

Obituaries

M. ATHAR ALI 1925–1998

On July 7, in Aligarh, India, one of the world's top scholars of medieval South Asian history succumbed to liver cancer after a three-month illness.

M. Athar Ali earned his doctorate at Aligarh Muslim University in 1961, under the supervision of Satish Chandra. He published his revised dissertation, "The Mughal Nobility Under Aurangzeb," in 1966, and it was soon acknowledged as the definitive study of India's late medieval ruling class. His meticulous analysis of original source materials set a high standard which few subsequent scholars have been able to match, and he was known as a stern but friendly critic of both Indian and non-Indian colleagues in the same subfield.

Also the author of several dozen articles on medieval India, the comparative history of Islamicate empires, the political implications of secularism, and topical aspects of medieval and early modern societies from Spain to Indonesia, Athar Ali worked in recent decades toward an encyclopedia of the Mughal aristocracy in two volumes, the first of which appeared in 1985 as *Apparatus of Empire: Awards of Ranks, Offices and Titles to the Mughal Nobility (1574–1658)*.

He served as secretary of the Indian History Congress for three years in the 1970s, and was elected president of its medieval section in 1972.

Numerous visiting professorships included repeated visits to Cambridge University, London's School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of Virginia, the University of Tokyo, and Leiden University; he was also a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution for one year. He participated widely in seminars, invited talks, and professional meetings on four continents, including those of the Association for Asian Studies. Writing prodigiously, always in longhand and often in trying circumstances, he left a remarkable legacy of productivity. His career and personality were marked by rigorous discipline, a ready sense of humor, a strong advocacy of secular values, and an energetic collegiality with even those colleagues with whose interpretations he vehemently disagreed.

He is survived by his widow, Feroza Khatoon, and a son, Taimur, an established research chemist.

RICHARD B. BARNETT
University of Virginia

WARREN S. HUNSBERGER 1911–1997

Warren S. Hunsberger, 86, economist, Asia specialist, and professor emeritus at American University, died December 22 after a fall at his Washington, D.C. home. He had lived in Washington for most of the past 37 years, except for assignments abroad in Japan and Malaysia.

Professor Hunsberger was born in Philadelphia in 1911 and received his A.B. from Yale University in 1933. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Yale in 1937, when the economics field was still in its infancy.

An enthusiastic and highly successful teacher and lecturer, he began his teaching career at Princeton University, followed by the University of Rochester, then the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and four leading Japanese universities during a Fulbright lectureship. He taught at American University from 1960 to 1963, leaving for a three-year assignment in Malaysia as a Ford Foundation economist for development planning. He returned to the U.S. in 1966 to teach international economics and economic development. At the time of his retirement in 1976 he was Director of the Center for Asian Studies.

A descendent of three generations of missionaries to India and China, Hunsberger began his own study of Asia in 1933 as a seaman visiting Shanghai. His first publication was charts of Japan's trade and balance of international payments in *Fortune Magazine*, 1936. In 1940 he accompanied General John F. O'Ryan on an economic study mission, to Japan and occupied areas of China, hosted by Japanese businessmen. After this trip he prepared an article entitled "The Coming War With Japan" for *Fortune* magazine, but *Fortune* declined to publish the article.

The outbreak of World War II first drew Hunsberger to Washington. As an active-duty Navy officer, he worked in economic warfare, concentrating on Japan. He went on to help the U.S. government prepare for the occupation of Japan. He served as a staff assistant at the 1945 United Nations organizing conference in San Francisco. From 1945 to 1950 he was in the Department of State's Division of Research for Far East, first as chief for Japan and Korea, then as Division chief. He served brief stints on the staff at the National War College, the European Recovery Committee (Marshall Plan) and the President's Materials Policy Commission (Paley Commission). Turning to the development of poor countries after President Truman's 1949 call for American assistance in this direction, Hunsberger served as a U.S. foreign aid program officer in Brazil and Mexico from June 1952 to November 1953.

Hunsberger was a lifelong optimist and the model of an active retiree. Despite suffering from cancer in the last year of his life, he edited and cowrote *Japan's Quest* (M. E. Sharpe, 1997), which summarized his and other scholars' assessments of Japan's emerging role in the world. He received an unprecedented award from American University in 1984 for developing a new course on "Japan and the USA" five years after his retirement in 1976. This course, now taught by others, has become one of the most popular courses in the undergraduate general education curriculum.

This past September 1997, an annual Hunsberger Lecture series was inaugurated at American University's School of International Service.

In addition to *Japan's Quest*, he wrote extensively about Japan, the East Asian "miracle" and the process of economic development. His 1964 book, *Japan and the United States in World Trade*, written for the Council on Foreign Relations and still in use in the early 1990s, has been called a classic. He was a member of the American Foreign Service Association, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Asia Society, the Japan-America Society, the Indonesian-American Society, and the Malaysia-America Society. In Japan, he was a member of the Asiatic Society and the International House of Japan. He was a retired Captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ruth Pedersen Hunsberger, two sons, Peter of Seattle and David of Washington, D.C., a daughter, Ellen Hume of Washington, D.C., and four grandchildren, all of Washington, D.C. His son-in-law is John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

DAVID HUNSBERGER
Washington, D.C.