An Asian Connection — Horace T. Allen

It has been one of the delights of my recent teaching career to have had quite a large number of Korean students at Boston University’s School of Theology. This is not surprising: the Presbyterian Church has been the dominant Protestant ecclesial body there for over 100 years. One of my Korean Methodist students said in jest, “Actually, we are all Presbyterians.” And not only am I a Presbyterian, but my name resonates with the early missionary history of Korea, since one of the first missionaries from my church was a medical doctor named Horace N. Allen, who arrived in Korea in 1884. I have constantly to insist that, as far as I know, I am not related to him!

Already three of my students are teaching liturgy there: two in the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul (an institution of some 2000 students, most of whom are seminarians), and another in the Ko-shin seminary, formerly in Pusan, but now near Seoul. And in Boston I am working with several other doctoral candidates as they write their dissertations; they are from Methodist, Holiness and Presbyterian traditions. I recount this for PRISM readers simply to point out that this interest on the part of Korean theological students is highly suggestive for North American theological instruction in the fields of music and liturgy, concerning which I am directing a project called “New Approaches to Theological Education,” supported by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. (My colleague in team-teaching at the ISM this spring, Professor James White, who has had something of the same experience at Drew University, might well agree with me, although I do not claim his authority for the present article.)

The first lesson is that Asian students seem to resonate with the teaching of liturgy, since their culture, as distinct from many Western cultures, still values a certain ritual way of life, such as bowing, posture, and even protocols regarding precedence in walking about town, or as to who sits where in an automobile; as well as ritual clothing for certain occasions and calendrical seriousness. I once asked a Chinese student of mine why he was interested in studying liturgy; his luminous answer was that he felt that it was the only way to learn what Christianity was about!

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A second interesting lesson relates to the fact that theological curricula in Asia reflect a German model in which what we might call “Practical Theology” was not included. Only very recently have such subjects as preaching, pastoral care and liturgics come into the picture. It was traditionally assumed that theological students would learn these matters from local pastors.

Another aspect of my own experience was identified for me by a distinguished former missionary “son” from Korea, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Moffat of Princeton Seminary. When I told him of my many Korean doctoral students, he said that he had heard of this, and that I should realize that my weekly hosting of Asian students at my home on Ivy Street in Brookline, widely referred to as “Ivy Street East,” was actually quite important because of the sense in the East of the importance of domestic hospitality.

Because (I assume) of all these student associations, I have been invited to teach in Korea twice, and in China. In 1999 I spent much of a semester at Peking University in Beijing teaching two courses in the newly-opened Department of Religious Studies, one in the history of Christian worship, and the other in Christian theology since the sixteenth century. And I have spent an entire semester at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Seoul (1996), and, more recently, a month in intensive teaching about liturgy. These experiences for me have been not only academically fascinating, but personally revelatory as to how to learn to live in a culture and world entirely different from one’s own. Both in Korea and in China I enlisted the help of my students to travel with me, by rail if possible, so as

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please take a moment to fill out the card enclosed with this issue of PRISM and simply drop it in the nearest mailbox—no postage needed! Our records need updating, and we’d like your help in identifying ways to improve our publications and our service to our alums. In addition, we’d appreciate it if you would indicate a willingness to serve as a reference for the ISM to prospective students. (Rest assured: your contact information would not appear in any recruitment materials. We would give it out only upon request to a prospective student in your field, so that he or she could get in touch with you to answer questions about the ISM experience.)

Fill out the card and send it back now, and know that you’ve done all of us at the ISM a good turn for today, and for the future as well!
I once asked a Chinese student of mine why he was interested in studying liturgy; his luminous answer was that he felt that it was the only way to learn what Christianity was about!

At Korean Folk Village, Suwon, Korea, 1996.

to experience places and people on their own terms. I will never forget a three-day trip by boat through China’s Three Gorges on the Yangtze River with my friend Hu Xiling. And I was the sole Westerner on the ship, and therefore the object of much quiet interest. When, on the very last day of the cruise, the young daughter of a Chinese railway worker shyly asked Mr. Hu if she could sit on my lap, I knew that I had won acceptance.

Upon arrival in Hu’s home city, I was feted at a great family dinner (at which my facility, or lack thereof, with chopsticks was duly noted), and the next day taken to the large Catholic church, where the aging pastor and bishop of Hubei Province invited me to his office, and provided me with a rich blessing, perhaps on the basis of a gracious letter of introduction by Bernard Cardinal Law of Boston.

This enduring experience of friendship and collegial academic work has given me an important signal of the relativity of what might be called the Euro-American dominance of Protestantism, and a testimony, however unintended, of the catholicity of the Christian community.

Horace T. Allen, Visiting Professor of Liturgical Studies at Yale, is Professor of Worship in the School of Theology at Boston University. Professor Allen is a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a member of its Eastern Korean (Hanmi) Presbytery. He has served in the Worship Commission of the Consultation on Church Union, the Consultation on Common Texts, and the English Language Liturgical Consultation, as well as warden of the historic Iona Abbey in Scotland as a member of the Iona Community.

An Asian Connection continued from page 2

ISM Gallery Space Opens

The month of April sees the ISM open two art exhibitions in our new gallery space. Noted Canadian conceptual artist Robert V. Clifton’s “No Exit: Constructions of Dante’s Inferno” was on display through April 18, with the ISM hosting a reception for the artist on April 16 following his public lecture in the Great Hall.

The Florence Portfolio will be exhibited from April 24 through June 14, with an opening reception on May 1 (see story on back page). All our readers are most welcome to attend!
Church Positions/Connecticut

Christ Episcopal Church, 56 S. Cliff St, Ansonia 06401. 203-734-2715. Organist/choir director for 10 am Sunday service. 15-member adult choir rehearses Wednesday evenings. 1899 39-rank George Hutchings organ. Salary will be based on the AGO salary guide plus mileage. Position begins May 1. For more information contact Rev. Robert Harvey at the church.

First Congregational Church (UCC), 44 S. Cliff St, Ansonia 06401. 203-734-0544. Organist/choir director for one Sunday service. Adult choir with Thursday evening rehearsal. Children’s choir for grades 2-8. 36-rank Moller organ, rebuilt in 1974 by the Delaware Company. Salary is listed in the high $8,000 range. Position begins July 1. For more information contact Judy Hoyle, Search Chair, at 203-732-3101.

Olivet Congregational Church (UCC), 2102 Main St, Bridgeport 06606. 203-333-7259. Part-time organist/choir director for one 10 am Sunday service. 6-8 member adult choir rehearses Sunday mornings. 1953 Standaart organ. Salary is negotiable per AGO guidelines. Contact Interim Pastor David Simpson, YDS ‘68, at the church.

Saint Andrew Evangelical Lutheran, 1125 Stafford Ave, Bristol 06010. 860-583-5809. Organist/choir director for one 9 am Sunday service. 12-member adult choir rehearses Wednesday evenings. 7-year-old Allen organ. Salary is listed at $16,400 on a 12-month basis. Position is presently open. Please contact Pastor Seth Jersild.

Saugatuck Congregational Church, 245 Post Rd E, Westport 06880. 203-227-1261. Director of Youth Music, beginning September 2002, to be responsible for three choirs (children’s and youth vocal choirs, and one youth handbell choir). Interested persons should contact the church.

St. Thomas More Catholic Chapel at Yale. Organist needed starting July or September 2002. This is a split position working with a choral conductor. One or two Sunday masses, flexible schedule. Small but excellent Aeolian-Skinner organ. Salary commensurate with duties and reflecting ability. Contact ISM student Richard Gard, Director of Music, at 203-288-7986, or e-mail richard.gard@yale.edu.

Church Positions/Out-of-State

St. John’s Episcopal, 191 County Rd, Barrington, RI 02806. 401-245-4065. Half-time Director of Music for 1500-member parish with three Sunday services. Director would serve as organist for all 3 Sunday services as well as direct the adult-mixed choir at the later service. Responsibilities would also include planning and assisting in the execution of the liturgies as well as helping develop the parish music program. 3-manual Organ. Please contact Reverend C. Neal Goldsborough.

Useful Websites:
http://www.experiencingworship.com/jobs.html
http://www.anglicanmusicians.org/
http://www.agohq.org

Academic

Alderson-Broaddus College, Philippi, WV 26416. Choral Director/Music Education Specialist/Studio Voice, tenure-track. MM required, DMA or ABD in instrumental or choral conducting strongly preferred. Public school teaching experience required; student teaching supervision preferred. Ability to teach lessons in performance area preferred. Salary is dependent on qualifications. Candidates should request a full list of placement listings.

New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, MA 02115. Assistant Professor, MM in Voice, CCM, tenure-track. MM in Conducting, CCM, tenure-track. 2-year appointment.


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http://www.anglicanmusicians.org/
http://www.agohq.org

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FACULTY NEWS

Jaime Lara, who is on sabbatical “under the volcano” in Cholula, Mexico, sends regards to all. Cholula is the oldest continually inhabited city in the Americas and was a cult center of the Aztec empire until 1520. It has the largest man-made pyramid outside of Egypt, on top of which sits a church to the Virgin Mary today. Cholula is also within spitting distance of one of the world’s largest and still active volcanoes, Mount Popocatetl. Professor Lara has been photographing sixteenth-century evangelization centers for his forthcoming book, and doing research on volcanoes and flying saints for his second book. He recently made some important discoveries: yet another colonial painting at the base of the volcano representing the medieval Calabrian abbot Joachim of Fiore, who predicted the end of the world. The Italian government is going to restore it and exhibit it in Italy. Jaime also has been analyzing early liturgical texts in Nahuaíl, the ancient Aztec language, which prove his theory of early liturgical inculturation, and the desire to even “rehabilitate” Aztec human sacrifice and apply its symbols to the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. And he came across a group of Mexican peasants performing a full-scale dramatization of the medieval “Chanson du Roland,” the story of Charlemagne. He and Margot Fassler will be using it in their liturgical theatrics course next spring. We wish him well south-of-the-border.

ISM

Stuart Forster ’99 reports a change of home address: 30 Bassett St, Lynn, MA 01902-2506; phone 781-596-3192, cell: 617 331 0773; e-mail: stuart.forster8@verizon.net (home), stuartforster@ccc Cambridge.org (work). Stuart continues as Director of Music and Organist for Christ Church, Cambridge.

Clara Godshall, former ISM Research Fellow, has a new address: 18816-13 Nautical Dr, Cornelius, NC 28031; phone: 704-650-4978; email: claragodshall@parkerpoe.com. Clara is Director of Music at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Davidson, NC, and a Legal Assistant for the Finance and Securities Group at the law firm of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP in Charlotte.

Carol Williams ’97, San Diego Civic Organist and Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society, will be among the performers at the upcoming San Diego International Organ Festival this summer, which will be held in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. Organ performances will be held Monday evenings at 7:30 pm from June 17-August 26. For details, visit the website www.serve.com/sosorgan or call 619-702-8138.

UTS

Harland J. Jylha, SMM ’55 died January 6, 2002 in San Antonio, TX following a lengthy illness. Harland was a graduate of DePauw University, received a Fulbright Grant for study in Finland with Finn Videro at the Sibelius Academy and for four years was secretary at the School of Sacred Music in New York before moving on to various positions as organist/director in Michigan. For many years he taught in the public school system of San Antonio. A memorial service was held in that city at Trinity University Chapel on January 27.

FACULTY & ALUMNI NEWS

UTS

Northfield Mount Hermon School, 206 Main St, Northfield, MA 01360-1089. 413-498-3410. Private, co-educational boarding school in western Massachusetts, seeks a director of the school’s choral and vocal programs for the 2002-03 academic year. Successful applicant will be a talented performer and conductor with a strong interest in sharing his or her passion for music with secondary level students. Bachelor’s degree in music minimum, experience teaching music and an ability to perform and teach voice at an advanced level. Responsibilities include a combination of classroom teaching, individual music lessons, student advising, dormitory supervision or equivalents. Interviews include conducting rehearsals of the school’s choral groups and a live solo performance approximately 10 minutes in length. Send a cover letter, resume and contact information for three professional references to the Office of Faculty Recruitment. Screening to begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Applications received by April 15 will receive first consideration.

Placement Listings continued

of qualifications and requirements before applying. Send inquiries, then letters of application, c.v., statement of educational philosophy, and names, addresses and phone numbers of three referring persons to Dr. Judson F. Bracey, Chairman, Music Department, Box 2126, e-mail: bracey@ab.edu.

Chadron State College, 1000 Main St, Chadron, NE 69337. Assistant Professor of Music/Choir Director, tenure-track. Review of applications begins April 29 and will continue until the position is filled. Starting date is August 23. MM required; Doctorate preferred. Strong recruiting and retention skills, experience working with choirs, including public school choral groups. Responsible for teaching and conducting choir and vocal ensembles in a cappella mode as well as with accompanists; teaching private lessons, vocal pedagogy, and choral conducting for all voices; advising students; and participating in committee and campus service. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Interested individuals may send a letter of application, resume, three letters of reference, and official transcripts to Human Resources. Phone: 308-432-6224; Fax: 308-432-6065; E-mail: kkuhnel@csc.edu.

MacMurray College, 447 E. College, Jacksonville, IL 62650. Director of Choral Activities and Assistant/Associate Professor of Music position, tenure-track, beginning August 2002. Doctorate preferred, but qualified Master’s candidate will be considered. Record of excellence in choral conducting; experience as a soloist and voice teacher; documented success in some allied music discipline; some experience in popular style is welcome. Responsibilities include conducting campus choral ensembles; promoting choral singing on campus and as a recruiting activity; teaching private applied voice to majors and non-majors; teaching conducting and major and non-major courses in area of interest and pursuing appropriate activities in solo performance. Do not send tape recordings at this time. MacMurray College is UMC-related. Send letter of application, c.v., statement of teaching philosophy and the names of at least three references to Dr. Jim Goulding, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Applications will be reviewed beginning April 12.

Placement Listings continued

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The Florence Portfolio, a suite of twenty etchings created by six artists in Florence, Italy, will be on display at the ISM, April 24 through June 14.

Living in community for four weeks in the summer of 1993, the artists created a body of work based on the theme of sacrifice in biblical literature. The historic biblical imagery of the art treasures of Florence provided a context for the artists’ work in the studio. John Skillen wrote in the summer of 1994 issue of Image, “a common denominator throughout the portfolio is the artists’ dialogue with their Renaissance predecessors...the portfolio artists responded...in the context of our own contemporary setting with its peculiar fears and evasions of God’s invitation to find ourselves by sacrificing ourselves.”

The Florence Portfolio has been accepted by the Vatican Museum of Contemporary Religious Art as part of its permanent collection. It has been displayed at more than a dozen galleries, art centers and colleges across the U.S. The exhibit is sponsored by Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA), a national support organization for Christian artists. Editions of the portfolio are available for sale, as well as deluxe editions and individual prints.

The exhibit at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music is open weekdays from 9 to 4. An opening reception will be held on Wednesday, May 1 from 4:30 to 6. For more information, call 203/432-5180.