

Professor Susan Manning, 1953-2013

The death of Susan Manning on January 15, 2013 has elicited tributes to her scholarship, her teaching, her administrative skills and her singular capacity for friendship from colleagues around the globe, many of them former students. As a scholar at the forefront of the fields of Scottish and American literature and trans-Atlantic literary history she was and will remain renowned. Well beyond her community of expertise, she will be remembered for her extraordinary range of achievements as Grierson Professor of English Literature from 1999 and the Director of the University of Edinburgh's Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities for the past eight years.

Professor Manning was one of the world's leading exponents of English Literature in the widest sense, and an international figure in the area of Transatlantic Studies, with her focus on transactions between Scottish and American Literature. Generations of postgraduate students, first at the University of Cambridge and then at Edinburgh, have found their scholarship inspired and transformed by working with her and she was pivotal to the research culture of Edinburgh's department of English Literature. Her extraordinary generosity in sharing ideas, developing the work of colleagues and participating in the exchange of scholarship between the department of English and the cultural life of the city of Edinburgh will be greatly missed.

Professor Manning put IASH at the centre of things in so many ways. She made the Institute a leading *entrepôt* for the study of the European Enlightenment and especially the Atlantic Enlightenment. In an age when "interdisciplinary" is often a hollow buzzword in academic life, IASH under her leadership has become a vibrant workshop for interdisciplinary research within the humanities and between the humanities and the social sciences. One need only scan the rich diversity of its past and present Fellows and the range of its programs, from the STAR Project on Scotland's Transatlantic Relations, which Professor Manning founded in 2002 with a grant from the Carnegie Trust, to a Sawyer Seminar on "Embodied Values: Bringing the Senses Back to the Environment" supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She widened IASH's reach to make it a global research centre. She has played a leading role in the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutions, which now has over 120 member institutions worldwide, forming a network to deliberate both on common administrative and financial challenges and on the issues the humanities ought to be addressing in a rapidly changing world. At the same time Professor Manning greatly strengthened IASH's engagement with the various units and departments of the University of Edinburgh. The Institute and the University now nourish each other. The Institute's fellowship program has hosted many senior scholars, but Professor Manning also increased considerably the number of Post-Doctoral Fellowships. A young scholar at IASH has the opportunity to test her ideas on more senior members of her field, and to receive invaluable advice as she begins her publishing career.

The fact that Professor Manning devoted so much energy to administrative tasks, as well as to her own work in scholarship and editing, makes it all the more remarkable that her intellectual and personal presence has made IASH such a unique place, at once convivial and challenging, sociable and meditative, for so many Fellows and other participating scholars. She had an immensely capacious intellect; a rare agility and empathy in engaging the ideas of others; a critical acumen that

enabled so many people to find new meanings in the words on the page. She was not just a brilliant conversationalist in the usual sense; she opened your mind and, on the terms of equality essential to scholarly exchange, led it down new paths. There was something wonderful, almost magical, about her collegiality and her gift for friendship.

Professor Manning's forthcoming book explores the meanings of character in trans-Atlantic literature. Her friends and colleagues know what she was too modest (and too busy) to realize: that she herself epitomized the woman of character in the best senses, for all occasions and all seasons.

[Professor Anthony La Vopa
IASH Fellow 2006-7 and 2013]