

Obituaries

CECIL HOBBS (1907–1991)

Cecil Hobbs, who retired as head of the Southern Asia Section of the Orientalia (now Asian) Division of the Library of Congress in 1971, died on December 8, 1991. He was 84. During his 28-year career, he was a major contributor to scholarship on Asia and to the development of Southeast Asian collections in American libraries.

Born on April 22, 1907, in Martins Ferry, Ohio, Dr. Hobbs earned a B.A. degree in history from the University of Illinois, where he taught for two years. In 1933, he received the B.D. degree from the Colgate Rochester (N.Y.) Divinity School. Dr. Hobbs's first contact with Southeast Asia studies came in 1935, when he and his wife, Cecile Jackson Hobbs, went to Burma, where he served under the American Baptist Mission Board as a field administrator and a professor at the Pierce Divinity College and the Burma Theological Seminary, teaching in the Burmese language. Returning to America after the Japanese invasion of Burma in 1942, Dr. Hobbs resumed graduate study at Colgate Rochester, receiving both a Th.M. degree and a doctorate in theology. He joined the Library in 1943 as a specialist on Southeast Asia, and was promoted to the position of head of the Southern Asian Section in 1958.

During his tenure, he made six field trips to Southeast Asia to acquire publications for the Library. His accounts of the publishing scene and works obtained were issued by the Southeast Asia Program of Cornell University for distribution to scholars and librarians throughout the world. In addition, he was the author of *Understanding the Peoples of Southern Asia* (University of Illinois Press, 1967); *History and Culture of Southern Asia* (University of Illinois Press, 1968); and *Research Needs Relating to Southeast Asia* (Southeast Asia Development Advisory Group, 1969), and bibliographical works. After his retirement, he served for one year as a consultant to the Australian National University Library. He also served as subeditor for Southern Asia for the *American Historical Review*; on the advisory board of contributing consultants to the *International Library Review* (London); and as a member of the international editorial advisory board of *Southeast Asia; an International Quarterly*.

Dr. Hobbs was a charter member of the Association for Asian Studies, organized in 1948 as the Far Eastern Association, and served as chair of its Committee on American Library Resources on Southeast Asia for several years, remaining active subsequently in the activities of its successor, the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia. He was a prime mover in the Conference on American Library Resources on Southern Asia held in 1957 and the Conference on Access to Southeast Asian Research Materials in 1970, both held at the Library of Congress. For his many contributions to Southeast Asian librarianship and the Library, he received a Meritorious Service Award (1967) and a Superior Service Award (1971).

Dr. Hobbs also served as a clergyman in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Mrs. Cecil Hobbs died on January 9, 1992. A memorial service

was held for the couple on January 16 at the Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

WARREN TSUNEISHI
Library of Congress

MINOR LEE ROGERS (1930–1991)

Minor Lee Rogers, a specialist on Japanese Buddhism and Jessie Ball Dupont Professor of Religion at Washington and Lee University, died on August 25, 1991, in New York City. He died of complications of metastatic cancer, diagnosed in early July. An avid runner, he was still at it until the end of May, when he began to feel unwell. A man with a strong sense of duty, he was glad that he had completed the school year, and during the summer wistfully spoke of returning to the classroom in the fall, "perhaps with one class of twenty students."

At the time of his death, Minor and his wife, Ann, were just completing a work long in progress on Rennyō Shōnin (1415–1499), a key figure in the Honganji branch of the Pure Land Shin Sect (*Jōdo Shīnshū*), the most widespread and influential Buddhist movement in Japanese history. The book, *Rennyō: The Second Founder of Shin Buddhism*, includes a translation of his letters. It will be published by Asian Humanities Press in the spring of 1992.

Rogers had a fascinating and varied life. As the years went by, his closest friends were constantly surprised at some new, previously undisclosed chapter or event in his life. Born in London, England, where his father (a native of Lexington, Virginia) was head of the European office of the Baldwin Locomotive Works (and later of his own firm, Whitelegg and Rogers, Ltd., locomotive engineers), Rogers received his secondary education at the Felsted School in Essex. During World War II, he was one of those "English" children evacuated to the U.S. for safety, only in his case he was coming home. In 1948, he enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute, where in 1952 he earned a B.S. in physics. At VMI, he was president of the Honor Court, class valedictorian, winner of the Cincinnati Society medal, and captain of the tennis team.

As in the case of so many before him, it was the American military that introduced him to Japan. During the Korean War, he was stationed in Hokkaido as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army (Armor). Following this service, he entered the Virginia Theological Seminary, where he received the bachelor of divinity degree. He was ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 1958. His first ministry was a parish in Southwest Virginia.

Following his marriage in 1958 to Ann T. Rogers, now an assistant professor of Japanese language and literature at Washington and Lee, they traveled to Japan, where he served as a missionary with the Episcopal Church in Japan (*Nippon Seikokai*) from 1961 to 1965. After studying Japanese, he was posted to Okuchi in central Kyushu. At the time, he and his family were the only Americans in the city, and he was one of a very small number of American missionaries in Kyushu.

During 1965 and 1966, he did graduate work at Princeton University before moving on to Harvard, where he entered the program in comparative religion at the Center for World Religions. He served as a teaching fellow en route to receiving his Ph.D. in 1972.

All this seemed but a prelude to his work at Washington and Lee, where he quickly established himself as one of the finest teachers on campus and an energetic