

William Norman Brown

1892–1975

Norman Brown died April 22nd. He was 82. Many of us owe him personal debts for his help at various points in his career; all of us are immensely beholden to him for his contribution to the development of our field of South Asian Studies. He came to the University of Pennsylvania in 1926 as Professor of Sanskrit, but unlike most Indologists of his era, he was a frequent visitor to India, where he had spent part of his boyhood; in fact, he had taught in Prince of Wales College at Jammu. His long history of scholarship on India earned him a D. Litt. degree from the University of Madras in 1957, and the Jnana-ratnakara from West Bengal Government Sanskrit College, Calcutta, in 1961. He maintained a lively interest in things modern as well as ancient; and his scholarship and publications spanned the full range of time periods and disciplines. He was truly a renaissance man on things Indian; there is to my knowledge no scholar surviving him who has his range and sureness of command in South Asian Studies. It was in this image of the felicitous combination of things modern and classical that he built our own Department here at Pennsylvania. He had an unflagging devotion to the growth of the field as a whole and to the encouragement of young scholars in it. He was a master at planning for the development of our collective enterprise, at building the institutions to carry it forward, and at finding the resources and the manpower to carry it out. The American Institute of Indian Studies is a living testimonial to his devotion to that cause. He was also the organizer of the original Committee on South Asia, which spurred the early development of our field and which negotiated our entry into the Association for Asian Studies. He became President of that organization in 1960-61. Earlier he served as President of the American Oriental Society from 1941-42, and Editor of the Journal of the American Oriental Society from 1926-41. He was a founder and member of almost every committee I ever heard of in South Asian Studies over a twenty-year period. He was a giant among us, and his death truly marks the end of an era. There are very many people around the world who will truly mourn him as a scholar, as an advocate and as a friend. For me personally, his death leaves an emptiness that will quietly ache for many years to come. His principal publications were: *The Pancatantra in Modern India Folklore* (1919); *The Indian and Christian Miracles of Walking on the Water* (1928); *The Story of Kalaka* (1933); *Miniature Paintings of the Jaina Kalpasutra* (1934); *A Pillared Hall from Madura in the Philadelphia Museum of Art* (1940); *Manuscript Illustrations of the Uttaradhyayana Sutra* (1941); *India, Pakistan, Ceylon*, editor and part author, (1951; revised 1964); *The Saundaryalahari* (1958); *Resources for South Asian Language Studies in the United States*, editor (1960); *The Vasanta Vilasa* (1962); *The Mahimnastava* (1965); *Man in the Universe* (1966); *The United States, and India, Pakistan, Bangladesh* (1972). A collection of his scripta minora entitled *India and Indology, Selected Articles by W. Norman Brown*, was published for the American Institute of Indian Studies by Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi.

RICHARD D. LAMBERT

University of Pennsylvania