

## **Tributes to the Late Harold Isaacs, ATWS Founder and JTWS Editor: Reflections on His Life and Legacy**

The following thirteen papers were delivered on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at the Thirty-Third Annual Conference of ATWS in Quito, Ecuador. Each was read either by the author, or by a substitute ATWS member in cases where the author could not be present (in my case, for example). They reflect in small measure the profound sense of loss and gratitude felt by everyone who knew Harold Isaacs. Following these papers is a summary of tributes offered by association members who have formed the African Social Research Forum, smartly and beautifully expressed by Dr. Abdul Karim Bangura. Finally, readers will find assorted tributes and reflections sent in by friends and colleagues of Dr. Isaacs. In sum, this collection represents a fraction of the heartfelt outpouring of those who loved, admired, and benefitted from our late founder and editor.

It is now up to those of us who cherish his memory and his legacy, the ATWS and the JTWS, to find a path forward and ensure the continued vitality and relevance of this association (akin to a large family without any distinctions of race, religion, socio-economic status, or culture – but with a common mission and benevolent spirit) and its journal. We live in a troubled and complex world, but our strong bond is a shared desire to promote greater understanding between peoples, more peace, richer lives, and social justice globally. This was Dr. Isaacs' life-long quest, and I am confident that we, the members of ATWS, will keep the dream alive.

If you did not know Dr. Isaacs personally, it is even more important that you read the following pages in order to gain insights into his remarkable life. Hopefully, you will be inspired to join ATWS (if you have not done so yet) or to dedicate more time and energy to the association (if you are already a member). The path forward may be daunting, but it is unthinkable to abandon our dream when the world is most in need of it.

Gary Kline, Editor



## **Tributes From 2015 Conference**

### **Dr. Harold Isaacs: The Fine Man and the Leaders' Leader by Assefaw Bariagaber**

I first met Dr. Harold Isaacs at the Annual Conference of the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS) held at the University of Florida about 25 years ago. It was my maiden attendance at a professional conference of its kind. At the time, I was a candidate for the Master of Arts in Political Science at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIU-C), and working for an accelerated entry into the Ph.D. program. When Harold saw me – yes, it was the first time he saw me at the conference – he came and introduced himself. I said that I was a graduate student and it was my first ever attendance at a professional conference. We talked for about 30 minutes on many issues, including, where I was from originally, my education and my area of specialization, my research interests and what I planned to do in the future. There and then, I saw a man who hardly knew me but was very much interested in my personal story and in my academic success. I wondered why he took the time to talk to me when he was busy with running the conference, and this included participant registration, answering participant queries, checking to make sure that the meeting rooms had working video/audio equipment, and shepherding participants to conference rooms so that the panels started and ended on time. I also remember he came to the panel I was in and attended my presentation in full. Why would he do that when he had so many important things to attend to? I guess it was his way of telling a novice like me that this was what scholars do. I learned the lesson and went on to be a devoted member of ATWS, and a member of other professional associations, all the while when I was still a student.

For some reason, which I cannot explain, Harold found great interest in my academic success. Indeed, towards the end of the conference, he asked me if I would be interested in submitting a revised version of my paper for possible publication in the *Journal of Third World Studies (JTWS)*. Per his advice, I submitted a revised version of the paper, which upon further revisions, was published in the Spring 1989 issue of the journal. It was my first article published in a refereed journal, and I must say that, at the time, it was a big deal in the Department of Political Science, SUI-C, for a student to be able to publish. Could I have thought of publishing when I was a student? Perhaps at a later time, yes, but I did not know much about student publishing at that early stage in my graduate program. Therefore, all the credit goes to Harold for my first publication. And in the years that followed, especially after I joined Seton Hall University as a faculty member, Harold and I often spoke about places in Northern New Jersey, including Seton Hall University, the City of Newark where he was born, Seton Hall Preparatory School, and Northfield Avenue, all of which are places and institutions near my home in West Orange. Yes, Harold completed his university education in Alabama and became a faculty member and lived in Georgia for a big chunk of his life, but he fondly remembered his early years in Northern New Jersey. This added to the closeness we enjoyed throughout the many years.

I have said that Harold was very interested in my success. But, as I later learned, he was also interested in the success of others – the novice like me who looked for guidance and others who had already established themselves within academia. He was a rare breed that exuded a sense of satisfaction at the success of others. Indeed, Harold was a fine man to the core!

Harold was also an accomplished leader. He took

timely and realistic initiatives where it mattered. If it was not so, how can we explain his founding of ATWS in 1983 to become the largest professional organization devoted to the study of the Third World, with branches in Africa and Asia? How else can we explain its continued success over the last 30 years when many other professional organizations have faltered only a few years after their establishment? I think it was largely due to Harold's total devotion to ATWS, including his service as its Executive Secretary from 1983 to 1989, and as the editor of *JTWS* since 1984 that kept it going and growing. If I am not mistaken, Harold attended all but one (or two) of ATWS's annual meetings since its first meeting in 1984. In doing so, he welcomed all – existing members as well as new participants – to the organization and to its meetings every year. In short, Harold led by example and ATWS members followed him knowing well that the road he charted led to a bright future for the organization. He was a leaders' leader!

So long Harold! Full in life you stood!

**Dr. Assefaw Bariagaber, Professor of Political Science,  
Seton Hall University**

### **An Authentic Leader, Scholar and Teacher: The Man - Dr. Harold Isaacs by Doyin Coker-Kolo**

Leadership is not magnetic personality; that can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not “making friends and influencing people,” that is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations (LeadershipNow.com, 2015, p1)

The above quote from Peter Drucker, one of the most influential authors and thinkers on the subject of management

theory and practice, describes in part the attributes of Harold Isaacs as a leader. You cannot describe him as charismatic, even though he had his way of making people do what needed to be done for a just cause. He was not an orator, but still communicated effectively as evident in his over five decades' tenure as a teacher. Harold was truly a leader with a servant's heart, but a huge vision. When he founded the Association of Third World Studies in 1983 from a humble beginning as a monthly seminar in a classroom on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia, he knew that he was planting the seed for something bigger and very impactful. He grew the seminar into a global organization based on the simple idea of bringing together scholars from different disciplines and regions of the world with practitioners from different walks of life to examine the multidimensional issues in developing countries. As a scholar of Latin American Studies himself, he wanted to build an association of likeminded, non-provincial scholars who would conduct rigorous and balanced research that would focus on the regions of the worlds that are not adequately researched. Additionally, he wanted to help scholars from those regions be able to write their own narratives. At a ceremony dedicating a facility to him at Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) University, he reflected on the journey to build the association and the pride he had in it. Harold stated "Without a struggle there is no progress...so we went on and built a great world-wide professional organization with a superlative peer-reviewed journal, and it all began with one seminar, which we continue today on campus...I just want you to know how much this means to me, ...I'm proud of that...I love you all." (Georgia Southwestern State University, 2014, p.3).

The above statement captured the essence of Harold

as a man and the impetus for the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS) that he founded. It was an association built in partnership with others to promote rigorous research, shared worldwide; but it started with the vision of one man who had so much love in his heart for other people, not just those in his own country of America but those in other countries, particularly in the regions of the Third World.

It was a combination of his passion for scholarship and love for humanity that led me to Harold, or led Harold to me. I was a neophyte professor at GWS, in the School of Education, when I heard of his seminar. Although most of the participants in the seminar were political scientists and historians as was Harold, my field was educational administration. However, as part of my doctoral dissertation, I had touched on global education and conducted research on brain drain in Nigeria as a reflection on my journey as an international scholar. Upon learning of my research agenda, Harold invited me to present at his seminar. It was my first major presentation as a faculty member, and as the moderator, Harold provided constructive feedback that strengthened my work. I hardly missed a seminar while I was at GSW, not only because of the richness of the presentations, but because Harold, accompanied by his wife, would usually take the participants to dinner at a classy restaurant. You were invited to go whether you presented or not. This was a good deal for a new faculty member – “to be fed for free, physically and intellectually.”

Harold had a servant’s heart. I personally had been a beneficiary of his exemplary mentorship, which he offered without prejudice to race, ethnicity or class. Under his mentorship, I moved from being a presenter to an author, which strengthened my resume. In fact, his strong letter of recommendation made a big difference in my application for pro-

motion to the associate professor rank. That was not all. In 2007, he approached me with an offer to assume a major leadership position in ATWS, serving as the treasurer. Again, with his support, I served in that position for nine years. This position allowed me to work very closely with Harold, and to see how passionate and dedicated he was about ATWS.

He was a scholar with an exemplary record in publications and presentations. He served as Chief Editor of the *Journal of Third World Studies* since its inception in 1989, which means he published 62 issues during his lifetime. He espoused the values of scholarship not for its own sake, but as a way to promote the viewpoints of the marginalized nations and people. He invested in graduate students by creating an award (named for him) to encourage them to attend and present at ATWS conferences. He used his personal funds to sponsor scholars from abroad to attend the conference. This initiative led to the record attendance of participants from West Africa, particularly Nigeria, at the conference in Ghana in 2009. Many of those scholars still come to the conferences to this today.

Harold was a person of high integrity and exemplary selflessness. For all his years of dutiful service to the association as President, senior editor of the journal, treasurer, etc., he never took a dime of remuneration or used his position to seek publicity or recognition. Instead, he diverted the attention towards others. He was entrepreneurial. He courted many academic organizations to subscribe to the *Journal of Third World Studies*, which generated money for the association on a regular basis. He saw the association as a cause higher than himself. The cause was to uplift other humans, whether colleagues in academia who were struggling to get promoted to a higher rank or people in developing countries whose plights needed to be addressed. In his article titled “What Makes a



Leader?” Coleman (2005) noted that “while the qualities traditionally associated with leadership like intelligence, toughness, determination and vision are required for success, they are insufficient. Truly effective leaders are those possessing emotional intelligence with soft skills of empathy, self-regulation, motivation, self-awareness and social skills” (p.2).

I consider Harold Isaacs as one who effectively combined both the hard and soft skills of leadership in such a way that made him influential but also humane. I think he was the way he was because his focus had always been on people, and not just any people, but those who are undervalued, unappreciated and marginalized.

Harold was a teacher par excellence. He taught for over 56 years with 35 of those at the college level and refused to retire (serving as Professor Emeritus)! He spent his teaching career asking important questions and presenting on the issues dear to his heart—the plight of the people in the Third World. Additionally, he constantly updated his skills. For example, he participated and led several faculty development seminars and travel enrichment study seminars to Mexico, Latin America and Costa Rica. As a teacher-mentor, his kindness has been experienced by many ATWS members and countless others who he mentored formally or informally.

Harold received numerous awards for his excellence in teaching and humanitarian activities. The awards were from diverse constituents, again speaking to the kind of individual that he was. The list of awards included “Georgia Southwestern College Black Students Organization Award,” “Outstanding Historian and Humanitarian,” “University System of Georgia Regents’ Hall of Fame Faculty Award ,” “Georgia Southwestern College Presidential Citation Award for Distinguished Service” and “African Studies and Research Forum, Inc. All Africa Award,” in 2001 and 2008.

The latter award was for his outstanding leadership in promoting Third World Studies, for significant contributions to the study of Africa in the USA and for his contributions to peace and social justice in Africa and the rest of the Third World. Finally, he served as Grand Marshal of Georgia Southwestern State University, 1994-2005.

I would like to end this tribute with another quote on leadership. This time from Walter Lippmann who wrote - "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men (and women), the conviction and the will to carry on" (LeadershipNow.com, 2015).

Yes, Harold's legacy lives on in the in the minds and works of the current and prospective members of the Association of Third World Studies, in the regions of the third world that his lifework had spotlighted, on the pages of the many volumes of the *Journal of Third World Studies* past, present and future, and the libraries that hold them, in the lives of his students, mentees and protégés, in his contributions to his discipline, in the institutions where he taught, and, of course, in the hearts of people like me who had the privilege of learning from him and working alongside him to promote the Association he loved!

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**Dr. Doyin Coker-Kolo, Dean, School of Education, Indiana University Southeast and President-Elect, ATWS.**

### **Bob Curry Remembers Harry**

In a way, it's easy for me to write about Harold Isaacs and the extraordinary life he led: all I have to do is to ask you to recall everything wonderful that you've ever read about other terrific persons and assume that I've just attributed them to Harold. He was extraordinary and our memories of him and his legacy will be with us for a very long time.

For me, personally, those memories began to accumulate decades ago when I decided to switch my research and teaching interests from Sub-Saharan Africa to Southeast Asia. Harold encouraged me to submit my work in the form of articles to our journal and to present papers at our annual meetings. Eventually he encouraged me to join our Executive Council and I did.

Although I was new to the Council, Harold encouraged me to work on an idea I had: it was to create a Teaching Committee as part of the Council's structure. The idea was accepted and the Teaching Committee became part of the ATWS. I served as its first Chair and Harold and others encouraged me to establish a program that would select (competitively) graduate student academic essays that would receive awards and would be published in the JTWS. Professor Lily Mendoza followed me as Chair and the program continued to help to launch the careers of outstanding graduate students – and all of this was due primarily because of the encouragement shown to me by our colleague and

beloved friend Harold Isaacs.

On the academic side, our conversations helped me with the transition and over the years I was able to offer them in articles, book reviews and professional papers. But our conversations went beyond academic – they switched to baseball. As an old Yankee fan he constantly reminded me of the Yankees great successes. However, he was less interested in my boasts about the San Francisco Giants and their World Series triumphs in 2010, 2012 and 2014. My only regret was that my home base in California didn't permit me to spend more time with Harold and many of my other ATWS friends and colleagues who I met through him.

My conversations with Harold were always interesting and I treasure the memories of them.

**Dr. Robert Curry, Emeritus Professor of Economics, California State University Sacramento and Visiting Lecturer in Economics, University of Hawaii - Manoa.**

### **Reflections on Dr. Harold Isaacs: In Search of International Conference Sites by Michael Hall**

In 1997, I began working in the History Department at what was then called Armstrong Atlantic State University [we have since dropped the Atlantic from our name]. I was hired to “replace” Dr. Osmos “Oz” Lanier, the diplomatic historian. I came to realize that one does not replace Dr. Lanier so easily. As of 2015, he was still teaching, albeit part-time, at the university. In addition to teaching US foreign relations, I was also the Latin American historian. There were over one dozen historians in the department, but the only other person who specialized in the non-Western World was Dr. George Pruden, who taught both Asian history as well as Middle Eastern history. We have since expanded the number of people teaching

non-Western history in our department to include Dr. Jason Tatlock (Middle East), Dr. Hongjie Wang (Asia), and Dr. Kwaku Nti (Africa). Nevertheless, in 1997, it was just me and George.

George told me all about the Association for Third World Studies (ATWS). I was, however, unable to attend the annual conference in Durham, NC in 1998 since I had spent my entire university travel allowance, as well as some of the mortgage money, on a faculty development seminar led by George in China during the summer of 1998. In 1999, I attended ATWS' first-ever international conference in Costa Rica. I had no problem with funding, having discovered that the Dean also had a travel budget. The conference in Costa Rica was an awesome academic experience. It was at that conference that I got to meet Dr. Tom Leonard, from the University of North Florida (located in Jacksonville, not Fruit Cove), who organized the conference. I also got to meet Dr. Harold Isaacs, who so relished in the idea of having the conference in a non-Western locale that he proposed holding the annual conference outside the United States every third year. Thus, two years in the United States and one year abroad. Harold was so laid-back and easy going that I had no clue that he was the mastermind behind a major international association. Both Tom and Harold have had a huge impact on my academic career.

Harold encouraged me [he sent books to me then asked if I would review them] to submit book reviews to the *Journal of Third World Studies* (JTWS). He also wanted me to get more involved in the association. I attended the conferences in Denver (2000) and Savannah (2001), but was unable to attend the conference in Taiwan (2002) since it took place over the Christmas Break. In 2002, I was elected to the Executive Council. Harold wanted me to run for a position. So I ran for Position #3. I had no idea what I was supposed

to do beyond attend the Executive Council meeting at the annual conference. Little did I know what adventures Harold had in store for me. I attended the meeting in Shreveport (2003), where I met Dr. Bill Pederson [the current CEO] and watched Dr. Lauren Eastwood fall into a gopher hole while we raced across an open field to Bill's Lincoln Center for the Executive Council meeting. At the Executive Council meeting at the conference in Macon (2004), Harold not only convinced me to run for VP/President Elect, he also convinced me to be program and site coordinator for the 2005 conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Fortunately, I was not alone. Our Treasurer, Dr. Gary Kline, collected all of the registration fees and made all of the payments. Harold was in charge of printing the programs, ordering the awards, and sending out constant reminders to the members.

The conference in Santo Domingo was a success. Tom Leonard mounted a small moped behind an even smaller Dominican and climbed a hill to visit Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo's dismantled Caoba Palace, while Tom's wonderful wife Yvonne and I hid nasty smirks behind a litany of Hail Mary's. I also witnessed Bill Pederson's quest for the Lincoln Diner on Avenida Lincoln. Every year I eagerly await Bill's latest Lincoln sighting. Everyone was happy. At the Awards Banquet, President Andrew Clark, who was scheduled to give the presidential address, was unable to make it at the last minute. Harold said no problem. He said that we could not cancel the presidential address and that I should get up there and invent something. He looked me straight in the face and said: "surely you can talk about Dominican history for thirty minutes" and introduce the guest speaker. Just when I thought that was enough fun for one conference, Harold unveiled a new game plan at the Executive Council meeting. He found holding the annual conferences outside the United States an enjoyable academic experience

that meshed with the stated goals of the association. His vision, which all council members embraced with varying degrees of enthusiasm [some were obviously frightened that Harold would target them to plan the next international conference], became our new goal. Every other year the annual conference would be held outside the United States.

Harold envisioned celebrating the thirtieth annual conference outside the United States. At the annual conference in Winston-Salem (2006), the Executive Council, encouraged by Harold, convinced me to organize the 2007 conference in Lima, Peru. I agreed to be site coordinator, but the VP/President elect would need to be the program director. I enjoy being site coordinator [perhaps I could have been a tour guide if academia had not worked out], but putting the program together is a monumental task. Our fourth international conference would be our third conference in Latin America. I asked Harold if the members would really want another conference in Latin America. Harold, who wrote both an MA thesis (U.S.-Peruvian Relations) and a PHD dissertation (Mexican History) on Latin America, saw no problem. His main interest in going to Latin America, however, was not based on academic discipline preference. It was based on cost. Going to Latin America was cheaper than going to Asia or Africa. He also stated that he had yet to find anyone willing to host a conference in Africa, but that he had some prospects. He did not, as it turned out, have to wait long to get his Africa conference. After orchestrating a successful conference in Millersville (2008), our Treasurer, Dr. Doyin Coker-Kolo, who I first got to know on a Faculty Fulbright program in Brazil in 2002, was part of a team that included Dr. Peyi Soyinka-Airewele and Dr. A.B. Assensoh among others, that planned the conference in Ghana (2009). Harold was thrilled. ATWS had now hosted international conferences in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

After successful overseas conferences every other year since 2005, the Executive Council approved a conference in Salvador da Bahia in Brazil (2011) after the domestic conference in Savannah (2010). Although it was Bill Pederson's suggestion that I submit proposals for conferences in Savannah and Brazil, I saw Harold's hand. At first I declined. I told Harold that I did not want to monopolize the conference sites. He said that he would let me know when someone else turned in a viable conference site proposal. Meanwhile, he wanted me to prepare a conference for Brazil. We had an incredible time in Brazil. Harold spent four hours in a Rodízio where he tried all of the roasted meats, twice. He also got to see the Zumbi Day celebrations on 20 November. Fortunately, after Brazil, Dr. John Hickman at Berry College in Rome, GA served as both program director and site coordinator for the 2012 conference. In 2013, the conference returned to Asia, this time in India. Harold was more than pleased with the second ATWS conference in Asia. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend since the conference was held during Christmas Break. In 2014, we held the conference in Denver. Harold looked tired, but he had not slowed down. This was the last time that I saw Harold.

At the Executive Council meeting in Denver, Harold encouraged me to propose a conference for 2015 in Quito, Ecuador. This would be our fifth conference in Latin America. While waiting for our Delta flight back to Georgia, Harold (who had less than nine months to live) was already plotting future international conferences. Sitting on the bench in the Denver airport with Harold was Dr. Sunita Manian. Harold mentioned (ever so subtly) that an ATWS conference in the Islamic World would foster greater diversity within the association. Sunita has since begun plans to submit a proposal for a conference in Morocco in 2017.

Although Harold will not make it to Ecuador, his spir-



it and legacy will be with us. When I think on all the fantastic learning adventures that I have experienced at ATWS conferences, especially those held in the non-Western world, I have to acknowledge the tremendous role that Harold played in making those conferences happen. He laid the groundwork for a viable, multi-disciplinary, diverse academic association. It is our job to continue the project.

**Dr. Michael R. Hall, Professor of History, Associate Editor for Book Reviews, *Journal of Third World Studies*, Armstrong State University, Savannah, GA**

### **Zia Hashmi Interview October 7, 2015**

#### **Interview and transcription by Paul A. Rodell**

**Paul Rodell** – Today is October 7 and it is a few minutes after 7 o'clock here on this Wednesday night. I am Paul Rodell and I'm talking to Zia Hashmi, who is a retiree extraordinaire from Georgia Southern University where he spent his academic career. And we're here to talk about his relationship to ATWS and meeting Harold Isaacs and to prepare something of a remembrance now that Harold has left the scene.

**Rodell** – So, Zia Good Evening!

**Zia Hashmi** – Good Evening, how are you?

**Rodell** – I am full of excitement to get on with this. So before I started the tape, I told you that I wanted first to find out how you became acquainted with Harold and his association.

**Hashmi** – Well, actually, I think it was October 1988. One evening, I got a telephone call from Harold Issacs whom I had never met and never talked. And he told me that he wanted me to come to his institution and give a lecture as a part of his Third World Perspectives lecture series. I was so surprised I did not ask him how he got my name. But, when he made an offer, I said okay I will be glad to come and give a lecture. I

asked if he wanted me to speak on a certain topic, or if he wanted me to select a topic? He said, no, no, no, I have a topic in my mind. And it was very relevant now for the twentieth-first century: it was international terrorism, its causes and its ramifications. That is the topic he wanted me to speak on.

**Rodell** – I want to pause a moment to check the machine to be sure we are recording properly.

**Rodell** – Okay, the tape is on and everything is good. So, he wanted you to speak on international terrorism? And this was in '88?

**Hashmi** – Yes, in 1988. And he was very much thinking about Palestinian terrorism. But I thought that I should first discuss a number of other terrorist organizations, especially in Germany and Italy. So, anyhow that was the first lecture and then he wrote me and told me that my lecture was very much liked by the attendees and he was very happy. And to my surprise within a month he said “come back again Zia and talk about the revolutions in the Middle East, what is happening in the Middle East. So, I agreed and went to his institution. So that was the way and that was my introduction to Harold Isaacs.

And during my first meeting of course he told me about his lecture series and then he told me that there was something that he wanted to do and that is the Association of Third World Studies.

**Rodell** – So by that time it was not yet started?

**Hashmi** – I think he was thinking about it. I really don't know whether he had . . . But, I heard for the first time about the Third World Studies program. I said, “Well that is a great idea and I will be glad to work with you.” And after that I attended practically all of the meetings of the Third World Studies Association. And I invited him to come to Georgia Southern where we organized a meeting. I really don't know what number it was. And then I took them to South Carolina and from

that point on we worked closely for the Association of Third World Studies. Now then he told me that he is publishing a journal the *Journal of Third World Studies* and he wants me to work as the Associate Editor especially in the area of the Middle East which I again agreed and worked with him.

Now that is the beginning of my relationship and as you wrote (in your remembrance about Harold), and I agree with you, that I was very much impressed by his determination, by his vision, and by his enthusiasm in this area. And from then on the cooperative role continued, I worked very closely together with him in all of the future activities. And then I was, as you pointed out, I was appointed as the first president of the Association, elected it was through election. And then later on I worked as executive director as you mentioned in your statement.

**Rodell** – So, the Association was actually formed and then you were elected? Is that the sequence?

**Hashmi** – Yes, the Association was formed, but it was just like something very small level. He will say I will sponsor individuals to come in to speak. So, ah it was not very well organized.

**Rodell** – So it was like the Third World Perspectives?

**Hashmi** – Ah yes, just like it. But it was an expanded version on different campuses. So my main concern was that in order to have this thing continue that number one, it should be institutionalized. And in the process of institutionalization I gave great importance to a constitution and, as you mentioned, Bill Head, Harold Isaacs and I worked together to create a constitution. Because I told Harold that individuals they come and go, only institutions survive. So, if you want this organization to live longer, it is necessary that there are certain structures that must go into it. And he agreed. So, we had a constitution and on the basis of the constitution we created these positions; the president, the vice president, executive director and the

editor of the *Journal of Third World Studies*. So that was my prime objective to institutionalize it and with the help of Bill Head and other individuals we made the progress.

The second level of emphasis was that I wanted young blood to be introduced into the Association because I told very frankly to Harold, that there will be a time when we will not be here. But, I want your institution to survive. And for the survival of the institution it is necessary that we should select young, intelligent, active professors in different universities and colleges and make them a part of the Association.

So naturally when I saw you, I said, there is a young man, so energetic so why not push him immediately and I tried to recruit from other institutions also. But, as you can understand, the reason why I was very keen for you to accept certain positions was because I wanted young blood in the Association. And Harold agreed, even if he was sometimes reluctant to give power to others. And right now, I think the Association of Third World Studies is definitely a major national and international organization.

**Rodell** – So he did agree to bring in new blood?

**Hashmi** – Yes, he agreed.

**Rodell** – What about the link with the ECOSOC with the UN?

**Hashmi** – Yes, actually this process was started by Paul Magnarella. And then, of course, I took up the responsibility to correspond with the United Nations the Economic and Social Council. And they wanted quite a bit of material which Harold provided so did Paul Magnarella. And finally, they accepted the Association of Third World Studies as an “Observer” status which allowed us to attend the meetings of ECOSOC.

**Rodell** – Yea, because when I was taking over the executive director position your paperwork was pretty much done, it was just waiting for the last dotting of the “i’s” and crossing

of “t’s.” But, I did not know that Magnarella was the initial spark.

**Hashmi** – He actually wanted it because somehow he had some relationship the United Nations.

**Rodell** – Yes, he did work with them.

**Hashmi** – So, it was his idea. And then I picked up all the responsibility of correspondence. Now I was in a better position because I had a staff under me at the Center for International Studies at Georgia Southern University and it was a very well established institution with secretaries and finally we succeeded.

**Rodell** – And I’m going to interrupt you just so that I say this so it will be on the transcript that you were the one who founded the Center for International Studies at Georgia Southern and you were its Director. So you were in a good position to use that position and that office and its resources to help ATWS.

**Hashmi** – Exactly, I was in a position to do that and the Center staff was very cooperative.

**Rodell** – After I took over (the executive director position) you did not have to play as central a role. How did you see your role in ATWS after you were no longer executive director?

**Hashmi** – Well, as I said my philosophy was that the older generation should be generous enough to withdraw and give more and more responsibility to the new generation. So that was the reason why I was off to retirement after your selection as the executive director and a few other things. I was not that active and I then retired from Georgia Southern and I was not very much active going abroad and attending the meetings. And I was glad that others were doing the job so I was very happy.

**Rodell** – But, I recall that you and Harold were the ones who talked to Tom Leonard about creating the first overseas meet-

ing in Costa Rica could you tell me about that?

**Hashmi** – Well actually what I suggested to Harold that let's establish different chapters of the Association of Third World Studies within the United States of America in American universities and then we can go abroad and establish ATWS chapters in the different countries in Asia and Africa. And of course Tom Leonard was very much interested in Latin America and he said that there is a possibility that we can hold our meeting outside the United States in one of the Latin American countries. And I said that's a great idea. So from that point I think that he and Harold and you did more. So I was not that much involved. But, I welcomed and I pushed that let's go and do the spade work first and find out a country and institution which can be developed.

**Rodell** – I cannot remember did you go to Costa Rica?

**Hashmi** – No, I did not. I think that was when I was really retired. I retired in 1998.

**Rodell** – Ah! That was the year before Costa Rica meeting.

**Rodell** – Well, what do you have for final thoughts about Harold?

**Hashmi** – Actually, I dictated a statement to my wife who typed a transcription. Do you want me to read it here? It is very short.

**Hashmi reads his homage to Harold:**

The measure of any individual resides in the legacy that he leaves to the people around him and to the generations that follow. The legacy of Dr. Harold Isaacs is profound. We are fortunate that Harold lived and worked among us and shared his talents with us.

Harold was a man with a positive vision and he displayed the capacity to translate his vision into reality. The institutional expressions of his vision were the establishment of the "Third World in Perspective" lecture series at the Georgia Southwestern University, the Association of Third World

Studies (ATWS) and the *Journal of Third World Studies* (JTWS). Harold's legacy lives on not only at educational institutions within the United States but also in many universities outside the United States. The very essence of leadership is that you have a vision and you have the capacity to transform your vision into reality. In this sense, Harold was a true leader.

**Dr. Zia Hashmi, Professor Emeritus, Georgia Southern University.**

### **My Friend Harry by Bill Head**

It is hard to say all the things I want to about my good and dear friend Harold Isaacs in a few pages. Let me try anyway. He and I met by accident, mainly because of the Association of Third World Studies. However, we were interested in so many of the same things like talking sports; particularly college football and how 'Bama and the 'Noles might do. We also loved playing golf even though we were not all that good. It gave us an opportunity to kibitz and tell jokes and wonder how our beloved nation and world would get by. By the end of 18 holes we had all the world's problems solved.

Of course, ATWS dominated our discussions, particularly how the next meeting or next issue of the Journal might work out. Those were important to both of us since both of us had put so much into birthing and nurturing ATWS and JTWS. Harry began ATWS in 1983 as an outgrowth of his Third World in Perspective series at Georgia Southwestern University. I came on board in 1984 when I saw an advertisement for the first ATWS meeting. I sent him a heartfelt letter assuming he was the great China specialist Harold Isaacs. He called me back to let me know he was not that person, rather

a Latin American specialist at Georgia Southwestern. After we had a good laugh and spoke for a long while, he invited me to present at the conference. I did and as they say, the rest is history. I was hooked and from that time on we and other new members like our mutual friend and colleague Zia Hashmi from Georgia Southern University began planning more conferences at other places such as Armstrong State University, University of Florida, etc. We also put together dozens of Third World in Perspective meetings at GSW. Some even made it to TV.

At one point Harry and I went to another conference at Jekyll Island. I can't really remember who sponsored it. We roomed together and were on the same panel. As we drove home we began to discuss the formalization of the Association. From that talk, I drafted a constitution and bylaws. Harold did a significant edit and we talked Zia into becoming the first Vice-President/President elect. In later years, Harold would compare it to me being Jefferson, him being Franklin, and Zia being Washington. I am not sure about me being as smart as the red headed genius from Virginia, but Harry was definitely our founding father.

Over the intervening years, the Association, the Journal, and the Third World in Perspective programs grew and expanded. I spent several years as the Asian editor and Chair of the Election Committee and finally President, guided by Harold's loving hand. New generations of members and leaders joined, important people like Gary Kline, Paul Rodell, Paul Magnarella, Shafic Hashmi, John Mbaku, Abdul Karim Bangura, Dorothea Martin, Sun Yi, Philip Aka, Tom Leonard, Robert Curry, Cecil Currey, Lily Mendoza, David Schwambaird, Assefaw Bariagaber, Lauren Eastwood, Mike Hall, Toyin Falola, Bill Pederson, Bhim Sandhu, A.B. Assensoh, Lauren Eastwood, Chaitram Singh, Patrice McSherry, Doyin Coker-Solo, Mike Bishku, Phil Szmedra, Rolin Mainuddin,



and so many others, too numerous to mention. We took bold steps by moving meetings away from GSW, then to other states, then to other regions, and finally overseas. Famous speakers like Oscar Arias presented important words to our membership. New organizations were organized, in places like India, to be part of the larger Association. And, new regional editors and Association officers took over important roles and responsibilities from the founding members marching Harry's important vision forward.

We had problems and bumps along the way. Like any family, its members did not always agree, but somehow we eventually worked the problems out with the wise council of our founder Harold Isaacs. Indeed, we always knew that whatever happened we could count on Harry to save the day. Even when the conference organizer died prior to our meeting at William & Mary, Harry came to the rescue. Even when we were stuck in a hurricane at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina, Harry marshalled his resources (including me) and concluded a successful conference. When we went to Costa Rica through the good offices of our dear friend and longtime member Tom Leonard, potential concerns were deferred because of Harry's kind and caring personality. In the end, it was the beginning of many overseas successes all of which Harry enjoyed. He reveled in the excellent work of so many like Michael Hall, our friends in India, and Gary Kline's dear wife Shu who did the local work and set up the panels which provided robust discussion and meaningful dialogue dedicated to solving the problems of 75 percent of the world's people.

Finally, Harry led us into a time of prosperity when members like my good friend Cecil Currey, first donated a major monetary contribution and then bequeath after his death to fund the ATWS Curry Book Award. In addition, the African Studies wing of ATWS also provided funding for the

Reddick award which honored excellent articles and publications in the vital area of African history, culture, politics, and economics. All of this made ATWS the most diverse and inclusive organization of its kind and fulfilled Harry's initial vision of what the Association and Journal should be.

On July 10, 2015, Harry passed over the river and lay down his heavy burdens. When he did we were left to become orphans or to grow and perpetuate his vital Association. He left it to us to decide if we truly believed in the work he began. We must honor his memory by stepping up and recruiting new members, publishing articles in JTWS, organizing new conferences, becoming ATWS elected officers, and placing ATWS before our own individual interests.

I have spent 31 years of my professional and personal life side-by-side with Harry and many others seeking to perpetuate an organization dedicated to ending poverty and hate as well as spreading peace and justice. At times it seems like an impossible goal and yet, Harry never thought so and that is why he dedicated his life to ATWS.

Before one of our many rounds of golf, this time with my younger son along, we went into the pro shop to pay. Not surprisingly, Harry paid for all of us before I could stop him. He always did that kind of thing. Indeed, he did that for so many of us. After he walked out of the door to get the cart, the head pro turned to me and said, "You know Dr. Isaacs is a really good person!" My son said, "Yes, yes, he really is!" That man's comment is the best thing anyone could say about any of us!

The last time I saw Harry was a couple of weeks before he died. Yes, we were on the golf course! On the last hole his approach shot was really bad and like most golfers he was grumbling. Like most golfers I said, "Chip it in!" He did! Later I thought maybe that was God's way of rewarding Harry for being a "Good Person!"

**Dr. William Head, Chief Historian, Air Logistics Center,  
Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia.**

**Words in Remembrance of Our Late Founder, Harold  
Isaacs by Gary Kline**

As I sit and reflect on what I am going to write about our beloved friend, colleague, and ATWS founder, Dr. Harold Isaacs, I feel overwhelmed. First, I deeply regret that I will not be at the conference to tell you in person what I feel about Harry. If I *could* be there, I *would* be there. And let me say that by referring to Dr. Isaacs by the name of Harry, I certainly mean no disrespect. From the time I met him early in 1990 (as I interviewed for my job at Georgia Southwestern State University) he was always Harry to me. The bond was instant because he was everyone's friend, a soul-mate and a down-to-Earth figure.

I started teaching at GSW in August of that year and within a couple of months I had joined ATWS as a life member, so enthralled was I with the man who had founded this great association. Though readily approachable and accessible to everyone, there was yet something ethereal about him, too. He had a passion, a quiet intensity, a broad and encompassing intellect, and a heart the size of the Cosmos. He lived by the old saying, "if you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything at all." He seemed to love and accept everyone; he always looked past race and language and religion and culture, as these were never the slightest obstacles or impediments to him. We all knew that if Harry said something, it came from his head and his heart - absent any malice or prejudice or bias.

Those who knew him for any length of time will recognize what I am talking about. This is what I will miss most

about the man – he was a trusted peace-maker and a steady source of wisdom and great advice. I am sure that there will be innumerable words of praise for the man from everyone who speaks of him at the conference, in panels and in the halls of the hotel and as you go about touring the city and environs of Quito. There is little I can say that others will not say, as well. Harry was a phenomenon!

So let me focus on more personal aspects of my years with Harry, especially the final months. We were friends and colleagues for twenty-five years. His office was (and still is) next door to mine, just a few steps away. That was good for me because whenever life was tough I could step next door to see Harry and he would always encourage me, inspire me, and make me want to draw upon my better spirit, as he manifested his own grand spirit every day. Without ever raising his voice, his passion for understanding and peace and justice and a better life for all inhabitants of this planet was always on display – quietly, but insistently.

In the early years, which I heard about in some detail from him, Harry was nearly a one-man show. Bill Head certainly played a key role in getting the Association off the ground, for example drafting our constitution. But Harry had to be treasurer, editor, and leader combined in the early period. There was little enthusiasm for Third World studies back then. Who needed to know about the multitudes of strangely different people living in the peripheral countries? Eventually, though, GSW and the world caught up with Harry, and the Association, as you know, grew into a seminal, international league of scholars and others who share a passion for understanding other peoples and promoting knowledge to improve lives even in remote places.

That is, ATWS became what Harry had envisioned: an association of people committed to a better world, a large “family” of folks with big hearts and good wills and a com-

mon mission.

I was drawn in immediately, then. How could I not be? I served as treasurer for nine years. After all, Harry needed a break! For many years I was involved in conference organization and I served as vice-president and president of ATWS because I had come to share his passion. In recent years, due to personal issues beyond my control, I have had to withdraw from much active participation in the Association. But I never lost my connection with Harry or ATWS or the good people of ATWS, whom I continue to respect and love as did our founder.

My bond with Harry took a different turn back in October 2014. As he traveled back from the Denver conference, twice in the airport he fell and had to get assistance from strangers to get back on his feet. One of his rescuers commented: “Sir, you’re yellow. You don’t look well.” He made an appointment to see his doctor when he got back to Americus and upon examining Harry, the doctor ordered him to the hospital immediately for tests. That is when I got a call telling me that he was in a hospital in Albany (about 45 minutes south of us) and that he had asked me to come to check on him.

Harry had lost his dear wife Doris about four years earlier, and was essentially without any remaining family. I rushed to the hospital and met with the doctor, who made it clear that Harry’s condition was grave. His suspicions were confirmed when the tests got back: pancreatic cancer. At that point, we all knew that Harry had only months to get things in order. The news was devastating for me, but Harry took it in stride. He would say to me, “one day at a time, one day at a time.” And thereafter he lived every day to the fullest possible extent.

When I told someone about Harry’s condition, he protested. He did not want people fawning over him or wor-

rying about him! That was it, don't talk to anyone about his illness, he insisted. I agonized over this issue because I thought most of his friends should know and would want to know. Of course, the effects of the disease were such that people soon realized that he was quite ill. They just didn't know how ill. He continued to visit campus and eat with colleagues at the faculty lunches on Wednesdays – though his appetite waned dramatically. He played golf with Bill Head as late as a month before he passed.

Over the eight months between the diagnosis and Harry's passing on July 10, I spent numerous days and hours with him in doctor's offices and at his home. I drove him back and forth to Albany for radiation treatments and stint replacements and the like. He had to be taken to the hospital several times, and I visited with him and kept him company through many an ordeal. He was always brave about his situation, at peace with himself. He probably displayed more equanimity than did I as I watched him wasting away. His clothes no longer fit, he walked with difficulty, and could eat very little. This grand man was leaving us, and we both knew it.

In the final weeks I arranged for 24-7 caretakers and for hospice. Harry didn't like the idea of having strangers in his home all day and night, but he soon came to accept the necessity. We had long talks. We talked about life, GSW, and sports (probably his second favorite topic). But his chief pre-occupation was always the same: concern for the future of ATWS and the journal. I kept reassuring him that our members would pick up the tasks and responsibilities of the association and carry on. Nothing else would calm him. Secretly, I was worried. What *would* happen without this incredible man to guide and inspire us? At the end, Harry was heavily medicated and unable even to communicate, though he tried. All I could do is reassure him that his memory would be cher-

ished by all of the members of his ATWS family, and that we would persevere.

Fortunately, he had faith in the members of ATWS, many of whom he knew very well. And so do I. I don't think we will let him down. But you will be the ones to validate his faith in you. If you continue to pursue peace and understanding and justice through the good works of this family we call ATWS, then you will do exactly what he expected and his confidence in us will have been justified. It is up to us now to continue in his noble spirit. Harry did not see people in colors or as members of some particular country or culture or class. His connection with others was simpler – heart to heart. He was a wonderful role model for everyone. Let us try to emulate him! This is how we can truly honor our founder, by keeping our shared dream alive.

Have a terrific conference! Celebrate the rich life of Dr. Harold Isaacs! And carry on the important mission and good works of ATWS. I know for a fact that this is what Harry wanted most at the end.

**Dr. Gary Kline, Professor of Political Science and Editor,  
*Journal of Third World Studies*, Georgia Southwestern  
State University**

### **Acceptance Speech and Tribute to Harold Isaacs by J. Patrice McSherry**

I am deeply honored and gratified to receive the Cecil B. Currey Award for my 2015 book, *Chilean New Song: The Political Power of Music 1960s–1973*. This book was a new departure for me, after many years of studying repressive regimes in Latin America, Cold War politics, and Operation Condor, the covert military system of disappearance and extrajudicial “rendition” and assassination that functioned

during the Cold War. *Chilean New Song* examines the intersection between culture and politics, and the social roles of politically committed artists who were part of a mass movement for social and political change in Chile in the turbulent 1960s and early 70s. Specifically, the book analyzes the inherent political power of music: the mysterious ways in which music can unite, energize, and motivate people in a common cause.

This book took me in new directions, into uncharted territory, as it were, and it means a lot to me to win this sort of recognition from an organization I respect and admire. I'll say more about my book in a moment, but first I wanted to say a few words about Harold Isaacs, our dearly missed colleague and friend. Paul Rodell asked me to write something for him to read at the conference that would encompass both my acceptance of the award and my reflections about Harold.

I regret not being at the ATWS conference personally to accept this award and commemorate Harold. I am living in Chile now, working on a new research project (New Song during the years of exile), and flights are prohibitively expensive. I feel a deep respect and fondness for the Association and for the journal, where I was the Associate Editor for Latin America for thirteen years. I first joined ATWS around 1994 (I'm not sure of the exact date), and almost immediately began working with the editor of JTWS, Harold Isaacs, on the Board of Editors. Then I became Associate Editor for Latin America in 1997 (if my dates are correct). I thoroughly enjoyed the editorial work: bringing important issues and themes into the journal, reviewing articles, commissioning book reviews, and maintaining contact with authors. I published a number of articles and book reviews of my own in the journal. The journal work was challenging and satisfying, and I enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Harold.

Paul wrote in an email that Harold and I knew each



other very well, and this is true, although ironically, I only met Harold once in person, at the ATWS conference in Costa Rica in 1999. The conference was a wonderful experience and Harold seemed like an old friend. I remember he had an infectious laugh and he radiated good will and positive energy. Paul also told me that Harold was informed of my selection for the award before he left us, and that he would have loved to have been there to see me receive it. I was deeply touched by that. I wish he could have been at this conference too. I was profoundly saddened and shocked by his passing.

During the years I collaborated long-distance with Harold he was always a wonderful colleague, a skilled editor, a tireless organizer, a reliable consultant, and a warm person with whom it was a pleasure to communicate. Our working relations were friendly and cordial and he always had a kind word and a message of gratitude for my efforts at the journal. Of course, the work he did for the journal was fundamental. He was truly a formidable presence. And perhaps most important, he was a decent person with an enormous commitment to the developing world and its peoples. He believed in improving conditions in the developing world, in fighting social injustice, and in treating all people with respect and dignity. He is someone who set an example for all of us.

Now let me tell you a little bit about my book. *Chilean New Song* is the product of some four years of research in Chile, during five separate extended stays in Santiago, when I interviewed scores of musicians and other protagonists of the social movements of the 1960s and early 1970s. The music of *la Nueva Canción*, or Chilean New Song, that emerged in the 1960s was haunting and beautiful, incorporating indigenous stringed and wind instruments and combining folk rhythms with modern innovations. New Song's poetic lyrics cried out for social justice, equality, self-determination, and social change. The politically committed artists were an

organic part of a larger popular movement for social and political change in Chile. I argue, using Antonio Gramsci's concept of hegemony, that the musical movement formed part of a strong counterhegemonic movement that challenged the rigid structures of social and political power in Chile and simultaneously transmitted the vision of a different future. The music had democratizing power and created a potent sense of social unity, empathy, common cause, and political motivation among people. The New Song movement was crucial in electing democratic socialist Salvador Allende as president in 1970.

Tragically, Allende's experiment with a democratic and constitutional road to socialism collided with Cold War polarities and with U.S. foreign policy. Allende was overthrown in a bloody coup carried out by the Chilean military with the support of Chilean elites, other Latin American military regimes, and the Nixon administration. The Pinochet dictatorship treated the musicians cruelly. Víctor Jara was tortured and assassinated, and Angel Parra was tortured and sent to a desolate prison camp, to give only two examples. Many other musicians, such as the groups Quilapayún and Inti-Illimani, were forcibly exiled, and even the indigenous instruments were banned in Chile. Clearly the regime feared the symbolism and political power of Chilean New Song. But if Pinochet expected to bury the music he was badly mistaken. In exile the music of New Song became globalized, and was transformed into a powerful component of new international movements of solidarity with the people of Chile. This is the theme of my new research project.

To conclude, I send all of you my greetings and thanks once again. While I no longer have a formal role at the journal I look forward to many more years of collaboration with ATWS. I am proud to have won this award and proud to be a long-standing member of the organization.

**Dr. J. Patrice McSherry, Professor of Political Science,  
Long Island University and Researcher in collaboration  
with Instituto de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad de  
Santiago, Chile.**

*ON THE BEACHES OF ELMINA by Ike Odimegwu  
That Memorable Meeting at Cape Coast, Ghana, 2009  
(In honor and fond memory of Harold Isaacs)*

1

On the beaches of Elmina  
We met and held  
A conference of minds  
A concourse of hearts  
A dialogue of feelings  
A network of lives  
Uniting the world  
In one great family

2

At the castle of Elmina  
We went and beheld  
A recall of our past  
Of deeds and events  
So awful and sad  
Of memories and histories  
That put us to shame  
As we vaunt and flaunt  
Our humanity and all

3

And oh all these  
Cause us to wonder  
The reason of reason

And why it seems  
Always to be late  
When the havoc of passion  
The lust of greed  
Have had their glee  
And only the wreckage  
Is left to reason

4

And yet let none assume to judge  
To judge the past or the other judge  
For see our world is not much better  
Only may be as mask now better

5

If the past be only teacher  
With the other a fellow learner  
Who is wrong shall know it so  
Who is right shall feel it so

6

So at the resort of Elmina  
We celebrated change  
Seeking for the future  
Some new image  
Our selves the image  
Some new identity

7

With strokes of justice  
Colors of democracy  
With culture the artist  
Painting in water  
Ever new ever young  
As we have come  
From far and close  
Seeking the new in the old

8

In the halls of Elmina  
We chatted and charted  
New ways for new world  
From the first and the third  
But where is the second?  
No one has told

9

And yet the new world now  
We must seek to build  
In the brotherhood of the woman  
Who bridges and builds  
From our many worlds and ruins  
Her own unique world and home  
Which alone we truly desire  
The end alone we all aspire

10

And what a brand you thus parade  
ATWS, all your women!  
Charming ideals; brilliant models  
High in thought; deep in feelings  
Feelings of warmth, human family  
What a soaring depth you parade

11

In the courtyard of Elmina  
There we dined and wined  
Daring the ocean and its roaring waves  
With our audacious gyrations  
And even more audacious expressions  
Baring the margins  
Embracing the center  
Bursting the shackles  
Of ill fangled rancor

To steer the ship  
Of nascent humanity  
Where first and third and all  
Live a shared humanity in one  
12

And now deep in the heart of Africa  
You come, ATWS your advent first  
After many years around  
Can any world be more third?  
Than Africa now; the cradle and the stern  
That it took you this long to come  
13

Thank goodness a few were here  
If none else to see you here  
And say welcome even here  
In the way of mothers, tender hearts  
In the way of mothers, seeing eyes  
14

What warmth amidst your high company  
Brimming engaging intellectual fireworks  
Overwhelming uplifting communal networks  
It feels great to be in your company  
15

Welcome to Africa ATWS!  
Welcome to Africa ASRF!  
Where you expect a bounteous harvest  
Of troubles untelling as also of hope  
Not much audacity, yet some hope  
Green leaves freshen the dying stalk  
Fresh springs water the desert thirst  
16

Dry stalks, desert thoughts  
Ideologies since worn threadbare

Old theories in need of fresh breathing  
Old school in search of new learning

17

Welcome to Africa where it all began  
That with you it may begin again  
And once in you become anew  
The new world the old world may renew

18

Thank you for coming  
And yet we eye  
Expectant hearts await more coming  
Renascent Africa waits by the isles  
Reluctant bye we say return!  
When again shall you turn?

19

And now I turn to the feelings of my heart  
To the springs that well the feelings now  
As I recall with a throb the old young one  
“Sir Harold Isaacs”, who lent me that one?  
Whoever it is, I say thank you!  
Sir Harold Isaacs, the memory so fresh  
At the resort of the beaches of Elmina

20

How he would take us by the hand  
Who just joined the family that year  
And mount the stairs one by one  
To show us the venue for the panels  
The events, the meetings and all  
That none besides shall any miss

21

I recall how he would bend to listen  
And give you all the time and care  
To make you know the value you are

And how more highly welcome you are  
To let you not be lost in the crowd  
To draw one into the warmth and wealth  
Of the ATWS world-wide family

22

And when you learn a number of things  
Like, the founder of the Association  
Or, your anonymous sponsor to the meeting  
And, your facilitator to the conference  
That they all point to one same point  
Where you find this same man, Harold  
Who has been at your beck and call  
Standing calm with his usual smile

23

The profundity of humility  
The luminance of vision  
The simplicity of greatness  
The greatness of being

24

All will fall on you in one  
Overwhelmed are you?  
Oh something more!  
Please lend me the words  
To capture and hold  
The greatness of Harold  
Who has come and worked and gone!

25

And now I ask:  
Quo vadis ATWS, after Harold?  
Shall the vision live and thrive?  
Or shall the dream dim and die?

**Dr. Ike Odimegwu, Professor of Philosophy, Nnamdi  
Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.**



### **The Third World, Harold Isaacs and Abraham Lincoln by William D. Pederson**

I regret that it took me much longer to become actively involved in the ATWS than the other executive directors because it delayed me in getting to know Harold Isaacs. He and I had much in common—university professors transplanted to the Deep South, but our different worlds weren't linked before the ATWS. He lived in Americus, Georgia; I live in Shreveport, Louisiana. Among Shreveport's claims to fame: it was the last Confederate capital of the South and its only militarily undefeated one during "the Late Unpleasantness Between the States." In retrospect, I believe that Harold and I lived parallel lives in the South in many ways and he enriched me from afar. While he was founding the ATWS, I was establishing the first independent "Washington Semester" at a public university in the South. Louisiana State University in Shreveport brought me to its young campus to teach American government and political theory even though I had majored in comparative politics and worked in the U.S. Department of State Operations Center. Two decades later, the ATWS returned me to my academic roots.

Shortly after LSU Shreveport launched its first "Washington Semester" in 1983, I attended a NEH Summer Institute at Harvard University where I met A. B. Assensoh, who was teaching in southern Louisiana. Through his urging, I joined the ATWS as a life member, enjoying its *Journal*, especially its book review section, for fifteen years. One of the many lessons that Harold and the Third World unknowingly instilled in me is to avoid assumptions, for I had erred in my conclusions about him, assumptions based on the geog-

raphy of his university and his interest in the Third World. My ATWS/Harold education had just begun.

At LSU Shreveport I had only one political science colleague, Norman Provizer, who arrived in Shreveport a number of years before me and had initiated the Third World course there. When he left in the 1980s for a new position at the Metropolitan State University of Denver, I inherited his course and incorporated it as part of the LSU Shreveport “Washington Semester.” The nation’s capital was then transforming itself into a genuinely international city. By 1992 the late spring “Washington Semester” and the LSU Shreveport annual fall lectures had also transformed and expanded into a triennial presidential conference series largely following the rankings of America’s presidents. Appropriately, Abraham Lincoln was the topic for the first conference in 1992. The river city noted as the last Confederate capital is one of the most isolated metropolitan areas in the nation—the last to have a National Public Radio Station and difficult to access for air travelers. Local wisdom was that our two-day Lincoln conference would attract no one outside the metropolitan area. Those local prognosticators were proven wrong. A.B. and Norman came, so did at least fifty others. By now it is a well-attended three-day international conference using Lincoln’s leadership as the touchstone against which to measure other presidents. It now holds the distinction of being the oldest presidential conference series in the South.

The new millennium brought further changes in my academic life. The “Washington Semester” morphed into the International Lincoln Center for American Studies, an academic euphemism to capture its shift from the national to the international realm. The Center became the only such entity in the United States that focused on Lincoln’s contemporary legacy beyond its borders. A Lincoln center in the heart of Robert E. Lee territory drew certain detractors, including

Sons of Confederate Veterans' protestors and a local physician railing against "bubble-headed ultra-liberal college professors insisting on perpetuating the Lincoln myth." But it also has produced positive outcomes for the LSU Shreveport campus, like the creation of our Lincoln Abroad Collection.

Ironically, it seems that most modern scholars unintentionally have contributed to limiting the awareness of Lincoln's legacy abroad. Many are immersed in a Civil War time warp. Historians focus on that era while modern political scientists most often date the modern presidency only from FDR. Both of these misleading positions are quickly undermined by a quick review of a philatelic index. There are approximately 300 postage stamps with Lincoln's image on them that have been issued worldwide. One hundred from Africa, 75 from Latin America, 50 from Oceania, 25 from Asia, 25 from the Middle East and 15 from Europe. The proliferation of Lincoln stamps in these countries, many of them emerging nations, began in the 1960s and new ones continue to be issued. No colonial power has *ever* issued a Lincoln stamp.

Coming from the background described above, in 2002 I traveled to Taipei to attend my first ATWS conference. It was a transformational experience for me. My predecessor as executive director, Shu Hui-wu, deserves enormous credit for having the first meeting in Asia. This was my first opportunity to meet Harold Isaacs and many of the other pillars of the organization. The conference was open, laid back and fascinating. I had been to Asia previously, but it was while I served in the U.S. Army. What a contrast I found on the trip to Taipei. Two of my former "Washington Semester" alums presented conference papers on the Lincoln panel. In addition to the conference and participants that made the trip enlightening, I also had time to visit the Lincoln sites in Taipei—the oldest Lincoln Fellowship group in Asia, a Lincoln hotel and

school. The lagniappe, as we say in Louisiana, was that Lincoln was the first non-Chinese to appear on a Chinese stamp.

Based on my Taipei experience with Harold and others, the ATWS became in a sense part of our international program at LSU Shreveport. I became not only a “repeat player” at ATWS events, and a relatively consistent one. Harold’s imprint of openness on the organization allows me to bring several students to ATWS conferences to make presentations and engage with colleagues from diverse international backgrounds, offering them experiential learning that complements their college classroom education.

Research suggests that a quarter of American presidents share personality traits similar to the Great Emancipator’s. Although my association with Harold was primarily professional, it became clear to me that he as well as many other ATWS members embrace the same kind of open, democratic values that Lincoln epitomizes. Lincoln’s unique place in history and his model of democratic leadership continue to fascinate generations. There have been more books written about him than about any other democratic leader in *world* history. Outside the United States there are more streets and schools named for him and other memorials—including postage stamps—honoring him than any other American president.

Although generations apart, Harold and Lincoln both were teachers, in the best sense, and leaders in creating a more democratic world. During Harold’s illness I re-read Alan Paton’s *Cry, the Beloved Country*. The spirit of the Great Emancipator pervades that South African novel, a precursor to Nelson Mandela’s leadership. Harold’s leadership reflected his active, flexible style that stresses reason over emotion in public policy, just like Lincoln’s. The ATWS will endure if it follows the precedent set by Harold when focusing on Africa,

Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Oceania.

**Dr. William D. Pederson, Professor of Political Science,  
Louisiana State University – Shreveport, Executive  
Director of the Association of Third World Studies.**

**Harold Isaacs: A Benevolent and Open-Minded Leader by  
Paul A. Rodell**

I came to Georgia Southern University as a new Assistant Professor in the fall of 1992 when Zia Hashmi was the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS) Executive Director. As I was the Department of History's new Asianist, Zia was anxious to get me involved in the ATWS and, especially, for me to meet the organization's founder, Dr. Harold Isaacs. The two men had worked closely together to take the organization from its origins as the "Third World in Perspective" lecture series on Isaacs' Georgia Southwestern University campus to the level of a professional organization. They, along with Bill Head, wrote the constitution and split duties with Zia becoming the organization's first President and then its first Executive Director and Harold serving as the Editor of the *Journal of Third World Studies* (JTWS) and ATWS Treasurer.

I met Harold for the first time at the 1993 ATWS conference at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. He was every bit as gracious as I expected, and he showed a genuine interest in my academic work. He welcomed my participation at that conference and when Zia suggested that I could write and edit a newsletter for the Association, Harold welcomed the idea and invited me to attend the organization's Executive Council meeting. There, he introduced me and the

idea of a newsletter and asked if there were any objections to my becoming its editor.

It was impressive that such a well-respected man would welcome me so quickly and would take up Zia's suggestion without hesitation. Time and again, Harold Isaacs showed the same openness and encouragement to me and other people who came forward with suggestions and proposals that would benefit the organization. He always supported people who offered to do real work for ATWS. There was qualification to my story, however. In this example, Zia immediately added that the cost of the newsletter would be shouldered by Georgia Southern and would not be a burden to ATWS. Harold was always concerned about the financial stability of the professional organization he founded and nurtured.

As Zia Hashmi's three year term as Executive Director was winding down, he approached me about succeeding him. Not fully realizing how big that job might be, I agreed. Once Zia had my commitment, he approached Harold who seconded my appointment. Once more, Harold was open to change – especially when he was reassured that the resources Zia brought to ATWS from Georgia Southern University's Center for International Studies would continue. So, once again, I saw Harold's openness in working with and nurturing a new generation of ATWS members.

During my two three-year terms as ATWS Executive Director, I came to know Harold very well. He and I had long phone conversations (there were no short phone conversations with Harry) about the organization and its members, what we were going to do next on a range of issues and, most importantly, what we could do for the poor and disadvantaged of this world. I will give just one example to illustrate this concern. Harold was very interested in seeing ATWS gain observer status with the Economic and Social Council of the

United Nations (ECOSOC) so that members might have a means to participate directly in decisions that would affect the Third World. He and I, along with Zia who continued his support for the organization, worked hard to see ATWS accepted in an “Observer” status to that UN body. I then recruited Lauren Eastwood of SUNY Plattsburgh to be our representative.

While these personal examples were important to me, a far more critical and telling instance came during the 1997 ATWS Executive Council meeting in Hartford, Connecticut. Since this happened quite a while ago, I may be inaccurate about some of the details and others can correct me, but I think that anyone who was present will agree that at close to six hours in length, this was by far the longest meeting of the organization’s history. There were some important concerns that made for lively and lengthy discussion about issues that some people felt strongly about including the annual President’s Award and the criterion for selection of winners. However, the most important was the ATWS financial health.

By 1997 the organization’s semi-annual *Journal of Third World Studies* consumed most of the annual budget. There was also the concern that the JTWS editor should not also be the ATWS treasurer. It was felt that the two positions must be under different individuals since the Treasurer would have a different perspective about how money should be spent from that of a journal editor whose primary interest was his publication. The conjoining of these two issues put Harold’s leadership under examination. While Harry may have been uncomfortable at the start of the meeting, he did not show it. Rather, he was genuinely interested in explaining his dual roles and showing how the conjoined positions were not harmful. However, after some discussion he was willing to bow to the feelings of individuals in the room and he welcomed the election of a separate treasurer since that would

decrease in his huge workload.

The conversation then turned to the cost of the journal which many felt could be greatly reduced by eliminating the tens of pages of free advertisements that were given to other journals without reciprocity. It was also suggested that the large font size could be reduced with no harm to the reader. Most importantly, the Council wanted a periodic bidding since it seemed that the printing cost was higher than need be. On these and other points, Harry was much more reluctant to change course until Nancy Shumaker offered her comments. Shumaker was associated with *The Latin Americanist*, the journal Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, so she spoke with editorial and financial knowledge that most others in the room lacked. Harry's graduate work was in Latin American Studies so he was well acquainted with the journal and had a great deal of respect for it. As Shumaker spoke, I noticed Harry's physical demeanor change. He became more relaxed and looked intently at Shumaker as she made her arguments that were based on her knowledge and experience. It was Shumaker's arguments that won him over and Harry conceded to all the Executive Council asked.

I left Hartford even more proud to know and to work with Harold Isaacs than I ever had before. How many founders of an organization would have been so receptive to fundamental change and a shedding of power as I had just witnessed? At all points during the marathon meeting, Harry kept cool and focused and always held the strength and growth of ATWS as his guiding light.

Three years later at the annual ATWS conference held in Denver, I surprised Harry and the Executive Council by announcing my decision not to seek a third term as Executive Director when my current term would end two years later. I felt then, and still do believe, that there should be rotation in executive positions for the sake of both the organization and



the individuals who serve. Harry was disappointed, but he understood, especially when I assured him that I would continue to be an active member. To this day I have attended almost every annual meeting, I have contributed to the JTWS and I serve on the annual Cecile B. Currey Book Award committee.

Outside of ATWS proper, I have been honored to participate in three of Harold's Third World in Perspective lecture series. Two of these lectures were when I was the ATWS Executive Director while the third was in 2011 and I appeared along with Bill Head and Jim Gilliam. Sadly, Harold could not attend the talks that night. He was at the bedside of his beloved wife Doris as she lay dying. He now lays beside her in his grave at the Jewish section of the Riverside Cemetery in Albany, Georgia.

No matter what my future role in ATWS might be and whether or not Georgia Southwestern University's Third World Perspectives series will continue, I will always be deeply honored to have known and worked with Harold Isaacs – a truly benevolent and open-minded leader who loved ATWS and worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of the Third World.

**Dr. Paul A. Rodell is Professor of History at Georgia Southern University where he specializes in Southeast Asia. He won the ATWS Presidential Award in 2000 and the Cecile B. Currey Book Award in 2002.**

### **A Tribute to Harold Isaacs by Chaitram Singh**

A couple of weeks ago, I received my copy of *the Journal of Third World Studies* and, to my surprise, there was a note on Harold's notepad. The note was from our friend, Gary Kline. It read in part, "I wish this could be a note from

Harold, but . . .” Now, a note from Gary is always welcome, but what Gary was alluding to was Harold’s long-standing custom of writing a personal note to accompany each issue of the journal. Mine always had a variant of “Hello, Chaitram. Hope all is well. Best wishes. Harold.” It was done in typical Harold scribble and it was his way of establishing a personal connection with almost every member of the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS). Over time, many like Gary Kline, Bill Head, Paul Rodell, and some of you present here developed a very close personal relationship with Harold. So, in a sense did I, but mine was more professional, relating to the organization and/ or the journal.

I met Harold for the first time in 1984 at the ATWS conference at University of South Carolina (Columbia). I was presenting on a Caribbean panel with Edward Cox of USC and Ron Keppart of the University of Florida. It was a year after the US invasion of Grenada. I had been on the faculty at USC in 1983 in a visiting capacity and both Ed Cox, of Grenada, and I had commented on the invasion at the time it had occurred. The ATWS panel was, therefore, a more scholarly follow-up to the TV and newspaper commentaries of the year before.

I remember overhearing some of our African colleagues at the meeting asking Harold about his plans for a journal. Was it going to be a refereed journal? Was it going to be focused on political science or interdisciplinary? Although I was not a party to the conversation, I found the prospective project intriguing, not the least because I anticipated my own quest for publication outlets since all of my work was going to be on Third World Issues. I should point out that my previous conference presentations were at the American Political Science Association and the International Studies Association. What I had found was that Third World studies were the step-child at the APSA and the ISA, certain-

ly at that time, and my initial engagement with the ATWS was a far better experience.

I was to follow up with paper presentations at ATWS conferences at Pacific Lutheran in Takoma, WA; Palm Springs, Costa Rica, Jacksonville, Peru, Savannah, Ghana, and Brazil. Participation in all of these had confirmed that the ATWS was a better, more intellectually hospitable locale for discussions of Third World issues. My allegiance has since been to the ATWS, and I followed up with conference presentations at most of its meetings.

As my conference participation increased, so also was the number of acquaintances I made, including Harold himself, Bill Head, Gary Kline, Paul Rodell, Don Simmons, John Mbaku, Doyin Coker-Kolo, and others present at this meeting and some whose presence I have missed in recent meetings. I say this because scholarship thrives in a community, and my ATWS colleagues became valuable sounding boards for my own ideas as well as inspiration for my intellectual ventures into different regions such as Asia and Africa owing to my interest in civil-military relations.

I was not allowed, however, to be just a conference presenter. Senior members of the organization, Harold, Gary, and Bill Head, to name a few, had been talent spotting, and I was soon drafted to be the organization's secretary. Following that, I served as the Associate Editor for Latin America on the editorial board of the association's journal. I relinquished that position shortly after being named Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Berry College. However, a few years later, after I had stepped down from that position, I was elected as the Editor of the Association's Newsletter and, later, Associate Editor of the Journal.

If this all sounds like a resumé listing, it's not meant to be. It is rather to show the capacities in which I interacted with Harold Isaacs, the organization's Founder and the

Journal Editor. Some here, and others not present such as Bill Head and Tom Leonard, had close personal relations with Harold. I did not. Oh, we were friends, but ours, as I have mentioned before, were more of a professional nature.

In the fall of 2012, following the Berry College conference and after my stint as the Editor of the Newsletter, I was again tapped to serve as the Latin American Associate Editor for the journal, a position I continue to hold. Harold's communications with me were generally brief notes, with an attached paper submitted for publication consideration. My turnaround time was short, something that really pleased Harold, and as was the practice, I copied him with the reviews I sent to the papers' authors. We received far more submissions on Latin American subjects than in earlier periods and, apart from U.S. scholars, submissions came from South America, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. The geographical dispersion of the submissions is a testament to the publication's reputation as a premier journal on Third World issues. That reputation was validated by the fact that approximately one half of those submissions were rejected on solid scholarly grounds.

It is hard to estimate how many careers have been influenced by publication in this journal, but I would venture to guess that many have been, and that others will be. Ours is a profession that demands much of its practitioners, a demand often encapsulated in the expression, "publish or perish." The journal has, over its existence, provided an outlet for the scholarly production of numerous third world scholars. If their institutions are like mine, their articles have made it into the annual reports of their departments and of their colleges or universities and, at some level, impact the careers of the authors.

The Journal and the organization itself are the vision

of a modest man, who started modestly, and eventually built both a huge organization of scholars and friends, with the commitment to see both projects thrive. Harold has missed this only conference, but he is present in spirit. One is tempted to say that the organization he built and the journal he launched are his legacy and indeed, they are. But they are not his only legacy. Look around you at the scholars and friends convened at this conference and others who could not be here on this occasion but are likewise bound in the determination to carry on his work. Therein lies the rest of the legacy of our friend, Harold Isaacs, Founder of the Association of Third World Studies and, until his passing, Editor of the *Journal of Third World Studies*.

**Dr. Chaitram Singh, Associate Editor for Latin America, *Journal of Third World Studies*, Gund Professor of Government & International Studies, Berry College.**

### **Remembering Harold by Yi Sun**

When the sad news of Harold's untimely passing reached me, I refused to believe it. The next day, a puffy-eyed me walked into my summer classroom and, of course, all it took was a perceptive student asking "are you ok?" for me to well up again. After a self-mocking explanation to the students with "what can I say? Your teacher is human," I ended up spending the next twenty minutes telling them about Harold and the amazing legacy that he had left behind. Indeed, what a legacy it is!

I first met Harold almost twenty years ago at an ATWS conference, the first of many more that I would attend during the subsequent years. Standing before me was a gentle giant who, towering above others around him, extended to me

his welcoming hand. As a young Chinese historian embarking on her academic career at a liberal arts college in the Midwest, I was immediately touched by Harold's warmth and generosity. He spent quite a bit of time telling me about the organization that he had devoted his life building, and introducing me to the family of scholars dedicated to the study of the third world. I have stayed in that family ever since.

Getting to know Harold was a simultaneously humbling and inspiring experience. This was a man who, convinced of the necessity to expand scholarly explorations into the political, economic, social and cultural experiences of the third world countries, had built an incredible organization from the ground up. His contagious passion for the worthy cause, combined with his determination to get things done, quickly attracted like-minded scholars to the Association of Third World Studies. By the time I joined the organization, Harold's influence had already spread far and wide among scholars across multiple disciplines in not only American academia but also in many other parts of the world.

Encouraged by Harold and several other esteemed colleagues, I mustered up my courage and ran for the secretary's position on ATWS's Executive Board in the late 1990s. Serving on the Board allowed me to observe Harold at work, up close and personal. I was simply wowed by his vision and commitment to the association and amazed by his attentiveness to meaningful operational details. He was instrumental in running the board meetings, organizing the annual conferences and overseeing the *Journal of Third World Studies*, among many other tasks. His enthusiasm was palpable and his devotion deeply moving. I knew then that I wanted to stay involved in the association; I became a life member.

Ten years ago, I was extremely honored to be selected as the associate editor for the Asian section of the *Journal of Third World Studies*, and got to work with Harold more close-

ly on issues related to article submission, review and acceptance, as well as ways of communicating with authors from outside of the U.S.. When initially I showed signs of frustration over delayed review processes, Harold allayed my anxiety with his patience and wisdom. Over all these years, I remained amazed at the fact that, whenever I sent an email message to Harold, be it six o'clock in the morning, three o'clock in the afternoon, or eight o'clock in the evening, I would get a reply from him almost immediately, as if he were always sitting at his computer desk waiting for my email. Even more touching is the fact that every single issue of the journal that I received was invariably accompanied by Harold's hand-written note thanking me for my work and support. Just the other day, catching a glimpse of one of those notes once again brought tears to my eyes. I still cannot believe that Harold has left us.

Indeed, Harold's passing is such a tremendous loss to ATWS as well as to the noble cause to which he had dedicated his life. I feel deeply indebted to him, professionally and spiritually. I wish I had had another chance to tell him in person, one more time, how much he meant to me, and to thank him for all the support, guidance and nurturing that he had given me over the years. I suppose that if there were any consolation, it would be due to the fact Harold's tireless efforts and generosity of spirit have engendered a community of scholars ready to take over the mantle and continue his cause. His legacy will live on through all of us who will work hard to perpetuate his dedication to academic excellence and his devotion to justice and world peace.

**Dr. Yi Sun, Associate Editor for Asia, *Journal of Third World Studies*, University of San Diego**