Arthur Lloyd (1852–1911) and Japan: Dancing with Amida

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INTRODUCTION

Old Boys sometimes die young. One was Stephen Cartwright,\(^1\) graduate of Trinity College School in Port Hope, Ontario, scion of the wealthy and politically famous Cartwright family of Kingston, Ontario and an Anglican missionary in Japan and Korea who died of fever in Seoul in 1906. While a boarder at TCS, Cartwright had been influenced by Arthur Lloyd, the subject of this portrait, who was then the school’s new headmaster and a former Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG) missionary in Japan. He felt inspired to follow that spiritual and missionary path, which would lead him to an early grave. Even though it had a profound impact on young Cartwright’s future, Lloyd’s sojourn in Canada lasted only three years. Despite his obvious charisma as a teacher, differences over the management of the school led Lloyd to resign and return to Japan. It is as a missionary, teacher, author and pioneer in the study of Japanese Buddhism that Arthur Lloyd is best known.
He has been called the ‘father of English Language Education in Japan’. Cyril Powles has more reasonably argued that Lloyd should be recognized along with the Americans, David Murray (1830–1905) and Guido Verbeck (1830–98) and a few others, as one of the pioneers who helped Japan develop a modern educational system. One of the attractions of Lloyd for Powles was that he was an Anglican missionary who developed an original approach to Japanese culture, which emerged from his writings.

Arthur Lloyd was born in Simla, the son of Frederick Lloyd, a Major in the Bengal Infantry in the Indian Army. His father died of dysentery in 1856, the year before the Indian Mutiny, and his mother who was born in Germany, took him, the only son, first to Stuttgart, and then back to England where he attended Brewood Grammar School in Staffordshire. Lloyd entered St. John’s College, Cambridge in 1870 and later was attached to Peterhouse, receiving a BA (first class in the classical tripos) in 1874 becoming MA in 1877. He went on to study Sanskrit at Tübingen University with the aim of going to India as a missionary. As well as being an outstanding academic, Lloyd was an accomplished linguist being fluent in English, French and German to which he later added Japanese, and possessed a reading knowledge of ancient Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Pali and Sanskrit.

However, his early missionary hopes were delayed when he married in 1877, Maria Rose Theresa Lloyd, and had a son and daughter in the space of two years as well as adopting a niece. He had already been ordained deacon by the Bishop of Chester in 1875 and priest in 1876. He served as curate of St. Barnabas’ Liverpool from 1875 to 1876, and of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge from 1877 to 1879. He was a Fellow and Dean of Peterhouse between 1877 and 1879. He then moved to become Rector of Norton, Bury St. Edmunds and Vicar of Hunston in Suffolk with an income of 600 pounds per annum. In his application to become a missionary he put down ‘desire for more work.’ It would mean a decided drop in salary. In 1884, at the age of thirty-two, he came out to Japan as an SPG missionary to work at St. Andrew’s Church in Shiba, Tokyo replacing William Ball Wright (1843–1912), who was retiring home on account of his wife’s health. Lloyd would remain in Japan until 1890 when his wife’s illness caused him to go to Toronto where he taught classics at the University of Trinity College before being appointed headmaster of TCS at Port Hope. Unfortunately his wife died during this time leaving him a widower with a son and two daughters. In 1893 he returned to Japan, marrying Mary von Fallot, the English widow of a German engineer who had worked for Kirin Beer and had died leaving her with a child. Lloyd remained in Japan for the rest of his life supporting himself and his family through teaching, writing and translating. His wife left Japan in search of better health in 1910 and