IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS H. MENDEL, JR.

With the death of Professor Douglas Mendel on May 14, 1978, the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee lost a valued colleague and the profession lost an outstanding scholar of Far Eastern politics. Originally from New York, Douglas Mendel took his Bachelors of Arts degree, magna cum laude, at Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1942. He then entered upon a tour of duty with the Armed Services that was to influence greatly his professional career. In 1944, he graduated from the US Navy Japanese language school at Boulder, Colorado, and served as an interpreter-translator-interrogator in the Pacific theater until August, 1945. Subsequently, he worked as a civilian employee for the US War Department in Korea, and then returned to the Navy as a reserve officer in the language translation field. In 1949, he began graduate work at the University of Michigan and received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1955. Prior to his arrival at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1961, he was an assistant professor at the University of California-Los Angeles.

Utilizing his language skills and drawing upon extensive experience in the Far East, Professor Mendel immediately launched a scholarly career and soon established a distinguished record of research and publication. His first major article was published in the American Political Science Review in 1954 and his first book, The Japanese People and Foreign Policy, was published by the University of California Press in 1960. A Japanese edition of this volume was translated by Professor Nakamura Kikuo and published by the Jiji Press in 1963. Later, Professor Mendel expanded the scope of his scholarly interest and wrote a more comprehensive book on international relations entitled American Foreign...
Policy in a Polycentric World, 1968. He also became much concerned about the plight of the native Formosans and dealt sensitively with their problems in The Politics of Formosan Nationalism, a book that was nominated for the 1970 National Book Awards. Professor Mendel was frequently invited to contribute chapters in volumes edited by other scholars relating to Japan and the Far East. Among them are "Japan as Case Study for Developing Nations," in Edmund R. Skrzypczak's Japan's Modern Century, 1970; "Formosan Nationalism in Crisis" in Yung-hwan Jo's Taiwan's Future, 1974; and "Japanese Public Views of Defense," in James Buck's Japan's Modern Military System, 1975. However, the greatest thrust of his scholarship is reflected in numerous articles published in such learned journals as the American Scholar, American Political Science Review, Far Eastern Quarterly, Western Political Quarterly, Public Opinion Quarterly and Pacific Affairs.

As a recipient of many scholarly grants, Professor Mendel travelled extensively in the Far East and spent several years in Japan. He became sensitized to the subtleties of Japanese social life and had a keen appreciation of Japanese culture. A particular research interest of his was a study of the changing attitudes of the Japanese as they underwent intense modernization in the post war period. This interest was facilitated for several years by an association with the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at Williams College. On three different occasions, 1966, 1969 and 1970, Douglas Mendel was a Visiting Professor at Sophia University in Tokyo; he was a Fulbright senior lecturer at Tunghai University in the Republic of China during 1961-62; and he was a Visiting lecturer of Asian studies at the University of Melbourne in the Fall of 1962.
Although he had suffered considerable ill health during the past year, friends, colleagues and students of Professor Mendel were not prepared for his untimely death.

David Buck
Wilder Crane
Donald Shea
Marvin Summers, Chairman
Mark Tessler