Biographical sketch

John Henry Stape (1949–2016) was a prolific scholarly writer and university teacher. In Canada, his academic career included positions at the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto (from which he received his PhD in 1979), Concordia in Montreal, and Western in London, Ontario. Most recently, he was an adjunct instructor at Fairleigh Dickinson University–Vancouver and an instructor in the Adults 55+ and Liberal Arts Program at Simon Fraser University.

Internationally, he held posts in England at St Mary’s University in the London suburb of Twickenham where he was Senior Research Fellow; in France, at the Universities of Limoges and Versailles-St-Quentin, just outside Paris; in Japan at Chiba, Japan Women’s, and Kyoto Universities; and at the National University of Singapore. He also taught for the Faber Academy of the publishers Faber & Faber, London, and for the Blekinge Summer School in Karlskrona, Sweden.

His research led to his speaking at conferences in Canada and the United States; in the UK regularly at London, and also at Lincoln and Canterbury; and in Pisa, Besançon, Lyons, The Sorbonne and Paris-III, Gdaňsk, Oslo, and Bregenz. It also took him on a tour of Japan’s Kansai region.

His career saw the production of numerous books, critical editions, articles, and reviews on a number of Modernist British writers, principally Joseph Conrad, on whose life and work he was internationally acknowledged as a leading expert.

He was appointed co-General Editor of *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Joseph Conrad* in 2007. His biography *The Several Lives of Joseph Conrad*, published in the same year by Heinemann in London, Knopf in New York, and Doubleday in Toronto, was subsequently translated into Dutch, German, Polish, and Spanish.
He also published on E. M. Forster (the subject of his University of Toronto doctoral thesis), William Golding, Thomas Hardy, Frank Harris, Sir Angus Wilson, and Virginia Woolf.

He travelled widely throughout Western and Eastern Europe, urged on at times by his passion for classical music, opera, and theatre.

An “old Asia hand,” he visited Sri Lanka and India, Vietnam, Nepal, Cambodia, Burma, Malaysia, Laos, and the Philippines, and travelled in Australia and New Zealand. As well as living in Japan for six years and Singapore for two, he lived in Thailand for two years (in Bangkok and Chiang Mai) and spent a year in Jakarta. In Europe, in addition London, Cambridge, Paris, and Limoges, he also lived in Sarajevo. Travels took him to Costa Rica and Morocco.

Of Lithuanian and German ancestry (on his father’s side from Bavaria in the 1590s), John Stape was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on 4 July 1949. His partner of 24 years, Raymond Gauthier, a Montreal native who was an economist specializing in Southeast Asia, died in 2003. He married Nourdine Majdoubi of Agadir, Morocco, whom he met in Paris, in Vancouver in 2004.

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