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In Memoriam

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IN MEMORIAM

HISAYO MURAKAMI

Mrs. Hisayo Murakami, Program Manager of the Gordon W. Prange Collection at the University of Maryland Libraries, died June 10, 1997, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore where she had undergone surgery several days earlier. She was 68.

The Prange Collection of 1.7 million magazines, newspapers, books, and other publications is the world's most comprehensive collection of Japanese language publications from the Allied Occupation of Japan. Mrs. Murakami joined the University of Maryland in 1986 and had been Manager of the Prange Collection since 1994. Under her management giant strides were taken to preserve these publications, most of which were printed on poor quality paper and deteriorating rapidly. Mrs. Murakami played a key role in the University receiving preservation grants from the National Diet Library of Japan and the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation for microfilming the magazines and newspapers in the collection.

Mrs. Murakami's writings included two outlines and a catalog in Japanese. She also contributed articles to the *Monthly News* of the Japan Publishers Organization.

(Excerpted from the obituary in *Library Issues*, the newsletter of the Friends of the Library, University of Maryland, College Park, Libraries)

J. D. PEARSON

J. D. Pearson, the most influential librarian in Oriental and African studies ever known in Britain, died August 1, 1997 at the age of 85.

James Douglas Pearson was born December 11, 1911. He left school at the age of 16 and secured a post as a book-fetcher in the Cambridge University Library. Inspired by the example of the librarian, A. F. Schofield, he developed a passion for languages. He studied Hebrew from 1932 to 1936, when he returned to the University Library as an Assistant in the Oriental Section. Following military service in World War II, he became Assistant Under-Librarian of the Cambridge University Library. Appointed Librarian at the School of Oriental and African Studies of London University in 1950, when it was just being re-assembled after its dispersal during World War II, he applied himself energetically to securing increased staff and money to equip the library to serve the teaching and research needs of the school. When he gave up the librarianship 22 years later the library was the most important of its kind in Europe.

Professor Pearson was the founding Chairman of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians. His principal publication is *Index-Islamicus, 1906-1955* (1958), a catalogue of

periodical articles on Islamic subjects, continued in succeeding cumulations and issues and regularly cited as "Pearson." Other works include *Oriental Manuscript Collections in the Libraries of Great Britain and Ireland* (1954), *Oriental Manuscripts in Europe and North America: a Survey* (1971), *A Bibliography of Pre-Islamic Persia* (1975), *South Asian Bibliography: a Handbook* (1970), and *Oriental and Asian Bibliography: an Introduction with Some Reference to Africa* (1966), the first textbook of its kind published. In 1992 he was awarded the Walford Prize for lifelong achievement in bibliography.

(From the obituary in *The Independent*, Saturday August 9, 1997)