

Obituaries

ROBERT LYONS DANLY 1947–1997

With great sadness, we announce the untimely death of Robert Danly, scholar, translator, and professor of Japanese literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Mr. Danly died on April 27, 1997, of a brain tumor.

Mr. Danly was the author of *In the Shade of Spring Leaves: The Life and Writings of Higuchi Ichiyō, A Woman of Letters in Meiji Japan*. The rich biographical study and elegant translations that comprise this book make it one of the most outstanding in the field of Japanese literature, and it won the National Book Award for translation in 1982. Mr. Danly translated other Japanese stories as well and wrote fiction of his own. He also edited and wrote the introductions for the new Japanese literature sections of *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*. When he died, he was working on a translation of Ihara Saikaku's *Seiken munezan'yō*.

Mr. Danly was born on January 3, 1947, in Oak Park, Illinois. He received his bachelor's degree from Yale College in 1969, and then spent three years as a copywriter for the Asia Advertising Agency in Tokyo. He returned to Yale to do his graduate work with Edwin McClellan, receiving his doctorate in 1980. Mr. Danly joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1979, and was Professor of Japanese Literature at the time of his death. A talented and rigorous graduate teacher, Mr. Danly produced students who are themselves now professors at various universities in the country. For some years, he directed a popular translation workshop for the university's program in Comparative Literature. A lively lecturer, Mr. Danly was also highly sought out as an undergraduate teacher and had received the Class of 1923 Award for outstanding teaching. As Director of Michigan's Center for Japanese Studies from 1987 to 1993, he was instrumental in building the Center's publications program into one of the leading presses in Japanese Studies. His term as Center Director also saw the establishment of the Toyota Visiting Professorship, which annually brings prominent figures in various japanology disciplines into the university for research and intellectual exchange.

Mr. Danly's joie de vivre, his energy, and his wit will be greatly missed by those who knew him. And the field is poorer for having lost the translations and studies that would have been produced by a writer whose love of language was present in every word he wrote. Mr. Danly is survived by his parents, Donald and Mary Danly of Burr Ridge, Illinois, and by three sisters, Christina Denton, Elizabeth Burtt, and Catharine Zoufal. The Center for Japanese Studies has established a special annual lecture named for Mr. Danly. Contributions toward funding it may be sent to: Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, Attn: Robert Lyons Danly Lecture, 108 Lane Hall, 204 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109-1290.

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