

OBITUARIES

Emile Snyder died on Friday, 17 January 1992, in Athens, Ohio, after a heart attack.

Professor Snyder was, along with Professors A.C. Jordan and Lyndon Harries, one of the first members of the faculty of the Department of African Languages and Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was also the full-time Chair of the department in 1965.

From Madison, where he left an unforgettable mark, he spent two academic years teaching at the University of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania and traveling in different parts of Africa. He later joined the Departments of French and Comparative Literature at the University of Indiana, Bloomington until his retirement two years ago.

Emile was a past president of the ALA (African Literature Association) and an active member of the ASA. He was a very sensitive critic of francophone poetry and a published poet himself. Among other things, we owe him an early and most poetic English translation of Aime Cesaire's great classic *Le Cahier d'un retour au pays natal* (*Return to My Native Land*).

A memorial fund has been established in Professor Snyder's name. Contributions should be sent to the *Emile Snyder Scholarship Fund for Young Poets*, Ohio University Foundation, P.O. Box 869, Athens, Ohio 45701.

Edris Makward
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Robert L. Hess, distinguished scholar, visionary academic leader and engaging colleague, passed away on 12 January in New York City following a long illness.

Robert Hess was born on 18 December 1932. He worked his way through Yale University where he received his BA magna cum laude in 1954. He received his MA and PhD in history from Yale. From 1956 to 1958 he studied at the University of Rome. He was the recipient of seven honorary degrees.

The author of numerous books and articles on African subjects, Bob Hess was best known for his incisive and illuminating scholarship on the Horn of Africa which included *Italian Colonialism in Somalia* (1966) and *Ethiopia: The Modernization of Autocracy* (1972) selected by Choice as one of the ten best books on Africa. He edited the *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Ethiopian Studies* published in 1979. He was editor of the *Dictionary of African Bi-*

ography: Ethiopia—Ghana, 1977, and with D. M. Coger he produce *Semper Ex Africa: A Bibliography of Primary Sources for Nineteenth Century Africa* (1972). His article with Gerhard Loewenberg "The Ethiopian No-Party State" (*American Political Science Review*, 1964) was one of the first and most insightful portrayals of Emperor Haile Selassie's postwar regime, one which remains a classic today.

Bob Hess taught at Carnegie Mellon University, Mount Holyoke and Northwestern before moving on to the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was promoted to full professor in 1971 and began his career in academic administration. After serving as Director of History Graduate Studies, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, he was selected in 1979 to become the sixth President of Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

At Brooklyn College, Bob Hess was that very rare combination of distinguished academic, and administrative and civic leader. He and his faculty introduced a core liberal arts curriculum combining western and nonwestern studies that brought the College further recognition as one of the country's leading liberal arts institutions.

He inspired those who knew him with his energy, achievements, and integrity as he enriched our lives with his compassion, warmth and humanity. His quest for excellence has left an enduring legacy.

John W. Harbeson
City College of New York

Alberto Sbacchi
Atlantic Union College

Herbert Weiss
Brooklyn College