

Obituary

Ronald Stone Anderson (1908–1985)

Ronald Stone Anderson, who served as Secretary of the Association for Asian Studies from 1952 to 1960, died on February 5, 1985, in Honolulu. As Secretary he led the Association through some of its most active years of growth.

Upon receiving his B.A. from Stanford University in 1929, Ron began a lifelong dedication to the field of comparative education by teaching for six years at Japanese higher schools. He became one of the few Americans to gain first-hand experience with the Japanese educational system prior to the Pacific War. Following the war he spent two years in Japan as a Civil Education Officer during the Occupation. He received his M.A. from Stanford in 1946 and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1956. He had already begun teaching at the School of Education at the University of Michigan. In 1960 he moved to the University of Hawaii as a Carnegie Visiting Professor of Education; he then joined the faculty and directed the University's Asian Studies Program. Under the East-West Center, he organized the Teacher Exchange Program to bring together Asian and American secondary school-teachers to learn about each other's culture.

Anderson's major scholarly publications were his two studies of the Japanese education system prepared for the Office of Education: *Japan: Three Epochs of Modern Education* (1959) and *Education in Japan: A Century of Modern Development* (1975). Both works were widely used as the standard treatments of the subject.

But his writings were only part of his contribution. Ron is much remembered by his colleagues for his intensely human qualities. Deeply committed to teaching the Japanese what he believed to be the best aspects of American education, he at the same time devoted himself to instilling an appreciation of Japanese culture among American educators. He was never reticent in his criticism of Japanese education where he felt it fell short of its potential to achieve democratic ideals. Yet he taught about Japan as an admirer. Those who have seen his color film, "Rice Farming in Japan," produced for the University of Michigan, or who have participated in his Teacher Exchange Program have sensed the depth of his feeling for the special qualities of the Japanese people.

Ron has left a lasting impression on his field and in our hearts.

JOHN WHITNEY HALL
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