

## ROBERT LEATH STIGLER, JR., 1921–1980



Robert Leath Stigler, Jr., died at his home in Arkansas on the morning of September 30, 1980, of a coronary attack after a long illness. He was 59. It is believed that the contributory cause of his death was lung congestion; he was a heavy smoker. He is well remembered as both educator and administrator in the department of anthropology, Columbia University, where he spent the major part of his professional career.

Stigler was born in Monroe, Louisiana, in 1921, and later moved to Arkansas with his parents. He attended public schools in Little Rock and Pine Bluff, then earned a B.A. at Vanderbilt University in economics and political science in 1942. The following year he joined the U.S. Navy and graduated from the Navy Japanese Language School in 1944. He served with intelligence units in the Southwest Pacific and with the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey until his separation from the service in 1946 with the permanent rank of Lieutenant (S.G.) U.S.N.R. Following military service he went into a bank in New York, but left this position to become a graduate student in anthropology at Columbia.

Stigler's academic career centered on Columbia where his first teaching was as an instructor in anthropology from 1954 to 1957. During the five years he was away from Columbia he was assistant professor at Brandeis (1957–1960), a codirector of the Peace Corps Jamaica Training Program in 1962 while an associate of the Research Institute for the Study of Man. He rejoined Columbia later that year in a combined position as lecturer in Columbia College and administrator of projects and grants in the graduate department of anthropology. He continued with this special arrangement until ill health forced him to retire early in 1980.

Stigler did fieldwork in both hemispheres and on four continents, experience which he shared with his students at Columbia and Brandeis. In the New World he worked in Colorado and at the University of Arizona's Point of Pines field school. His dissertation (Ph.D. 1954) derived from fieldwork in northern Peru done under his Columbia professor, William Duncan Strong. He was the director of the Brandeis University Middle East Archaeological Project to Iran and Israel, 1960–1961, and in 1961–1962 became field director of the Columbia University Nubian Monuments Campaign Archaeological Project, working in Sudanese Nubia and Upper Egypt. The last fieldwork with which he was formally associated was Columbia's Archaeological Field Project in Azerbaijan, Iran. Stigler also spent a brief time doing archaeological work in Japan, a period of his life for which we have no details.

Never a great "joiner," Stigler was, however, a member of the Society for American Archaeology, the American Anthropological Association (Fellow), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Robert Stigler may be characterized as a very unassuming, even reserved, person who viewed the world with quiet humor. He left a legacy of students stimulated by his college teaching, many

of whom went on to graduate work, primarily at Columbia University. In his own way he left an impress on all who knew and liked him.

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