

## OBITUARY

ABRAHAM DEMOZ, 1935–94

*Hans Panovsky writes:*

Abraham Demoz, Professor of Linguistics at Northwestern University and a specialist in Ethiopian and Semitic languages, died in Chicago on Thursday 14 July, 1994 following surgery. He was born in Asmara, Eritrea, in 1935 and received his B.A. ('with distinction') at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1956, then his M.Ed. from Harvard in 1957, his M.A. in 1959 and Ph.D. in 1964, both from U.C.L.A., where he studied with the noted Ethiopicist, Wolf Leslau. Abraham Demoz taught at Haile Selassie I University, where he served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1964–67). In Ethiopia he also served on national commissions dealing with education reform, language modernisation and constitutional reform. He taught as a visitor at the University of London and at Northwestern University, whose faculty he joined permanently in 1974 to become head of its Program of African Studies (until 1980) and a member of its Linguistics Department. He knew many languages, including French, Italian, Hebrew, Arabic, his native Tigrinya, Amharic (the national language of Ethiopia) and Ge'ez, the ancient liturgical language of the Ethiopian Church. His research and publications dealt with Semitic languages, Ethiopian studies, and sociolinguistics.