

ARTS AND CULTURE PRIZE

Name: Donald KEENE

Date of Birth: June 18, 1922 (Age: 69)

Citizenship: The United States of America

PROFILE

Dr. Donald Keene was born in the state of New York. While majoring in Comparative Literature at Columbia University, he took an interest in the Orient and commenced studying Japanese. Later on, he entered the United States Navy's Japanese Language School to pursue postgraduate studies of Japanese Literature at Columbia University and several other universities. He continued his studies at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, while acting as a lecturer of Japanese. During his stay in England, he published *The Japanese Discovery of Europe* and many other prominent books. In 1953, he intensified his study of Edo period Japanese Literature at Kyoto University.

Since being appointed a professor at his alma mater, Columbia University in 1960, Dr. Keene has enjoyed living in New York during the school year and in Japan the rest of the year. He continues his studies on themes ranging widely from Japanese classics such as *The Harvest of Leisure* and works by Chikamatsu, to modern literature by Osamu Dazai, Yukio Mishima and others. He also enjoys performing Japanese arts such as Noh and Kyogen. Among his numerous publications, *Dawn to the West* is an epoch-making work as a history book on Japanese literature, and provides present and future scholars of Japanese literature a solid academic foundation. This is truly an astounding accomplishment because he wrote it as a solo writer.

His contribution in presenting the significance of Asian culture and introducing Japanese literature and culture to his readers throughout the world via his studies is highly valued.

MAJOR WORKS

Japanese Literature (London, 1952)

Japanese Discovery of Europe (1952)

Aoi Me no Taro-kaja (A Blue-eyed Tarokaja, 1958)

Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu (New York, 1961)

Landscapes and Portraits (Tokyo, 1971)

Meeting with Japan (Tokyo, 1972)

World Within Walls (1976)

Dawn to the West I - V (1976 - 1989)

Travels in Japan (1980)

Watashi no Nihon Bungaku Shoyo (A Walk in Japanese Literature: 1981)

Nihonjin no Shitsumon (Questions Often Asked by the Japanese: 1983)

Travellers of Hundred Ages (1984)

The Pleasure of Japanese Literature (New York, 1988)

Koten wo Tanoshimu (The Pleasure of Japanese Classic Literature: 1990)