

Richard B. Mather, Professor Emeritus of Chinese Studies at the University of Minnesota, died on November 28, 2014. He had just celebrated his 101st birthday. His beloved wife, Virginia, passed away in 2012. He is survived by his daughter Elizabeth Klum, and sons David and Samuel Wong. Richard came to the University of Minnesota in 1949 to begin the Chinese studies program. Over his long career, he became an internationally renowned expert on medieval Chinese literature and religion, having published extensively and taught widely. Richard's major works include *New Accounts of Tales of the World* (Minnesota 1968, Michigan 2002), *The Poet Shen Yüeh (441-513): The Reticent Marquis* (Princeton 1988), and *The Age of Brilliance: Three Lyric Poets of the Yung-ming Era (483-493)* (Brill 2003).

Richard was born in Baoding, China (November 11, 1913), son of William Arnot Mather and Grace Burroughs. He grew up in China with Chinese being one of his native languages. He came to United States as a young man to attend Mercersburg Academy, and went on to Princeton University, graduating *summa cum laude* with a major in art and archaeology. It was there that met his future wife, Virginia Marjorie Temple. After graduating from the Princeton Theological Seminary in 1939, Richard and Virginia took up pastoral duties in Belle Haven, Virginia. His plans to return to China were interrupted by the war and he instead went on to the University of California, Berkeley to pursue his PhD in Chinese literature, studying with Peter Boodberg and others. With a dissertation on the Buddhist text, *Vimalakīrti-nirdeśa-sūtra*, he began his career at the University of Minnesota in 1949, retiring in 1984, but continuing to teach occasionally thereafter.

Richard will be remembered by all who knew him as not only a man of immense intelligence and training, but also a kind and loving soul, filled with modesty and generosity. The family ask memorial gifts be directed to The Richard B. and Virginia Mather Fellowship in Asian Languages and Literatures (Fund #7237).