

# *In Memoriam*

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## **Colin Badger 1906-1993**

We regret to announce the passing of Mr Colin Badger who has played a significant role in the development of Religion Studies in Australia. He died peacefully in his Melbourne home on Sunday August 8, 1993.

It was Colin Badger who was the inspiration and drive behind the formation of the Charles Strong Memorial Trust which has played such an influential part in the promotion of Religion Studies in Australia.

When the Australian Church ceased to function in 1955, some years after the death of its founder, the Rev Charles Strong, it was Colin Badger who proposed that the proceeds of the sale of the church be held in trust to encourage the study of world religions in Australia.

The Charles Strong Memorial Trust was established in 1957 with Colin Badger being a trustee and the Chair of the Advisory Committee until 1980 when Norman Habel assumed the position. During his years of leadership Colin was the

key figure in getting scholars such as Hutson Smith, Geoffrey Parrinder, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Carmen Blacker, and Zwi Werblowsky to visit Australia and deliver lectures in world religions. These lectures and promotion tours helped pave the way for the introduction of Religion Studies departments at CAE's and Universities in the mid 1970's.

Colin also had a strong commitment to adult education and was instrumental in the setting up of adult education centres in rural Victoria.

We remember Colin with great admiration, his dedication to the work of the Trust, his wonderful tales about famous people in the Melbourne academic world, his support for the AASR, and his warmth as a human companion in the search for truth.

We extend our sympathies to Mrs Badger and the members of his family.

*Norman Habel*

## **Raymond Owen Harrison**

Ray Harrison, onetime Secretary of the AASR, passed away in June of this year in Canada, where he was living, after

an unsuccessful battle with cancer. He was in all things a meticulous person and one of his final tasks was to arrange his

formal withdrawal from the MA program in which he was enrolled in the University of South Australia.

I first came into direct contact with Ray when I was President of AASR in 1985-6. He was not only an efficient secretary but also an innovative one who had creative plans afoot for the future of AASR. Thereafter our paths were to cross often and in 1986 he came with me on a study tour of Egyptian sites. He later moved to Canada and enrolled in the MA externally.

Although I had admired Ray previously, it was when I took over as co-ordinator of the MA program that I became fully aware of his ability. He had planned his personal program two years ahead and was involved in a wonderful variety of in-depth studies. For instance he was work-

ing at various times on the religious ritual of the Egyptian temple at Edfu, a critique of Fowler's stages of faith, a description of the rites in the shamanic curing ceremony at Zinacanta. His last major paper was, significantly, a study of modern approaches to religious healing.

Ray will be remembered among the Religious Studies staff at the University of South Australia as one of our best students, a colleague who interacted with us all and one whose dedication to study and research could never be faulted. The AASR also owes Ray a deep debt of gratitude for work beyond the call of duty. To his wife Leanne and to his two young children we offer our deepest sympathies and the memory of a life well lived.

*Robert Crotty*

