

Dr. Jill Dias, professor of African History and Anthropology at the Universidade Nova in Lisbon, died suddenly in her home on Monday, April 28, 2008.

Jill Rosemary Rainey Dias was born in the UK in 1944, and obtained her BA Honors degree in History at York University, her PhD in History in 1973. Thereafter she initiated archival research in Luanda into the history of nineteenth century Angola, also on a grant provided by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. From 1979 onwards she began her collaboration with the then Junta de Investigação Científica do Ultramar, currently the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (IICT) in Lisbon and in 1982 with the Universidade Nova in Lisbon where she embarked on a teaching career. Jill Dias became director of the Centro de Estudos Africanos e Asiáticos of the IICT in 1986, where she founded the *Revista Internacional de Estudos Africanos*. As professor catedrática in the Faculty of the Social Sciences at the Universidade Nova, she ultimately taught a number of courses including African History and the seminar on the History of Sub-Saharan Africa at the MA level as well as the History of Anthropology, acting as supervisor of many

PhD and MA theses on Lusophone Africa. In the meantime, she continued her research into the social and anthropological history of Angola from the eighteenth century to the present, publishing a series of studies that appeared in books and academic reviews, while organizing a number of conferences and seminars in Portugal and in Africa. She also participated in external assessments of courses in the social sciences and in project and grant evaluation committees in Portugal.

Jill Dias was always available for her students and colleagues, taking an active interest in and supporting their academic development and careers. Her passing away is a very sad loss to her family and closest friends, but also to all those in academia involved in African studies. Her invaluable contribution to academic teaching and research has left its distinct mark on the study of the history and anthropology of Lusophone Africa and of Angola in particular, having influenced and inspired generations of scholars by her great dedication, kindness, wit and academic skills.

Submitted by Jeremy Ball, Dickinson College, April 30, 2008.

2008 ASA ELECTION

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