

Wed 31 May 89

20 June 89

OBITUARIES

Owen Lattimore, McCarthy target, is dead at 88

Associated Press

PAWTUCKET - Owen Lattimore, a China scholar who was accused by Sen. Joseph McCarthy in 1950 of being "the top Soviet espionage agent in the United States," died Wednesday in Pawtucket. He was 88.

Mr. Lattimore, who suffered a stroke last year, had been in failing health the past two weeks, relatives said.

Mr. Lattimore, who grew up in China, spent nearly 25 years in the Far East. From 1934 to 1941, he edited Pacific Affairs, a journal of the Institute of Pacific Relations, an international organization concerned with the Pacific region.

He was director of the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations at Johns Hopkins University from 1939 to 1953 and lectured at Johns Hopkins from 1938 to 1963.

Mr. Lattimore did not earn a university degree, instead going into business and doing newspaper work in Shanghai and Beijing from 1920 to 1926. He studied at Harvard in 1929 before beginning research in Manchuria in 1929 and 1930. He conducted more research in Beijing from 1930 to 1935, also working in Mongolia.

From 1941 to 1942 he served as a political adviser to Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Nationalist government. He then became deputy director of Pacific operations for the US Office of War Information from 1942 to 1944.

In March 1950, McCarthy made his much-quoted assertion that Mr. Lattimore was the nation's top communist sympathizer. The Wisconsin Republican later toned down his charge to "one of the top" agents.

A Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee looked into McCarthy's accusations and concluded they had no basis. The panel exonerated Lattimore in July 1950.

In 1952, a federal grand jury indicted Lattimore on seven counts of perjury in connection with his 1951 testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which was investigating the Institute on Pacific Relations.

The Justice Department dropped all charges against Lattimore in 1955.

Mr. Lattimore's son, David Lattimore of Pawtucket, is a professor in the department of East Asian studies at Brown University.

In addition to his son, Mr. Lattimore leaves a sister, Katherine Beer of Billings, Mont., six grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

A family member said Lattimore's remains will be cremated and that a memorial service would be held at a later date.

Remarkable Figure of These Times**How Lattimore Exploited Johns Hopkins Connection**

By RAYMOND MOLEY

Last week the president of Johns Hopkins University announced that the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations was to be discontinued. The title of "director," now held by Owen Lattimore, will be abolished, but Mr. Lattimore will be continued as a "lecturer" in the university. He is now on leave on full pay, which will continue until the perjury indictment is disposed of.

The Page School, it should be noted, was the outgrowth of the activity of a distinguished fund-raising group in 1924. Mr. Lattimore became its director in 1938. He was

then and continued to be the editor of "Pacific Affairs," organ of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

Behind these simple an-

nouncements from the university lies the story of how one of the most remarkable figures of these times exploited his connection with a great and respected institution to serve purposes which, to say the least, should be regarded as of doubtful educational value.

Much of that story is vividly told in John T. Flynn's new book, "The Lattimore Story." It is an account of unbelievable

activity and influence of Mr. Lattimore in and out of the Institute of Pacific Relations, in and out of government service, and, regrettably, always with the name of a great university to grace his authority and influence.

If every sincere university administrator and every trustee and contributor would read that story and ponder its meaning, I be-

lieve there would be less railing at the Congress of the United States and more heart searching and self-discipline in our institutions of higher learning.

It is irrelevant to consider here the guilt or innocence of Mr. Lattimore of the charges for which he is indicted. The trial, now set for October, is where that issue should be and will be resolved.

But it is relevant to comment upon the significance of Mr. Lattimore as an administrator and professional carrying on the extra-mural activities which marked his career over a period of many years. Those activities, on the background of

his position in the university, should once and for all refute the claim that it is none of a university's business what a member of its community does outside.

Remember, Mr. Lattimore was not a mere footloose teacher. He was an administrative officer. As such, he was presumably able to determine the policies of the Page School, the people who taught or did research in it, and to a degree what they taught or "researched."

He was by his own confession not a searcher for truth. He was a propagandist. In 1939, while he was director of

the Page School, he wrote to a man in Australia:

"I am making a general practice of submitting everything I write to Carter of the IPR so that he can reprove me whenever I say anything unbecoming a propagandist and a gentleman."

Wed 31 May 84

20 June 84

OBITUARIES

Owen Lattimore, McCarthy target, is dead at 88

Associated Press

PAWTUCKET - Owen Lattimore, a China scholar who was accused by Sen. Joseph McCarthy in 1950 of being "the top Soviet espionage agent in the United States," died Wednesday in Pawtucket. He was 88.

Mr. Lattimore, who suffered a stroke last year, had been in failing health the past two weeks, relatives said.

Mr. Lattimore, who grew up in China, spent nearly 25 years in the Far East. From 1934 to 1941, he edited Pacific Affairs, a journal of the Institute of Pacific Relations, an international organization concerned with the Pacific region.

He was director of the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations at Johns Hopkins University from 1939 to 1953 and lectured at Johns Hopkins from 1938 to 1963.

Mr. Lattimore did not earn a university degree, instead going into business and doing newspaper work in Shanghai and Beijing from 1920 to 1926. He studied at Harvard in 1929 before beginning research in Manchuria in 1929 and 1930. He conducted more research in Beijing from 1930 to 1935, also working in Mongolia.

From 1941 to 1942 he served as a political adviser to Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Nationalist government. He then became deputy director of Pacific operations for the US Office of War Information from 1942 to 1944.

In March 1950, McCarthy made his much-quoted assertion that Mr. Lattimore was the nation's top communist sympathizer. The Wisconsin Republican later toned down his charge to "one of the top" agents.

A Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee looked into McCarthy's accusations and concluded they had no basis. The panel exonerated Lattimore in July 1950.

In 1952, a federal grand jury indicted Lattimore on seven counts of perjury in connection with his 1951 testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which was investigating the Institute on Pacific Relations.

The Justice Department dropped all charges against Lattimore in 1955.

Mr. Lattimore's son, David Lattimore of Pawtucket, is a professor in the department of East Asian studies at Brown University.

In addition to his son, Mr. Lattimore leaves a sister, Katherine Beer of Billings, Mont., six grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

A family member said Lattimore's remains will be cremated and that a memorial service would be held at a later date.

The Phantom Scholar

Lattimore Seen Friends' Victim

By HOLMES ALEXANDER

By grace of the humanitarian American Constitution and a fast outfield of legal advisors, Owen Lattimore has escaped the snares of his enemies. But he'll need to be luckier still to come away from the suffocating embraces of his self-styled friends—or flatterers.

It may be that Leo Rover, an ambitious Federal prosecutor, will make another snatch at the elusive and over-punished instructor of Far East history. But at the moment Lattimore, whether he's morally innocent or otherwise, is legally guiltless. And after all these years of gruelling pursuit, the country is probably willing enough to whip off the hounds and let the quarry find a refuge with whatever memories are secretly his.

Inept Puff Sheet

Lattimore's friends, I've come to believe, are more injurious to him than his enemies. A group of his supporters long has been using some sort of bogus alchemy by which they intend to turn Lattimore's martyr crown into a wreath of the persecuted intellectual.

Some while back to be specific, a group of his Baltimore backers put out a pamphlet called "Lattimore—the Scholar." In this inept puff sheet, and in more recent instances of public reference, Lattimore is cited by a title so elegant and so recondite that we uneducated hinds are supposed to be bowled over. He's called "Sinologist." It means a scientist on China.

Well, the Lattimore tragedy, as translated from very sympathetic sources, is that he has been the victim of those who overrated, or overstated, his capacity. Perhaps the story can best be told as it came to me from persons whose

hearts have been wrung by watching the man's ordeal.

Born in Washington, D. C., 1900, Owen Lattimore was educated as a boy in England and by 1920 he was working in the trading houses of Shanghai and Tientsin. Like many Westerners in China, he was enchanted by the storied charms of lands across the desert. For years he talked among his friends of throwing up his safe, salaried, respectable job and going on a far-away journey into the reaches of antiquity.

But unlike most young dreamers, young Lattimore sallied forth to materialize his fancies. He bought a couple of camels, joined a caravan and took the first of his many perilous trips to the interior of China.

He wrote a book about it, "The Desert Road to Turkestan," which has the reputation of being among the very best travel books of our time. A year later, 1930, he published another top-notch, "High Tartary."

So far; so good. But in 1926 he had married another writer-to-be, Eleanor Holgate, whose family connections fairly sparkled with academic degrees and university position. As a writer of travel books and a roving scholar on Foundation grants, Lattimore had no such standing. More than that, he impressed his acquaintances of the day as being eager and extravagant, keen to hike over the steepest hilltop and ready to talk hours on past and coming jour-

out an intellectual lightweight on any man's scales. Something went wrong with Lattimore in what should have been the, golden middle years of his career. Persons who know and like him say he was pushed too far, too fast, too high.

partment dropped the rest. The former head of the Johns Hopkins School of International Relations left the U.S. in 1963 to teach Chinese studies at the University of Leeds in England and is planning to retire to Virginia next year. But first he hopes to obtain a visa for his first visit to mainland China since 1945. "I have been astonished at all the talk of China coming out of its isolation," Lattimore told a Baltimore Sun interviewer. "China has diplomatic relations with all kinds of countries. In my opinion, they have not been nearly as isolated as Washington."

Out of the past popped the name of old China hand **Owen Lattimore**, 71, branded "the top Soviet espionage agent in the United States" by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy in 1950, then vindicated when a Federal judge dismissed some of the charges against him and the Justice De-