

Professor Ryuichi Yamaguchi, *Prudens et Comis Doctor*

Kenichi Tamoto

Professor Ryuichi Yamaguchi, who has been a leading professor of English at Aichi University, will retire at the end of March, 2010. He will have taught for 43 years at Aidai. I would like to express my cordial appreciation for his having enlightened me during my 22 years' employment at Aidai, and I feel exceedingly honoured to be given this opportunity to relate his episodes.

I remember one day in late January of 1987, when I first visited Aichi University. I had an interview for employment, which means that I had been applying for a position at Aidai. I was invited to a meeting room on the second floor of the Commemorative Building of the alumni association. There I had the honour of meeting five professors of English at Aidai; Professor Uchida, Professor Ike, Professor Chinen, Professor Yamaguchi, and Professor Nakano. Now, except for Professor Yamaguchi, all the four professors are no longer at Aidai; they have either retired (and passed away) or moved to a university in Tokyo. I was so nervous that I do not remember well how the interview went. However, I have a faint memory of one interesting and maybe humorous question which Professor Yamaguchi asked me. He asked me why I wore rubber boots. There was a reason why I had to do so. I was living in Akita in those days. On the morning of the day of the interview it was snowing very hard there in Akita. Everybody in Akita needed rubber boots to go out. I was no exception. The train I took was crossing the mainland of Japan from the coast of the Japan Sea over the O-u mountain range to the Pacific side. There on the Pacific side the weather was completely different. It was sunny and there could be found no sign of snow. My journey continued. I took the Shinkansen at Morioka and travelled south, arriving at last at Toyohashi. Here in Toyohashi nobody wore rubber boots. The journey was something like moving from the world of *Beowulf* to that of the *Canterbury Tales*. I do not remember how I answered to Professor

Ymaguchi. Probably, or definitely, it was a very short answer.

It was Professor Yamaguchi who strongly supported me in my application for studying abroad. There was another applicant from Kyoyobu. I vividly remember Professor Yamaguchi's speech for supporting me on that occasion.

It is quite unfortunate that I am not qualified to give any comment, or sufficiently laudatory remark concerning Professor Yamaguchi's academic achievements. William Faulkner, renowned as a Nobel Prize winner, is one of the great masters placed at the top of mountain ranges of American Literature. Professor Yamaguchi is pursuing his studies of the masterpieces of this great author. Needless to say, his academic life is not confined to Faulkner. He has accumulated vast knowledge not only of other American and British authors, but also of American society and history, etc. Professor Yamaguchi is so modest a scholar that he has never dared to show off his knowledge.

Thank you very much, Professor Yamaguchi, for giving us lot of inspiration, stimulation, and advice. I would like to close this account with a well-known sentence, "Cor ad cor loquitur".