

DRAGON SHIELD--A DEDICATION TO ROBERT A. BURTON



Late in the afternoon on Wednesday, November 6, 1991, a group of family and friends of Robert A. Burton gathered in Watson Library just outside the East Asian Library. The occasion was the dedication of a dragon shield--a handsome piece of Chinese art--and an inscription, in memory of Bob Burton.

Richard Kramer, Mark Kramer, and Bryan Anderson, Bob's adopted sons, welcomed his friends and expressed their appreciation to George Woodyard, Dean of International Studies and Programs, and William J. Crowe, Dean of Libraries, for making it possible for them to make the gift to the University. As Richard Kramer expressed it, "We feel this gift symbolizes our father's passion for the Orient and particularly his love of China."

Mark Kramer went on to read a tribute from A. Doak Barnett, "a good friend of my father's... from many years back... I take great pleasure in reading this because I feel it describes the character of my father quite accurately."

Randy Attwood read excerpts from an editorial he had written for *The Olathe Daily News*, and then an interview article he wrote for the 1971 *Jayhawker*, the student annual.

George Woodyard offered a few reminiscences about Bob Burton, and then introduced a tribute from John Roderick, read by Paul Lim. "As a relative newcomer to the University of Kansas," said Dean of Libraries William J. Crowe, "it may be that I am the first person to benefit from the work of the family and colleagues of Professor Burton, as I was prompted by their efforts to learn about his special contributions to the life of this great university. So may it be for others who come to Watson Library, the crossroads of this campus! I am certain that this handsome casting and plaque will in fact lead many others—students, faculty, and visiting scholars—to do as I did: to inquire about the lifework of this good man and all that he did to advance the cause of learning."

Anthony Douglas Kramer and Alana McCaslin Kramer, Mark's children, and Richard Robert Burton Kramer, his nephew, unveiled the dragon shield and the memorial plaque, and as the formal part of the program came to an end, the remembered conversations, anecdotes, jokes, and experiences began to surface and be shared through a crowd of friends.

Robert A. Burton

16 February 1922--10 December 1987

1983 to 1987

Chairman, Financial Systems & Equipment, Inc., Lenexa, KS

1977 to 1982

Vice-President, International Distribution, Golden Harvest Film Company, Hong Kong

1962 to 1977

Director, Eastern Civilization Program, University of Kansas. Extensive world travel; contributed to, edited, and authored several books.

1971 to 1972

On one-year leave from University of Kansas to be Executive Director, in Washington, D.C., of Citizens to Change U.S. China Policy, the goals of which were identical to those which the Nixon Administration adopted. Substantial congressional liaison experience.

1963

Reviewer of books on Far East for Saturday Review.

1960

Guest lecturer, NATO Defense College, Paris.

1958 to 1962

Fellow, American Universities Field Staff. Position involved writing monthly articles about economic and political developments in Communist China from Hong Kong, and from time to time lecturing about China at a number of universities, including Harvard, Brown, Dartmouth, and California Institute of Technology.

1953 to 1958

Ford Foundation Grant: worked in Hong Kong as ghost writer preparing memoirs of once prominent Chinese officials.

Same period: Hong Kong Correspondent, ABC.

1951 to 1953

United States Information Service, Hong Kong. Writing press releases, radio programs, and news broadcasts.

1946 to 1949

United Press Correspondent, Shanghai and Peking, China. Bureau Chief in Peking.

1943 to 1946

Lieutenant (JG), United States Navy.

