

Obituaries

ERNEST BENDER

1919–1996

Ernest Bender, Professor Emeritus of Indo-Aryan languages and literatures, University of Pennsylvania, passed away at his home, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, on 18th April, of an apparent heart attack. He was 77 years old. Professor Bender was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on January 2, 1919, and settled in Philadelphia at the age of four. He was admitted to the selective Greek and Latin program of Boys High School (Central High School), graduating in 1937. As an undergraduate at Temple University he continued his studies in Classics, firmly establishing a lifelong interest in philology and cultural history.

Upon taking the B.A. from Temple University in 1941, Bender became a graduate student in the Oriental Studies Department of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was introduced to the three teachers who were to have the deepest influence upon him: W. Norman Brown in Indology, and Zellig Harris and Henry Hoenigswald in Linguistics. Through Brown, Bender chose a career in Indology and a specialization in the field of medieval Jain religion, literature and art.

Shortly after the United States declared war on Japan, Bender was drafted into the Air Force, but was released from active duty due to medical reasons. Because of his talent and training in classical languages, he was given a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies to study Hindi and Urdu at the Asia Society in New York. He then returned to Philadelphia where in 1943–44 he served as instructor in Hindi/Urdu in the Army Specialized Training Program. From 1944 to 1946, he was the coordinator of the Army Specialized Training Program in Japanese. At the same time, he was awarded two successive Harrison fellowships at Penn for the study of Sanskrit. While studying Indology, Bender continued working with Zellig Harris on linguistic subjects, and coauthored with Harris two articles on the Cherokee language. An unpublished manuscript of Cherokee texts with translations and grammatical analysis is in the Boas Collection in the Library of the American Philosophical Society.

As a Rockefeller fellow in 1947–48, Bender visited India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka for the first time. He proved to be an indefatigable photographer, especially at copying medieval manuscripts. His vast archive of Jain materials dates from this period. This fellowship also provided him an opportunity to begin work on a grammar of Sinhala. Upon his return he was appointed to the newly formed South Asia Regional Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming an assistant professor in 1950, in a shared appointment with the Oriental Studies Department. In 1955–56, he returned to India and Sri Lanka on a Guggenheim fellowship for research on the Old Gujarati language. It was also at this time that he developed his grammars for Hindi and Urdu. He was appointed to associate professor with tenure in 1958, and professor in 1967.

In 1958, Bender began a thirty year editorial relationship with the American Oriental Society; first as associate editor, later in 1964 as chief editor, a position he held until 1988. He also served as the society's president in 1993–94. He served as vice-president of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, and convened the 6th World Sanskrit Conference in Philadelphia in 1984. He was a member of many learned societies, including the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland; the Asiatic Society of Bengal; the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune; the L.D. Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad; and the Oriental Institute, Baroda.

Ernest Bender played a key role in developing methods to teach South Asian languages in the American graduate studies system. During the World War II era and the period immediately following, when the discipline of linguistics began to win acceptance, Bender participated in the formulation of techniques to teach modern South Asian languages to military personnel, State Department staff, as well as graduate students. He was author of ten monographs on linguistic/literary topics concerning Indian (South Asian) languages, and numerous articles, including art historical topics. He published grammars of Hindi, Urdu and Bengali (with Theodore Riccardi), and completed, but did not publish grammars for Gujarati and Sinhala. In 1992, he published a critical edition and translation, including an extensive glossary, of the *Salibhadra-Dhanna-Carita*, a medieval Jain didactic story composed in Old Gujarati. Since his retirement in 1989, he devoted much of his time to compiling an etymological glossary of Old Gujarati.

RICHARD J. COHEN
University of Pennsylvania

ALAN ENTWISTLE

1949–1996

It is with deep sadness that I report the death this morning, March 28, 1996, of Professor Alan Entwistle of the University of Washington, a distinguished scholar, esteemed colleague and wonderful human being. Shortly after joining our faculty in 1986, Alan was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. He endured severe radiation and chemotherapy treatments and experienced a remission which enabled him to enjoy nearly a decade of further research and teaching. However in the past autumn, when he had taken up a Senior Fellowship of the American Institute of Indian Studies during a long postponed sabbatical leave in India, he experienced unmistakable signs that the remission had ended. He was forced to return to Seattle in January, 1996.

Alan Entwistle was born in Weymouth, England, March 10, 1949. He completed undergraduate studies with an honors B.A. in French at the University of Southampton in 1971. Subsequently he entered the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, earning an M.A. in South Asia Area Studies in 1975. In 1982 he completed a Ph.D. in Hindi, writing a dissertation "*The Rasa mana ke pada of Kevalarama, a Medieval Hindi Text of the Eighth Gaddi of the Vallabha Sampradaya,*" under the supervision of Professor J. C. Wright, Dr. R. D. Gupta and Dr. R. S. McGregor.