

IN MEMORIAM

ANDREW NICHOLAS STAPLETON DRIVER (COUNTY HOUSE 1965-72)

Andrew Driver, who has died aged 63, was a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists and worked as a translator from the Japanese for nearly three decades. His work included translations of Japan's pre-eminent writer of metafiction, Yasutaka Tsutsui – most recently, the 2017 collection of that author's work *Bullseye* (Kurodahan Press) was translated into English by Andrew.



Born in Oxford in 1954, Andrew entered Reading School at age eleven, following his elder brother T J S (Tim) Driver (1964-71). He went to Liverpool University where he studied German and Dutch and he subsequently attended Wolfson College, Oxford, where he gained his Diploma in Comparative Philology. In 1978 went to Japan under the British Exchange and Teaching Scheme for British graduates to teach English there, founded by Nicolas Maclean – forerunner of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.

Andrew spent eight years as an in-house translator in Tokyo. His principle specialisms were law contracts, litigation, family documents, labour policy, archaeology and history but he translated texts, videos and audio content across all fields.

He stayed for nearly twelve years working in Japanese film and TV media in the main. In 1990 he joined the Japan Translation Center in Tokyo. Translation provided his main income but he was also able to fulfil his desire to act and to write scripts for theatre as, whilst in Tokyo, he was a founder of the *Hysterick Theatre* project, directing and acting in some of the plays (which were produced for ex-pats living in Tokyo). He also wrote more than half the scripts and voiced one of the characters for the radio comedy drama *Woody's Week*.

When he returned to the United Kingdom he originally intended to form a team of translators over time but decided eventually that was neither desirable or necessary and, instead, continued on his own account operating *Japanesque*, his company in Oxford. In Andrew's words: "A good translator is an ambassador for the original author".

Andrew's unexpected death followed upon him collapsing in the street. His funeral was held at Oxford Crematorium in January.

In 2015 Andrew returned to Reading School for the Reunion of his year group, a day that he greatly enjoyed, according to his wife, Motoko, who survives him with their daughter. **KCB**

A N S Driver, born 13 April 1954, died 29 December 2017, aged 63.