

# NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

## Asian Studies in Japan: Recent Trends

Eto Shinkichi  
University of Tokyo

As yet, the general status of Asian studies in Japan has scarcely been examined in non-Japanese literature. Granted there are several works on certain aspects of the subject: Fairbanks and Banno on modern Chinese studies;<sup>1</sup> Shirato and Wilbur on Chinese Communism from Japanese sources;<sup>2</sup> Berton, Langer, and Swearingen on Russian studies;<sup>3</sup> W. Fairbank and Fujieda on Chinese studies;<sup>4</sup> and others. There is also the detailed report on historical studies in Japan which the Japanese Committee of Historical Studies submitted in 1960 to the Eleventh Congress of Historical Studies in Stockholm. This report, which included Japanese, European, and American history,<sup>5</sup> em-

phasized accomplishments in historical studies and contained little about the general direction taken by Japan's Asian studies, particularly the contemporary ones.

The purpose of the following is to describe the major trends of Asian studies in pre-war and post-war Japan. Throughout this account the field of Japanese studies is excluded from the term Asian Studies.

### *Characteristics of Pre-War Asian Studies*

In common with the rest of Japanese academia, Asian studies in pre-war Japan were extremely paternalistic, with a few universities dominating the field. This hierarchical and cliquish order did not mean there was any close cooperation among scholars in general: work was still highly individual despite the methodology and supervision of influential professors. Indeed, there was very little collaboration among the pre-war Asian specialists and between Asian specialists and other social scientists.

This was also true of such institutions as Tōa Kenkyūjo (East Asian Institute), Tōa Keizai Chōsakyoku (Research Bureau of East Asian Economics), and Mantetsu Chōsabu (South Manchuria Railway Company, Research Bureau). Closely allied with the Imperial government, these institutions had explicit aims regarding national interests and influenced the choice of topic and of publication, yet their staffs usually had complete freedom in methodology and conclusions.

[Japan] (University of Tokyo Press, 1959). English translation: *Le Japon au XI<sup>e</sup> Congrès international des Science historiques à Stockholm—l'état actuel et les tendances des études historiques au Japon* (Tokyo: Nippon Gakujutsu Shinkōkai, 1960). Although the title is French, the whole report except the preface uses English.

\* The author is an Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations, University of Tokyo. He wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Messrs. Frank Holober, Nagazumi Akira, Nohara Shirō, Professors Banno Masataka, Ichiko Chūzō, Kaizuka Shigeki, Kawano Shigetō, Shimada Kenji, and Mrs. Ono Kazuko.

<sup>1</sup> John K. Fairbank and Banno Masataka, *Japanese studies of modern China, a bibliographical guide to historical and social-science research on the 19th and 20th centuries* (Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle, 1955).

<sup>2</sup> Ichirō Shirato (author), C. Martin Wilbur (editor), *Japanese sources on the history of the Chinese Communist movement: an annotated bibliography of materials in the East Asiatic Library of Columbia University and the Division of Orientalia, Library of Congress* (New York: East Asian Institute of Columbia University, 1953).

<sup>3</sup> Peter Berton, Paul Langer and Rodger Swearingen, *Japanese trainings and research in the Russian field* (Los Angeles: University of Southern California Press, 1956).

<sup>4</sup> Wilma Fairbank, Akira Fujieda, "Current trends in Japanese studies in China," *Far Eastern Quarterly*, vol. 13, no. 1 (Nov. 1953).

<sup>5</sup> Kokusai Rekishigaku Kaigi Nippon Kokunai Iinkai (Japanese Committee of the International Congress of Historical Studies) (ed.), *Nippon ni okeru rekishigaku no hattatsu to Genjō, Nihonshi, Tōyōshi, Seiyōshi* [*Development and present situation of historical studies in*

While adhering to national policy, these institutions nevertheless included personnel whose ideological views were hostile to the regime. Publication of articles with orthodox Marxist interpretations may seem paradoxical for organizations like the South Manchuria Railway Company, yet little hesitation was shown in utilizing employees whose loyalties should have been suspect. Again, the paternalistic nature of the academic system must account for the employment of counter-regime workers. When a man in an important position in a research organization had a close personal relationship with a certain able Marxist, he often acted as his patron even though he disagreed with his philosophy. For example, an eminent counter-regime scholar of ancient Chinese history, Nakae Ushikichi, was financially aided by the South Manchuria Railway Company and by Saionji Kimmochi, the last Genrō. Moreover, Nakanishi Isao and a number of other Communists held positions on the research staff of the South Manchuria Railway Company.

The academic world of pre-war Japan was Western-oriented. Since the Meiji Restoration, Asian studies were given less emphasis by the Japanese government; indeed they were considered less important by the Japanese people than the transplantation of Western culture and civilization. Asian studies were deemed inferior to Western studies in utility, national demand, or scholarly compensation.

Top graduates of the Japanese Military Academy were sent to Europe for further training, while those who belonged to the so-called "China group" were considered inferior. While this attitude is not as clearly evident in Japanese academic circles as it was in the Army, there are many indications that the scholar, too, placed more emphasis on the import of European culture than on indigenous studies.

The scholar of Asian studies in pre-war Japan tended to confine himself to his own field while social scientists and historians in other areas rarely concerned themselves with Asian studies. Therefore, he enjoyed a sort of autonomy in his own studies since few scholars outside the field could challenge or introduce new ideas or interpretations. This lack of competition encouraged the survival of the

hierarchical order for so many years in the Asian specialists' world, and the same situation seems to have existed in other scholarly endeavor as well.

Since there was such an emphasis on learning Western scholars' achievements, pre-war Asian specialists were keenly aware of Marxist, Weberian, and other Western specialists' works on Asia, as well as those of Pelliot, Maspero, Morse, and others. Nevertheless, as a general rule almost all Asian specialists in Japan adhered to historical positivism and would not accept various social science methods. In turn, most non-Asian specialists would not handle Asian problems. There were exceptions when government demands were made upon a non-Asian scholar: Oda Yorozu in the office of Governor-General of Taiwan was an example;<sup>6</sup> so was Matsuda Tomoo<sup>7</sup> in the East Asian Institute (a semi-governmental research organization).

Generally, pre-war Asian specialists in Japan had "apolitical" inclinations. Consciously or unconsciously, scholars believed that they should stand aloof from "vulgar" politics.<sup>8</sup> Since most of them believed in historical positivism, none except for a few scholars like Yoshino Sakuzō,<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> With the active encouragement of Gotō Shimpei, High Commissioner for Civil Affairs of the office of the Governor-General of Taiwan, Oda took charge of a research project concerning Chinese law and institution which produced the *Shin'okoku Gyōseihō* [Administrative laws of the Ch'ing Dynasty], 7 vols. with an index volume. Tokyo and Kobe: Temporary Commission for the Research of Customs of Taiwan, 1910-14. Oda was then a professor of public law at Kyoto Imperial University and an expert in European continental law.

<sup>7</sup> Being encouraged and supported financially by the East Asian Institute, Matsuda Tomoo, a scholar of west European economic history deeply influenced by Weber, Troeltsch, and Tawney, made an extensive research of British enterprises in Eastern Asia.

<sup>8</sup> As a study of Japanese approaches to Asian studies deserves comprehensive treatment, the author can not enter into a full discussion at this point. The author would, however, like to mention one thing. The apolitical and highbrowed scholars were often forced to express their opinions on contemporary affairs. These opinions used to be unusually naive and sometimes too abstract and emotional, far different from their ways of handling historical subjects soberly and objectively.

<sup>9</sup> Yoshino Sakuzō was professor of political science, Law Faculty, Tokyo Imperial University, and active

Naitō Torajirō,<sup>10</sup> and Yano Jin'ichi<sup>11</sup> were willing to express their opinions on contemporary Asia. Most of the leading professors did not encourage their students to investigate problems of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Asia. Thus scholars were absorbed either in ancient and medieval history or in classical literature, religion, and philosophy, and did not develop the study of contemporary Asia. This was left to journalists and governmental researchers who had no scholarly status.

Under such circumstances, lecture courses on such subjects as modern history of Asian and Asian languages were notably few compared with courses on European countries. There was not a single full-time professor of Chinese language in the Department of Chinese Philosophy and Literature at Tokyo Imperial University, yet there were professors of French, English, and German languages. Moreover, there was not a single lecture course on Asia (outside of Japan) in the Law Faculty at Tokyo, although the Faculty produced the majority of leading politicians and businessmen. Rather than encouraging the Japanese peo-

ple to be interested in Chinese affairs by teaching modern Chinese in the middle and high schools, the Japanese government tried to indoctrinate the students with traditional Confucian ethics, as mental props of Imperial Japan, through the Chinese classics. Consisting of the works of Confucius and Mencius, official histories, and the prose and poems of the T'ang and Sung dynasties, Chinese classics were read in *kaeriten-okurigana* (a special Japanese system for the reading of Chinese classics using Japanese pronunciations and grammatical inversions). According to the curricula of pre-war Japan, contemporary Asia was to be taught in courses of Oriental history in middle and high schools. Since the instruction of Oriental history began with ancient myths or with the Chinese legend of the "Three Kings and Five Emperors," there was seldom time to cover contemporary Asia. Consequently, educated Japanese had a little knowledge of Chinese ancient and mediaeval history and classics but little background knowledge of contemporary China and almost none of other Asian countries.

#### *Recent Changes in Trends*

in the democratic movement in the Taishō Era. He defended the so-called Twenty-one Demands in *Nisshi Kōshō-ron* [*On the Sino-Japanese negotiations*] (Tokyo: Keiseisha shoten, 1915). Other major essays of Yoshino on contemporary China were reprinted in one book, *Nikka Kokkō-ron* [*Essays on Sino-Japanese relations*]. (Tokyo: Shinkigen-sha, 1947).

<sup>10</sup> Naitō Torajirō (nom de plume: Konan), Professor of Oriental History, Faculty of Letters, Kyoto Imperial University, had once been a newspaper man. He paid keen attention to contemporary China, and was unusually active in expressing opinions on it. Besides numerous comments and remarks contributed to newspapers and periodicals, major bookform works of Naitō on contemporary China were *Shinchō suibō-ron* [*Essay on the Decline and Fall of the Ch'ing Dynasty*] (Tokyo: Kōdōkan, 1912), and *Shina ron* [*Essays on China*] (Osaka: Sōgen-sha, 1938).

<sup>11</sup> Yano Jin'ichi was the successor of Naitō Torajirō at the Faculty of Letters, Kyoto Imperial University. He was also active in presenting rather nationalistic views on contemporary events. Besides various views printed in newspapers and magazines, his scholarly contribution to contemporary China was *Gendai Shina gairon* [*Essays on Contemporary China*] (Tokyo: Meguro-shoten, 1936), first volume, *Ugoku Shina* [*China in Motion*], and second volume, *Ugoanai Shina* [*Unmoving China*]. In the first volume, in which Yano handled various reforms as well as frontier problems, he did not mention the Chinese Communists at all.

After the end of the war in 1945, the old structure of the pre-war academic world was virtually destroyed. The authority of the academic system represented by the Imperial Universities of Tokyo and Kyoto disintegrated along with many other social authorities, and the well-organized paternalistic order was also destroyed. All governmental and semi-governmental research institutions except universities were dissolved, and researchers who had handled modern and contemporary Asian problems for these institutions were dismissed. After the collapse of the former system of values, young Japanese intellectuals sought a new system and clamored for reform. The rapid development of the Chinese Communist Party and other political changes in Asian countries attracted their attention. This quest for reform, together with the political confusion in Japan, was responsible for the prevalence of Marxism in the academic world. Rapid economic inflation threatened the livelihood of scholars in and out of the universities; consequently most of them were obliged to publish popular books

for the income. With the encouragement of American occupation forces and the popular demand for the university diploma, over three hundred universities and colleges were established or expanded. A private institute, the Chūgoku Kenkyūjo (Chinese Research Institute) was also successfully established.

As a result of these changes, most of the researchers who had been handling modern and contemporary Asia were absorbed into the newly-organized institutions. They produced a great quantity—saying nothing of their quality—of publications on modern and contemporary Asia. The low printing cost and the strong demand for such books in Japan accelerated the trend. Some of the books were strongly political; doubtless their authors were carried away by their fervor for revolution. There were few works on modern and contemporary Asia which were well balanced between scholarly objectivity and personal enthusiasm for reform in Asia.

In recent years, following the end of the confusion of the post-war period, there have been some constructive changes in Asian studies in Japan.

Previously, as has been mentioned before, academic studies were individual achievements. With the end of the war and with the remarkable progress of research and the increase in research materials, cooperative work has become essential. Japanese scholars recognize the limitations of individual effort, particularly in fields abundant in source materials; furthermore, they have been stimulated by the large-scale efforts at collaboration in research in the United States, U.S.S.R., and Communist China. As a result of this serious consideration given to cooperative endeavor, new research groups are being added to the established institutions. Formerly the only institutions specializing in Asian studies were the Tōyō Bunko (Oriental Library), the Jinbunkagaku Kenkyūjo (Research Institute of Humanistic Studies) of the University of Kyoto, the Tōyō Bunka Kenkyūjo (Institute for Oriental Culture) of the University of Tokyo, the Chinese Research Institute, and the Ajia Keizai Kenkyūjo (Institute of Asian Economic Affairs). Now there are in existence the Mantetsushi Kenkyū gurupu (Research Group of the History of the

South Manchuria Railway Company),<sup>12</sup> the Indoshi Kenkyūkai (Research Group of Indian History)<sup>13</sup> the Chūgoku Kindai Shisōshi Kenkyūkai (Research Group of the History of Modern Chinese Thought),<sup>14</sup> Gendai Chūgoku Kenkyūkai (Research Group of Contemporary China),<sup>15</sup> and others.

As well as increasing the number of research centers, efforts are being made to increase research facilities of all types. The Economic and Business Management Institute at Kobe University has been making clipping files of newspapers since 1912 and of the National Diet Library since 1947; the Higher Education and Science Bureau of the Education Ministry published a comprehensive union list of periodicals relating to academic research;<sup>16</sup> the Research Institute of Humanistic Studies has been issuing annually a bibliography of Oriental history;<sup>17</sup> the Bureau of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs produced a who's

<sup>12</sup> Correspondence should be addressed to Professor Andō Hikotarō, Faculty of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University, Totsuka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

<sup>13</sup> Correspondence should be addressed to Professor Ara Matsuo, Department of Oriental History, Faculty of Letters, University of Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

<sup>14</sup> Correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Maruyama Matsuyuki, Department of Chinese Philosophy and Literature, Faculty of Letters, University of Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

<sup>15</sup> Correspondence should be addressed to Professor Giga Sōichirō, Faculty of Economics, Municipal University of Osaka, Sugimoto-chō, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka, Japan.

<sup>16</sup> Monbushō, Daigaku-Gakujutsu-kyoku [Higher Education and Science Bureau, Education Ministry] ed., *Gakujutsu-zasshi Sōgō-mokuroku* [*A Union List of Scholastic Periodicals*] (Tokyo: Nippon Gakujutsu Shinkōkai); first volume, *Jinbunkagaku Ōbunhen* [*Humanities' Periodicals in European Languages*], 1958, second volume, *Jinbunkagaku Wabunhen* [*Humanities' Periodicals in Japanese*], 1959.

<sup>17</sup> Jinbunkagaku Kenkyūjo (Research Institute of Humanistic Studies), University of Kyoto [Formerly Tōhō-Bunka Kenkyūjo (The Institute of Eastern Culture)], has been publishing *Tōyōshi Kenkyū Bunkenruimōku* almost annually since 1934. The latest issue is *Shōwa Sanjū-san Nendo Tōyōshi Kenkyū Bunkenruimōku* [Bibliography of Oriental studies for 1958] (Kyoto: Research Institute of Humanistic Studies, University of Kyoto, 1960), compiled by J. Kurata, Y. Kawakatsu, and M. Chikusa.

who of contemporary Chinese<sup>18</sup> and of contemporary Koreans.<sup>19</sup> In addition to these achievements, the Tōhō Gakkai (Institute of Eastern Culture) recently mimeographed a union list of modern Chinese publications in four major libraries in Tokyo.<sup>20</sup> The Seminar on Modern China of the Tōyō Bunko has produced various lists on modern Chinese history, and the Institute of Asian Economic Affairs is becoming a center for documents on contemporary Asia. Moreover, the Tōyōgaku Information Center (Information Center of Asian Studies) was inaugurated in 1958 at the *Tōyō Bunko* with the financial aid of Harvard-Yenching Institute. To date this information center has produced two publications: one is a list of bibliographies, indices, and lists of publications on Asian studies (mainly on Japanese studies),<sup>21</sup> and the other is a comprehensive list of lecture courses on Asia and Japan held in Japanese universities.<sup>22</sup> This center will soon be associated with UNESCO and will develop into an information center of academic activities concerning the whole of East as well as of

Southeast Asian studies in East and Southeast Asia.<sup>23</sup>

Despite a tendency to cling to its Western orientation, there are intimations from the Science Council of Japan and other organizations of an encouragement of Asian studies.

As a maiden attempt, the Education Ministry earmarked the following sums to purchase materials for twenty major research institutions specializing in Asian studies: April 1958–March 1959, 10 million yen; April 1959–March 1960, 15 million yen; April 1960–March 1961, 20 million yen; April 1961–March 1962, 22.3 million yen.

During the Pacific War many social scientists were mobilized to participate in Asian studies under the direction of the government. With the end of the war they returned to their original fields; nevertheless, the monopoly of Asian specialists was not as rigid as it had been. The necessity for mobilizing social scientists into Asian studies was also emphasized by the experiences of United States universities in regional study programs. In an attempt to organize inter-university and inter-disciplinary collaboration, the Seminar on Modern China met with little success in attracting social scientists into Chinese studies or in nurturing close collaboration between Asian specialists and various social scientists. On the other hand, the Institute of Asian Economic Affairs has been more successful in actively promoting close collaboration.

Along with the weakening of the old academic order and the entrance into scholarship of researchers who had been dealing with modern history, the kaleidoscopic political changes in Asia have made the young intellectual even more aware of present-day Asia. In addition to the above-mentioned, other institutions which focus now on contemporary Asia are Aichi University in Toyohashi, Aichi prefecture, the Municipal University at Osaka, and Yamaguchi University in Yamaguchi prefecture.

The trend toward encouraging contemporary Asian studies is slow, however, and the number of scholars in this field is small and is still

<sup>18</sup> Gaimushō Ajiakyoku (Bureau of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), (supervisor), Kasumigasekikai (editor), *Gendai Chūgoku jinmei-jiten [Who's Who in Contemporary China]* (Tokyo: Kōnan-shoin, 1957). Kasumigasekikai is an association of people who are or were in the foreign service. This effort of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to compile a who's who of Chinese can be traced back to 1916 and since then they have published six revised editions; i.e. in 1925, 1928, 1932, 1937, 1953 and 1957.

<sup>19</sup> Gaimushō Ajiakyoku (supervisor), Kasumigasekikai (editor), *Gendai Chōsen jinmei-jiten [Who's Who in Contemporary Korea]* (Tokyo: Gaikō Jihō-sha, 1960).

<sup>20</sup> Tōhō Gakkai (Institute of Eastern Culture), *Kinhyakunen rai Chūgokubun bunken genzai shomoku [Current list of Chinese books published in the last one hundred years]*. (Tokyo: Tōhō Gakkai, 1957). mimeo.

<sup>21</sup> Tōyōgaku Information Center (Information Center of Asian Studies), *Ajia ni kansuru Shoshi-mokuroku—jinbun-kagaku, shakai-kagaku,—1957 nendo (Bibliography of Japanese Bibliographies Concerning Asia and Asian studies for the year 1957 in the Fields of Humanities and Social Sciences)* Tokyo: Tōyō Bunko, 1960).

<sup>22</sup> Tōyōgaku Information Center, *Nippon no daigaku ni okeru Ajia jinbun shakai kankei no kōgi, 1958 nendo (Courses on Asia in the Humanities and Social Sciences given in Japanese Universities, 1958–59 academic year)* Tokyo: Tōyō Bunko, 1960).

<sup>23</sup> Correspondence to the Information Center of Asian Studies should be addressed to Mr. Nagazumi Akira, Tōyō Bunko, 147 Kamifujimae-chō, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

having difficulty in maintaining scholarly objectivity. There are still more Asian specialists in government and journalism than in academic circles.

Prior to the Pacific War, Asian studies in Japan focussed mainly on China and surrounding regions, but during the war this sphere was hurriedly broadened to include Southeast Asia and India. Naturally, this expansion withered with Japan's surrender. Even while Japan had lost her imperialistic dream, the younger generation had an opportunity to participate in the studies of India, Iran, Indonesia, and other countries of Asia. The number of students benefitting from these studies has been small; nevertheless it is apparent that the scope of Asian studies in Japan has thus been broadened.

#### *Examples of the New Trends*

The following organizations and activities have been selected not because of their importance in Japan's Asian studies, but because they illustrate best the trends that have been traced in this study.

##### *1. Institute of Asian Economic Affairs*

The Institute of Asian Economic Affairs<sup>24</sup> was established in 1958 to comply with government plans for more economic cooperation with other Asian countries. Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of International Trade and Industries, the organization is strongly controlled by governmental policies. Most important for the Institute is the analysis of the present economic status of Southeast Asian countries, but its ultimate aim, over a long period of time, is to expand and develop the Japanese economy.

The Institute's budget for the Japanese financial year April 1960–March 1961 was 150 million yen and is 250 million yen for April 1961–March 1962, of which 15 million yen will be spent for purchasing publications and 75 million yen will be used for sending staff abroad.

Asian specialists as well as scholars of other

<sup>24</sup> Correspondence should be addressed to Professor Kawano Shigetō, Vice-president, Institute of Asian Economic Affairs, Shin-ōtemachi Bld., 5th floor, Ōtemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan. An English bulletin is available.

fields, mostly in economics, devote part of their time to organizing various projects. Already in progress is a program to send researchers to Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, and other places for varied periods to conduct research and learn the native languages in order to hold future important staff positions. The Institute has published a number of monographs and periodicals,<sup>25</sup> and should expect real achievement in the future.

In 1960 another government-sponsored institute was established under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: the Nihon Kokusai Mondai Kenkyūjo (Japanese Institute of International Affairs.)<sup>26</sup> Its aspiration is not only to devote itself to Asian studies, but to become the Japanese equivalent of the Royal Institute of International Affairs of Chatham House in England. This is a young organization; we look forward to its achievements in the future.

Unfortunately, these institutes tend to measure achievement by quantity, a tendency that hampers many government-regulated organizations in Japan. In accordance with the Japanese accounting law and the strict policy of the auditors and the Finance Ministry, a definite amount of production is demanded for a certain payment. Naturally, the quality of the work has suffered. Proper development of these institutes will depend on some modification of this policy.

##### *2. Seminar on Modern China<sup>27</sup>*

Before the end of the war, the *Tōyō Bunkō* had adequate funds and could function as a research institute as well as a library. In the post-war period, however, for a long time it was able to assume only limited activities as a library because of lack of funds. Recently it has received both domestic and foreign assistance and has established the following research

<sup>25</sup> There is a list of the publications of the Institute in the English bulletin.

<sup>26</sup> Correspondence should be addressed to Professor Kamikawa Hikomatsu, Nihon Kokusai Mondai Kenkyūjo, 2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

<sup>27</sup> Correspondence to the Seminar on Modern China should be addressed to Professor Ichiko Chūzō, Tōyō Bunko, 147 Kamifujimae-chō, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

organizations in the hope of recovering its former eminence: (a) Seminar on the Tun-huang Documents, (b) Seminar on Sung History, (c) Seminar on Ming History, (d) Seminar on Ch'ing History, (e) Seminar on Moslem Countries, (f) Seminar on Tibet, and (g) Seminar on South and Southeast Asia.<sup>28</sup>

The establishment of these seminars suggests that the *Tōyō Bunkō* no longer relies solely upon individual effort but has begun to develop cooperative research. Before the end of the war, ancient and medieval history and the classics were the main fields it developed, but, with the establishment of the Seminar on Modern China under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1954, it expanded its studies to include modern China. Results of the research have been issued in *Kindai Chūgoku Kenkyū* (Studies on Modern China). Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, vol. 1, 1958; vol. 2, 1958; vol. 3, 1959; vol. 4, 1960; and vol. 5, which will come out in 1961. Besides these publications, the seminar has encouraged the production of indices and lists of various source materials which it feels are urgently needed to accelerate research on modern China.

Although the seminar has been unsuccessful in recruiting social scientists who had never studied Chinese problems before, and as a majority of its members are scholars of Ch'ing history, its endeavors may be considered as stepping-stones for further development of inter-university and inter-disciplinary research projects.

Financial aid from the Rockefeller Foundation ended in November 1960, and the Seminar is now reorganizing its activities and arranging for assistance from other quarters.

### 3. *Comparative Revolutions Project*<sup>29</sup>

The Research Institute of Humanistic Studies at the University of Kyoto, consists of three departments: Japan, Occidental, and Oriental. The Oriental Department has the following research seminars and groups: (a)

Seminar for Studying the *Hung-ming-chi*,<sup>30</sup> (b) Seminar on Bronze Inscriptions of the West Chou Dynasty, (c) Buddhist Art Project, (d) Seminar on Technology in Medieval China, (e) Project on Local Administration in the Period of the Six Dynasties, (f) Project of the *Yüan-tien-chang*,<sup>31</sup> (g) Commentary Project of the Works of Po Chü-i and the Drama of the Yüan Dynasty, (h) Project of Bibliographical Studies after the Sung Dynasty.

Besides these seminars, since 1960 the Oriental, Occidental, and Japan Departments have conducted a cooperative research project on comparative studies of Asian and European revolutions. They intend to make a comparative study of the French Revolution, the Meiji Restoration in Japan, and the 1911 Revolution in China, not only in terms of comparative politics, but also in terms of socio-economic history, dealing with the fundamental motivations of those revolutions. The project received four million yen in research aid for the year 1960, and one million yen for 1961 from the Education Ministry. Though it is not an inter-university organization, it can be called an inter-disciplinary one since it includes scholars of both European history and Japanese history who have received training in the fields of economics and sociology, respectively. When we reflect on the fact that the cooperation among historians of different fields has been so rare up to now, we cannot but consider the project as another steppingstone.

The University of Kyoto once had professors such as Naitō Torajirō and Yano Jin'ichi, who had been brave enough to handle modern and contemporary Asia. Since the end of the war, however, the leading Asian specialists in Kyoto have been producing few works on this subject. If this project develops successfully, it may stimulate a resurgence in research on modern and contemporary Asia in Kyoto.

### 4. *Field Trips*

Research and scientific surveys by Japanese in foreign countries seem to have become more and more popular since 1955, together with

<sup>28</sup> For further information concerning these seminars, write to Mr. Nagazumi Akira (supra, n.23).

<sup>29</sup> Correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. Ono Kazuko, Research Institute of Humanistic Studies, 50 Ogura-chō, Kitashirakawa, Sakyō-ku, Kyoto, Japan.

<sup>30</sup> A collection of polemical articles concerning Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism compiled before 518 A.D.

<sup>31</sup> A statute book of the Yüan Dynasty.

mountain climbing expeditions. Although this may sound a little strange, Japanese business circles and newspapers seem to be willing to offer financial support to these projects, and most of these expeditions were supported by joint funds of government, newspaper, and business circles. Major surveys since the end of the war have included:

- (a) In 1950, a biological, anthropological and geological research group led by Kihara Hitoshi, professor of the University of Kyoto, went to Karakoram and the Hindu Kush.
- (b) In 1957–58, an ethnological field survey group, led by Matsumoto Nobuhiro, professor at Keio University, took a field trip to Southeast Asia to study rice-planting cultures.
- (c) In 1957–58, the Municipal University of Osaka sent an ecological research group, led by Associate Professor Umezao Tadao to Thailand and Malaya.
- (d) In 1958, there was formed an anthropological research group to survey the peoples of Northwest Nepal, led by Kawakita Jirō, Associate Professor of the Municipal University of Osaka.
- (e) In 1958–59, a historical research trip to India to study Buddhist relics was led by Nagao Masato, Professor of the University of Kyoto.
- (f) In 1959, a research project was organized to explore the species of and origin of riceplants in Sikkim and Assam, led by Kihara Hitoshi, head of the National Institute of Genetics and formerly a professor at the University of Kyoto.
- (g) In 1959, a historical and linguistic research team organized by the Institute of Humanistic Studies of the University of Kyoto and headed by Mizuno Seiichi, Professor of the Institute, went to Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- (h) In 1960, a botanical expedition to Sikkim was sent to collect botanical specimens of the plants of the temperate zone in Asia; it was organized by the Physical Science Faculty of the University of Tokyo and headed by Professor Hara Hiroshi.

- (i) In 1960, a second rice culture study group, led by Professor Miyamoto Nobuto of Tokai University, conducted a field trip to the islands of Bali and Lombok.
- (j) In 1960, the University of Kyoto organized a second field trip to Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan for historical and linguistic research.
- (k) In 1960, an expedition to study historical sites and monuments of the Delhi Sultanate was organized by the Institute for Oriental Culture of the University of Tokyo under the official English name of "Mission for Indian History and Archaeology." The group was headed by Yamamoto Tatsurō. Special emphasis was placed on the extensive use of stereo-photographic measurement of monuments and remains.

#### *Problems in Future Development*

Japanese scholars have some of the research tools and facilities necessary for Asian studies, but they are far from satisfactory. Libraries in Japan, for example, require much improvement. There is not a single union catalogue nor is there an inter-library loan system. Moreover, most universities maintain a "closed door policy" requiring a most complicated application to use their libraries. Although this attitude is fading, communication and efficient collaboration is still hindered by universities. Since there is a wealth of materials on modern and contemporary Asia, particularly on China, which has been insufficiently explored, efforts to compile various annotated bibliographies should be actively encouraged. Moreover, since the people who played important roles in international affairs are aging, an oral interview history project should be organized as soon as possible.

There is still a tendency to depend upon individual research and endeavor rather than upon collaboration. Although aware of the necessity of cooperative study, research groups have difficulty in developing efficient organizations. There are far too many loosely-organized groups with similar purposes, but without enough mutual contact. This is particularly true in the Tokyo area. Attempts to establish



unity between these groups apparently causes frictions; rather than encouraging further disunity and the possibility of a rise of the old hierarchical order, they are permitted to develop with little interference.

How to attract able people to academic scholarship is another problem that needs solution. Asian studies have not been particularly attractive to students; there has been little economic incentive compared with business, government, and other fields. Teaching positions are limited; chairs of Asian studies in Japanese universities are few. If more emphasis is placed upon the study of Asia, it is hoped scholastic institutions can be induced to increase the number of jobs for Asian specialists. The establishment and fair allocation of scholarships are, of course, essential to entice bright students to Asian studies: indeed it would be no exaggeration to say that the future development of Asian studies is dependent upon the establishment and proper management of scholarships. At present, little is being done to increase either jobs or scholarships.

There is also a language barrier which established social scientists and aspiring ones are reluctant to breach. The modern Asian specialist must acquire three levels of competence: one or two social sciences, one or two non-Asian languages, and one or two Asian languages. Social scientists who have received their training in the West can assume an active role in Japanese scholarships without intensive language training; certainly it does

not behoove them to backtrack and learn the languages for competence in Asian studies. Therefore, the hurdle must somehow be made less formidable to students about to enter the field if we are to expect a fruitful future development of Asian studies in Japan.

True, the government now allots sizeable funds for research projects under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Naikaku Chōsashitsu (Cabinet Research Office). Many publications are being produced, some confidential and others made public, but little money seeps down to nurture other areas of endeavor; what is used to aid able young students is not administered effectively and some funds are, as far as academic endeavor is concerned, seeping away in waste. Indeed it would appear that these government organizations are only interested in an immediate harvest of accomplishment rather than the patient cultivation of the field of Asian studies through long-term programs.

With their controversial overtones, perhaps these problems should have been aired before Japanese audiences. Since the trends of Japanese studies must surely be the direction taken by many growing scholarly fields, and since foreign academic circles are likely facing the same problems, the author presents this report in the hope that it will be helpful to the development of Asian studies both in Japan and abroad.