

FRANK MANNING: AN APPRECIATION

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Frank Manning (1944-90) was the author of seven books and numerous articles on play, organized sport, calypso and other forms of secular ritual in the Caribbean, beginning with *Black Clubs in Bermuda* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) in 1973 and ending with the posthumously published *Customs in Conflict* (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press) which he co-edited with Jean-Marc Philibert, an editor of this journal.

A Bostonian who received a Ph.D. from North Carolina, Frank did field-work in the West Indies and taught at Memorial University and latterly at the University of Western Ontario where he was Professor and Director of the Centre for Social and Humanistic Studies. A student of James Peacock, Manning fell under the influence not only of his distinguished mentor but also that *magister ludorum*, Victor Turner. It is a sad and notable fact that so many of Turner's brilliant *équipe*, Eva Hunt, Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo, Barbara Myerhoff, Frank and Vic Turner himself, have been prematurely removed from our midst. The discipline of social anthropology is so much the poorer because of their loss, and so much the richer because of their contributions. To paraphrase Sidney Carter, "They were the dance but the dance goes on."

We first met Frank Manning on a tour bus which took us to Jaipur and Agra during the New Delhi I.C.A.E.S. in 1978. We became his friends immediately. During the next few years he visited us a number of times with his wife Gail in order to attend dinner-dances at the Caribbean Club in Kitchener or, alone, to lecture on calypso or cricket matches. In these talks he conveyed his boyish and contagious enthusiasm for Caribbean culture, and talked with warmth about the politicians, cricketers, calypso singers such as Gabby and ordinary West Indians whom he had befriended and with whose way of life he had so closely identified. He never let us forget that play and sport are a serious business, remarking that "the failure of art critics to appreciate the aesthetics of popular sport has been no less myopic

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than the failure of anthropologists to grasp its social importance'' (1981:616). For years he played a leading role in the Society for the Anthropological Study of Play.

When we took over *Anthropologica* at the end of 1988, Frank was, for a brief while, Associate Editor of the journal and, subsequently, a member of the Editorial Advisory Board. He was the source of much valuable advice and encouragement. In November 1989, he learned that a cancer which had been removed a couple of years previously had returned. He remained active until the spring of 1990, editing collections of essays, conducting research, including a brief return to the Caribbean, and visiting friends. His courage in the face of certain death was rare indeed. We shall miss him.

Reference Cited

Manning, Frank E.

- 1981 Celebrating Cricket: The Symbolic Construction of Caribbean Politics. *American Ethnologist* 8(3):616-632.