

Miscellaneous Note

In memory of Professor Eizo Matsuki

Professor Eizo Matsuki passed away on 6 June, 2018. He had been a member of the Mediterranean Studies Group since its founding in 1973.

Prof. Matsuki was one of the leading Japanese scholars of Russian history in the Middle and early Modern Ages, and his study on the republican city-state of Novgorod, *Political World of Russian Medieval City: Group Images of City-state of Novgorod* (in Japanese, Sairyu-sha, 2002), was particularly well received.

One of the characteristics of Prof. Matsuki's research on Russian history was a trans-regional perspective that sought to position the Russian world in relation to its surrounding worlds. Therefore, in his research he demonstrated how the Black Sea / Mediterranean world and the steppe zone of Tatars greatly influenced the development of Russian society.

Prof. Matsuki's interest in analyzing Russian society in relation to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean world was cultivated through the educational environment at Hitotsubashi University, where he spent his undergraduate and graduate years and participated in the Mediterranean Studies Group.

This experience culminated in his last work, *Russia and the Black Sea / Mediterranean World: History of Exchange of People and Culture* (in Japanese, Fuukou-sha, 2018). In fact, the framework for this book was the research results published on the basis of the Mediterranean Studies Group (see Index to Volumes of Transactions of the Mediterranean Studies Group at Hitotsubashi University).

Prof. Matsuki's illness prevented him from publishing his last book, but it was completed with the cooperation of his many Russian research colleagues. Although it is in Japanese, this book contains a short biography of Prof. Matsuki and a list of his major achievements.

Finally, once again, the Mediterranean Studies Group would like to thank Prof. Matsuki for his many years of dedicated service. His soul will always be a part of the Studies Group.

March. 2021

The Mediterranean Studies Group
Hitotsubashi University

Memories of the late Prof. Eizo Matsuki

I am 8 years younger than Prof. Matsuki. My relationship with Prof. Matsuki is through the first 20 years of the Mediterranean Studies Group. My impression of Prof. Matsuki is that he was a modest gentleman. He sometimes said something that seemed to be criticism,

but when Prof. Matsuki said it, it didn't sound like criticism at all.

I will never forget his reaction when I spoke to him at a meeting in memory of the late Professor Kinichi Watanabe, one of the founding fathers of our Studies Group. I said: "In the early days of the Studies Group, I was still a graduate student, so I was afraid of the senior members of the Studies Group, and I never talked during its research meetings". However, Prof. Matsuki immediately replied, "No, you were noisy from the beginning." The fact is different!

Among the multi-talented members of the Studies Group, Prof. Matsuki was always smiling. That personality is also reflected in his studies. Eizo Matsuki, *Russia and the Black Sea / Mediterranean World: History of Exchange of People and Culture* (in Japanese, Fuukou-sha, 2018) is the last work published by Prof. Matsuki in cooperation with his many colleagues in Russian research. I reread it and confirmed my opinion again.

Prof. Matsuki aimed for a historical narrative that eliminated political ideology as much as possible. He started out as a socio-economic historian, but as his research deepened, he seemed to move towards interdisciplinary research that incorporated political and cultural history. The text of his works is plain. It seemed fun when discussing the republican city-state of Novgorod rather than the tyrannical Grand Duchy of Moscow.

It is very telling that the title of Prof. Matsuki's last work was "Russia and the Black Sea / Mediterranean World". In a sense, Prof. Matsuki represented the philosophy of our Studies Group. That is because the Mediterranean Studies Group started from criticism of nationalist historical narratives. The Mediterranean world at the Studies Group meant a place of exchange, including not only the world around the Mediterranean in the narrow sense, but also the Slavic world that connected to the Mediterranean via the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

I specialize in the Islamic world, which was a big slave market. Every time I see the word "slave" in Prof. Matsuki's works, I remember a long time ago when I proposed to him. "Your research on slavery is very interesting. Will you work with me?". Prof. Matsuki smilingly said, "I'm not doing much." For me, the Mediterranean Studies Group was a sophisticated scholars' salon. Another founding member has died again. It is lonely.

Hiroshi Kato

(Professor Emeritus, Hitotsubashi University)



In memory of Professor Maria Pia Pedani

Professor Maria Pia Pedani passed away on 1 March, 2019. We, the Mediterranean Studies Group at Hitotsubashi University, deeply appreciate her support and contributions to the Studies Group. Her death is a big loss to us.

Our academic and friendly collaboration has been in intimate connection since 2000, when the Studies Group began a workshop series in Malta for open discussion about the Mediterranean world. However, she had been well known before that in the world of Italian studies in Japan. She regularly hosted young Japanese researchers and provided facilities for their research. Some young Japanese researchers who visited Prof. Pedani in those days have become the core members of our Studies Group.

She was not a nominal, but a real member of the Studies Group. She contributed an excellent article to our journal, *Mediterranean World*. We heard that she did not like air travel, so we met together only twice in the workshops in Venice and Trieste. Her and her friend's, Michela Dal Borgo, hospitality for organizing the workshop in Venice was so impressive that even now we still feel happy remembering the luxurious time in Venice, including the lunch in the workshop that was cooked by her husband, Mr. Fabris, and the digestif in the comfortable room of her house after dinner. We would like to send Prof. Pedani the following common Japanese saying when a friend passes away: "Thank you for your hard work. Please take a rest slowly."

We are so honored to have known her. She was truly a great scholar as well as a warmhearted mentor. We will all miss her.

March, 2021

The Mediterranean Studies Group
Hitotsubashi University

My Memory of Maria Pia Pedani

"Maria Pia is no longer with us." What grievous news it was.

I was first introduced to Maria Pia by our close mutual friend Michela Dal Borgo with whom I studied in ASV forty years ago. Maria Pia and her partner Antonio received me, a foreign researcher, with great kindness and grace.

I remember well one day they invited me to dinner at their home. A few hours before the time, I happened upon Maria Pia and Antonio carrying heavy sacks of foods (probably for the dinner). I can't forget this pleasant scene – what a splendid and warm couple.

Maria Pia and Antonio generously supported not only me but also the Mediterranean Studies Group – Hitotsubashi University (Tokyo) to which I belong. Maria Pia was a dedicated scholar, yet she always had time to help foreign academic circles.

Once, though, as a member of another Japanese study circle, I asked Maria Pia to attend an international symposium to be held in Tokyo, and she declined. However it was not for

lack of interest. She confessed to me her dislike, in fact fear, of long flights! She was truly a delightful person.

Maria Pia is no longer with us, but she is still vividly alive within us.

Hiromi SAITO
(Emeritus Professor - Shinshu University, Japan)

Dear Maria Pia,

I remember well our first meeting at Archivio di Stato di Venezia in June 1996 when I couldn't speak Italian well and I didn't know how to request the document (*Il libro dei conti di Giacomo Badoer*) for my research. You advised and helped me a lot since then. I was one of your first University students when you began your career at Ca' Foscari in 1999. You gave us an earnest lecture on the History of the Islamic World. Your research based on a wealthy knowledge of Venetian and Ottoman primary sources should continue to be an important lighthouse in Venetian-Ottoman historical study.

You accepted warmly me and my family, especially my little son, in your home with Toni, Cecilia and Camilla. For my son, Campo Santa Margherita in Venice is "the square with Maria Pia and Toni's house". I'll truly miss you very much. I wish we could have dinner together with our friends again and I could consult you a lot. I'll never forget your excellent works as well as all your gentleness and kindness that you gave me and to scholars and to younger students.

With love and sincere gratitude,

Miki IIDA
(Senshu University, Japan)

