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## O B I T U A R Y   N O T I C E

### PETER ARNOLD LIENHARDT

12 March 1928 - 17 March 1986

It is with great sorrow that we record the death of Peter Lienhardt on 17 March 1986, following a period of illness. Peter first joined the Institute of Social Anthropology in Oxford as a student in 1952 and had taught there since 1960. During these years he was a valued teacher, colleague and friend to many who will hold his memory dear.

Born in 1928, Peter Lienhardt attended Batley Grammar School (1938-45) and from there was awarded an Open Scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, where he read English and then Oriental Languages (Arabic and Persian). After his military service with the RAF (spent mainly in a department of the Foreign Office, 1950-52), he joined the Institute in Oxford, completing a B.Litt. thesis on 'The Northern Arabs' in 1953. With the support of a Treasury Senior Studentship in Foreign Languages and Cultures (1953-57), he carried out fieldwork in the Trucial Coast, Kuwait and Bahrain, completing his D.Phil. in 1957 on 'The Shaikhdoms of Eastern Arabia'. The opportunity of a Research Fellowship at the East African Institute for Social Research at Makerere, Uganda, enabled him to carry out further field research among the Islamic communities of the Swahili coast, a part of the world for which he retained a special affection. Back in Oxford, Peter held a Research Fellowship at St Antony's College from 1960 to 1962. Following the Hayter proposals for the expansion of area studies in Oxford, the post of Faculty Lecturership in Middle Eastern Sociology was created to be held at the Institute, and Peter Lienhardt was appointed to this new position in 1962. He held it in conjunction with a Fellowship at St Antony's from 1962 to 1970, and a College Lecturership from 1970 onwards. In 1965-66 he took advantage of a year's sabbatical leave to undertake further field research, in the Iranian city of Isfahan.

Peter played an active role in the Oxford University Anthropological Society and indeed was its President at the time of his death, having been elected to that position for the second time in Michaelmas 1985.

Accepting for himself only the very highest standards in writing and publication, Peter published relatively little, but each of his contributions has a special originality and fastidious

quality which we shall now treasure the more. It is a major loss to our subject that it was not given to Peter to bring to fruition his major work on the Gulf states. Our personal loss is, however, greater, and it will be widely shared. With friends in Oxford and those now dispersed, we join to offer Godfrey Lienhardt our deepest condolences.

W.R.J.  
24 March 1986

A Memorial Fund is to be established in Peter Lienhardt's name, to be attached to the Oxford Institute and to foster research in social anthropology. Further details will be published in a future issue of *JASO*.