IN MEMORIAM

Professor V. N. Goregliad
1932—2002

The outstanding Russian scholar, specialist in Japanese studies, Vladislav Nikanorovich Goregliad, died on 3 June 2002. An expert in manuscripts and a master of Japanese cursive writing, he was also a scholar of encyclopaedic learning and the author of numerous publications and monographs that became classics of Oriental studies already during his lifetime. A marvellous translator, he bequeathed to us brilliant translations of classical Japanese literature. He spent the whole of his academic career at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies where he worked for a half-century, combining in recent years the position of Head of the Institute's Far Eastern Department with his duties as Head of the Chair of Japanese philology at St. Petersburg University. A graduate of the same Chair of Japanese philology at the then Leningrad University in 1956, he was accepted into the Institute of Oriental Studies to conduct an inventory of the Japanese manuscript and xylograph collection. This seemingly routine task led to the appearance of six annotated catalogues of the Institute's manuscript collection — “A Description of Japanese Manuscripts, Xylographs, and Old-Print Books”. They came out between 1963 and 1971 and were compiled in collaboration with O. P. Petrova, G. G. Ivanova, and Z. Ia. Khanin. Somewhat earlier, in 1961, there appeared a facsimile edition of the eighth quire of the manuscript Kankai ibun (“Remarkable Facts about the Seas Surrounding [the Earth]”), which is held at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. The facsimile edition was the young scholar's first work. By strange coincidence, V. N. Goregliad's last, unfinished book was a full translation and commentary on the same manuscript (including a comparison of various copies).

Beginning in 1962, V. N. Goregliad worked for several months each year as a translator on Japanese fishery protection vessels to master his Japanese. Perhaps this experience served to spark his interest in the fate of the shipwrecked Japanese sailors whom fate cast ashore in Russia. He wrote a great deal about early Russo-Japanese contacts. One of his last publications was a short brochure entitled “Japanese Sailors in Russia in the Edo Period”. It was published in Japan (in Japanese) in 2001. V. N. Goregliad's main field of research was the study of Japan's classical literature, poetics, Japanese Buddhism, and manuscripts. After defending his PhD thesis “Tsuzurezusegusa, an Outstanding Example of Japanese 'Essayistic Literature'” in 1965, he published a brilliant translation of “Notes from Boredom” by the monk Kenko-hoshi, at the same time continu-