

# NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

## I. Institutional News

### *The Ohara Institute for Social Research*

The Ohara Institute for Social Research was founded on February 9, 1919 in Osaka by Magosaburō Ōhara (1878-1943). Ōhara, a wealthy industrialist from Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, was an extraordinary, public-spirited entrepreneur. His business interests included the Kurashiki Cotton Spinning Company, and he also established the Ōhara Art Museum and the Kurashiki Institute for Science of Labour. Ōhara became a Christian under the influence of Jūji Ishii (1865-1914), founder of the Okayama Orphanage, and he supported Ishii's work. Upon his spiritual mentor's death, Ōhara established the Ishii Memorial Aizen'en (Settlement House) in Osaka. Direct involvement in these charitable activities, however, had shown Ōhara the limitations of voluntary philanthropy. He saw the need for systematic research into social problems and established the institute that still bears his name.

Professor Iwasaburō Takano, of the Economics Faculty, Tokyo Imperial University, was the Institute's first director. Many outstanding scholars joined the staff, including Tamizō Kushida, Yasunosuke Gonda, Tatsuo Morito, Hyōe Ōuchi, Samezō Kuruma, Kozō Uno and Shintarō Ryū. The staff's pioneering research into neglected and controversial areas like the labour movement, social issues and Marxist economics were published in the Institute's *Journal*, *Pamphlet* and publication series. Shortly after its founding the Institute began to publish the *Japan Labour Yearbook*. In addition to research and publication, the Institute collected publications and primary materials. Staff members acquired extensive materials on socialism and labour in Germany and England. Upon termination of financial support from Ōhara in 1937, the Institute's building, grounds and about 70,000 volumes from its collection were sold to the Osaka prefectural government. The Institute moved to Kashiwagi, Tokyo and operated on a reduced scale until the end of World War II. Publication of the *Japan Labour Yearbook* was suspended with the 1941 issue. Translation of the twelve-volume *Selected Classics on Statistics* became the Institute's main project.

Japan's surrender on August 15, 1945 brought sweeping changes to the Institute. At first, it was difficult to revive the research and publication projects. The Institute's building and much of its collection had been destroyed in an air raid on May 24, 1945, although fortunately, rare books and original documents

housed in an earthen storehouse were not burned. Also, the Institute's bank accounts were frozen. A further impediment was that Institute members were soon involved in outside activities. In late 1945, Hyōe Ōuchi returned to Tokyo University Economics Faculty where he became a leader in revitalizing the institution. In 1946, Iwasabrō Takano became president of the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), and Yasunosuke Gonda assisted him as a standing member of NHK's board of trustees. Tatsuo Morito was elected to the Diet, and in 1947 was appointed Minister of Education in the Katayama Cabinet. The task of reconstructing the Institute fell to Samezō Kuruma. An office was rented in the Seikei Building in Surugadai, Tokyo and the Institute resumed operations. However, runaway inflation rapidly undermined the Institute's financial resources. At that crucial juncture a merger was arranged with Hosei University. In 1949, the Ohara Institute for Social Research was dissolved, and staff and collection moved to new quarters on the Hosei campus.

In 1951, in order to obtain additional outside financial support, the Institute became a private foundation, the Hosei University Ohara Institute for Social Research. The Institute finally had adequate funding and was able to hire staff and restart its programs. Under the leadership of Director Kuruma, publication of the *Japan Labour Yearbook* and other activities were resumed. In 1968, the first volume of the *Marx Lexicon of Political Economy* was published. The project was based on index cards compiled by Dr Kuruma over decades of scholarly study of Marx's work. Seijirō Usami and many outside scholars worked on the fifteen-volume series, which was completed in 1985. In 1969, to commemorate the Institute's fiftieth anniversary, publication was begun of *Historical Documents of the Japanese Social Movement*. The project makes available in usable form the publications and primary source materials of the prewar socialist and labour movement in the Institute's collection. Approximately 200 volumes have been published to date. Cataloging of the Institute's books and materials was begun in the late 1950s. Progress was slow but in April 1971 the collection was opened for public use at the Azabu Annex, Minato, Tokyo. The Institute has continued to add to its collection on social and labour topics, acquiring an average of 6,000 volumes a year, approximately two-thirds by donation. In 1985, the 70,000-volume collection of Professor Itsurō Sakisaka, an eminent Marxist scholar, was donated to the Institute.

In March 1986, the Institute changed its status from an independent foundation to an integral part of Hosei University and moved from the Fujimi campus to the university's new Tama campus. Economics and Social Science faculties had relocated to Tama and requested the Institute to join them. Since the move from Osaka to Tokyo in 1937, the Institute had been cramped for space, especially shelf space to properly store and utilize its growing collection. At Tama the Institute finally has ample library, research and administrative facilities. The staff can now increase their efforts to expand the collection as a special library and resource centre on labour.

A distinctive feature of the Ohara Institute is the breadth of its activities. In addition to its function as a library and document collection open to the public, and its regular editing and publishing projects like the *Japan Labour Yearbook* and the *Historical Documents of the Japanese Social Movement*, it also conducts

research and surveys. Current projects include one on the Aging Society and another on the Quality of Working Life. Findings are published in the Institute's Publication Series and *Journal*. As a bibliographic information centre, the Institute prepares various bibliographic aids useful to scholars and government, business or labour researchers. These include the "Bibliography of Labour Publications", which is published in the *Monthly Journal of the Japan Institute of Labour*, and the "Bibliography of Labour History". To commemorate the Institute's sixtieth anniversary, the staff compiled *Chronological Tables of Social and Labour Movements*. Three volumes were published in 1986, followed by a separate volume in January 1987 with a summary of sources and topical index.

The address of the Institute is: Hosei University, 4342 Aihara, Machida-shi, Tokyo 194-02, Japan. Phone (0427) 83-2307.

## II. Announcements

### *Comparative History of European Nationalism*

The second international conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas will take place in late August 1990 in Europe. The theme to be discussed is "Comparative History of European Nationalism". There will be twenty-five workshops dealing with philosophy, history, sociology, economics, literature, war studies, linguistics, religion, science, politics, and women's studies. Requests for further information should be addressed to Dr Ezra Talmor, Department of Philosophy, Haifa University, Mount Carmel, Haifa 31999, Israel.

### *Vere Gordon Childe*

A conference will be held on "Vere Gordon Childe: His Intellectual and Political History", University of Queensland, August 1990. Requests for further information should be addressed to the Director, Australian Studies Centre, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld 4067, Australia.

### *New Perspectives on the Chinese Revolution*

An international conference on "New Perspectives on the Chinese Communist Revolution" will be held partly in Amsterdam and partly in Leyden in the second week of January 1990 and will last for a total of five working days. The conference is being sponsored for organizational purposes by three institutions in the Netherlands: the International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam), the Sinological Institute (Leyden) and the Centre for Asian Studies (Amsterdam).

The intention of this conference is to bring together a group of scholars who

have been working with newly available materials to produce new analyses of the development of the Chinese communist movement before its accession to power in 1949. The more open policy being pursued in the People's Republic of China has led to a flood of material being released concerning the development of the Chinese revolution. This material provides scholars with the chance to reappraise the rise to power of the Chinese communist movement.

The papers given to the conference will be divided over four topics: (1) the institutional development of the Party; (2) opposition and dissent within the Party; (3) the impact of the Chinese revolution abroad; and (4) CCP writing on the Chinese revolution. The papers presented to the conference will probably be published in book form to ensure the dissemination of the results to a wider audience. Those who are interested can obtain further information from Dr Tony Saich, International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### *Annual North American Labour History Conference*

The eleventh Annual North American Labor History Conference will be held in Detroit, Michigan, 19-21 October 1989. The program committee envisions sessions reflective of the best of recent scholarship in diverse areas of labour history. It is hoped that the program will include sessions dealing with Canadian and European labour history, as well as US-American. Proposals relating to other geographical areas are also welcome. Proposals for papers should be directed to Professor Philip P. Mason, Walter P. Reuther Library, 5401 Cass, Detroit, Michigan 48202, U.S.A.

### *Dimensions of European Unity in the Postwar World*

The Department of European and Modern Dutch Studies at the University of Hull will hold an international conference on "Dimensions of European Unity in the Postwar World" from 20-24 September 1989.

The conference, forming the third part of a three-stage enquiry into the historical development of aspirations to European unity, will focus upon the postwar years prior to the signing of the Rome Treaties. The central questions which it will ask are: how far and along which dimensions was Europe unified in this period? Two of the fields of interest are "Ideologies and Movements" and "Social Structure and Cultural Identity".

The proceedings of the conference will be published, being the third volume of a three-volume series on "European Unity in Context". Proposals for papers should be directed to Dr P. M. R. Stirk, Department of European & Modern Dutch Studies, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, Great Britain.

*Maxwell Prizes 1988-89*

The International Society for the Study of European Ideas will award Maxwell prizes for the best essays on "Europe's Babylon: Towards One European Language" or "The Politics of Culture". Essays (preferably in English) must be submitted not later than 31 October 1989. Essays should be original and of interest to the general reader. No essay will be considered which has previously been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere. The prizes will be \$ 1000 each. The two winning essays will be published in *History of European Ideas*. To enter the competition please send three copies with a short curriculum vitae to: P. Purvey, Secretary ISSEI, Pergamon Press Inc., Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 OBW, Great Britain.

*ILR Research at Cornell*

The New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations has started the publication of a semi-annual newsletter *ILR Research at Cornell*. Each issue will contain one or two feature articles on research that is in progress or has been recently completed, as well as a number of shorter summaries. Telephone numbers are provided so that readers interested in further information can contact faculty members directly.

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