

Nick Dinos
Engineering
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I had the opportunity to be part of the memorial service for the elder Miura (founder of Chubu Institute, now University) on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of his death. This service was held in a large public hall and was attended by a few thousand people. This Japanese experience was quite new to me and very moving and interesting. Gave me a sense of the man and his productive life. When the formal proceedings were over, I was invited to the bus that was taking the honored guests to the small village not far away, which was Mr. Miura's birthplace.

There at the grave site an additional formal ceremony was held. I was asked if I wished to participate. I saw that refusing the offer would be insulting so I became one of the mourners, one after another, who stood at the head of the grave and offered prayers. I observed, very carefully, the people who preceded me, and aped their actions, clapping, bowing and praying. I apparently did well enough because the President, Dr. Yamada, was very kind. I apologized for using Christian prayers for his father since I didn't know how to pray in Japanese. He said that was fine, because he himself was Catholic, having gone to Nan Zan University, a Catholic school. It was then that I also learned that his original name was, of course, Miura, but he adopted his mother's family. That explained why the Vice President was named Miura, but was still his birth brother.

Dr. Yamada and Mr. Miura were very diligent in making sure I was treated to events, such as the opening of the new Center a few miles away for social occasions. I was guest of honor and spent time with such people as the Vice President of Sony. Chubu was trying hard to become a well known and national school, and apparently succeeded. (Everyone at this ceremony and dinner received a very large container of lovely objects, including a Canon personal calculator. This was early in the days of small hand held calculators. My wife, to this day, uses that calculator 33 years later.)

I was treated to visits to the shrines and temples, especially the one in Nagoya, and the No theater performances. Also went down the Ise Peninsula to the national shrine there.

They also took me for a weekend to Kyoto to visit the old shrines and temples there. They seemed to be anxious for me to have a good opinion of Japan, and that was certainly the result.

I insisted on doing something to earn my keep, so I gave a 2 hour lecture on Chemical Reaction Engineering every Wednesday afternoon. I enjoyed it - don't know what the students thought. There were 150 students—a third spoke English, a third could read and write it, and the last third had no clue, but they all sat and listened.