

IN MEMORIAM: AHGBI OBITUARY and EULOGY DOSSIER 2025/26

This document presents the obituaries and memorial notices for members of the AHGBI community who sadly passed away during 2025–2026. We acknowledge their significant contributions to the field of Hispanic Studies and extend our deepest sympathies to their families, friends, and colleagues.

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Prof Paul Garner (- 2026)

Paul Garner, Emeritus Cowdray Professor of Spanish, died on 15 February 2026. After taking a BA in Spanish at the University of Birmingham, Paul completed a PhD in History at the University of Liverpool in 1983 with the thesis became his first book, *La Revolución en la provincia: Soberanía estatal y caudillismo serrano en Oaxaca, 1910–1920* (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1988; revised edition 2003), an influential contribution to regional interpretations of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920).

Paul’s research remained closely tied to the social and economic history of Oaxaca and to the wider transformations of the Porfirian era. *Regional Development in Oaxaca during the Porfiriato, 1876–1911* (1995) explored the forces shaping Mexico in the decades before the Revolution. His later book *Porfirio Díaz* (2001), a political biography of the long-serving president whose rule from the 1870s until 1911 gave its name to the Porfiriato, reached a readership far beyond the academy. Rapidly translated into Spanish, it became a non-fiction bestseller in Mexico and established him as a widely consulted authority. Following appointments at the University of South Carolina, King’s College London, Swansea University (Senior Lecturer, then Reader), and a professorship at Goldsmiths College, University of London, Paul joined the University of Leeds in 2004 as the fifth Cowdray Professor of Spanish. Many colleagues in the AHGBI will be familiar with Paul through his work as founding editor of the University of Wales Press series *Iberian and Latin American Studies* alongside Professor David George. On a more personal note, I will forever be grateful for the professional support and kindness he showed to me from the moment I was first appointed in Leeds as a Teaching Fellow.

Paul will be deeply missed by friends, colleagues and former students on both sides of the Atlantic, and by his children Daniel, Tessa, Dominic; grandchildren Penny, Imogen, Evie, Phoebe, Zachary; his wife, Louise, step-children Tristan, Toby, and step-grandchildren Owen, Logan and Ursula.

Prof Duncan Wheeler

University of Leeds

John McIntyre (1941-2025)

To say that John McIntyre was the mainstay of the flourishing section of Spanish and Latin American Studies at Strathclyde University over four decades is something of an understatement. From his appointment to a lectureship in the Scottish College of Commerce in 1962 (which received its charter under the Robbins Report as the University of Strathclyde two years later) to his early retirement in 1998, it is certainly true that he oversaw and responded to an extraordinary increase in student numbers.

But the word ‘mainstay’ smacks of managerialism, and John was anything but. In many ways he was a rebel with a cause. As a teacher, acclaimed by students and colleagues alike as hugely inspirational, his passion turned each class into a radical community of learning, a place where students found unexpected connections and new ways of thinking. As a researcher, he wrote and translated incessantly, but in those days before open access he took an arts and crafts approach to disseminating his work. His essays on all aspects of Spanish language (he particularly loved the subjunctive as phenomenology), and on an eclectic range of writers, including Quiroga, Rulfo, García Márquez, Delibes, and Pérez-Reverte, as well as richly creative translations of writers like Borges and, memorably into Spanish, of William McIlvanney, were carefully written and consulted upon with colleagues, before being photocopied and sent liberally to anyone he thought might be interested.

John had little patience with metrics as a measurement of citations, and much less as an evaluation of intellectual quality and impact. But without doubt his method led to him producing a body of work that was widely read and even enjoyed. An indication of that is the flourishing Hispanic Society of Scotland, of which he was president until very recently. And when he felt that conventional book form might be a more appropriate medium, he showed in retirement that he was also an excellent scholar in the more conventional sense. With the poet Alan MacGillivray, he embarked on the editing of five volumes of the writings of R. B. Cunninghame Graham, which was published by Kennedy&Boyd in Edinburgh in 2011–2012, an enterprise for which both editors received an official vote of thanks from the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood.

It is easy to see why John was fascinated by Cunninghame Graham, a socialist politician with a deeply ingrained sense of place (he established the Scottish Home Rule Association in 1886) who also saw himself as a citizen of the world, with deep connections to Latin America. And although John’s background was very different from the Harrow-educated Cunninghame Graham, in many ways they were fellow travellers in their commitment to a vision of radical change through education and debate.

John was born in Motherwell, to a working-class family (his mother was a nurse and his father a crane operator). The town and its surrounding area was the centre of the Scottish iron and steel industries and, like the Clydeside shipyards, was a socialist heartland – there is a monument in the town commemorating the local people who uprooted their lives to join the International Brigades in 1936.

John attended Glasgow University and graduated with a double first-class MA in French and Hispanic Studies in 1962, becoming in the process the first student to study and graduate from the new Latin American components of the degree, taught by Donald Shaw. He never forgot his indebtedness to his own teachers, and in 2018 he contributed a lively account of his own

studies under William C. Atkinson, in *Studies on Spain, Portugal and Latin America in Memory of William C. Atkinson*, ed., with intros, by Ann L. Mackenzie & Ceri Byrne.

It is a sense of the same indebtedness to John that brought so many former students and colleagues to his funeral in Rutherglen, Glasgow, on 27th November 2025. John was, and remained right up until his death, a significant presence in their lives, a model of generosity and hospitality; and as a thinker, who once famously denounced in print the ‘parish-pump mentality’ of cultural and political self-containment, his impact on the life of his city is immeasurable.

John is survived by his wife Madeleine, whom he married in 1968, and by their children Angela and Paul, and granddaughter Anna.

A fuller memoir of John’s life and work by three former colleagues, David Johnston, Eamonn Rodgers and Anthony Trippett, will be published in the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*.

Dr David Johnston

Queen’s University Belfast

Prof Eleazar Gutwirth (1950-2025)

<https://networks.h-net.org/group/discussions/20068619/passing-prof-eleazar-gutwirth-zl-1950-2025>

With deep sadness, I share the news of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Eleazar Gutwirth, in New York City. His scholarship left a profound and lasting mark on the study of late medieval and early modern Hispano-Jewish history.

Eli was born in 1950 in Prien am Chiemsee, Bavaria, Germany. After his family settled in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he spent his formative years there before continuing his education in Israel and the United States. He pursued advanced Jewish studies at Jews' College in London and went on to complete his doctorate at the University of London. In 1978, under the mentorship of Prof. Chimen Abramsky, he submitted his dissertation, *Social Tensions within Fifteenth-Century Hispano-Jewish Communities*, marking the beginning of a long and distinguished scholarly career.

He began his academic path at the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit in Cambridge in 1979, where he worked for several years before joining Tel Aviv University's Jewish History Department in 1982. There, he taught for over four decades and became a pillar of the field both in Israel and internationally. And in 2015 he was elected a corresponding member of the Royal Spanish Academy.

Eli's scholarship spanned an extraordinary breadth of topics—from medieval Hebrew poetry and responsa literature to the history of Iberian conversos and the complexities of Jewish-Christian cultural exchange. His intellectual curiosity knew no bounds. He investigated manuscript colophons as historical sources, delved into the material culture and spatial organization of Jewish life, and engaged deeply with literary texts in multiple languages, including Romance vernaculars, Hebrew, and Judeo-Spanish.

His meticulous and pioneering research produced more than 200 publications across several languages, most frequently in English and Spanish, and occasionally in Hebrew. His work appeared in an impressively wide array of journals and edited volumes, making it simultaneously far-reaching and, at times, challenging to track in its entirety. His scholarship had a distinctive voice—rigorous, layered, and continuously evolving, as he often built upon his previous findings. He was also among the first to study systematically the Judeo-Spanish fragments preserved in the Genizah, including prayer books, biblical and literary texts, and private letters.

Among the figures to whom he devoted detailed studies were Santo de Carrión, Samuel b. Sasson, Selomo Bonafed, Moshe Arragel, Isaac Abravanel, Amatus Lusitanus, Penso de la Vega, etc. He also studied the *Lozana Andaluza*, early synagogue architecture, the lived experience of conversos, gender and Judeo-Christian polemic, the translation practices in 13th- and 15th-century Iberia, Ben Verga's historical dialogues, and the development of Jewish historiography. His approach to responsa literature—as in his studies of Maghrebi trade networks or Hispano-Jewish views on death—helped reframe rabbinic texts as social documents. In addition, he wrote important studies on social and economic history. In fact, Eli considered the mid-1970s a turning point in Hispano-Jewish studies, not least due to the transformative impact of his own early work.

While admired for his erudition and originality as Jewish historian and hispanist, Eli's scholarship was also marked by "chispazos de genialidad" (flashes of brilliance). His work could at times be idiosyncratic or uneven in referencing, but always full of ideas and new paths of inquiry.

For many of us, Eli's scholarship was a point of reference and a source of inspiration. His sudden passing leaves a void, both personal and professional—not only of a distinguished historian but of a brilliant, and often unclassifiable colleague. May his memory be a blessing.

Javier Castaño

CSIC, Spanish National Research Council