

## OBITUARIES

The College regrets to record the deaths of the following members notified during the period covered by this Record.

**Ryszard Kapuscinsky**, SAM 1986; **Robert Sartin**, Student 1956-57.

**Alexander Paul A'Court Bergne, CBE (1937-2007)** Senior Associate Member 1995-2007)

In his decade at the College, Paul Bergne put St Antony's on the map as a centre for the study of Central Asia. I first met Paul in 1996, shortly after he had ended his posting as first British ambassador to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. No one could have been better suited to this pioneering and sensitive job. He showed impressive resourcefulness and good humour in having initially to run the embassy from a Tashkent hotel room. He had just the right mix of charm and toughness to press human rights issues with the local authorities while maintaining working relations with them.

Communication was one of Paul's strongest points, strengthened in no small measure by his formidable linguistic skills. He was fluent in Persian, Arabic, Russian, German and Modern Greek, and he also had a working knowledge of Uzbek, Turkish and Italian. But what really made Paul such an outstanding intelligence officer and diplomat was his understanding of the history and culture of the countries in which served. His knowledge ranged from architecture, archaeology, and art to history and politics. It was the breadth of his scholarly interest and the range of practical experience that made Paul such an effective force for developing the study of Central Asia at the College and, more widely, in the University. He set about this difficult task with typical good humour, charm and enthusiastic determination. In 2003 Paul, almost single-handedly, established The Oxford Society for the Caspian and Central Asia (TOSCCA) which brought together all those interested in the study of these regions. Under the joint auspices of TOSCCA and the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre, Paul ran a series of seminars on Central Asia and three major conferences, which with typical modesty he called workshops, on Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. These were the first such conferences ever held in the UK and, in the case of Turkmenistan, the first in the West. Only Paul, with his range of contacts, could have assembled such an impressive cast of scholars and politicians from the region. With seemingly effortless organizational efficiency, he did everything from raising funds to arranging accommodation.

The conferences were high points of a wider and continuous flow of contributions Paul made to the development of Central Asian studies in the College and the University. He was incredibly generous with his time, offering special MPhil courses and giving guidance to students interested in the region. Most of them had no idea of the depth of scholarly knowledge and practical experience from which they were benefiting.

His qualities were well recognised at the highest levels, and in autumn 2001 Paul went to Afghanistan as the Prime Minister's personal representative, to liaise with the Northern

Alliance. It was just as well that London had Paul on the spot when, without informing the Northern Alliance, it despatched troops to Bagram airport. Without Paul's linguistic and diplomatic skills, the troop landing might well have triggered an armed clash. Paul was appointed CBE for his achievements in what turned out to be his last major mission. With typical integrity, Paul spoke publicly about the communication failures that had nearly brought about conflict. He was also one of a long list of former senior diplomats who later signed an open letter highly critical of Blair's policies in the Middle East.

For me, and for many who knew him at St Antony's, what was most impressive about Paul were his personal qualities. Having a conversation with Paul always made the day more agreeable. Quite apart from always having interesting things to say about what was going on in a wide arc of states, from Abu Dhabi to Afghanistan, he was a natural listener, able to make you feel you were telling him something new and fascinating. He got on with everyone so well because he combined sharp intellect with wisdom, modesty, empathy and human warmth. Paul was a highly gifted individual who carried his talents lightly, and in making his way through life enriched the lives of all around him.

I last saw Paul a week before he died. He had managed, with unwavering support from his wife Suzanne, to combat cancer for several years. He lay in bed in his large living room, surrounded by his collection of rugs and pictures, including several by his grandfather, the painter Holman Hunt. Paul was as engaging as ever, keen to catch up with the latest developments in Russia as well as St Antony's. In the midst of our conversation, the phone rang and he proceeded to conduct a complicated conversation in impressively fluent German. Paul hung up and treated me to a perceptive analysis of what was happening in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Despite his illness he managed to complete a major study of the early history of Tajikistan; *The Birth of Tajikistan: National Identity and the Origins of the Republic* was published posthumously, in May 2007. The book, together with his other scholarly writings, his teaching, broadcasting (he did a great deal with and for the BBC World Service) and of course his diplomatic work, will stand as an enduring contribution to our relations with and understanding of Central Asia. The task before the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre and TOSCCA is to build on the foundations Paul laid and ensure that Central Asian studies at St Antony's and Oxford continue to thrive and prosper.

*Alex Pravda*

**Shardul Chaturvedi** (died 2006) Student 1997-2002

Shardul Chaturvedi was brought up in Gwalior, India, and was an undergraduate at St Stephen's College in Delhi where he read History. He was deeply concerned by the revival of religious conflict in India and taught himself Urdu in order to study South Asian Islamic culture. He came to St Antony's in 1997 on a Felix Scholarship and, in 2002, took an MLitt, writing a dissertation on the history of Urdu literature. He was also a keen cricketer and pursued a secondary career in journalism. He always had interests in drama and the cinema and, on returning to India, moved to Mumbai in order to take up acting. His death is a very sad loss to his family.

*David Washbrook*

**Daniel Chudnovsky, DPhil** (died 2007) Student 1970-73

Daniel was my very first DPhil student, back in 1973. I had the privilege of ‘inheriting’ him from his supervisor, Paul Streeten, who was leaving Oxford, and I helped to put the final touches to an innovative and brilliant DPhil, which shaped much of his later thinking, in a career which saw him at UNCTAD during the years of dictatorship in Argentina, then eventually back home, founding a think tank, CENIT, teaching and researching. His death at age 62 from cancer was with little warning – just five months from diagnosis. He had been at College only a year earlier, giving his usual superb seminar to us all in the Latin American Centre.

His academic profile was distinguished. He published nine books and many articles. Much of his work was designed to reveal the inner working of multinationals and direct foreign investment: his constant critical approach and his respect for hard micro research led to significant contributions to the literature and to our understanding. But he always wanted more: he wanted his work to change the world. This was part of the significance of his creation of CENIT, a think tank that also took academic understanding out to engage with real problems. I saw him having huge impact in the way he worked through CENIT with Argentine business to help make the economic integration processes of Mercosur really work at the micro level.

He loved to come back to Oxford, which was for him a place of education and inspiration and true scholarly work, and also where he formed close friendships that were important to him throughout his life. One such friend, Andrew Glyn, writes of him as ‘a loyal, warm and kind friend’. “I have vivid memories of him striding up and down in my kitchen when he was a grad student, outraged about something somebody in the faculty had said or done..., of [his wife] Alicia trying to teach us how to do the tango..., and of how he stayed so passionate about politics and economics, always identifying himself with the left in some broad sense despite all the shifts in political centre of gravity in Argentina and worldwide.”

Andrew’s recall of that warmth, zest for life and deep progressive commitment will find echo with all his friends as it does with me.

It was a great joy to him to go back at age 55 to the university, to San Andres in Buenos Aires, and part of the joy, says his wife Alicia, was that it was a return to the academic life and values he had loved at Oxford. She describes him as a true ‘research person’ and a brilliant teacher, much loved by his students. The university’s recognition of him and his work after his death meant a great deal to her and to their daughter Marianne. From St Antony’s and from the Latin American Centre, we want to offer the same recognition and to share our affection and respect.

*Rosemary Thorp*

**Sylvia Coultas (née Gilpin)** (died 2006) Student 1965-70

We were saddened to learn of the death of Sylvia Gilpin (as we knew her) on 18 June 2006. Sylvia came to St Antony’s having graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in the USA, in 1965. A lively and unfailingly cheerful member of the Junior Common Room,

she had a large circle of friends. She conducted research into the role of women in the development of new nations in Africa, and for her case study of women in Congo-Kinshasa she was awarded a BLitt. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

*Tony Nicholls (Emeritus Fellow)*

**Professor Abu Imam, PhD** (died 2007) Research Fellow 1966-69

Professor Abu Imam, a research fellow in Asian Studies at St Antony's 1966-69, passed away peacefully in his sleep on February 27th, 2007 at the age of 78. He has left behind a widow, three daughters and a grandson. He did his MA and PhD at SOAS in Indian archaeology. He subsequently became Head of the Department of Archaeology and History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. His influence was such that he has been referred to as 'the father of archaeology in Bangladesh'.

**Professor Sir Hugh Kawharu** (1927-2006) Senior Associate Member 1978

Professor Sir Hugh Kawharu, Chair of the Ngati Whatua o Orakei Maori Trust Board and an Emeritus Professor of the University of Auckland, died at his home in Auckland after a brief illness on 19 September 2006. He was a Foundation Professor (personal chair) in Social Anthropology and Maori Studies at Massey University from 1970 to 1984 and Professor of Maori Studies and Head of Department of the Anthropology Department at the University of Auckland from 1985 to 1993. Sir Hugh authored, edited and co-authored publications on Maori Land Tenure, The Treaty of Waitangi and Ethnicity.

**Harold Lee** (died 2006) Senior Associate Member 1990, Senior Visitor 1998

Harold Lee died of a heart attack on October 30 2006 while on an art history trip to Morocco. He trained as a medievalist but developed an interest in modern history, specifically of Britain and the British Empire, and of American agriculture. While attached to the College, he undertook further research for a joint biography of John and Henry Lawrence, with particular attention to their roles in the establishment of the Punjab School of British administration in India. This was published by OUP in 2002 as *Brothers in the Raj*. His earlier publications include a biography of Roswell Garst, the Iowa agricultural innovator who famously entertained Nikita Khrushchev at his farm in Coon Rapids during the latter's visit to the United States in 1959 (Iowa State University Press, 1984), and, with Marjorie Reeves and Giulio Silano, *Western Mediterranean Prophecy: The School of Joachim of Fiore and the Fourteenth Century "Breviloquium"* (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 1989).

*Ann Waswo*

**John MacDonald** (died 2007) College Steward 1982-98

John MacDonald was appointed College Steward in 1982 having previously held a similar position at Brasenose. John was a private and retiring man who adopted a willing, albeit low key, approach to the role of Steward and as much of his work was unseen, it probably did not receive the appreciation it deserved. With the support of a very small and largely part-time staff his responsibilities included the day to day supervision of the Hilda Besse Building covering the Hall, Buttery Bar, Fellows' Dining Room and Common Rooms. However his great interest was the management of the Wine Cellar that, although during

his time, was small by Oxford College standards, nevertheless needed close attention due to the ever present threat of flooding and temperature fluctuations.

In term time John was responsible for the preparation and serving of High Table, but despite the wild fluctuations in the numbers dining, he somehow managed to conjure up casual staff in the face of keen competition from other Colleges. Although during most of his time in post the College was unable to take full advantage of the ever increasing demand for conference facilities enjoyed by the undergraduate Colleges, John did from time to time organise and oversee, with the Chef, a variety of non-residential events including private dinners for up to 200, wedding receptions, barmitzvahs and the like. His calm and laid back style appeared well suited on such occasions.

Distinguished College visitors during his time as Steward included two University Chancellors, Lords Macmillan and Jenkins, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mr Gorbachev, as well as many Ambassadors and senior politicians.

John did not enjoy the best of health but was rarely absent and undertook whatever was required of him without comment or complaint. He retired from College in 1998 and died in February 2007.

*Squadron Leader John Sellers (former Domestic Bursar)*

**Iverach McDonald (1908-2006)** Senior Associate Member 1973-2006

Twenty months short of his century, Iverach McDonald died peacefully in his sleep in the Scotland of which he was so notable a son. A faithful clansman – his favourite music was the pibroch played on the bagpipes – he could be further described both as a Yorkshireman, for he studied at Leeds Grammar School and his first substantive post was on The Yorkshire Post, and as a Russianist, for his concern with the then USSR began with an invitation to Moscow with a group of British journalists in 1932. Ample advance notice for that mission having been given, he took intensive tutorials in Russian from a Leeds University tutor. He revisited the USSR in 1936 and, as Harry Shukman wrote in The Times, Iverach was possibly unique as the surviving witness of an election meeting in the Bolshoi Theatre at which Stalin made an unscheduled appearance. Better than any tutorial, Iverach's recapitulation of Stalin's speech, with its rhetorical devices and sinister climax, gave successive generations of graduate students a graphic illustration of the dictator's devastating technique. His interest in the USSR was lifelong, and he was still buying books on Russia when he was 97.

He had joined The Times in 1935, and was for a year an assistant correspondent in Berlin; promoted Diplomatic Correspondent, he spent time in Prague during the period of Nazi pressure over Sudetenland and in Printing House Square contested the advocacy of appeasement by the Editor, Geoffrey Dawson. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was recruited as Captain into the Directorate of Military Intelligence, but after two years' service was returned to The Times, one of his first articles (May 1941) forecasting Hitler's invasion of the USSR two months later. Covering all six of the 'Big Four' conferences (San Francisco 1945 to Bermuda 1953), he became Foreign Editor in 1952 and Managing Editor from 1965 until his retirement in 1973. Then began a flow of publica-

tions, the autobiographical *A Man of the Times* (1976), the volume of *The History of The Times* covering 1939-66 (1984), substantively his period on the paper, and chapters in *Walter Lippmann and His Times* (1979).

He had married Gwendoline Brown in 1935: they had a son, Ian, now a senior official at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, and a daughter, Janet, married and living in Scotland. The couple chose Beckley, near Oxford, for retirement, and in 1973 the Fellows of the Russian Centre seized the opportunity to propose him for Senior Associate Membership. He thereafter regularly participated in the Monday evening Russian Seminar, often prefacing his illuminating pertinent comments with a 'When I was in Moscow...' The large Beckley cottage afforded space for entertainment for friends and colleagues from London and from the Oxford region, among whom many from St Antony's. They were able to continue visiting when his physical frailty (contrasting with retained intellectual vigour) required a move into St Luke's Home. In June 2006, daughter Janet and her husband Jeremy flew him to the Strathallan Care Home in Stirling to be near them, but his well cared-for stay was truncated by his death on 14 December 2006. At his funeral on 27 December in St Modoc's Church, Duane, near Stirling, three of his granddaughters played a movement from a Bach concerto for violins and cello. A memorial service for Oxford friends took place on 14 April 2007, when his ashes were laid to rest next to Gwen's in Beckley Churchyard.

*Michael Kaser and Harry Shukman (Emeritus Fellows)*

**The Hon John M. Roberts** (1933-2007) Student 1960-63

Older members of the College will remember with affection and respect the Hon John Roberts, who died in Toronto on 31 March 2007. Born in Hamilton, Canada, on 28 November, 1933, Roberts studied political science at the University of Toronto and graduated with the Breuls Gold Medal in that subject. From 1960 to 1963 he worked for an Oxford doctorate in Politics at St Antony's under the supervision of Isaiah Berlin. He successfully completed a thesis comparing the views of the liberty of the individual held by J. S. Mill, T. H. Green and Wilhelm von Humboldt. In 1963 he joined the Canadian Foreign Service, working in Paris, the United Nations and Ottawa. He switched into Canadian Liberal politics and was elected to the Canadian federal parliament in the Trudeau landslide of 1968. Although he was to lose his seat in 1972, he bounced back when Liberal fortunes were on the rise. A strong supporter of Pierre Trudeau, he was an affective advocate when arguing the case for the patriation of the Canadian Constitution with British parliamentarians. He was appointed to a number of ministerial posts. The most important were Minister of Culture (with the title of Secretary of State for Canada), 1976-79, and Minister of Science and Technology and the Environment, 1980-1983. In the latter post he showed considerable vision and flair in stressing threats to the Canadian environment at a time when ecological issues were taken less seriously than they are now. He vigorously championed Canadian interests against pollution from the USA, claiming that acid rain from US sources was damaging Canadian lakes, rivers and fish. This brought him into conflict with the American government, a confrontation which he pursued with relish. His efforts laid the basis for the Acid Rain Treaty between the two countries that was eventually signed by a Conservative government after a Liberal defeat. When Trudeau resigned in 1984 Roberts was one of several candidates for the leadership of the Liberal Party, but

his campaign was unsuccessful. Having lost his seat in Parliament in September 1984, he effectively gave up active politics as a profession at the age of fifty-one. Instead he conducted research and lectured on Politics at Oxford (New College) and the Australian National University at Canberra, and at several Canadian Universities. In 1985 he published *Agenda for Change: Towards a New Liberalism*. In the 1990's his health deteriorated; he suffered from diabetes and heart problems. But early this year he completed a manuscript on the philosophy of Wilhelm von Humboldt, one of the political philosophers he had studied for his Oxford thesis over forty years earlier. On 31 March, after accompanying his stepdaughter to the theatre, he succumbed to a massive coronary attack.

One Canadian obituary describes him as 'an intellectual who was as charming as he was erudite'. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing him in St Antony's would endorse that judgment.

*Tony Nicholls (Emeritus Fellow)*

**Richard Symonds** (1918-2006) Senior Associate Member 1979-92

John Richard Charters Symonds was a Senior Associate Member of the College from 1979 to 1992. The son of a distinguished neurologist, he was born in Oxford on 2 October 1918, and educated at Rugby and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He read History as an undergraduate and was active in the Oxford Union. In 1938 he accompanied a group of undergraduates, which included Edward Heath, on a fact-finding mission to Spain. A convinced pacifist, he joined the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) in 1939 and served with it during the 'Blitz' on London. The Unit then offered its services to the government of Bengal when Calcutta seemed likely to be a target for Japanese bombers. Symonds was appointed deputy leader of the group. A devastating cyclone proved even more serious a threat than the Japanese air force, and a famine ensued during which Symonds oversaw the FAU's relief work in a manner which gained the respect of the Bengal administration. After the war he worked for UNRRA in Austria, but when he heard of the violence accompanying the partition of India in 1947 he returned to serve with the Friends Service Unit there and monitored the treatment of minorities on either side of the new border. During a particularly dangerous visit to Western Kashmir he was stricken with typhoid fever. Gandhi, whom he already knew, insisted that he be looked after at Birla House in Delhi where the great man himself ministered to Symonds, and where he was visited by politicians of different kinds, all expressing deep sympathy. He remarked to Gandhi, "Now is surely the appropriate time for me to expire, for I shall never be so well regarded again". Instead, he recovered, and in 1948 joined the UN Commission for India and Pakistan, which was seeking a settlement of the Kashmir problem. His experiences provided material for his first book, *The Making of Pakistan* (1950).

In 1950 he was recruited to the UN's Technical Assistance Board, designed to help newly independent countries establish sound economic policies. During the next twelve years he served in Ceylon, Yugoslavia, Eastern and Southern Africa. After a period as a Senior Research Officer in Oxford's Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 1962-64, and as a Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the University of Sussex, 1966-69, he resumed his UN career in the Population Division, and then in the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). He continued his varied UN service by

working for the UN Development Programme, for which he was Resident Representative, first in Greece and then in Tunisia. Having become the Senior Adviser to the Development Programme, he retired from the UN in 1979, and came to live in Oxford. He was for thirteen years a Senior Associate Member of St Antony's, and remained closely attached to the College thereafter. In 1980 he married Ann Spokes, the former Conservative Lord Mayor of Oxford, and a noted writer on local history. He undertook consultancies for the WHO and the Commonwealth Foundation, but his main concern was writing and research. He was a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (Queen Elizabeth House) and was instrumental in setting up (within the Bodleian Library) the UN Careers Record Project, of which he became the Honorary Director in 1989. His own publication record was impressive for its breadth and quality. One major work was *Oxford and Empire, The Last Lost Cause* (1986). As well as books on United Nations' topics such as development and population, he wrote about the noteworthy figures of Corpus Christi College and Anglican saints. In 1999 he published *Inside the Citadel: Men and the Emancipation of Women*, an account of men who braved ridicule in the cause of women's rights, and in 2001 produced a volume of *Memoirs about his work in India and Pakistan: In the Margins of Independence*. He was always a respected contributor to discussions in the Commonwealth History Seminar at Oxford. A thoughtful, jovial and benevolent man, he is survived by his wife, Ann Spokes, and a son by a previous marriage. The College will miss him.

*Tony Nicholls (Emeritus Fellow)*