

Professor Masataka Banno: A Reminiscence

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It is with great sadness that I undertake to write this brief reminiscence of the late Professor Masataka Banno. Known throughout the world for the excellence of his scholarship, he was teaching as a Graduate School Professor of Political Science at ICU, when on July 10, 1985 he suddenly passed away. His decease has left a profound sense of loss amongst his former students, faculty colleagues, and fellow researchers in Chinese Diplomatic History both in Japan and abroad.

Professor Masataka Banno was born in New York City in 1916. His parents, being Japanese, soon brought him back to Tokyo, where in 1936 he was enrolled in the First High School. In 1942 he received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the Faculty of Law of Tokyo Imperial University. He first taught at Tokyo Metropolitan Higher School, and in 1955 he was promoted to be full professor at Tokyo Metropolitan University. In 1962 he transferred to the Faculty of Law of Tokyo University, where he taught East Asian political and diplomatic history until his retirement in 1976. From that year Professor Banno began to teach at ICU as a Professor of Political Science both in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and in the Graduate School of Public Administration. Meanwhile he had been elected to directorships on the boards of several major academic associations in Japan, such as the *Nihon Seiji Gakkai*, *Kokusaiho Gakkai*, and *Ajia Seikei Gakkai*. In full appreciation of his contributions to learning, he was awarded the *Shiju Hoshō* (the Purple Ribbon) by the Government of Japan in 1981. He was accorded this honor for being one of the most distinguished scholars in our country.

In 1955 it so happened that Professor Banno was appointed professor at Tokyo Metropolitan University at the same time I was enrolled there as a student. I regret that I could not attend his classes, for they justly earned a high reputation for the depth and breadth of his knowledge as well as for the sparkle of his wit and humor. Later on, in 1978, I again joined an institution, ICU, where he was already a senior professor. As a predecessor of mine on the Library Committee, he shared with me the wisdom of his experience, dispensing advice with his customary insight and learning. When the history of our university is written, his contribution to the advancement of our library deserves notable mention. His life at ICU was busy with many commitments to journals and other publications both in Japan and abroad, yet he somehow managed to find the time to present a stimulating lecture to our Institute on March 1978 and to present a fine essay in English to our journal in 1979. His generosity was, and still is, deeply appreciated.

Professor Banno was often seen at ICU with a copy of *Le Monde* (*The World*) in his overcoat pocket. That was a sign, I believe, of a academic career exceptionally active in the international exchange of scholarship. He published two books from Harvard University Press, in 1955 and 1964. He read important papers at Camberra, Australia, in 1971 and at Paris, France, in 1976, the first in English and the second in French. His fluency in English and French enabled him to help expand the overseas ties of ICU and in particular the SSRI.

All the members of our Institute and University share with me the wish to express to his family our profound gratitude for his enormous assistance to us. At all times he was affable and agreeable, making his thoughtful presence something we treasured while he was amongst us and something we since remember most fondly.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the contributors to this volume and specifically to the editors, Professors S. Chiba and J. McDermott, for their shared commitment to its publication.