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## OBITUARY

**ROBERTA E. MCKOWN**  
1932-1984

Roberta E. (Bobby) McKown, Professor of Political Science and Chairman of the department from 1975 to 1982, died in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, of cancer, on February 15, 1984.

Dr. McKown was born in Endicott, New York, and moved to Oregon in her youth. She was educated at the University of Oregon, where she received a B.A. in economics and an M.A. and Ph.D. (1968) in political science.

Appointed as an assistant professor of political science at the University of Alberta in 1968, she was promoted to associate professor in 1972 and to professor in 1977. She was asked very early on to show her talent in administration by serving an 18-month term as associate chairman and graduate chairman from 1970 on, and she spent several years as chairman of the research committee. Soon after her selection as acting chairman in 1975, she was made chairman, serving two terms separated by a study leave. She served as chairman of the Academic Planning Committee of the Faculty of Arts and as a member of the University Graduate Scholarship Committee.

While Dr. McKown devoted the major part of her professional life to administration, her untiring energy enabled her to achieve a high level of scholarship. She was the author of eight chapters in books and of articles in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics* and a number of other recognized journals. Her scholarly reputation soon spread, and during the span of fourteen years she gave twenty conference papers, all but six outside Canada. Those presented outside North America took her to Addis Ababa, Louvain-la-Neuve, Edinburgh, Melbourne, New Delhi, Moscow, Mexico City and Sydney.

Her contributions were primarily in the area of comparative political development. Her theoretical acumen made her a first-rate graduate supervisor. Her first love regarding empirical research was Africa, and she was well established among internationally known students of African Politics.

Dr. McKown is survived by her husband, Thomas W. Mapp, by a son, Bruce N. Koplín, and by two daughters, Terry E. Koplín and Mara Everett. A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 29, at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, 12530-110 Avenue.

Rather than flowers, the family asked that donations be made payable to the University of Alberta: R. E. McKown Fund.

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## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SSRC "State of the Art" Papers**

In its continuing effort to stimulate a dialogue that will assess the state of social scientific and humanistic research on Africa, the Joint Committee on African Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council continues to sponsor research overview sessions at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. At the 27th Annual Meeting of the Association in 1984, the following papers will be presented:

Steven Feierman, University of Wisconsin

"The Social Origins of Health and Healing in Africa"

V. Y. Mudimbe, Haverford College

"African Gnosis: Philosophy and the Order of Knowledge"

Harold Scheub, University of Wisconsin

"African Oral Traditions and Literature"

The papers will be available for advance sale at the Social Science Research Council beginning September 15, 1984. The cost, including postage, will be \$2.50 per paper or \$6.00 for all three. Requests should be sent to: Martha Gephart, Social Science Research Council, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158. Telephone: 212 - 661-0280.

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