

Crisis"; Leslie Palmier (Yale), "The Comparative Study of Elites in Southeast Asia."

Three Dimensions of Japanese Social Democracy. George O. Totten (Fletcher), Chairman; Cecil E. Uyehara (Fletcher), "Socialist Patterns of Party Organization"; Allen B. Cole (Fletcher), "Socialist Party Relations With Small and Medium Enterprise"; Michio Royama (Fletcher), "Socialist Views of Japan's Role in World Affairs." Discussion: Solomon B. Levine (Illinois).

James Mellon Menzies, 1885–1957

Mr. Menzies, a man of many parts, but known to most of us primarily as a leading authority on the Shang period, was born at Clinton, Ontario, on February 23, 1885. As a young man, following his graduation from the University of Toronto in 1907, he practiced land surveying for a time before studying for the Christian ministry. In 1910 he was ordained and commissioned by the Presbyterian Church in Canada to serve in northern Honan, first at Wu-an and then at Chang-te (or An-yang). It was here, in 1914, after seeing a number of broken pieces of oracle bone found by the small boys living around the bend of Huan river nearby, that he concluded that An-yang must be the site of the ancient seat of the Kingdom of Shang.¹ (Earlier scholars, such as Frank H. Chalfant and Samuel Couling, had suggested Wei-hui as a possible site.) Mr. Menzies' first book, *Oracle Records from the Waste of Yin* (1919), proclaimed this as a fact, and contributed to the number of known oracular inscriptions. Years later he informed me that subsequent study had demonstrated that only one of the inscriptions published in this book had proved to be a fake—a notable achievement for a pioneer work.

During the years 1917–20 he served with the Chinese Labor Corps as a Staff Captain in the British Army in France, and then returned to his missionary work at Chang-te. In the disturbed years 1927–29, unable to resume evangelical work in Honan, he taught at the College of Chinese Studies in Peking. Traveling home on furlough in 1929, he visited India, Mesopotamia, and Palestine, inspecting archaeological excavations, and being permitted to share to some extent in the work. Here his training in land surveying stood him in good stead. It was at the end of 1929 that I first met him and persuaded him to give a lecture on the Shang. My recollection of it is still a vivid one. Master of his subject he made it live, interspersing his talk with many valuable comments on comparable societies drawn from his first-hand knowledge of finds in the Near East.

From 1930 to 1932 he was again at Chang-te, but was called from there to be professor of archaeology and sinological research at Cheeloo (formerly Shantung Christian) University, a post he held until his furlough in 1937. Here he labored to interest the Chinese in their own culture, writing largely in Chinese and organizing an archaeological museum, built mainly on his own collections. Unable, because of the outbreak of hostilities with Japan, to return, he remained in

¹ It is reported that Lo Chen-yü (1866–1940) and Langdon Warner (1881–1955) too identified the site the selfsame year.

Canada serving as a research assistant in Chinese archaeology at the University of Toronto. In 1942 he was awarded the degree of Ph.D., submitting a dissertation entitled "Shang Ko: a Study of the Characteristic Weapon of the Bronze Age in China in the Period 1311-1039 B.C."

During the war years (1942-46) he acted as a Chinese consultant with the U. S. Office of War Information in San Francisco and Washington, and then retired to Toronto because of a heart attack.

Dr. Menzies passed away on March 16, 1957.

It is worth remembering, in conclusion, that his is one of the few Western names, sometimes the only Western name, mentioned by Chinese scholars in connection with work on Shang inscriptions.

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"Chinese Oracle Bone Characters—the Paul D. Bergen Collection," *ibid.*, No. 6 (1935), pp. 1-28; No. 7 (1936), pp. 17-74. (This also appears as a separate pamphlet, published in Tsinan, 1936, with some substantial changes.)

(Several other manuscripts dealing with the Shang, complete and incomplete, remain unpublished.)

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May 1957

Some Important Soviet Organizations and Periodicals Devoted to the Study of the Modern History of Asia

(Contributed by Professor James W. Morley, Columbia University)

With the expansion of Soviet interest and influence in Asia, the increase in the number of western students able to use the Russian language, and the possibility eventually of opening up some kind of intellectual exchange with Soviet scholars in the Asian field, it may be helpful to review some of the important organizations of Soviet scholarship in modern and contemporary Asian history and to cite some of their significant serial publications.

In the wake of the disruption caused by the revolution of 1917 and its attendant civil war and intervention, the older Russian scholars, notably at the College of Orientalists (Kollegiia Vostokovedov) of the Asiatic Museum in Leningrad (Aziatskii Muzei) were sharply criticized for devoting too much attention to the