

## Owen Hannaway (1939–2006)



Owen Hannaway was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on October 8, 1939. He was educated at St. Aloysius College in the city and entered Glasgow University in 1957, where he received his B.Sc. with honors in chemistry in 1961 and his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1965. During 1964–1966, he worked as a demonstrator in the chemistry department at Glasgow University. Hannaway never forgot his Scottish heritage after he came to the United States in 1966 and obtained a position as postdoctoral fellow in the History of Science Department at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (1966–1967) where he worked with the noted historian of chemistry, Aaron Ihde. In 1967, Hannaway was appointed assistant professor in the History of Science Department of the Johns Hopkins University where he remained for the rest of his academic career. He was promoted to associate professor in 1974 and full professor in 1977. From 1978 to 1982 and from 1986 to 1989, he was chairman of that department. Hannaway was co-director of the Center for the History and Philosophy of Science (1982–1989), member of the Advisory

Committee of the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions (1978–1995) and a member of the Admissions Committee of Human Biology B.A.-M.D. Program for the Johns Hopkins Medical School. He retired in 1999 and was appointed professor emeritus.

Hannaway's interests included the study of the history of chemistry from the Renaissance to today, science and exploration, and, more generally, the history of science in early modern Europe. Included in his book publications are: *The Chemists and the Word: The Didactic Origins of Chemistry* (1975), now regarded as a classic; *Observation, Experiment, and Hypothesis in Modern Physical Science (Studies from the Johns Hopkins Center for the History & Philosophy of Science)* with Peter Achinstein, (1985); *The Evolution of Technology* (with George Basalla, 1989); *Science and the Practice of Medicine in the Nineteenth Century* (with W. F. Bynum and George Basalla, 1994); and *The Foundations of Modern Science in the Middle Ages: Their Religious, Institutional and Intellectual Contexts* (with Edward Grant and George Basalla, 1996). Hannaway was a co-editor with George Basalla of the Cambridge University Press History of Science Series and was a member of the editorial boards of *Historical Studies in the Biological Sciences* (1974–1979), the *British Journal for the History of Science* (1989–1999), and *Isis* (1989–1992). He published numerous journal articles, book reviews, and essay reviews in *Isis*, *Science*, *British Journal of the History of Science*, *Technology and Culture*, *History*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Physics Today*, and the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. He also authored many biographical entries for the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* and *Encyclopedia of World Biography*.

Hannaway was an Edelstein International Fellow (1993–1994) and a visiting scholar at the Center for Science and Technology Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He was awarded the Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize by the History of Science Society in 1988 and was honored in 1999 with "Chemists and Texts: A Symposium on the History of Chemistry in Honor of Dr. Owen Hannaway," by the Chemical Heritage Foundation. In 1991 Hannaway received the Dexter Award for his outstanding achievements in the history of chemistry.

Hannaway distinguished himself as an accomplished student of the history of science, an inspiring teacher, an advisor, administrator and a beloved colleague to his many students and friends. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage in 1993 but recovered enough to return to part-time teaching. He died from the complications of a stroke on January 21, 2006 at the age of 66.

## Sources

Biographical information provided by Owen and Caroline Hannaway.

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<http://orientalrugblog.blogspot.com/2006/01/prof-owen-hannaway-rug-collector-dead.html>.

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