

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Lance Cousins at the age of 72. Lance, who was a former Council member and President of the Society (2002-2003), died suddenly of a heart attack on Saturday, 14 March in Oxford. Lance will be known to many members for his publications in the field of Pali and Buddhist studies.

Lance studied history and then oriental studies at Cambridge before being appointed Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer in Comparative Religion at the University of Manchester where he taught Buddhism, Hinduism, comparative mysticism, Pali and Sanskrit. He took early retirement in the 1990s, moving to Oxford where he taught Buddhism in the Faculty of Theology and Pali and Middle Indian in the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

Lance also served as President of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies. His published articles concern the history of Buddhist schools, Abhidhamma literature and thought, as well as Pali, Middle Indian and Buddhist Sanskrit textual studies. Lance was also a founding member of the Samatha Trust and a much respected teacher of samatha meditation.

His death is a great loss to Pali studies.

A full obituary will appear later in the Society's Journal.

Rupert Gethin