ROY HARRIS (1931-2015)

Prof. Roy Harris, founder of integrational linguistics and co-founder of the IAISLC, passed away on 9th February 2015, in Oxford.

Roy Harris was Emeritus Professor of General Linguistics in the University of Oxford and Honorary Fellow of St Edmund Hall. He also held teaching posts in Hong Kong, Boston and Paris. Prof. Harris developed an integrational semiology as a result of his critique of mainstream linguistics and in particular his readings of Saussure. Prof. Harris’ writings are the works of a brilliant mind, who searched for answers to a wide range of humanistically inspired questions. He published the ‘Language Myth’ Trilogy, consisting of The Language-Makers (1980), The Language Myth (1981) and The Language Machine (1987), which established him as an important thinker in the field of language and communication. Prof. Harris is also known in the academic linguistic community as the translator of Saussure (Harris 1983) and a Saussure scholar (Reading Saussure, 1987; Saussure and his Interpreters, 2001) as well as for his works on writing: The Origin of Writing (1986), La sémiologie de l’écriture (1994) and Rethinking Writing (2000). In more recent years Prof. Harris approached topics such as Art (The Necessity of Artspeak, 2003; The Great Debate about Art, 2010), History (The Linguistics of History, 2004), Science (The Semantics of Science, 2005), Psychology (Mindboggling, 2008), Knowledge (After Epistemology, 2009) and Reality (Integrating Reality, 2012).

The IAISLC is committed to carrying on Prof. Harris’ intellectual legacy.

We send our deepest condolences to Prof. Harris’ family. Our thoughts are with them.

Adrian Pablé
Secretary IAISLC