

Pacific Affairs

of the last few years. I am happy to learn that it is from a new Institute of Pacific and Asian Studies at the most westerly of Canada's universities, looking out as it does to the broad Pacific—that *Pacific Affairs* will in future be published. In the years ahead, I feel sure that this distinguished periodical will continue to make a valuable contribution to the knowledge and understanding of the problems of an area which is of vital concern to Canadians.

Ottawa, December 1960

A Word of Welcome

N. A. M. MacKenzie

President, University of British Columbia

I AM VERY HAPPY to welcome *Pacific Affairs* to this University. It is an excellent journal performing a valuable and badly needed service, especially to the English-speaking world, in an area about which Canadians know far too little.

On the basis of my own experience, which has included participation in two world wars and intervening periods devoted to study and work in the field of international relations, I long ago reached the conclusion that, if human beings are to survive and to live in some degree of peace and security, they must learn more about each other and about each other's countries. During the Second World War, I became convinced that, regardless of its outcome, the U.S.S.R., China, Japan (and, for that matter, the whole of Asia) would be increasingly important in world affairs and that Canadians should therefore do everything possible to ensure that a growing number of their countrymen were informed about these countries and these peoples, and that some of them at least acquired specialized and expert knowledge of them.

With this in mind when I came to the University of British Columbia in 1944, I determined, as far as it was physically possible, to promote both Slavonic and Asian studies here and to provide the people of British Columbia and other Canadians with rather special opportunities to pursue studies in these fields. Fortunately, in the field of Slavonic studies we were able, almost immediately, to persuade two outstanding scholars, Dr. James St. Clair-Sobell (a graduate of Melbourne, Cambridge and Graz), an Australian serving with the Royal Air Force, and Dr. William Rose, a very distinguished Canadian (then head of the School of Slavonic Studies at the University of London),

A Word of Welcome

to join our staff. They have been responsible for building up here one of the largest and, I believe, one of the best departments of Slavonic studies in Canada, and one which bears comparison with others throughout the English-speaking world.

Asian studies has been a more difficult matter and our progress in that field has been much slower than in Slavonic studies. From the outset we wanted to find a head of the department who would be a Canadian or, failing that, one trained in the British traditions. We took this attitude not because we are chauvinists or ignorant of the competence and fine qualities of the Chinese, the Japanese, the American and other scholars who work in these fields. We did feel that, in serving the Canadian community, a scholar with a Canadian background or one trained in the British traditions would more quickly and more fully understand our Canadian problems as far as the Pacific area was concerned and fit in more readily with the Canadian scheme of things.

However, because of the urgency of getting on with this field of studies, we decided a decade ago to make a beginning under the leadership of Dean F. H. Soward, Head of our Department of History and Director of International Studies at the University. He, assisted by an appropriate committee, has assembled a number of able and productive scholars and teachers in both the Chinese and the Japanese areas. In 1960, to our regret, we lost Professor Ronald Dore, our leading Japanese scholar; he has gone to the University of London.

But the obvious need for a fulltime head of a department of Asian studies remained. When we learned that Mr. William L. Holland (a New Zealander, educated in New Zealand, Cambridge and Kiel), who has had an unusual and unique experience in the affairs of the Pacific basin and of Asia, might be available at the beginning of this year, we approached him and persuaded him, much to our satisfaction, to join our staff as Head of the Department of Asian Studies.

With the assistance of Mr. Holland and his associates, and as resources become available, we hope to expand our Asian studies to ensure that a larger number of our young people learn something about our important neighbors across the Pacific. We hope too that a certain number of them will become experts in Asian history and economic development, as well as Asian languages and cultures.

We have already acquired some outstanding library collections on both China and Japan, thanks to the generous assistance of good friends in British Columbia and elsewhere. The library of the International Secretariat of the Institute of Pacific Relations, which Mr. Holland brings with him, will add materially to the value and importance of our collections.

We are also taking over and have agreed to continue the publication of *Pacific Affairs* as one of our University journals. This quarterly, during the

Pacific Affairs

thirty-three years of its existence, has become the best of its kind in the English language. It has provided outstanding service to scholars as well as to government and private citizens in providing information on countries bordering on the Pacific or having interests therein. We hope that, under the direction of Mr. Holland and his editorial associate, Miss Mary F. Healy, and with the continued support of former contributors, subscribers and friends, it will continue to serve all of those interested in the countries of Asia and of the Pacific.

The Institute of Pacific Relations itself, which was made up of thirteen private national organizations concerned with the study and discussion of international affairs, will unfortunately no longer carry on its work of promoting and supporting research and publication, and of convening frequent non-official conferences of experts to discuss the problems of Asia and the Pacific area. The national groups which were represented in the Pacific Council of the I.P.R. included the Royal Institute of International Affairs, the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, and similar bodies in Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Japan, and Southeast Asia, as well as France and the Netherlands. They will continue to carry on their own work. Nevertheless, the disappearance of the I.P.R. as an international organization leaves a serious gap in this area.

We in British Columbia and at this University, because we face the Pacific and have a special interest in and responsibility for work in this part of the world, hope that we may in due course stimulate a programme, in conjunction with all these national groups (including our American friends), which will result in further meetings of their representatives who will continue the study and discussion of the affairs of the Asian and Pacific countries. In the meantime, our Department of Asian Studies, directly and through participation in the work of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, and in co-operation with other universities in Canada, particularly the University of Toronto, as well as our National Commission for Unesco, will carry on some of this work. In this programme *Pacific Affairs* has a major role and it will, I am sure, not only add to the prestige of the University of British Columbia and to Canada but will also provide an appropriate agency to keep together those persons and organizations in many countries who are interested in the affairs of Asia and of the Pacific.

Vancouver, January 7, 1961