

AHGBI OBITUARIES AND EULOGIES 2024/25

Dr Salvador Bacarisse (10 th April 2024).....	p.2
Emeritus Professor Peter Beardsell (March 2025).....	p.2
Emeritus Professor Roger Boase (15 th April 2024).....	p.3
Emeritus Professor Victor Dixon (8 th July 2024).....	p.4
Dr Ann Henderson (March 2025).....	p.5
Dr Cara Levey (11 th September 2024).....	p.5

Dr Salvador Bacarisse

(Obituary sent to AHGBI members on 22/04/2024)

It is with great sadness we are getting in touch to let you know that Dr Salvador Bacarisse passed away last Wednesday, 10 April, in the company of his wife Jennifer at their home in Aix-en-Provence.

Salva was a member of the AHGBI and a lecturer in the Department of Spanish at the University of St Andrews until his retirement in 1988. His research centred on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Hispanic literature.

He had a long and adventurous life, reaching the age of a hundred last August.

Our thoughts are with his family and closest friends at this difficult time.

Professor Peter Beardsell

(Obituary sent to AHGBI members on 22/03/2025)

This is to let you know that Professor Peter Beardsell, emeritus professor of Hispanic Studies, University of Hull, and one time member of the Association of Hispanists, has died as a result of a long illness.

His funeral will be held at 11.15 on 1st April 2025 at Hutcliffe Wood Crematorium, Sheffield, S8 0HP.

(Eulogy sent by Dr Victoria Carpenter)

It is with great sadness that I share the news that Peter Beardsell, Emeritus Professor, University of Hull, passed away on 14 March 2025 after a long illness.

It goes without saying that Peter has made a huge impact on Latin American literary studies as a researcher, supervisor, and colleague. Those of us who were his students or colleagues, or whose theses he examined got to share his deep knowledge of Latin American literature and his insatiable curiosity. Even after retiring, Peter continued to engage with Latin American literary studies, carrying out research on Hugo Salcedo's plays, and inspiring many students and colleagues to venture beyond the comfort zones of their usual subject fields.

Peter's contribution to Latin American literary scholarship is extensive. One of his best known works was the study of Rodolfo Usigli's revolutionary theatre *A Theatre for Cannibals: Rodolfo Usigli and the Mexican Stage* in 1992. Peter edited volumes of Latin American poetry and translated the poems of Héctor Dante Cincotta, Argentinean poet and Peter's good friend. Among his earlier works is *Winds of Exile: The Poetry of Jorge Carrera Andrade* (1977); Peter returned to the theme of displacement, exile, cultural shifts, and cultural influences later in his career when he focused on the cultural interaction between Latin America and Europe – basing his work not on the traditional viewpoint of the static Self/Other dichotomy, but on the notion of reciprocity and fluidity. His final monograph, *Europe and Latin America: Returning the Gaze* (2000), made a significant contribution to the postcolonial branch of Latin American literary studies.

Peter's research consistently underpinned his teaching and supervision. His students enjoyed his engaging style, intellectual curiosity, and ability to make everything about Latin America fascinating, driving them to learn more. His approach to supervision was equally captivating. Without telling his doctoral students what to do, he would gently guide them to explore the world of Latin American literature, enjoy the process, and develop into confident independent researchers. He may not have been fully versed on the subject of his students' PhDs but his guidance led them to become deep specialists on their topics.

A true gentleman, a scholar in the truest sense of the world, a teacher, and a friend.

Emeritus Professor Roger Boase

(Eulogy sent by Honorary Research Fellow Jane Whetnall and Professor Barry Taylor)

Roger Boase, who was born on 3 April 1946 and died on 28 March 2024, was a stalwart of the AHGBI conferences. His twin fields of study were cancionero poetry (*The Troubadour Revival: A Study of Social Change and Traditionalism in Late Medieval Spain* 1978, Spanish translation 1981; *Secrets of Pinar's Game: Court Ladies and Courtly Verse in Fifteenth-Century Castile*, 2 vols, 2017) and Muslim culture (in *The Origin and Meaning of Courtly Love: A Critical Study of European Scholarship* of 1977 he defended the role of Muslim thought on the subject and in 2006 he edited *Islam and Global Dialogue: Religious Pluralism and the Pursuit of Peace*).

He studied at Trinity College Dublin (1964-65), Pembroke College Cambridge (BA 1969), and at Westfield took an MA in Romance Languages (1970) and a Ph.D. (1977). On his return from a six-year stint as Professor of English at the University of Fez he was welcomed back to Westfield as an Honorary Research Fellow. From then on he was a regular contributor to the Seminars and Colloquia which were a feature of Alan Deyermond's promotion of hispanic medieval studies for specialists at home and abroad.

Jane Whetnall recalls: 'I first met Roger in 1975 during his time as a postgrad at Westfield, when he came down to Exeter, where I was teaching, to talk about our common interest in cancionero studies. Over ten years later, at Westfield, the dialogue began again. Roger and I had different approaches to fifteenth-century verse, which sometimes gave rise to friendly sparring. While I was concerned with the transmission of the love poems, Roger was set on discovering coded messages in their courtly language and the identity of their obscure or even anonymous authors.'

I am saddened by the loss of a British colleague who shared with me an intimate knowledge of a poetic culture held in general disregard by generations of hispanists before our time.'

Şizen Yiacoup adds: 'I would like to pay tribute to the late Dr Roger Boase, whose pioneering work on the Moriscos and on medieval Spanish culture has had a lasting influence on my own research and teaching. His scholarship was marked not only by intellectual rigour but also by a deep sensitivity to the historical and human dimensions of his subject matter. That same sensitivity was evident in Roger himself, whose thoughtful, generous presence left a lasting impression on those who had the good fortune to know him.'

His writings continue to inspire, offering a model of careful, compassionate engagement with complex cultural histories.'

Roger was a gentleman scholar of independent means of a type unusual today. His last work, a study of the Franciscan friar Anselm Turmeda, a convert to Islam under the names of Abdallah at-Tarjuman [Abdallah the Interpreter], 1352-1432, is being completed by his son Mansur.

Emeritus Professor Victor Dixon

(Obituary sent to AHGBI members on 12/09/2024)

We regret to inform you of the death, on Monday, 8th July, 2024, of our former member Fellow Emeritus Professor Victor Dixon M.A. (DUBL., CANTAB.), PH.D. (CANTAB.), M.R.I.A., F.T.C.D. A celebration of his life took place on Friday, 12th July.

Professor Dixon joined Trinity on 1st July 1974 when he was appointed to the established Chair (Professor of Spanish 1926). He was elected to Fellowship in 1976 and stayed in the Department of Hispanic Studies until his retirement on 30th September 1999.

Events to commemorate Professor Dixon's legacy are currently being planned and we will notify members in due course.

Please see the death notice below from www.rip.ie.



The death has occurred of Victor Frederick Dixon, Rathmines, Dublin

Victor Frederick Dixon, Professor Emeritus of Spanish at Trinity College Dublin, of Rathmines, Dublin and formerly of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Manchester. Peacefully in his sleep on Monday, 8th July 2024 in his 93rd year.

Having received his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, Victor taught at the University of St. Andrews, the University of Manchester, and Adelphi University in New York before being appointed to the Chair at Trinity in 1974. His scholarship focused on seventeenth-century Spanish theatre, especially the works of Lope de Vega, as well as the modern playwright, Antonio Buero Vallejo.

Victor is survived by his wife, Dr. Sylvia Finley, son Terry, daughter Corinna, her husband Michael, Terry's partner Helen, and his grandchildren, India, Lizzie, Arianna and Naoise. He was predeceased by his beloved daughter, Ros. He is deeply missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

Reposing at Massey Bros. Funeral Home, Templeogue Village on Friday, 12th July from 1:30p.m – 2.30p.m followed by Removal for a celebration of Victor's life to the Garden Chapel, Mount Jerome Crematorium, Harold's Cross at 3:00p.m followed by a cremation.

Dr Ann Henderson (March 2025)

(Eulogy sent by Honorary Research Fellow Jane Whetnall and Professor Barry Taylor)

Ann Henderson, who was born on 4 January 1932 and died on 7 March 2025, made a lasting contribution to the teaching of Spanish studies at secondary and tertiary level. A Cambridge graduate and Manchester Ph.D. (where she completed her thesis on Jorge Guillén, directed by Derek Gagen, in 1985), she taught at Wakefield Technical College (part time 1960-66), Durham University (part time 1967-76) and Bradford Girls' Grammar School (full time 1978-89 as Head of Spanish and then Head of Modern Languages), and at Queen Mary and Westfield (part time 1990-97).

Her publications on Guillén included two volumes of correspondence with him undertaken in support of her thesis.

After retirement she continued to do voluntary work to promote the cause of Luso-Hispanic studies by helping students on their gap year in Brazil.

Ann was a great companion-in-arms, a gracious and warm-hearted colleague. She will be fondly remembered by all who had the good fortune to work alongside her.

Remarkably for her time and in contrast to other women who carved out an academic career as hispanists in the 20th century, Ann succeeded in combining motherhood and research - gaining her Ph.D. as a mature student, while holding down a succession of teaching posts, and bringing up four children.

Dr Cara Levey

(Obituary sent to AHGBI members on 13/09/2024)

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the death on 11th September 2024 of our much-loved friend and colleague in the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, Dr Cara Levey.

Cara was the most wonderful of colleagues throughout her time with us at UCC, and I know from meeting many of her friends and collaborators across the world that she has made an impact on everyone who has had the fortune to spend time with her. Confident, open and forthright, she was equally comfortable standing up and speaking out against injustice –in the wide range of public engagement activities she has led throughout her career– as entertaining us with her dazzling wit. She was a brilliant lecturer, an impassioned researcher, and a loyal and lovable friend.

We extend our deepest sympathies to her devoted husband, Teddy, her two boys Odhran and Ruairidh and all her family. They have asked for privacy at the current time but will send on details of the funeral arrangements in due course.

Much of Cara's work was dedicated to human rights, justice and memory practices. For the moment, we have set up a memory space in her office – ORB 1.48, where many of us will have enjoyed long conversations over coffee and cake – so that you can see some of her work and/or sign the special book of condolence. It will be open from 9am to 5pm from Monday 16th September onwards.

You are also welcome to send condolences electronically using this link: [Condolence Book for Dr Cara Levey](#).

No hay olvido. Suaimhneas síoraí uirthi.

(Eulogy sent by Dr Helena Buffery, Dr Martín Veiga and colleagues at UCC)

Dr Cara Levey (15 May 1982-11 September 2024)

On 11th September 2024, we learned of the death of our beloved friend and colleague, Dr Cara Levey. Even though many of us had had the opportunity to speak with her in the days before she died, to listen to her thoughts and stories and jokes, and marvel at her ability to be present for so many of her friends and family (while firing off emails and texts and catching up with daytime telly), it was such a shock that she left us so soon.

Cara was the most wonderful of colleagues throughout her time in the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at University College Cork (between 2013 and 2024). Confident, open and forthright, she was equally comfortable standing up and speaking out against injustice as entertaining us with her great sense of humour and sense of fun. She was a brilliant lecturer, but also an impassioned researcher, and a loyal and lovable friend.

Much of Cara's work was dedicated to human rights, justice and memory practices. That is why we set up a memory space in her office in the days after her death, so that people could come in and see some of her work and remember the many times they had sat there with her enjoying coffee, cake and unforgettable conversations. The book of condolences drew memories and anecdotes from all over the world; she had a unique capacity to connect with people and to make everyone feel at home in her presence.

The research to which she had dedicated most of the last decade in Cork was on the topic of second-generation exile from the Southern Cone. While completing her PhD on sites of memory in Uruguay and Argentina, she had become interested in the sons and daughters of the politically persecuted and disappeared, and was profoundly affected by the practice of imprisoning the children of political prisoners in Uruguay. Her pioneering article in the journal ACME in 2010, "Chronicle of a childhood in captivity", was the first of many in which Cara explored the ways in which these now-adult children have used memory as a tool for denunciation, to call for justice and recognition in a context where impunity has persisted for decades.

From 2015 onwards, second-generation exile became her main focus, via an interdisciplinary lens that combined sociology, political science, history and cultural studies, and a comparative approach that placed in dialogue the experiences of exiles from Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and even Spain.

One of her most important contributions was her critique of the marginalization of exile, both from official discourses and collective memory. In a 2023 article, published in *Clepsidra*, she analysed the myth of "golden exile" and questioned the hierarchization of victims which relegated exiles and their children to the bottom of the pile. She argued that, in contrast with Argentina and Chile, where exile is recognised as a form of repression, in Uruguay its impact had been minimized in politics of memory and justice, and, for this reason, the exiles had come to occupy an ambiguous zone in hegemonic narratives. As if in exile there had never been relatives of the disappeared, of victims of political violence and executions, of political

prisoners; as if it had not fractured families and identities, as Cara indicated in 2021 in a forum on “Childhoods and State terrorism”.

Through the analysis of testimony, literary works and film, she dismantled the myth of exile as a privileged experience and made visible its traumatic effects: family disintegration, difficulties of integration in the host countries, and the dilemmas about return... What is more, she introduced the notion of “transnational exile memory”, distancing herself from the idea that exile concluded with transitions to democracy and proposing that it continued to influence the identity and lives of those who experienced it, even in the case of the second generation. In her chapter on “Valijas militantes”, in an edited book on Memory, Mobility and Material Culture (Routledge 2023), she explored how exiles have constructed memory through transnational practices, such as the preservation of symbolic objects and the creation of diasporic archives. Inspired by the idea of “endless exile” proposed by the Spanish philosopher Adolfo Sánchez Vázquez, Cara tells us that exile should be understood not only as a historical phenomenon but also as an experience that continues to mould the lives of those who went through it, and also the lives of their descendents.

Cara questioned the invisibilization of second generation exile, showing how these experiences have historically only been seen as an extension of the experience of their parents, leading to the exclusion of childhood memory in debates on exile. This is why she always highlighted the fact that the children of exile were not only witnesses of the enforced exile of their families, but also experienced their own process of dislocation.

Furthermore, she explored how the cultural production of this generation -- via cinema, literature and theatre -- has enabled their memory to be narrated in a context in which their voices have traditionally been marginalised. Examples include in her article on “Writing Exiles from the Periphery” and, more recently, one on Denise Despeyroux’s 2024 play *Misericordia*, which was published posthumously in the online journal *Pasado Abierto*.

Cara showed us that memory is not an individual act, but a dynamic collective act, in constant dialogue with the present. Her work invites us to keep questioning the silences and to give voice to all those who have been marginalised from official discourse.

No hay olvido. Suaimhneas síoraí uirthi.