
In Memoriam

Kiichi Jimbô (1912–1991)

Kiichi Jimbô enjoyed a diversified life as an academic. A professor in economics, he became internationally known as a scholar in Esperanto, an author of historical studies, and also as a student of names, publishing books and articles in all his activities. In addition, he served as a dean in the Tokyo College of Economics. Furthermore, his research allowed him to travel extensively in Europe and the United States.

The son of Kaku Jimbô, a linguist, he was born in Tokyo and was graduated in 1935 from Tokyo University, Faculty of Human Sciences. He married Fumi Goto in 1941. In 1958, he was awarded a professorship in the Tokyo College of Economics, later becoming Dean of the Evening Division of the college and soon thereafter Dean of the Tokyo Junior College of Economics. He retired in 1982 as Emeritus Professor of Tokyo, Keizai University.

A leader in onomastics in Japan, he published his first book in 1952, *A Study of Names – With Special Reference to the Theory of Ernst Schwartz*. This was followed by *On Bibliography Concerning Personal Names* (1956), *On Names Related to Habrin* (1960), four monographs titled *On the Name Related to the Hyksos* (1965, 1968, 1970, 1971), *On Names Related to the Execration Text and Brooklin Papyrus* (1966), *A Study of Names: Introduction and Study on the Ancient Orient* (1973), and *On the Name Shasu* (1980). During this time, he also published books on history and economics, especially *History of the Interaction of Eastern and Western Peoples* (1961, revised 1978), *Outlines of Western History* (1962), and *The Old Babylonian Merchant and Foreign Trade* (1983). In sum, he had eighteen major publications, plus many articles, reviews, and notes. All his works were first published in Japanese. Parenthetically, I wish to thank his brother, Tsunehiko Jimbô, for providing me with a bibliography of the major works.

Professor Kiichi Jimbô had a warm personality, friendly and sensitive to others. Artistically talented, he enjoyed observing the colors of nature. On one of his visits and on a very tight traveling schedule, he insisted on spending an afternoon in the Adirondacks to see the fall colors of the leaves which he said that he had heard so much about. Although I was

familiar with the Adirondacks and had accepted the fall beauties of nature somewhat routinely, he heightened my consciousness of the aesthetic experience by noting the colors, their contrasts, and their subtleties, making for me an occasion intimately rewarding and memorable.

He contributed much to the American Name Society, helpful in obtaining new members, sending articles that he had written, and making suggestions on changes that needed to be made in the magazine and in other matters. His letters were as pleasant as he was in person, and our correspondence lasted until just prior to his death.

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