

# Obituaries

FRITZ LEHMANN

(1936–1994)

Fritz Lehmann of the University of British Columbia died after a brief illness on April 26, 1994. He had been a member of the UBC history faculty since 1968, and previously taught at Temple University. A native of the Chicago area, he graduated from Oberlin College in 1958. He entered graduate study at the University of Wisconsin in South Asian and comparative history and developed an enduring interest in the history and institutions of Islamic religion and culture in India. His dissertation, "The Eighteenth Century Transition in India: Responses of Some Bihar Intellectuals" (1967) was among the first in modern scholarship to challenge the conventional representations of cultural and political decay in eighteenth-century North India.

Professor Lehmann enjoyed close and respectful relationships with a great diversity of Biharis, Muslims, Hindus, and Christians and sought to support and encourage scholars in Bihar. His research interests in Urdu literature and Islamic popular religion are reflected in a number of significant articles. His work in India was, from the outset, shared by his wife, the former Joanna Larson, with whom he often collaborated in review essays. At UBC Fritz, who was known as a supportive and demanding instructor, taught extensively, introducing courses on Medieval India, Islamic Civilization, and Korean Civilization, as well as teaching the general South Asian history courses. His lifelong interest in railroads and their history led him to research the history of technology and its role in the colonial world. He wrote extensively on the history of the Canadian locomotive industry, and at the time of his death was working on a history of the Indian Railway's Research and Development Organization, the research for which he had conducted on an Shastri Indo-Canadian Fellowship in 1991–92.

Those who knew and worked with Fritz Lehmann will attest to his extraordinary commitment to fairness and justice in all things. He was a supportive and honest professional colleague and a friend to generations of students. His life was not without its disappointments, but he made of it a work of art.

FRANK CONLON  
*University of Washington*