

Harold Monk Vinacke (1893–1981)

Dr. Harold Monk Vinacke, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Cincinnati, died on May 10, 1981, in Cincinnati. In company with such leaders of Asian studies as John K. Fairbank, Stanley K. Hornbeck, and Amry Vandenbosch, Vinacke aided in the formation of the Far Eastern Association, the predecessor of the Association for Asian Studies. Born in Denver, Colorado, in 1893, Vinacke was graduated from the University of Denver in 1914 and received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1922. In 1916–1917 Vinacke taught at Nankai University before joining the faculty of Miami University. Vinacke frequently reminisced about his experiences at Nankai, Miami, and Princeton.

In 1926 Vinacke joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati and taught there until his retirement in 1963. Vinacke became a Fellow of the Graduate School and served as Head of the Department of Political Science. A vigorous and effective defender of faculty rights, Vinacke was a former president of the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

During World War II Vinacke joined the Office of War Information and became chief of the Japan section. In 1950 Vinacke was a visiting expert to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in Japan. True to character, Vinacke made known his disagreement with some of General Douglas MacArthur's politics.

Vinacke's *Far Eastern Politics in the Post War Period* (Appleton-Century-Crofts) appeared in 1956. But it was Vinacke's *History of the Far East in Modern Times* (Appleton-Century-Crofts) published in six editions beginning in 1928, that demonstrated his prodigious grasp of East Asian affairs and made his name known and respected wherever East Asia was studied. Wearing his scholarship lightly, Vinacke had other published interests in international organization and American foreign policy.

Vinacke had been a visiting professor at Harvard University and a consultant to the Operations Research Office. In 1969 Vinacke was presented with a volume of papers written in his honor by appreciative colleagues and former students. Courtly, forthright, and considerate, Harold Vinacke left an indelible impression on all those who knew him.

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