

## IN MEMORIAM

### Eric Sunderland (1930–2010)



Professor Eric Sunderland, anthropologist and Vice-Chancellor of the Bangor University was born at Blaenau, near Ammanford, UK, on 18 March 1930. He studied Geography and Anthropology at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and was awarded his doctorate by University College, London. His first academic post was in 1958 as a lecturer in anthropology at Durham University, where he was later appointed Professor and Head of Department in 1971. He also served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Durham University from 1979 to 1984. In 1984 he accepted the position of the Principal of the University College of North Wales, (Bangor University) and was later appointed with the position of the Vice-Chancellor

where he served for 11 years until his retirement in 1995. Welsh being his first language, Professor Sunderland promoted the usage of Welsh in the academia. In 1985 he delivered his lecture »Esblygiad Dyn« (»Man's evolution«), at the National Eisteddfod, which demonstrated his ability to treat complex scientific topics in Welsh.

Professor Sunderland maintained his reputation of an anthropologist of high distinction. The most important titles from his substantial corpus of scientific production are: »Elements of Human and Social Geography« (1973), »Genetic Variation in Britain« (with D. F. Roberts, 1973), »The Exercise of Intelligence« (with Malcolm T. Smith, 1980), »Genetic and Population Studies in Wales« (with Peter S. Harper, 1986).

He has also held some of the most important posts in his specialist field, including those of Honorary Secretary of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Secretary General and President of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and Chairman of the Biosocial Society. With this regard it should be mentioned that Professor Sunderland was Consulting Editor for the journal *Collegium Antropologicum* since 1982. Professor Sunderland was honorary member of Croatian Anthropological Society and many other anthropological associations throughout the world. He participated in organization of many academic conferences and professional gatherings. He participated and organized several Schools of Biological Anthropology held by Croatian Anthropological Society and Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb, Croatia. For his contribution to the development of anthropology in Croatia Professor Sunderland was presented with Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger Medal Award by the Croatian Anthropological Society.

During his fruitful career Professor Sunderland received many other awards and acknowledgements for his work like: Mahatma Gandhi Freedom Award by the College of William and Mary in Virginia (1989). He served as High Sheriff of Gwynedd (1998–99) and Lord Lieutenant of the county from 1999 to 2006, and was awarded the honorary degree of LLD by the University of Wales in 1997 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

Professor Sunderland was also very active in the public life in United Kingdom, especially in Wales. He was Chairman of the Local Government Boundary Commission (1994–2001), a member of the Welsh Language Education Development Committee (1987–94), the British Council (1990–2001), the Court of Governors of the National Museum (1991–94), and the Broadcasting Council (1996–2000). He was also very much interested in the arts. He was chairman of the Welsh Chamber Orchestra,

vice-president of the Welsh Music Guild, and patron of Artworks Wales.

The departure of Professor Sunderland, a renowned and accomplished scientist of contemporary times is a great loss for international anthropological community and he will be greatly missed.

*Members of the Croatian Anthropological Society*