

James Lewton-Brain, 1923–1996

By Thomas Spear
University of Wisconsin-Madison

James Lewton-Brain, retired Professor of Anthropology at SUNY-New Paltz, Swahili scholar, and author, died of a heart attack early in the morning of December 2, 1996, in Poughkeepsie, New York. Born in Chigwell, England in 1923, Jim worked as an agricultural laborer before serving in the Army in Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East from 1942–50. He then joined the Colonial Service, serving as an agricultural extension and community development worker in Tanganyika and Uganda from 1951–63. Fascinated by language, Jim soon became proficient enough in Swahili and Lwoo to serve as government instructor and examiner in these languages as well. He was also attracted to anthropology, completing an MA in 1963 at the London School of Economics, and a Ph.D. in 1968 at Syracuse University, where he trained many of the earliest Peace Corps volunteers going to Tanganyika. He then took up a position at the State University of New York at New Paltz, where he continued to teach anthropology until he retired in 1987.

Jim's academic interests spanned the diverse and changing forces of his lifetime, from colonialism to Ujamaa, the primal forces of life and death to the vibrant field of women's studies. He published a number of manuals on Swahili together with articles in *Africa*, *Anthropos*, and numerous edited collections on such topics as matrilineal descent, initiation, ancestors, witchcraft, women's studies, cosmology, and death among the Luguru and related peoples of eastern Tanzania. He also wrote *The Last Taboo: Sex and the Fear of Death* (New York, 1979) and was writing a series of novels and children's books when he died. He held visiting professorships at Vassar College and the University of Colorado; was a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics; served as a Ford Foundation Fellow; and was a fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute, the American Anthropological Association, and a member of the African Studies Association.

Jim is survived by his wife, Karen Robertson, a Professor of English at Vassar; two sons by an earlier marriage, Charles, a goldsmith in Edmonton and Peter, Principal Dancer in the Ballets de Monte Carlo.

Jim loved teaching, and his enthusiasm for his students was reflected in the fond memories of the Peace Corps Volunteers and SUNY students that he taught. Contributions in Jim's memory may be made to the James Lewton-Brain Memorial

Scholarship Fund, College of New Paltz Foundation, Hopfner Alumni House, SUNY-New Paltz, New Paltz, NY 12561.

John Bruce Howell, 1942–1997

By Joe Caruso
Columbia University

John Bruce Howell, International Studies and Africana Bibliographer of the University of Iowa Libraries, died unexpectedly, after a brief hospital stay, on February 28, 1997. He was 55. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. Dr. Howell was a national leader in Africana librarianship, actively serving in the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association, and since 1990, as Chair of the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP) at the Center for Research Libraries. He was an accomplished author of many bibliographies, ranging from several works on Eastern Africa produced for the Library of Congress in the 1970s to the more recent *Rural Health in Kenya* (1989). He was co-author of the *Index to the African Studies Review/Bulletin and the ASA Review of Books, 1958-1990* (1991) and was nearing completion on a subsequent volume. He recently co-authored *Guides, Collections, and Ancillary Materials to African Archival Resources in the United States* (1996). He was also the founder and editor of the new *Electronic Journal of Africana Bibliography* on the World Wide Web.

Howell received a BA from Columbia University in 1965, an MA in Library Science from Michigan in 1966, and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1984. He held several positions in the African Section of the Library of Congress between 1969 and 1980, before getting his Ph.D. at Illinois and assuming duties at Iowa in 1985. At Iowa, he helped to establish important and vibrant institutional relations with Ibadan University, Nigeria, and with many institutions in southern Africa.

John Howell was enormously kind, generous, and helpful to his many friends and colleagues in librarianship, and to countless researchers. His knowledge of the world of archives and publishing in Africa and other parts of the developing world was greatly respected; his advice on such matters was much sought after. His sudden passing is a terrible loss for African and International Studies. Currently, two funds are being established in memory of John Bruce Howell: (1) an Africana memorial gift fund for the University of Iowa Libraries (donations to: The University of Iowa Foundation, Alumni Center, Iowa City, IA

52242); and (2) a memorial fund for the Preucil School of Iowa City, a music school for stringed instruments from pre-school to high school, to fund a student for one year or possibly to establish donations to: Preucil School, 524 North Johnson St., Iowa City, IA 52245).

Peter Rigby, 1938–1997

By Charles David Smith
Moi University

Professor Peter Rigby, a brilliant, passionate scholar, and gentle man died on January 29, 1997 in Eldoret, Kenya. He could have been the prototype for the absent-minded professor or in the words of Mark Twain, he was "present-minded somewhere else." That other place was a land of abstraction, social justice, truth, and beauty as well as extremely wide-ranging scholarship.

Peter was born in India in 1938 (the last decade of the British Raj) to a British army family originally from Ireland. The family moved on to South Africa, and Peter lived and worked in other African countries as well but eventually settled in Uganda. He completed his D. Phil. at Cambridge and returned to Uganda, becoming an Ugandan citizen at Independence. Peter quickly rose to the rank of Professor at Makerere University, but was thrown out of the country under Idi Amin's dictatorship, and narrowly escaped arrest and worse. He joined the University of Dar es Salaam where I met him in 1978 when I came from graduate school at the University of Essex to teach at Dar. From there Peter migrated to Temple University.

Besides being a prolific writer and a respected anthropologist, he was accomplished in many areas: he could fly an airplane, do excellent photography, or play Chopin pieces on the piano. At fifty-nine, however, he appeared older as chronic malaria and other illnesses had taken their toll. On the day he died, I brought Peter to the Eldoret Hospital at 11 AM suffering from a very high fever. I went to my bank and returned to the hospital an hour later, expecting to meet him there. Typically of Peter, he refused admission to hospital and returned home because he had lectures to prepare. We found him collapsed. By the time we got him back to the hospital he was dead on arrival at 1 PM.

Peter Rigby believed in the future of Africa and Africans. He maintained his Ugandan citizenship over eighteen years of teaching at Temple, even though it would have been expedient for him to accept the offer of US citizenship. For him the future of Africa was not mere an abstraction but was

also the concrete reality of his children. His daughter Kimuli Rigby-Abella is soon to become a medical doctor. He adopted a hard-working high school student, Bogere Moses, who was working as a domestic for Peter's brother in law, a Minister in the Ugandan government in Kampala, and established a scholarship for him at Temple University.

Peter Rigby was the author of over seventy published papers and four books. His very recently released *African Images: Racism and the End of Anthropology* is published by Berg Publications, 1996. It is his most general and least specialized book. I hope it achieves the attention and public acclaim it deserves.

Carl G. Rosberg, 1923–1996

Compiled by Martha Saavedra
University of California, Berkeley

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Carl G. Rosberg on October 3, 1996, following a long series of illnesses. He was 73 years old. Carl Rosberg is remembered by many Africanists at Berkeley and elsewhere as a pioneer in the study of African politics in the United States. He was particularly critical in establishing and maintaining African Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, and he led the Center for African Studies at Berkeley for many years. On the Berkeley faculty since 1958, Rosberg was also the director of the Institute of International Studies (IIS) from 1973–89, and the chair of the Department of Political Science from 1969–74. He also held positions at three African universities (Makerere, Nairobi, and Dar es Salaam) over the course of his career. He retired in 1991.

Born in 1923, in Oakland, he served in the US Army Air Force as a navigator during World War II. He was shot down over Romania in 1944 and was a prisoner of war until liberated by Russian troops in 1945. He went on to earn his doctorate at Oxford University in 1954. In subsequent years at UC Berkeley, Rosberg played a key role in organizing scholarly exchanges with the former U.S.S.R and China, then virtually closed to the world's academic community. As Director of IIS, he instituted undergraduate majors in political economy and development studies, and established a graduate fellowship program in international and comparative studies. Especially important to him was the Nairobi exchange program, facilitating student exchanges between Berkeley and Kenya.

Rosberg had a tremendous impact as a

teacher and as a mentor of graduate students, particularly African students. His relationship with students was marked by a genuine concern for their careers and welfare, and he worked diligently to find support or solve problems for them. He also co-authored articles and books with students and former students, further promoting their careers. Many of those whom he taught and encouraged over the years assumed leadership roles in African studies at major universities around the world.

In addition to the heavy administrative responsibilities he undertook during his tenure at Berkeley, Carl Rosberg continued to publish scholarly works, many of which are standards in the field, such as *The Myth of 'Mau Mau': Nationalism in Kenya* (1966), co-authored with John Nottingham; and *Personal Rule in Black Africa: Prince, Autocrat, Prophet, Tyrant* (1982), co-authored with Robert Jackson.

On November 22, 1996, the Department of Political Science, chaired by Robert Price, a student of Carl's, hosted a memorial service for him. At the service, the depth of gratitude for his various contributions and for the manner in which he conducted his work were keenly expressed. We will all miss his direct and caring style.

To honor the memory of Carl G. Rosberg, the Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley, the Dean of International and Area Studies, and the Director of the Institute of International Studies are establishing the Rosberg Scholar Award at the Institute of International Studies. Undergraduate and graduate students will be eligible for the award, which will support research and study travel to Africa. If you will like to contribute to the fund, please send checks made out to the UC Regents—Rosberg Memorial Fund to the Institute of International Studies, 215 Moses Hall #2308, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2308. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Meseratch Zecharias, 1945–1996

By Joe Caruso
Columbia University

Meseratch Zecharias, Associate Librarian at Syracuse University Libraries (SUL), died at her home on February 10, 1996. She was 51. She is survived by her daughters, Fana Tareke, and Seble Tareke; son, Sehul Tareke; her husband, Gebru Tareke (historian of Africa); her mother, Maria of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; one brother; and three sisters. At the time of her death, Zecharias had begun

to contribute to the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association. In 1995–96, she served as a Member-at-large of the ALC Executive. In May, she was to host the Spring 1997 meetings of the ALC and the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP).

As a librarian and a community leader, Zecharias' accomplishments were numerous. Her impact on others was evident both locally and overseas. In Syracuse, she was active in the Lutheran Synod of Upstate New York, the Black and Latino Faculty and Professional Staff Association at Syracuse University, and the Pan African Association of Central New York. She also served on a number of committees in the American Library Association and the New York Library Association.

Zecharias joined the SUL in 1972 as a claims and replacement clerk. She continued working at the library as a technical associate in Area Studies through 1976. In 1978, she was a graduate assistant in the university Gerontology Program. Zecharias rejoined the library staff in 1979 as a part-time reference librarian. She was named Assistant Librarian in 1981, Senior Assistant Librarian in 1983, and Associate Librarian in 1988. For the last three years, she held a joint appointment with SUL and Syracuse University's Department of African American Studies, serving as Librarian at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

She received several degrees from Syracuse University: a bachelor's degree in library science and international relations (1975), an MLS degree (1976), and a master's degree in international relations (1980). Before joining Syracuse University, Zecharias was deputy reference librarian at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library at Haile Sellassie I University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1968–72), and supervisor of the U.S. Information Service's Dire Dawa Reading Room in Addis Ababa. She earned a diploma in library science at Haile Sellassie I University in 1968. "Meseru," as her friends knew her, was a passionate advocate for Africana studies in the U.S. and an active supporter of Asmara University in Eritrea. Her passing is a great loss.

Boniface Obichere (1932–1997), Professor of History, UCLA, succumbed to cancer on 14 March 1997. He is survived by his wife Armer, their son Chikere, and his nephew Oliver in the United States, along with an extensive family in Nigeria. His memory will be perpetuated by an Institute and Library bearing his name at California State University, Northridge.