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NOTES

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Professor Shigetake Yaginuma died on July 29th, 2008¹. He had at the time been completing his translation of Plutarch's *Lives* into Japanese, which were being published by the Kyoto University Press². It was not possible to get more information on his life from his university or family. Instead the texts, slightly corrected, of the two last letters he wrote and one from his son after his death, are printed here.

First Letter

2-15-1-307 Fujigaoka
Fujisawa-Shi
251-0004 Japan
5 June 2007

Dear Dr. Brenk,

May I tell you that I am sending you the first volume of my Plutarch translation, which is being published by

the Kyoto University Press, as soon as it comes out (perhaps at the end of this month)? I am afraid this translation will be of no use to you, but please accept it, if only for curiosity, to see what Plutarch looks like when put into Japanese and bound in the Japanese style. Please look at the sample enclosed. Passages are printed vertically from right to left.

I used Ziegler's text in the Teubner, but for the arrangement of the *Lives*, I followed Flacelière in the Budé edition.

The second volume will appear at the end of the year; after that, four volumes are scheduled to appear in four years. Therefore, I will be 85 years old, when all the volumes are published. I must not fall ill, or die, before that. So I have decided to devote myself wholly to the Plutarch translation, giving up all kinds of research work and ceasing to look into journals.

I believe translations are for the general reader (translations in the Loeb and Budé are not for the general reader); so I have tried to make my "introduction" and "notes" not look scholarly (if they do, I am afraid readers will be prevented from the enjoyment of reading Plutarch).

¹ A notice can be found in *Gnomon* 81, 479, (mistakenly giving the date as July 16th).

² Yaginuma's translation of the Japanese title is: *Ploutarchos. Lives. Translated by Shigetake Yaginuma. Classical Library. Greek.*

I also believe that Plutarch writes—just as he was in real life—as an elder man talking to younger people at table. (He does so especially in the essays in the *Moralia*, but in the *Lives*, too, though to a lesser degree).

杉江圭男
S. YAQINUMA

Second Letter

2-15-1-307 Fujigaoka
Fujisawa-Shi
251-0004 Japan
July, 20 2008

Dear Dr. Brenk,

Thank you very much for your letter and the article by Dr. Watanabe,

“Greece and Rome in the Japanese Academia and Popular Literature”.³ Do you know I myself contributed “A Brief History of Classical Studies in Japan”, in 1992 for issue no. 2 of *Kleos. Estemporaneo di Studi e Testi sulla Fortuna dell’Antico* (Bari)?⁴ I believe this will contribute to making Dr. Watanabe’s article more interesting.

Two months ago I was suddenly tired and felt that I had lost both my physical and mental strength. I was told that this was “refractory anemia” caused by the atomic radiation I encountered at Hiroshima when I was eighteen years old. (I was told that “refractory” could mean “not yielding to any treatment”.) Can you believe that a bomb could cause such a disease more than sixty years

³ AKIHIKO WATANABE, “Classica Japonica: Greece and Rome in the Japanese Academia and Popular Literature”, *Amphora*, 7.1 (2008) 6 and 10. This article can be accessed on line through the Amphora website: <http://www.apaclassics.org/outreach/amphora/mission%20statement.html>.

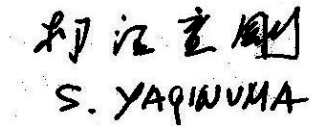
⁴ Actually in 1997: “A Brief History of Classical Studies in Japan”, *Kleos*, 2 (1997) 311-318. Besides this article, the following in English are listed in *L’Année Philologique*: “God and Man in Ancient Greece. A Note on Hesiod and Others”, *Journal of Classical Studies*, 1 (1953) 46-52. “Prof. Palmer’s Remarks on the Truth about Knossos”, *Journal of Classical Studies*, 9 (1961) 72-78. “Observations on the Legend of the Rape of Helen by Theseus”, *Journal of Classical Studies*, 10 (1962) 49-61. “Greek Poetry in the Italian Renaissance”, *Annuario dell’Istituto Giapponese di Cultura in Roma* 4, (1966-1967) 121-135. “Some Remarks on the Trimeter of Tragedy”, *Journal of Classical Studies* 19, (1971) 31-42. “Thucydides 6.100”, in E. M. Craik (ed.), “*Owls to Athens*”. *Essays on Classical Subjects Presented to Sir Kenneth Dover*, Oxford, 1990, pp. 281-285. “Plutarch’s Language and Style”, *ANRW* II. 33.6, (1992) 4726-4742. “Did Thucydides Write for Readers or Hearers?”, in L. Ayres & I. G. Kidd (eds.), *The Passionate Intellect. Essays on the Transformation of Classical Traditions* (Rutgers University Studies in Classical Humanities 7), New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1995, pp. 131-142.

later? But it did. Now I cannot walk more than 50 meters, even with the aid of a cane, and every ten days I receive blood transfusions as the only treatment.

So, very regrettably, I had to give up my translation of the whole corpus of Plutarch's *Lives*. (I finished volumes 1-3 out of 6 volumes).

I do hope I can write a brighter letter next time!

Sincerely yours,



S. YAQINUMA

Letter from Yutaka Yaginuma

Dear Mr. Frederick Brenk,

I am Yutaka Yaginuma, writing to you on behalf of my father, Shigetake, to express to you his deepest gratitude during his life. I regret to inform you that my father passed away on the 29th of July at 15:15 Japanese Standard Time. A brain hemorrhage brought on by acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) was the immediate cause of his demise. He looked quite peaceful in his last sleep.

My father was exposed to the residual radiation at Hiroshima in 1945, when he entered the contaminated ground-zero area of an atomic bomb the very day of the catastrophe, and

stayed there for a week to rescue survivors and recover the corpses of the victims. That was the time when a bomb with a long fuse was set off in him and started its quiet countdown. Our family, including my father himself, had not in the least imagined that any effect would appear more than sixty years after the exposure to radiation. People may not be surprised to hear that an 81-year-old man died of some "disease," but we believe that he was untimely killed.

We received your card with your best wishes to my father⁵. Our family, i.e., my mother, Mitsue, my sister, Chie, and I thank you most sincerely for your thoughtfulness and for your friendship with my father.

Best wishes to you!

Yutaka Yaginuma

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 †**Professeur Daniel Babut**
(1929-2009)

Daniel Babut nous a quittés le 13 février 2009, au lendemain de son quatre-vingtième anniversaire. Il n'est guère nécessaire de rappeler aux membres de l'International Plutarch Society tout ce que les études plutarquiennes lui

⁵ He celebrated his eightieth birthday in December of 2006 and received an award from the Japanese government for his work in classical philology.