

ROGER PLOUDE

**Lauriat Lane Jr.
1925-2005**



Dr. Lauriat Lane Jr., a long time member of the Department of English at the University of New Brunswick (UNB), died peacefully on Sunday March 20, 2005 in Fredericton, NB. Born in Boston in 1925, Dr. Lane graduated from Harvard (AB '47, MA '48, PhD '53) and taught at Cornell University for seven years, first as a Lecturer and then as an Assistant Professor, before joining UNB's English Department in 1960. He retired in June 1990.

A celebrated scholar and editor, Professor Lane co-edited the *Dickens Critics*, edited *Approaches to Walden* and Dickens' *Great Expectations*, and was the Senior Editor of *The Stature of Dickens: A Centennial Bibliography*. In addition, he authored over 80 articles and reviews for major national and international journals and presented several invited lectures at Canadian universities. From 1973 to 1984, he edited *English Studies in Canada* and was applauded for his astute and thoughtful editing of this important journal. Following his lengthy term as Editor, he continued to serve on the board of the journal as Editorial Advisor until his retirement.

As a testament to his scholarly reputation, Dr. Lane was frequently sought to referee scholarly manuscripts and applications. He adjudicated several Canada Council doctoral and research grants, assessed manuscripts for leading scholarly presses and journals (including Cornell UP, McGill/Queens UP, *PMLA*, and *Victorian Studies*), and acted as external appraiser of numerous candidates for promotion at other Canadian universities. A member of several learned societies and professional associations, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) in 1980 for his internationally recognized scholarship and editorial work; and upon his retirement from UNB in 1990 he was awarded the prestigious rank of Professor Emeritus for his outstanding contributions to UNB and its English Department. During his retirement he remained active on RSC committees and renewed his life long passion for Anglo-Saxon poetry, translating a piece of Beowulf which was published in *English Studies in Canada* in 1996.

Dr. Lane played an instrumental role in shaping the direction of UNB's English Department during its period of growth in the 1960s. He developed several new courses on Dickens and American Literature for its undergraduate and graduate programs and throughout his career was known for his enthusiastic and dedicated instruction and his conscientious supervision of graduate students. He was also heavily involved in administration, serving on every major departmental and university committee, including stints as Chair of the English Department and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. A gifted vocalist, he was active in local choral groups and initiatives, serving as Conductor of the Arts Centre Chorus and as a member of the Executive of the Fredericton Choral Society. He sang in several local choruses.

Professor Lane was a strong supporter of nature conservation groups and of human rights and civil liberties. His ashes will be scattered at his summer place in Charlotte County, NB, amidst the natural beauty which he deeply valued.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Millicent Travis (Penny) Lane (an accomplished poet and Honorary Research Associate in UNB's English Department); a daughter, Dr. Hannah Lane (a part-time lecturer in UNB's History Department); and a son Lauriat Lane Jr. III of Halifax.

Roger Ploude
Chair of the Department of English, University of New Brunswick

(Author's title given as of the time of writing)