

## Dr Alan Bernard Heywood Kenny

Older Conradians will be saddened to hear of the death, in March 2011, of Alan Kenny, the second editor of the journal of the Joseph Conrad Society (UK) (1979-83), which he renamed *The Conradian*.

He was educated at Dartford and Enfield Grammar Schools, read English at University College, Oxford (1956-1959), completed his PhD at the University of Nottingham (1978) and gained a TEFL qualification in 1982 and a MA in Linguistics (University of Nottingham, 1983/4).

Those privileged to have been in his company will recall his eclectic and encyclopaedic knowledge, his prodigious memory, and his being always an entertaining and erudite companion.

His first teaching post (1961-3) was at Alexandra Grammar School, Singapore, where he met and married Monica, another British teacher. They spent their honeymoon on a month's cruise to Hong Kong and Japan, later exploring Malaya and Thailand, yielding valuable insights into the wanderings of Józef Konrad Korzeniowski.

He then taught English for three years at Clee Humberston Foundation Boys Grammar School (3 years), and was then Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in English at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln (1966-83).

During this time he completed his PhD on Joseph Conrad and Carlyle.

Returning to the Far East was a long cherished dream. In Brunei (1984-95) Alan lectured at the Institut Pendidikan and then at the new university. He and Monica enjoyed a varied life, singing, acting, wind surfing, walking in the jungle and exploring Borneo, Indonesia, China, Burma, Sri Lanka, India, Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand.

He completed three novels (alas, unpublished) of which the last was a rewriting of *Vanity Fair*, featuring one of Thackeray's minor characters, Joseph Sedley, as the "hero" and would-be wooer of Becky Sharp – "in order to reveal the sexual allure of a fatter man."

He contributed articles to newspapers and magazines worldwide, and gave lectures on literary and historical subjects, at home and abroad, right up to his death.

John Crompton