, 1999).

But, Kanda's most significant contribution pertains to the study of the old Manchu archives, for he devoted almost his entire academic life to it. These archives chronicled the major events from 1607 to 1637 and are divided into two categories by the script. Completed earlier, less adorned, discovered later, and more valuable, the archives in old Manchu script were published as *Jiu Manzhou dang* by the National Palace Museum in Taipei in 1969. Those in new Manchu script were compiled later, were more sophisticated, and were known to the academic world earlier. In the early 1950s, Kanda and a few fellow members of the Mambun Rōtō Kenkyūkai began to translate and annotate the archives in new script. Among these members were Okamoto Keiji, Matsumura Jun, Ishibashi Hideo, and Okada Hidehiro. With dedication and persistence, they were able to finish the monumental project and publish it under the title of *Mambun rōtō* (7 vols., Tokyo: Tōyō bunko, 1955–63). It is a source work essential to the study of the early development of the dynasty. He also participated in translating and annotating the Bordered Red Banner Archives, which contain records for two centuries, from 1723 to 1925. The project is far from completion, but some results were already made available by the Tōyō bunko for the benefit of scholars. He played a leading role in another project, the *Index to the Biographical Section of General History of the Eight Banners (Baqi tongzhi)*, a Qing official compilation of the eighteenth century. Coming out in 1965, the index is a convenient guide to thousands of officers and officials included in the compilation.

Kanda was a kind and approachable person, eager to make friends and serve his profession. The case can be made that he could team up with other scholars for decades. For almost half a century, he was a member and officer of the Tōyō Bunko, a noted Japanese research institute. He had a long affiliation with Tōhō Gakkai and was president (1993–99). Of equal importance to him was the research group of Manchu history, which he once served in the capacity of President. His Association for Asian Studies membership lasted until 1990.

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### THOMAS C. SMITH

(November 29, 1916—April 3, 2004)

Thomas C. Smith, Ford Professor of History Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, died in his sleep on April 3, 2004, in Danville, California. He was eighty-seven years old.

Smith was the most distinguished historian of early modern and modern Japan in the West in the last half century. In four major books, *Political Change and Industrial Development: Government Enterprise, 1868–1880* (1955), *The Agrarian Origins of Modern Japan* (1959), *Nakabara: Family Farming and Population in a Japanese Village, 1717–1830* (1977), and *Native Sources of Japanese Industrialization, 1750–1920* (1988), Smith changed our understanding of the trajectory of Japanese economic development and social change in the early modern and modern eras. His conclusions were often quite striking, as he argued against what had become the accepted wisdom. In *The Agrarian Origins of Modern Japan*, for example, he ascribed a major role in the shaping of Japan's modernization to the gradual evolution of the Tokugawa agrarian economy (1600–1868), the change in the village from subsistence production to production for the market, and the transformation of family farming. As Professor Kenneth B. Pyle of the University of Washington, a former student of Smith's, writes: "His research and writing are critical to our understanding of how it was that the Japanese became the first non-Western people to achieve an industrial society." What was often crucial to Smith's historiography was his willingness to write as a comparative historian; often, in fact, his explorations in Japanese history suggested the necessity of reexamining the assumed universality of the western process of modern industrialization.

Smith's books and articles ranged over a wide area of Japanese history, from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries, and his analytical contributions spanned an extraordinarily diverse set of problems in Japan's social and economic history: a microstudy of the techniques of population limitation and sex-selective infanticide in a single village in the Tokugawa period, an examination of the seeming paradox in which the samurai aristocratic caste led a revolution to oust itself from power, and a look at the apparent historical anomaly in which early modern economic development in Japan took place in the countryside rather than in urban areas (the assumed site of development in most studies of the Western historical experience). His rare skills as a historical craftsman were well described in R. P. Dore's review of *The Agrarian*