

EARL H. PRITCHARD

(1907–1995)

Dr. Earl Pritchard, one of the founders of the Association for Asian Studies, died Tuesday May 9, 1995 in Tucson, Arizona. He was 87 and had been retired as Chairman of the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of Arizona for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Pritchard was born on June 5, 1907 in Pullman, Washington, where he grew up on the farm of his father, Thomas Pritchard, and attended Washington State College where he received his B.A. in 1928. He then attended the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana where he got an M.A. in 1929. Returning to Pullman in 1930, he competed for a Rhodes Scholarship and became the second student from WSC to receive one. He spent three years at Oxford and was awarded his D.Phil. in history in 1933.

After completing his doctorate, he taught at Reed College in Portland (1934–35) and WSC (1935–37). He studied Chinese at Columbia University and the University of Michigan between 1937 and 1939, but it was one of the regrets of his career that he never became as proficient in Chinese as he felt any serious student of China should be. He taught at Wayne State University in Detroit in 1939–42 and 1945–47.

He was a civilian analyst with military intelligence during World War II where he was in charge of a 15–20 person section studying Japanese transportation networks in China and Japan, and was the first recipient of the War Department's highest award for intelligence work, the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. After the war he became an Associate Professor of history at the University of Chicago from 1947 to 1962. A major disappointment was his inability to use the Fulbright Fellowship he was awarded in 1948 to go to China because of the Communist revolution which was taking place at that time; he never got to visit the country he studied and taught about most of his life, although he did visit Japan in 1957. He moved to Tucson to assume the chairmanship of the Oriental Studies Department. He extensively built up the program at the University of Arizona until his retirement as chairman in 1972 and taught several more years as Professor Emeritus.

He was the founder and editor of the *Bulletin of Far Eastern Bibliography* (1936–40) which became the *Far Eastern Quarterly* (1941–51) and then the *Journal of Asian Studies*. He was a founder of the Far Eastern Association (which subsequently became the Association for Asian Studies) of which he was President in 1962–63, Vice-President in 1961–62, and director in 1948–51, 1952–55, and 1961–64.

He felt that the major accomplishments of his career were (1) the foundation of the organizations and journals which eventually became the Association for Asian Studies and the *Journal of Asian Studies*, (2) the building up of the oriental studies program at the University of Arizona, and (3) the publication of *Anglo-Chinese Relations During the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (1929, a reduced version of his M.A. thesis, reprinted several times), *The Crucial Years of Early Anglo-Chinese Relations 1750–1800* (1936, based in part on his doctoral dissertation, also reprinted), the sections he wrote for *The American Historical Association's Guide to Historical Literature* (1961), the coauthoring of Volume 4 of the UNESCO *History of Mankind: Cultural and Scientific Development. The Foundations of the Modern World 1300–1775* (1970), and eleven of his twenty-one published articles.

As his son, I always found him understanding, generous of his time and attention, and supportive of my own endeavors. From what others told me of his efforts to help

them and to build up the programs at the Universities of Chicago and Arizona, he seems to have reproduced his behavior towards me in his treatment of his colleagues and those who worked for him, even to the detriment of pursuing his own research activities and gaining the recognition needed to advance his own career.

PHIL PRITCHARD

Tucson