

Obituaries

WALTER A. COOK, S. J. (1922–1999)

Father Walter A. Cook, S.J., professor of linguistics emeritus at Georgetown University, died April 27th at 7:00 P.M. at Georgetown University Hospital as a result of complications following surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Father Cook was born February 17, 1922 in Washington, D.C. He studied philosophy at Woodstock College, Md., theology at De Nobili College in Poona, India and at St. Mary's College in Murseong, India. He was ordained at St. Mary's on November 12, 1952. He also studied at St. Stanislaus College, Hazaribagh Dr., India. While in India, in addition to his pastoral work, he studied Sanskrit and the local languages.

In 1962 he returned from India and enrolled in the newly established doctoral program in the Institute of Languages and Linguistics, completing his doctorate in 1965. He taught in the department until 1993. As a professor of linguistics Father Cook taught courses in syntax and semantics and excelled as an expositor of theory and as a linguist who managed to give all these theoretical models practical applications.

Father Cook wrote numerous articles, books, and manuals that served as standard textbooks in linguistics. He had the uncommon ability to simplify the complex and reduce vague and obscure processes to digestible diagrams. Research in and the teaching of linguistics defined his professional life. He was a very popular teacher, devoted to his students. During his tenure in the Department of Linguistics, he was twice elected chair.

May he rest in peace.

CATHERINE N. BALL
Georgetown University

BRUCE L. FENNER (1944–1999)

Bruce Fenner died in his sleep in the early hours of March 20, 1999. He had taught full time at DePaul University from 1980 until ill health forced an early retirement in 1994. Over the last nine months of his life, however, he regained strength. He asked if he could teach a course in the Spring Quarter of 1999 and his request received swift approval. He deeply relished the prospect of returning to the classroom.

With characteristic efficiency Bruce completed his syllabus and packet of course materials with time to spare. He handed those to the department secretary for photo duplicating on March 9. Regrettably, the same day he suffered a fall that presaged a swift decline in his condition. Even so, he continued to be alert, determined, and optimistic to the end.

Bruce Fenner received his Ph.D. in Southeast Asian History from Cornell University in 1976. He taught as a visiting professor at Northern Illinois and Delaware State Universities as well as holding an administrative post at the College of William and Mary. After the life of an academic nomad, DePaul offered Bruce a home. As in a home, it was an association based on mutual trust and affection.

Fenner's dissertation, "Cebu Under the Spanish Flag," was published by the San Carlos University Press in 1985. He regularly contributed reviews to the journals *Crossroads* and *Filipinas*. But he loved teaching best. Two institutions formally recognized his excellence in the classroom—Delaware State in 1980 and DePaul in 1991. Bruce was one of the first faculty in DePaul's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to receive the Distinguished Teaching Award after its creation in 1990. Students informally recognized his talent by flocking to his courses. He had a well-deserved following.

Bruce also devoted a lot of time and effort to academic advising. He transformed a summer job as an admissions counselor into a minor art form. A videotape of Bruce conducting a session with an incoming student was for several years shown to beginning advisors as a model of academic exactitude in consort with personal sincerity. In 1985 the National Academic Advising Association recognized Bruce's accomplishments in their field with a Certificate of Merit.

In terms of service, Fenner was a strong presence on a number of important college and university committees including Curriculum and Tenure-Promotion. He was a hard worker much respected for his sound judgments. He devoted many hours to his students. He helped them by doing everything from tutoring the failing to holding a crying towel for the lovelorn. More than a few students facing a week on short rations knew they could count on Dr. Fenner to pick up the check for a substantial lunch.

That sentiments about an illness bravely borne or calm in the face of death have become clichés is too bad. Bruce exhibited a fortitude as well as a good humor that were most impressive if not unflinching. His parents, Leonard and Theola, along with his older brother Donald survive him. His many friends both inside and outside of DePaul mourn him. His positive influence on the hundreds of people he taught is beyond calculation.

GREGORY C. KOZLOWSKI
DePaul University

MYA MAUNG (1933–1998)

Dr. Mya Maung, a professor of finance at Boston College School of Management, died December 17, 1998 of a heart attack.

A thirty-two-year member of the Finance Department at Boston College, Maung was an expert on the social, economic, and political history of Burma, his native country. His books included the recently published *The Burma Road to Capitalism: Economic Growth Versus Democracy*, and *Totalitarianism in Burma: Prospects for Economic Development*, *The Burma Road to Poverty*, and *Burma and Pakistan: A Comparative Study in Development*. He also authored articles in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Nation*, and *The Journal of Asian Economics* among others.

In 1991, Maung was invited by the Nobel Peace Prize committee to participate in the ceremony awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Burmese dissident Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Maung, who fled his native Burma after a military coup in 1962, was a harsh critic of a Burmese dictatorship he viewed as having led a once prosperous country to