

Obituary

ROBERT HOPKINS BROWER (1923–88)

Robert H. Brower died on February 29, 1988, in Camden, Maine, where he had lived with his wife, Sally M. Brower, since taking early retirement in 1987. Gifted in languages, he proceeded a Harvard B.A. in French while studying Japanese in the Army Intelligence Program at the University of Michigan, where he later (1952) took his Ph.D. with a dissertation on the *Konjaku monogatari*. His Japanese was impeccable, and after serving in the Ninth Army, finally at its headquarters in Kyoto, he returned home, completed his academic work, and taught successively at Minnesota, Stanford, and Michigan.

In his early years at Stanford (1957 and 1958) we studied with Konishi Jin'ichi. The results included *Japanese Court Poetry* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1961), *Fujiwara Teika's Superior Poems of Our Time* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1967), and other publications. Thereafter, he devoted increasing attention to the "Shinkokin period," particularly to Fujiwara Teika and Gotoba In, with a number of characteristically exact studies on works of that era. He left behind an unfinished study of the *waka* and *renga* poet Shōtetsu.

All who knew him recognized his enthusiasm for *waka* and his high standards of accuracy. In his Stanford days, when I knew him best, he had a seemingly endless spring of humor punctuated by periods of profound reflection. He endured many serious crises of health with great force of character, and he has left a model of professional exactitude brightened for me by memories of wit and generosity in those ripe years he spent at Stanford. His other friends include the senior people in Japanese literary study, which has now lost one of its clearest lights.

Contributions in Brower's memory may be sent to the Robert Hopkins Brower Library Fund, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 108 Lane Hall, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1210.

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