

Stuart M. Brown, Jr.

March 14, 1916 — March 18, 1996

Stuart M. Brown was born in Concord, North Carolina, on March 14, 1916, the son of Stuart M. Brown and Maud (Reynolds) Brown. He grew up in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania and Indianapolis, before moving to Ithaca with his family in the early 1930s. By far the largest part of his life was spent in Ithaca, and during most of it he was associated with Cornell. He graduated from Ithaca High School in 1933, and from Cornell's College of Agriculture, where he majored in biology, in 1937. After a brief term as Instructor of zoology at Massachusetts State College in Amherst (now the University of Massachusetts), he returned to Cornell to do graduate work in philosophy, and was awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1942, with a dissertation titled "Schleiermacher's Philosophy of Religion." He was briefly an Instructor in philosophy at Cornell before entering the United States Army in 1943. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1943-46, some of that time in eastern Europe, and attained the rank of Master Sergeant. He returned to Cornell in 1946 as an Assistant Professor, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1949 and to Professor in 1956. From 1953-63, he was Chairman of the Department of Philosophy. He served two terms as Managing Editor of *The Philosophical Review*. In 1964, he became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a position he held until 1969. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1968-70. In 1970, he left Cornell to become Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Hawaii. When he returned to Cornell in 1974 as Professor of Philosophy, he became a member of the Science, Technology, and Society Program, and from 1974-76, was Executive Director of the Humanities, Science and Technology Unit of the program. Here his philosophical interests and his biological interests came together. He was actively involved in the development of the new Biology and Society major, and he introduced a new course in medical ethics, which he taught for many years. He retired and became Professor Emeritus in 1981.

Brown's philosophical work was primarily in the area of moral philosophy. He published a number of articles in *The Philosophical Review* and other philosophical journals, dealing with the work of such philosophers as Kant and Hobbes, and with such topics as inalienable rights and civil disobedience. In his later years, his concern was mainly with topics in applied ethics—his last philosophical publications include a paper entitled "The Social Control of Genetic Engineering."

In 1947-48, Brown was a Rockefeller Post-War Fellow in philosophy, and in 1957 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. He was a member of the American Philosophical Association, the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy, and the Academy of Political Science.

The period in which Brown was Chairman of the Philosophy Department was one in which the Department was changing and growing, and in which its members included some very forceful personalities; that a very harmonious atmosphere nevertheless prevailed within the Department was due at least in part to Brown's skillful stewardship. Those who were junior members of the Department during that period remember him as warm, kind, and extremely helpful. He had very strong opinions on pedagogical matters, but was always ready to listen to dissenting opinions and to give in with good grace when he found himself in the minority.

Brown married Catherine D. Hemphill ("Kitty") on June 21, 1941, and they remained together for the remainder of his life—nearly fifty-five years. Among the many interests they shared was the raising and showing of giant schnauzers. (Brown's publications include articles in the *American Kennel Gazette*) Among his other interests were travel, swimming and skin-diving (he spent one sabbatic leave in the Caribbean), raising orchids, and listening to music, particularly opera.

Brown is survived by his wife; a sister, Margaret Brown Coryell of Sebastian, Florida; and his children, James Hemphill Brown of Corrales, New Mexico; Deborah Brown New of Canastota, New York; and Margaret Brown Cassidy of Putney, Vermont. A son, Peter, died in 1981.

Norman Kretzmann, Nicholas Sturgeon, Sydney Shoemaker