



Obituary:

Takumi Tsuda (1929-2021)

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Professor Takumi Tsuda, a distinguished scholar best known for his groundbreaking archival research on Cantillon, Turgot, and Gournay, died at the age of 91.

Tsuda was born in Yahata, north-Kyushu, Japan, in 1929, as the second son of a company manager. In 1947 he entered the Tokyo University of Commerce (later Hitotsubashi University). There he studied under Kin-nosuke Otsuka (1892-1977), a pioneer of the history of socio-economic thought in Japan and a founding member of the JSHET. Tsuda completed his first degree in 1953 with a thesis on Condorcet. On completion of his graduate course in 1956, he became an Assistant at the Institute of Economic Research (IER), Hitotsubashi University. Its then director was Shigeto Tsuru (1912-2006), and the history of economic thought and economic history were given a prominent place at the Institute. Among Tsuda's senior colleagues were Professor Matsukawa, who worked on the writings of William Petty and Associate Professor Ohno, who specialized in Richard Jones and David Hume.

Tsuda worked and researched at the IER until his retirement in 1993, being promoted to Associate Professor in 1964, then full Professor in 1973, and was elected to be its Director from 1986 until 1988, all the while teaching on the graduate course of Social Studies at Hitotsubashi University. After Hitotsubashi, Tsuda moved to Toyama International University where he taught until 2001. From 1993 until 1995 he served as President of the JSHET. He was also a board member of the Society of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies in Japan. Amongst his students were Koichi Yamazaki, Toshimi Morimura, Kayoko Misaki and Yoshihiro Iwamoto.

Tsuda's first publications were several articles on Turgot, Quesnay, and Montesquieu, which from 1955 appeared in the *Economic Review* of IER. His first book, a translation into Japanese of *Turgot's Economic Writings* (1962), acknowledged the advice of his teacher Otsuka in 1955 to direct his studies towards this 18<sup>th</sup> century philosopher and administrator. The translations were based on a selection from Gustave Schelle's early 20<sup>th</sup> century *Oeuvres du Turgot et documents le concernant*. Subsequently, however, Tsuda felt the need for a first-hand study of 18<sup>th</sup> century writings. This led him to devote himself to painstaking detective work in dozens of French and other archives at a time when this

was less common amongst European historians of economic thought. The first fruits of this archival research were based on documents kept at the ancestral home of the Turgot family, the chateau de Lantheuil, in Calvados, Normandy, which Tsuda first visited in 1967. One study, in two parts (Tsuda 1974a), reproduced previously unedited drafts by Turgot of his first *Discours* pronounced as student at the *maison de Sorbonne* in 1750. Another, Tsuda (1974b), was a three-volume catalogue of Turgot's library, based on documents found at Lantheuil and the French national library. Both publications were accompanied with detailed commentary in Japanese.

Tsuda's next lasting contribution was his edition in 1979 of *Richard Cantillon's Essay de la nature du commerce en general* based on his important discovery of a manuscript preserved at the municipal library of Rouen. This document remains the only complete manuscript version we have of Cantillon's work and it was very probably this same text that the Marquis de Mirabeau held in his possession for many years, from which he had partial copies made and which provided inspiration for his immensely popular *L'ami des hommes*. Tsuda presented the manuscript alongside the text of the famous first print edition of the *Essai* of 1755 and provided learned commentary on the background of Cantillon's writings, the fate of his manuscripts and their likely significance for the beginnings of physiocracy.

The works that found most resonance with subsequent students were those devoted to a third 18<sup>th</sup> century personage, namely Jacques Claude Marie Vincent de Gournay (1712-1759). This reformer's importance as a patron of a group of aspiring economic writers and administrators, a young Turgot amongst them, had always been known. However, Gournay's own writings had long been believed lost. After a search of several years, Tsuda located eight volumes of Gournay's papers that had previously been kept by Morellet, in the municipal library of Saint-Brieuc, Brittany. Having previously discovered other versions in two archives in Paris, Tsuda found amongst the Saint-Brieuc papers Gournay's *Remarques*, which had originally been intended as accompaniment of his French translation of Josiah Child's *A New Discourse of Trade*. The edition of these remarks in 1983 and a further selection of documents in 1993 sparked a new interest in Gournay. Especially Tsuda's essay '*Un economiste trahi, Vincent de Gournay (1712-1759)*' in the 1983 work offered a reassessment of Gournay as different from the archetypal inventor of the motto 'laissez faire, laissez passer', by outlining a more subtle and practical kind of economic liberalism that had preceded the doctrinaire approach of Quesnay and his school. Most subsequent scholarship on Gournay, now recognized as a central figure in the remarkable surge of interest in mid-18<sup>th</sup> century France in all things pertaining to trade and

finance, has confirmed Tsuda's analysis.

In 2003 he was awarded *Le Prix Chaptal* in recognition of his research by the French *Société d'Encouragement pour l'industrie nationale*. Professor Tsuda has left an extensive library and collection of archival photographs. It is hoped that these will be made available for future generations of students.

#### **Selected publications:**

Tsuda T, 1974a. 'The Unpublished Materials of Turgot', *Economic Review*, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, 25, 1 (January) 50-67, part 1; 25, 2 (May) 131-161, part 2.

Tsuda, T. 1974b. *Catalogue des livres de la bibliothèque de Turgot, d'après le catalogue manuscrit conservé dans la Bibliothèque nationale (Paris)*. Tokyo: Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University, 3 vols. [in Japanese and French].

Tsuda, T. 1979. *Richard Cantillon: Essai de la nature du commerce en general*. Tokyo: Kinokuniya.

Tsuda, T. 1983. *Traité sur le Commerce de Josiah Child avec les Remarques inédites de Vincent de Gournay*. Tokyo: Kinokuniya.

Tsuda, T. 1993. *Mémoires et Lettres de Vincent de Gournay*. Tokyo: Kinokuniya.

Tsuda, T. 2003. *Catalogue des livres de la bibliothèque de Vincent de Gournay, d'après l'inventaire après le décès, conservé aux Archives nationales*. Tokyo: Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University.