

## **A TRIBUTE TO PETER C.W. GUTKIND**

### **Africanist, Anthropologist and Labour Studies Scholar**

*Born in Berlin on 16 September 1925 and died in Birmingham, England on 17 February 2001.*

With profound regret and sadness, I inform readers of *Labour, Capital and Society* of the death of Peter C.W. Gutkind, our long-time friend and colleague. Peter was an active member of the Centre for Developing-Area Studies (CDAS) since coming to McGill to join the anthropology department in 1963 until his departure in 1986 when he took early retirement. After retirement, he spent the final years of his life at Warwick University, Coventry, England.

During his years at McGill, Peter defined much of the solid progressive research work on Africa at CDAS where the journal is housed; he also made Montreal a hive of activity for African Studies, attracting scores of professors, students and visitors to our midst. At the same time, he was the editor of a dozen books in the Sage Series on African Modernization and Development.

Before McGill, he had worked in Uganda, New York, Jamaica and the Netherlands, establishing himself as an original and creative scholar with his seminal work on urbanization and unemployment in sub-Saharan Africa. In 1968, he began what was then called *Newsletter on Manpower (sic) and Unemployment Research in West Africa*, which together with others, we gradually transformed into the bilingual, academic journal, *Labour, Capital and Society* in 1979. Peter was also instrumental in forming the CDAS Labour Studies Group comprised of students and staff in the Montreal area who shared our concern for the poor, the unemployed, those marginalized and unjustly treated in all parts of the world. From that relationship and research, he and I co-edited together with Robin Cohen the volume *International Labour and the Making of a New Working Class* (Averbury, 1987) which remains a classic in the field of labour studies.

Peter's other great legacy was to instill in all of those he touched — student, staff and researchers — the confidence and authority to carry our commitments into our scholarly research and to fight against those arbitrary injustices that occur everywhere, including in daily university life. This special issue on Zimbabwe of *Labour, Capital and Society* is appropriately dedicated to the memory of our beloved Peter whose courage, wisdom and outspoken support for those whose voices are often excluded, is so missed at this turbulent time not only in Zimbabwe but also in the world.

Friends and colleagues gathered together at the CDAS on Thursday, 12 April 2001 to celebrate Peter's work and honour his many contributions. At that tribute, which is available on video, we also named our the CDAS Documentation Centre, the Gutkind Library.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Alice, and their four children.

Adieu, Peter, may you rest in peace.

**Rosalind Boyd, CDAS Director and Editor, *Labour, Capital and Society***