

## KEITH BRENDON CALLARD, 1924–1961

THE sudden death of Keith Callard in Accra, Ghana, on September 26, 1961, brought to a premature end a brilliant career as a teacher and scholar. Few men are successful so soon in so many fields. His scholarly achievements ranged from Canadian local government and public administration to Asian and African studies. His clear, quick mind made him an effective, popular and respected teacher. He showed the same qualities as a commentator and panelist on world affairs on radio and television. He was a first-class rapporteur and draftsman who contributed much to the effective dispatch of university business. These qualities led to his election as the Secretary of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in 1960.

He came to McGill in 1948, strongly recommended by Professor W. A. Robson of the London School of Economics, whose pupil he had been. His first assignment was to teach courses in public administration and municipal government, and it was not long before he mastered the chaotic materials which then confronted anyone attempting to teach these subjects in Canada.

The award of a Harvard Junior Fellowship drew him away from McGill in 1950. Harvard makes no demand on its Junior Fellows, except to expect that they will use their leisure effectively. To a man who had interrupted his undergraduate degree for war service, returned to the intense pressure of post-war studies, and then begun an exacting teaching job in a country new to him, the two years at Harvard were the necessary fallow years in which the soil was prepared. He was able to take what he chose from the teachings of Friedrich, Elliott, Key, and others in the exciting atmosphere of post-war Harvard, where most of the graduate students and young teachers were of his own wartime generation. He had the leisure to read and to think. But, after two years, he became restlessly anxious to get back to purposive work.

His years of service in the Indian army had given him a grasp of Urdu and, more important, kindled his interest in the problems of government in new countries. No doubt the responsibilities of army life tempered his natural sympathy for the cause of Indian independence with a hard-headed appreciation of the facts of administrative necessity and the difficulties of achieving a free and constitutional order.

In his last year in Harvard he had begun a close study of the debates in the Indian Constituent Assembly. Thus, fortuitously, his career was taking shape. When he returned to McGill he found that Wilfred Cantwell Smith had meanwhile begun to develop—under the general name of Islamic Studies—a programme in which there was room for the study of government as well as language and religion. His own knowledge of India and of Urdu equipped him to begin a study of the political development of Pakistan. At the same time he resumed his place in the Department of Economics and Political Science and continued the study and teaching of public administration.

By the Summer of 1954 he was ready for more intensive research and he spent a year's leave of absence in Pakistan under the auspices of the McGill

Islamic Studies group and the Rockefeller Foundation. The result of this period in Pakistan, together with a short return trip in 1956, was his first major book, *Pakistan: A Political Study*, published in 1957. This book illustrated the rare combination of qualities which he brought to scholarship. He had a clear grasp of complex constitutional and political structures, a feel for the operation of political forces, and a sympathetic and imaginative grasp of how Asians and Africans themselves understand their political destiny. He had a lucid and forceful style that made reading what he wrote a pleasant and intellectually bracing exercise.

Keith Callard had little sympathy for the flabby mixture of half-understood anthropology, sociology, and journalism that makes up so much of "area studies." He did not think of himself as a "southeast Asia" man or an "Islamic Studies" man, but as a political scientist, equipped to apply his own discipline to any area in which the special problems could first be mastered by hard and disciplined work. Nevertheless, he was a first-rate "area-studies" man. Without interrupting the steady flow of his regular work, he drove himself to learn Arabic by an intense summer course in order to begin the serious study of North Africa. He knew that it was impossible to understand the politics of a country without knowing its language—for language conveys the subtler nuances of political and social behaviour. He combined a hard-headed scepticism about the politics of newly-emerging countries with a sympathetic concern for their progress and welfare. He earned the respect and affection of countless Asians and Africans because he treated them without sentiment or illusion, but with candour, respect, and understanding.

While the importance of his work in the politics of underdeveloped countries continued to make increasing demands on his time, he continued his scholarly interest in both local government and public administration. He was active in both teaching and research in municipal problems through the graduate programme in Community Planning at McGill University, and he prepared the University's brief to the Champagne Commission on the problem of metropolitan government in Montreal. He was an indefatigable member of the Research Committee of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

During his last five years he held a half-time appointment in the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill. In the remaining half of his time he managed to carry, in the Department of Economics and Political Science, a teaching and administrative load which stood comparison with that of his full-time colleagues. His introductory course in comparative government succeeded in being both rigorous and highly popular with undergraduate students. In spite of this immense range of teaching and research, he was always eager to accept fresh challenges. In the spring of 1960 he commuted weekly to Quebec to deliver a series of lectures on comparative government at Laval University in French. He continued to accept frequent broadcast and television engagements as a commentator on the CBC. In the university he was an ubiquitous and always popular speaker at student gatherings. He played an active role in the affairs of the McGill Association of University Teachers, and served as its president.

It is probable that he overspent his reserves of strength. He could not resist

the responsibility of a new activity, and it was not in his nature to do things by halves. He had a fierce pride in first-class work. He did things so well that few realized either how much he was doing or how much he gave of himself physically and emotionally. The infection which struck him in Ghana found him exhausted after the first stage of an exacting tour of research which would have taken him over a substantial part of the world.

He had planned three projects for a single year. He was starting a comparative study of the political development of former British and French colonies in West Africa. It was for this purpose that he was in Ghana. From there he planned to go to Tunisia for further research which would enable him to build on his work done there in a previous summer, only a part of the results of which have been published. Then, after a brief period in Egypt to round out his study in North Africa, he proposed to return to Karachi in order to bring up to date his book on Pakistani politics.

His loss to the world of scholarship at such a moment is difficult to exaggerate. He had done much; he was about to do so much more. At McGill he had made a special place for himself. He will be remembered as a scholar of brilliant promise and achievement. But by his colleagues and by countless others who knew him, Keith Callard will be remembered because he possessed above all the gifts of honesty, loyalty, and friendship.

J. R. M.

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\*This bibliography was prepared by Miss Teresa Sears, Head Librarian of the Commerce Library, McGill University.