

Numismatics Society. Shortly before his death he was putting the finishing touches on *The English Short Cross Coinage, 1180–1247* (forthcoming in 2001), a book about mints and money in early twelfth- and thirteenth-century England, based on his coin collection.

While Jeff Mass devoted his energies primarily to teaching and scholarship, in 1995 he agreed to serve as executive secretary of the Inter-University Center for Advanced Language Studies at Yokohama, the most important advanced language training center for Western-language students in Japan. With his customary intensity and attention to detail, he helped see the Center through one of its recurring periods of financial difficulties. And shortly before his death, even though suffering from early symptoms of the illness that was to end his life, he traveled to Japan to oversee an important transition in the Center's leadership. He also performed service to the profession as a member of the advisory boards of the *Journal of Japanese Studies* and *Japan Forum*.

In recognition of his lifelong contribution to the development of medieval Japanese Studies in Europe, Jeff Mass was made an Honorary Fellow of Hertford College in March 2001. He received the news of this rare honor in the hospital shortly before his death. And in June 2001 his alma mater, Hamilton College, awarded him a posthumous honorary degree. His untimely death has deprived the field of Japanese medieval studies of an outstanding figure, but in his published work and in his students he has left a rich legacy.

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PRUDENCE ROYCE MYER (1920–2001)

At the age of eighty-one, my beloved friend, teacher, and mentor, Professor Prudence Myer, died peacefully at home in Santa Barbara, surrounded by friends and family. Hers is the story of a life fully, elegantly, and courageously lived.

Diagnosed at the age of three with polio, Dr. Myer walked with difficulty; activities taken for granted by most of us, like lugging books from the library or even crossing the street, must have been exhausting for her. Her boundless energy, fierce intelligence, and indomitable spirit made her eminently suited for the life of the mind. She received a B.A. from Oberlin College in 1943, got her M.A. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, five years later, and completed a doctorate at Harvard in 1956 under the legendary Benjamin Rowland. At that time degrees for women were issued under the aegis of Radcliffe College. Dr. Myer specialized in the art of India, then a field in its infancy. I remember her describing research conditions that I could not begin to envisage: at one point she was spooled up a cliff, canes and all, in a basket to the entrance to the Ajanta Caves. What a sight that must have been!

After receiving her Ph.D., Myer spent from 1958 to 1966 teaching at Tulane University. I first met her when she came to the University of California, Santa Barbara as an Associate Professor in 1966, some thirty-five years ago. I had just finished a B.A. in Asian Studies and wanted to go on for a Master's in Art, with a specialty in Asia. Although many in the Art Department at UCSB were suspicious of someone with so little training in Art History, Prue, with her characteristic open-mindedness, took me on as a dark horse. It is no exaggeration to say that I owe my entire career to her. She never coddled her students; in fact it took years to appreciate her courage and foresight in actually once giving me a B in a course for which I had worked very hard.

Prue's published output is small, but each article is a gem. Two of them, "The Great Temple at Bodh-Gaya" and "Again the Kanishka Casket" appeared in the *Art Bulletin*, one of the foremost juried venues for publication by art historians, and one, I might add, that has never been overly welcoming to Asianists. A third major piece, "Stupas and Stupa-shrines" was published in *Artibus Asiae*, another major peer-reviewed journal based in Switzerland. Her work is a model of the kind of lucid, meticulous scholarship that will never go out of date.

After retiring from teaching, she devoted herself intensively to the American Friends Service Committee. In addition to sitting on the Pacific Southwest Regional Executive Committee, she was a member of the AFSC Corporation from 1988 to 1994, while serving on its national Board of Directors from 1991 to 1994. In the words of one of her associates, "she was creative, generous, funny, and passionately committed to the Quaker values and programs of the AFSC." She has indeed been for many of us an inspiration as well as a model of compassion, decency, and generosity.

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