Obituary

It is a sad duty to report that one of the scholars associated with the *Indo-Iranian Journal* nearly from its beginning has passed away. On Friday, July 26, 2019, Akira Yuyama left us at the age of 85. Having first studied at the University of Tokyo until 1961, Yuyama then came to Leiden, and since the early days when Jan Willem de Jong and F.B.J. Kuiper founded the journal, Yuyama, as a student of the former, was made responsible, as he recounted, for running IJJ copy from the offices in what is now the Ethnographic Museum, but was then part of the Faculty of Letters, to the Brill offices located about a kilometer away in the downtown of Leiden. When Prof. de Jong left Leiden for the Australian National University in 1965, Yuyama accompanied him, ultimately completing his PhD there at ANU, before eventually returning to his native Japan. Although he never had a formal permanent university post in Japan, what he accomplished was in many respects much more important, namely in the first place setting on the right course the Reiyūkai Library, whose Director he was, an institution which eventually became the library of the International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies. The Reiyūkai Library both established publication series and offered research fellowships, and many scholars especially of Indian Buddhism profited amply from both. Following an unfortunate palace coup, Prof. Yuyama left to join the rival International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology at Sōka University, where, with Prof. Yūichi Kajiyama, his presence offered an instant international cachet. Eventually this Institute came to be the domain of Prof. Seishi Karashima, who shockingly died in the same week as Yuyama, at the age of only 61.

Alongside his service on the Advisory Board of the IJJ for decades, Yuyama contributed many studies, especially around the *Ratnaguṇasaṃcayagāthā* and associated literature, including a grammar of the text which he apparently continued to believe (against the evidence) to be one of the earliest Mahāyāna scriptures, and the *Saddharmapuṇḍarīkasūtra*, concerning which he published, among many other studies, a *Bibliography of Sanskrit Texts of the Saddharmapuṇḍarīkasūtra* (1970), and an English translation, nominally co-translated with Tsugunari Kubō, of Kumārajīva's Chinese version of the sūtra, issued by the Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai (1993). Moreover, he published a lengthy treatment of Eugène Burnouf, the pioneering Western scholar of Indian Buddhism (*Eugène Burnouf: the background to his research into the Lotus Sutra*, 2000).

In addition, in terms of monographs, he also published the terse but still extremely helpful *Systematische Übersicht über die buddhistische Sanskrit-Literatur* (*Erster Teil: Vinaya-Texte*, 1979). A volume was published in honor of his 65th birthday in 1998 (*Sūryacandrāya*). He published, in addition, a huge number of papers, in English, Japanese and German, chiefly, on a range of topics, mostly concerned with Indic Buddhist philology. He is survived by his wife Hiroko. He will be sorely missed.

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