

OBITUARY



PROF. SHOSHIRO HANZAWA
(1896-1983)

By the sad demise of Prof. Shoshiro Hanzawa, the world has lost an eminent geoscientist, a philosopher and guide. Prof. Hanzawa expired on the 24th March, 1983 at Sendai, Japan. He was a foreign fellow of the Society and was elected in 1963.

Professor Shoshiro Hanzawa was born in Sendai on September 1, 1896 as the fourth son of a well-known eye specialist, Dr. Shosaku Hanzawa. After receiving his early education in Sendai, he majored in Geology and Paleontology from the Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University in 1921. After graduation he was appointed Research Associate in that institution, where he studied Micropaleontology.

During the tenure of 12 years as Research Associate, Hanzawa carried out extensive field work covering many parts of the Japanese islands and oceanographic investigations in the southwest North Pacific. His first observations on the coral reefs of Micronesia were initiated at this time. During these years he was very active in describing the Neogene foraminifera of Japan.

In 1933 he was appointed Lecturer in the same institution. In 1938 Hanzawa received the degree of Doctor of Science from the Ministry of Education of the Japanese Government in recognition of his excellent contributions on the Geology of the Ryukyu islands and on the Tertiary larger foraminifera from Japan and the Indo-Pacific region. From 1936 to 1938 Hanzawa travelled widely abroad and during this period in the United States, he came under the significant influence of J. A. Cushman, in the Cushman Laboratory for foraminiferal Research in Sherborn, Massachusetts, C. O. Dunbar in the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University and T. W. Vaughan in the U. S. National Museum, Washington. On his return to Japan he was appointed Japanese delegate to the 17th International Geological Congress held in Moscow.

Hanzawa was appointed Professor of Historical Geology in 1941 at the Tohoku University, Sendai, a position he held until his resignation in March, 1960.

Hanzawa's researches covered a wide range of subjects in Micropaleontology, stratigraphy and geomorphology. His works were mainly on the larger foraminifera, but he also published many papers on the Carboniferous and Permian fusulinids and Jurassic and Cretaceous larger foraminifera. His contributions on the Japanese Paleozoic and Mesozoic foraminifera have stimulated many investigators now active in Japan.

His stratigraphic works including geomorphological studies were on the Tertiary and Quarternary deposits of the Ryukyu islands, Taiwan, Micronesia and the Bonin islands.

Hanzawa was also deeply interested in problems related to oceanography. He participated in the cruises of the Surveyor ships *S. S. Manshu* and *S. S. Koshu*. These oceanographic observations made chiefly in the southwest North Pacific Ocean on the bottom sediments obtained at that time were published in the Records of Oceanographic works in Japan and in contributions from the Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University, Japan.

From his extensive field work covering larger parts of Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, Hokkaido, Sado, Awaji, South Saghalin, Ryukyu islands, Ogasawara islands, Taiwan, Micronesia, Manchuria and Korea, Hanzawa became deeply interested in the tectogeology of Japan and the long experience lead to his valuable interpretations.

To all persons acquainted with him he was known as an active and energetic man, spending his holidays and vacations in the field or in the laboratory. He spent much time in guiding young men in field and laboratory work. He was always ready to discuss problems no matter how busy he was, and took deep interest in new ideas and always had time to do things concerned with geology. His arguments were always based on his personal field and/or laboratory evidences and when new views were presented, he visited those areas to observe the evidence before starting discussions.

His contributions ranging from Paleozoic larger foraminifera to Recent sediments brought Hanzawa very close to geologists of all ages, all over the world.

Being a distinguished paleontologist and a well-known geologist, his name has been given to genera and species of many different phyla of marine animals, such as Foraminifera, Anthozoa, Bryozoa, Brachiopoda, Gastropoda and Pelecypoda, as well as Plantae.

We deeply mourn the death of Professor Hanzawa.

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