

# Obituaries

## JOHN FRANK BROHM (1923–87)

Dr. John Frank Brohm died of cancer at his home in Hayward, California, on January 21, 1987. Brohm's interest in anthropology and Asia commenced during World War II, when he served in the Army of the United States as a medical corpsman in upcountry Burma, under extremely dangerous and trying conditions. After leaving the service he studied at Stanford, graduating in 1950 in anthropology and Chinese studies, Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. He then took his doctorate at Cornell, where he was active as a researcher and teacher in the then-new Southeast Asia Program, specializing on Burma. After earning a tenured associate professorship in anthropology at the State University of New York at Binghamton, he moved into educational anthropology and international education. From 1962 to 1983, he was Southeastern Asia Representative of the Institute of International Education, with offices in Hong Kong and Bangkok. In this capacity, Brohm played a historic role in strengthening shaky bridges of understanding between Asian and American academic institutions, while generously and effectively aiding anyone coming to him for advice on higher education or research that in any way might relate to Asia.

LAURISTON SHARP  
*Cornell University*

ROBERT B. TEXTOR  
*Stanford University*

## SOW-THENG LEONG (1939–87)

Sow-Theng (S. T.) Leong, professor of Asian studies at Murdoch University and one of the leading historians of China in Australia, died on January 14, 1987 after a short illness.

Leong was born in 1939 in Malaysia and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1969. After teaching briefly at International Christian University in Tokyo, in 1971 he went to a research position at the Australian National University and in 1974 to a lectureship at Melbourne University. He moved to Western Australia in 1985 to take up the chair of Asian studies at Murdoch University. As a colleague, he combined tact, consideration, and quiet effectiveness, playing an active part in university life while also assiduously promoting Asian studies in the wider community.

Leong's first major interest was Sino-Soviet relations, to which he brought outstanding talents both as a historian and as a linguist, using materials in English, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. His *Sino-Soviet Diplomatic Relations 1917–1928* (Can-

berra: Australian National University Press, 1976) remains the standard work in the field, and he also contributed to many other aspects of the study of Sino-Soviet relations.

Later in his career Leong earned the admiration of colleagues by successfully retooling himself as a social historian. In his new field he employed Skinnerian regional analysis to write the history of the Hakka people, making a great contribution to our understanding of the connection between the regional dynamics affecting China's society and economy and the formation of ethnic and linguistic subgroups. Unfortunately only one part of this important research was published before his death, but it is intended that the rest will be published posthumously.

Murdoch University has established a scholarship fund in memory of S. T. Leong to continue his work in encouraging the study of Asian languages. Those who wish to make a gesture in remembrance may send contributions to: The S. T. Leong Memorial Scholarship Fund, Community Relations, Murdoch University, Murdoch WA 6150, Australia.

TIM WRIGHT  
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