

## Thoughts on William Sibley

Bill Sibley had an extraordinary gift for humor, and that humor gave him a grace and quiet generosity toward others. You can see his gift for the language of laughter in his translation of "The American School" if I'm remembering the title of that occupation-era story correctly. This set-up of the earnest attempts of Japanese school teachers to cater to the occupier's bizarre advocacy of square dancing had me laughing out loud. Bill also enjoyed playfulness in others. For his class on modern literature, I turned in a paper on Osamu Dazai's humor where I'd provided an alternative to my boring, scholarly title: to wit "We are Not Amused" which tickled Bill. His generosity to students like myself lasted to the end. In our final conversation, held in the parking lot of Whole Foods, he told me how wonderful he thought my book on nature in political ideology is, something that meant the world to me, as I said in a subsequent thank you note to him. That he'd gone out of his way to make sure I knew I'd "done good" is something I'll always treasure.

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