



**SHUJI TAIRA**  
1920-1978

On Monday, October 23, 1978, Kyoto University lost an outstanding teacher and scholar, and we all lost a dear and respected friend. With surprising suddenness, Professor Taira passed away due to a heart attack in the presence of his wife, Hirono Taira, and his sons and daughter.

Dr. Taira was born on October 22, 1920 in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture. He received a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Kyoto University in 1943 and the Doctorate of Engineering from the same University in 1952. He started his academic career at Kyoto University in 1946, and devoted his life to teaching, writing and conducting research here for thirty-three years. In the meantime, he spent two years from 1954 to 1956 at the University of Illinois, as a visiting professor.

Professor Taira was especially noted for his excellence as a researcher and leader of research workers in the fields of high temperature studies and X-ray diffraction studies of the mechanical behavior of materials. In 1971, he obtained the Academy Award from the Japanese Academy of Sciences, an annual award for outstanding achievement and contribution to science, for his research on the strength and fracture of metallic materials. He also received the Society Award once from the Japan Society of

Mechanical Engineers and twice from the Society of Materials Science, Japan. He wrote and edited fifteen books: seven are on the mechanical behavior of materials at elevated temperatures and three on X-ray diffraction studies, and five are the textbooks for undergraduate students related to the strength of materials.

He was a man of indomitable energy and will. The success of the First International Conference on Mechanical Behavior of Materials in Kyoto, 1971, owed greatly to his earnest devotion as the chief advocator. In parallel with his continuous care and interest towards the succeeding ICMs, he showed the indefatigable exertion in reorganizing Engineering Departments in Kyoto University. He enjoyed talking with his students about their studies and was always concerned with their welfare. As he taught us so well, he continued to teach students in the classroom until two days before his last day. He loved his family, students and us. It falls to us to reach toward the example of excellence and humanity set by this gentleman.

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
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Dr. Shuji Taira, Professor of the Faculty of Engineering of Kyoto University, died of cardiac arrest at his home on October 23, 1978, at the age of 58.

Professor Taira, an Associate Editor of the *JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY*, graduated from Kyoto University and became a world-recognized authority on the behavior of materials, particularly in the areas of fatigue and creep-fatigue interactions. He was the author of the text *The Strength of Materials at Elevated Temperatures* as well as numerous research articles. He was a founder of the Japan Society of Ma-

terials Science as well as the International Conferences on the Mechanical Behavior of Materials. For his many contributions he had been rewarded by the Emperor of Japan with the prize of the Japanese Academy. The international materials community has lost one of its most capable and dedicated members.

**A. J. McEVILY  
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