

## IN MEMORIAM: AKIRA NAGAZUMI, 1929–1987

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On the 10th of July 1987, Professor Akira Nagazumi, who was suffering from cancer, passed away at the Tokyo University Hospital. His death is much regretted in international learned circles. It is a great loss to the world of Indonesian studies, and has done even more serious damage to Southeast Asian Studies in Japan.

Akira Nagazumi was born in Tokyo in 1929 as the son of Torahiko Nagazumi, a chamberlain and classmate of the Emperor. He lived for many years in an official residence in the palace compound, and was educated up until the end of high school at Gakushūin, formerly known as the Peers' School. His family line was from Shimono-seki in Yamaguchi Prefecture, and Akira was treated with affection by his grandfather, who was an engineer and the Dean of the Faculty of Technology of Kyūshū University and who had studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at universities in Europe.

In his early years as a student at the University of Tokyo, Nagazumi learned Dutch, under a special arrangement worked out by Professor Seiichi Iwao and using a text related to the former Netherlands East Indies. This language training was a step towards Nagazumi's later specialization on Indonesia, and during his training in Dutch he studied with the daughter of the famous philosopher Kiyoshi Miki, Yōko Miki, who later became his wife. He was graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1954, specializing in Asian history, and presenting a thesis on the history of Patani. He received an MA from the Graduate School of the same university in 1956, submitting a dissertation concerning the colonial policy of Jan Pieterszoon Coen. While continuing his research there for his PhD, he was given a fellowship from the Netherlands Ministry of Education and Sciences in 1957 enabling him to spend about one year in the Netherlands.

In 1961 Nagazumi moved to Cornell University, the famous center for Indonesian studies, where he received instruction in the Indonesian language under John M. Echols. He continued his study on modern Indonesian history in the same university until 1967, spending an interim period from 1964 to 1966 in the Netherlands to work in the archives there. From Cornell he received a PhD, writing a dissertation on "The Origin and the Earlier Years of the Budi Utomo: 1908–1918."

Nagazumi was appointed Associate Professor at the Tokyo University of Foreign Languages as a member of the Institute for Asian and African Languages and Cultures in 1967, but later he moved to the University of Tokyo as Associate Professor in 1971, and was appointed Professor in 1974. He continued in the same position until the end of his life. Meanwhile he carried out short-term lecture assignments and research at many universities in and out of Japan, including the University of Indonesia (Jakarta), the Australian National University (Canberra), Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), and All Souls College and Trinity College of Oxford University. Nagazumi was also active in the work of learned societies and institutes, acting as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Japan (Shigaku-kai), Vice-President of the International Association of Historians of Asia, a board member of the Japan Association for Southeast Asian History, and so on.

Among Nagazumi's publications, the most widely read in Japan is *Indonesia Minzoku-ishiki no Keisei* (The Formation of Indonesian National Consciousness) 1980. Although his learned writings concentrated on Indonesia, he was a man of rich culture and his interests were wide, encompassing Japanese literature, Western music, and art. His talent for literary writing and his love for it have been apparent ever since he was in junior high school and continued until the end of his career. The quality of his literary genius is well illustrated in his last book, entitled *Tsuki wa higashi ni, Hi wa nishi ni*—Tonan Ajia to Nihon no aida— (The Moon in the East and the Sun in the West—between Southeast Asia and Japan—) 1987, the title being derived from the *Haiku* short poem of Buson.

Akirā Nagazumi's learned activities together with his charming personality and politeness attracted a wide range of people to him, and he made numerous friends in many countries of East and West. A detailed list of his writings will be published by some of his friends in the near future.