

Obituaries

ROBERT I. CRANE 1920–1997

The death of Professor Robert I. Crane in Syracuse, New York, removed from our midst one of the last of a generation of academic pioneers who established the study of modern South Asia in North American universities. Born in India of American missionary parents at the start of Gandhi's national noncooperation campaign, Crane's adult life was dominated by two intertwined convictions: that the peoples and civilizations of Southern Asia were of immense importance in the world's past and present, and that American understanding of South Asia was vital to the United States' future.

Obtaining his B.A. from Duke on the eve of America's entry into World War II, Crane joined the Office of Strategic Services and served mainly in the China-Burma-India theater of operations. His postwar career in government cut short amidst the general flurry of recriminations and investigations of American activities in Asia, Robert Crane went to Yale where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1951—probably the first American doctorate in modern South Asia history. During the next decade his rise through the academic ranks was meteoric: instructor at Chicago, associate professor at Michigan, and professor at Duke when still forty. In 1965 he began a five-year term as editor of *The Journal of Asian Studies*, and his appointment as Ford-Maxwell Professor of South Asian History at Syracuse University in 1968 seemed a fitting further step in his career. Everywhere he taught he was instrumental in creating vibrant graduate programs in South Asian history, always including Hindi-Urdu language instruction.



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His contribution to the development of the study of South Asia transcended these specific institutions, however. Wherever resources for South Asian studies were being determined, Robert Crane was intimately involved: in the evolution of the Fulbright-Hays Title VI programs, the formation of the American Institute of Indian Studies, the library books and materials program under the Library of Congress and PL 480, the South Asia Microfilming Project, and the continuing struggle to fund the teaching of South Asian languages in American universities. He was passionately committed to promoting Asia within the general educational curriculum, and wrote the American Historical Association's monograph on teaching South Asian history, as well as dozens of articles on Indian topics for encyclopedias and yearbooks, in addition to more academic journals articles and edited books. The lengthy struggle with glaucoma which marred the last two decades of his life did not reduce his academic functions, largely due to the unstinting support of Lakshmi Crane. Robert Crane's enthusiasm for teaching, for working tirelessly with graduate students, and for expanding the awareness of India and its civilization among this generation of Americans never diminished. His incisive mind, dry wit and commitment to India studies will be sorely missed.

JOHN L. HILL
Concordia University

JOHN WHITNEY HALL 1916–1997

John Whitney Hall, professor emeritus of history at Yale University and a former president of the Association for Asian Studies (1967–68), has died after a long illness in Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 81. Born of missionary parents in Tokyo, he spent his entire life promoting the study of Japan, becoming one of America's leading scholars and teachers of its premodern tradition. He was the author or editor of numerous books and series, and the Ph.D. advisor of a remarkably varied group of students at Michigan and Yale. In addition, he was the chairman of virtually all the leading professional committees relating to Japan, exercising a many-sided influence that was quite extraordinary. Professor Hall was one of that handful of figures most responsible for the development of Japanese Studies in the West in the twentieth century.

After spending much of the first part of his life in Japan, he graduated from Amherst College in 1939, returning to Kyoto where he taught at Doshisha University for two years. After working in naval intelligence during the war, Hall joined an illustrious cohort of graduate students at Harvard, which included Marius Jansen, Thomas Smith, Donald Shively, Howard Hibbett, and Robert Scalapino. Under the direction of Edwin Reischauer, who was only six years older than Hall, he completed his Ph.D. in 1950, with a dissertation bearing the prescient title of "Modern Trends in Tokugawa Japan: The Life and Policies of Tanuma Okitsugu." At the time, life under the regimented feudal authority of the Tokugawa was thought to have had little to commend it, with Japan all but untouched by any indices of growth or progress, and with peasant rebellions the harsh underside to an era of surface peace.

Even before completing his degree, Hall joined the history faculty at Michigan (1948), where he rose to the rank of full professor by 1959, and where he set the basic course of his scholarship and teaching career. In collaboration with colleagues like