In Memoriam

With profound regret the International Institute for the Study of Religions announces the death of its first two directors, the Rev. Dr. William P. Woodard, Director from 1956 to 1966, and Fr. Wilhelm Schiffer, S. J., Director from 1966 to 1972. Fr. Schiffer reportedly died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Bonn, West Germany on November 17, 1972 at the age of 58, Dr. Woodard of pneumonia following a stroke in Pomona, California on February 19, 1973 at the age of 76.

Both men made noteworthy contributions during their many years of service as Christian missionaries in Japan. We shall miss them deeply.
William P. Woodard

September 10, 1896  Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan
1918  B. A., Kalamazoo College
1921  B. D., Union Theological Seminary, New York. First came to Japan
1924–41  Missionary work in Hokkaido, Osaka, Tokyo, China, and Korea
1929  M. A., University of Chicago
1941  Left Japan
1945  Returned to Japan with the Occupation as an interpreter
1946–48  Military service with the Religions Research Unit, Analysis and Research Division, Civil Information and Education Section, SCAP
1948–52  Chief of the Special Projects and Research Branch of the Religions and Cultural Resources Division, Civil Information and Education Section, SCAP
1956–66  Missionary appointment as Research Director of the International Institute for the Study of Religions
1960–66  Editor of Contemporary Religions in Japan
1961  D. D., Kalamazoo College
1966–72  Lecturer in Japanese religions at Claremont Graduate School
1972  Published The Allied Occupation of Japan 1945–1952 and Japanese Religions
February 19, 1973  Died in Pomona Valley Community Hospital, Pomona, California
William P. Woodard
1896-1973
Wilhelm Schiffer

July 17, 1914  Born in rural community near Stolberg, Germany
1933  Became a novice in the Society of Jesus
1935–36  Studied at Jesuit philosophical academy, Pullach
1936–38  Philosophical study at Sophia University, Tokyo
1938–40  Assisted in editing Monumenta Nipponica
1940–44  Theological study at Jesuit seminary in Shanghai
1942  Ordained as a priest
1944–47  Taught at Maryknoll Academy, Dairen
1947  Returned to Sophia University, Tokyo to teach Oriental philosophy and religions
1949–50  Spiritual training at Nagatsuka near Hiroshima
1950  Appointed professor of religion, philosophy, and Oriental philosophy at Sophia University
1951  Became editor of Monumenta Nipponica
1965, 1966  President of the Asiatic Society of Japan
1966–72  Research Director of the International Institute for the Study of Religions and editor of Contemporary Religions in Japan
1968  Co-translated, with Chidō Takeda, Nikkyō Niwano’s Travel to Infinity
1970  Co-translated, with Kōjirō Miyasaka and Howard B. Gilman, Nikkyō Niwano’s The Lotus Sutra: Life and Soul of Buddhism
November 17, 1972  Died in Marien Hospital, Bonn, West Germany
Wilhelm Schiffer
1914–1972