

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 establishships (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