

IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR ALAN STEWARD DUTHIE

Born 19 May 1938 in Dundee, Scotland, died 6 July 2013, in Legon, Accra.

Alan Steward Duthie had a diversified academic training. Between 1956 and 1960 Alan attended the University of St. Andrews where he obtained the Master of Arts (MA) in History of Greek Language, non-dramatic Greek Poetry, Hebrew and Moral Philosophy. From 1960 to 1962, he attended the University of Edinburgh where he obtained a Diploma in General Linguistics. He continued his studies at the University of Manchester where he obtained the PhD in Linguistic in 1964. He joined the University of Ghana in November 1964, just in time to be part of the team of young linguists who transformed what was then the “Phonetics Unit” in the Department of English into the Department of Linguistics. In the initial years (1965-1969), he combined teaching with studies: he did an external London University degree in Divinity. Alan was to spend his entire career, which spanned 49 years, at the Department, thus becoming the longest serving member of staff.

Alan Duthie was instrumental in the development of the department from its humble beginning to one that boasts of vibrant programmes at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In the difficult days of the early 1980s, for instance, he was part of the two-member staff who manned the department and kept it going (the other member was Prof. Florence A. Dolphyne). Some of the courses he taught over the years are Phonetics, Sociolinguistics, English Phonology, English Syntax and Semantics, Theory of Translation, Seminar in Semantics, and Linguistics of Ewe. During his long years of teaching, he supervised numerous M.Phil. and Ph.D. theses in the department and elsewhere in the University (e.g. the Institute of African Studies). He served as Head of Department on two occasions: first from 1986 to 1989, and then from 1991 to 1993. During those two periods, he contributed to staff development by encouraging some of his students to take up teaching assistantships to ease the department’s critical staffing situation. He also encouraged some of them, including several who have contributed to this Reader, to go for further studies to come back and strengthen the staffing in the department.

His academic achievements are manifested in the large number of publications to his credit. He will be remembered for the immense contribution he made to the study of the Ewe language in particular. Notable among his works in this regard is the only modern grammar of the Ewe language (*Introducing Ewe Linguistic Patterns*,

published in 1996), which is currently used in the department and in other Ghanaian universities where Ewe is taught. Beyond his own research on the language in both Ghana and Togo, he groomed a number of linguists in Ghana, Togo, and elsewhere to remain keenly interested in investigating the linguistics of the language.

Alan Duthie participated in all major departmental projects. For example, he was a member of the team that worked on an Ewe Dictionary project, which was part of the Legon-Trondheim Linguistics project, from 1997 to 2009. Thanks to his invaluable contribution to that project, the Department of Linguistics successfully published an *Ewe Encyclopedic Dictionary of Health*.

Professor Duthie's service to academia went beyond life at the department. He had active engagements with institutions with which he used his Divinity training. For example, he

- taught Bible Translation, New Testament Greek and Old Testament Hebrew at the Maranatha Bible College at Sowutuom
- was a long-serving member of the translation committee of the Bible Society of Ghana (he wrote a book on English Bible Translation which was published in 1985 and 1995).
- helped with organizing workshops of the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT).

Beside these engagements, he also served as an examiner for the British Council in Ghana.

Alan led a life full of Linguistics, and did so right up to the day before his demise, Friday, 5th July, 2013, when he actively participated in the oral examination of the theses of three MPhil candidates of the Department. The Department has surely lost a great scholar and mentor.