

Professor Robert N. St. Clair (1934–2018) in Memoriam



In October 2018, IAICS received the sad news that one of the founders of our organization, our former Executive Director (1999-2008) and President (2013-15) Professor Robert N. St. Clair, had passed away. In his last email to me on 13. September, he wrote that he only had a few weeks left, and he wanted to personally say goodbye to a good friend and colleague. In 2014, at the board meeting of IAICS at the University of Rhode Island, he entrusted me with the task of editing his Festschrift. As issue editor it was my honor and pleasure to work with him and other distinguished scholars and esteemed members of IAICS to complete the Festschrift. It appeared in 2016, the year he retired, as ICS 2016 XXV (1) with 16 articles by 24 authors. All the articles connect with and highlight different aspects of Professor St. Clair's published research through more than four decades. His select bibliography in the appendix which Professor and ICS main editor Joanna Radwanska-Williams helped me complete, numbers 13 authored books, 31 edited books and 138 articles between 1967 and 2015. I know that he and his family were very happy and honored with the publication.

It is a remarkable career that has come to an end. Professor St. Clair's research interests and publications span the period from his first academic endeavor on Polynesian phonology in 1967, his doctoral dissertation in linguistics from the University of Kansas in 1974 dealing with Siberian and Alaskan Eskimo phonology, to his professorship in Communication in 1979

at The University of Louisville, to his last authored book in 2013 on the grammar of visual space. When he retired in 2016, he had several other book and article manuscripts in progress. Professor St. Clair supervised no less than 25 doctoral dissertations on topics as diverse as psychology, rhetoric and composition, semiotic analysis, culture as metaphors, visual metaphors, hermeneutical phenomenology, female archetypes between East and West as well as cultural traits in intercultural communication. A polyglot (Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Italian, Yakima, Eskimo), his published research in English and several other languages, was mainly in linguistics (phonology, grammar, dialectology, lexicography, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, bilingualism), semiotics, language and cognition, culture theory, the sociology of knowledge and intercultural communication. His last publications addressed topics such as the lamination of cultural networks, discussing communication studies through engaging in new mathematical models and more interdisciplinary frameworks.

It is with great sadness and deep respect that IAICS pays tribute to a great and prolific scholar, a devoted friend and colleague who meant so much to many.

Robert W. Vaagan
President 2017-2019