

# AFRICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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## WILLIAM O. BROWN, 1899-1969

Professor William O. Brown, former Director of the African Studies Program at Boston University and a former President of the African Studies Association, died on February 1, 1969. He would have been 70 on October 18th of this year. Bill Brown made a substantial and lasting contribution to African Studies in this country by establishing a center for teaching and research on Africa which became a model and source of teachers for others that followed. He performed many services for the A.S.A. and other groups dealing with Africa. But probably those who knew him well will most remember his kindly and helpful nature. He had close and cordial relations with colleagues and students, as a result of great personal concern and generous allotment of his time to their needs.

Benjamin E. Thomas, President  
African Studies Association

### MEMORIAL LECTURE HONORS PROFESSOR BROWN

Professor Alphonso Castagno, Director of Boston University's African Studies Program, served as host of the Memorial Lecture in honor of Professor William O. Brown, held at Boston University on February 27. At the invitation of Mrs. Brown and the staff of the African Studies Center, Dr. Arthur Porter, Principal of the University College, University of East Africa, Nairobi, spoke about "African Universities: Our Needs and Our Priorities."

Professor L. Gray Cowan, Executive Secretary of the A.S.A., represented the Association and talked about Bill Brown's dynamic role in the organization, from its inception up to the time of his death, when he was serving as a special consultant to the Research Liaison Committee.

Dr. Everett Walters, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Harold C. Case, President Emeritus at Boston University, each talked about the pioneer spirit at B.U. when Professor Brown established the U.S.'s first African Studies program, and the subsequent development of area studies within the university as a result of his efforts.

The general aura of the evening is summed up in an excerpt from the program: "By those who knew him, William O. Brown will be remembered as a pioneer in the field of African Studies and as a man of warmth and humor who gave himself with a rare sense of dignity, modesty, and human compassion."

### Appreciation from the Brown Family

Your many wonderful letters sent to us since Bill's death have been a great help to Stephen, Keith, Susan and me. While we would like to thank you each personally for thinking of us, and for letting us know how much you thought of Bill, it is simply too much for our hearts. We know you will understand and we thank you.

Mrs. William O. Brown