

J. Edward Kidder, Jr. (1922–2014)

In Memoriam

M. William Steele

It was with great sadness that I learned of Ted's passing on November 30, 2014 at the age of 92. This sadness was compounded by the death of my own father earlier in the year, also at 92. Ted was my teacher, colleague and friend. He and his wife Cordelia, who died earlier in March 2013, were among the pillars of ICU. Ted was born in 1922 to missionary parents in Jigongshan, China. He attended Maryville College in Tennessee where he met Cordelia. They were married in the middle of the Second World War; he fought in Germany as a member of Patton's Third Army. After the war, Ted did graduate work at New York University and received his Ph.D. in Art History in 1955. A Fulbright Fellowship allowed him to study at Kyoto University and in 1956 he took a teaching appointment at ICU. Discovering that the campus, indeed his front yard, was a rich Jomon site, he remained at ICU until his retirement in 1993—a teaching career of some 37 years. Aside from his teaching duties, Ted was active in ICU administrative affairs, serving as Director of the ICU Archeology Research Center, Director of the Yuasa Hachiro Memorial Museum (which includes an extensive display of Jomon pottery from the ICU campus), Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Vice President of Academic Affairs. He was an indefatigable champion of the small liberal arts college ideal.

I took Ted's classes on archeology and Asian art history when I was a junior year abroad student at ICU from the University of California (Santa Cruz) in 1967. I share with many other students at ICU the fascination of digging and coming up with sherds of Jomon pottery at sites on the ICU campus. As a budding historian, this was especially exciting. Not only was it a hands-on experience, but a very dirty one at that! I think I was able to quickly establish a good relationship with Ted (at that time, Dr. Kidder) because, as a country boy, I knew how to shovel, use an axe, and clear bush. And at the end of the class, we all gathered at the Kidder house to sort and, while eating Cordelia's cookies (so nostalgic of home), attempt to put the pieces of pottery together. Amazingly, most of the sherds fit together and we were about to mend several pots (with pieces missing here and there). I think this cemented my love of history as no other experience. Later, from 1981, I was fortunate to work alongside Ted when I began to teach full time at ICU. My course on premodern Japanese history profited greatly from his friendship.

At ICU, Ted taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Japanese art and ar-

cheology. Koyama Shūzō, Professor Emeritus at Minpaku (The National Museum of Ethnology) and one of Japan's leading authorities on Japanese archeology, was one of Ted's many students who went on to become researchers, teachers, and curators in art and archeology. Ted himself was placed in charge of archeological excavations throughout Japan, and at the end of his tenure at ICU, he was awarded the "Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure" for his contribution to the study of Japanese culture. Over a span of 60 years of academic activity, Ted was the author more than 10 books and numerous articles in academic journals (a partial list of his publications follows). In 2013, with the help of staff at the Yuasa Hachiro Memorial Museum, he published his autobiography: *A View from the Trenches of Mitaka: Experiences in Japanese Archeology*. The article in this issue of *Asian Cultural Studies* is his last publication. Characteristically, it shows him hard at work at the age of 92 covering recent controversies (up to 2013) over the identity of Himiko and the location of Yamatai—what Ted described as "Japan's greatest historical puzzle." It is perhaps fitting that he should go to rest feeling somewhat confident that he had solved that riddle.

J. Edward Kidder, Jr. Publications—A Partial List

Early Chinese Bronzes in the City Art Museum of St. Louis, St. Louis: The City Art Museum of St. Louis, 1956.

The Jomon Pottery of Japan (Atibus Asiae Supplementum XVII), New York: Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 1957.

Japan Before Buddhism, London: Thames and Hudson; New York: Praeger, 1959; revised edition, 1966.

Masterpieces of Japanese Sculpture, Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle, 1961.

Japanese Temples, New York: Abrams, 1964.

Ancient Japan, London: Weindenfeld & Nicolson; New York: John Day, 1964; revised edition, 1970.

Early Japanese Art, London: Thames & Hudson; New York: Van Nostrand, 1964.

The Birth of Japanese Art, London: Allen & Unwin; New York: Praeger, 1965.

Prehistory Japanese Arts: Jomon Pottery, Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1968; revised edition, 1971; reprinted 1976.

Ancient Japan, Oxford: Elsevier-Phaidon, 1977.

The Art of Japan, London: Century Publishing, 1985.

The Lucky Seventh: Early Hōryū-ji and its Time, Mitaka: ICU Hachiro Yuasa Memorial Museum, 1999.

Himiko and Japan's Elusive Chieftom of Yamatai: Archaeology, History, and Mythology, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007.

“Reviving the Burning Question: the Hōryūji Fires and Its Reconstruction,” Chapter One (pp. 5–26); and “Yakushi, Shaka, the 747 Inventory, and the Cult of Prince Shotoku,” Chapter Four (pp. 99–130), in Dorothy C. Wong, ed., *Hōryūji Reconsidered*, Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008.

A View from the Trenches of Mitaka: Experiences in Japanese Archeology, Mitaka: ICU Hachiro Yuasa Memorial Museum, 2013.

For a detailed *vita* of Professor Kidder's education, academic career, administrative experience, publications and other academic achievements, see: *Nogawa Site (I) Occasional Papers*, ICU Archeology Research Center, Number 9 (1995), 3–18.

