***Vale* John Anthony Moses (10 June 1930—30 May 2024)**

The AAEH is saddened to learn of the death of Emeritus Professor the Reverend John Anthony Moses, who passed away peacefully on 30 May 2024. Born in 1930 in Atherton, QLD, John earned his BA (1959) and MA (1963) at the University of Queensland, before completing his PhD at the University of Erlangen in West Germany (1965). While at Erlangen (and also at Munich), he not only met his future wife, Ingrid, but experienced first-hand the fallout from the ‘Fischer Controversy’ occasioned by the publication of *Griff nach der Weltmacht* (1961) and was ideally placed to convey the enormity of this back to Australia, significantly shaping contemporary understandings of German history and historiography. John returned to the University of Queensland as a lecturer (1965-1969), senior lecturer (1970-1975), and reader (1975-1986); becoming Professor and head of the history department from 1986 until his retirement.

Visiting the University of Sydney in 1969, John was among the founding members of the Australian Society for European History (ASEH), the precursor to the AAEH. At a forum that included R. J. B. Bosworth, Barrie Rose, Geoffrey Bolton, and Patrick Collinson, John presented a paper on “Hegel and German Historiography” – the first of many that would culminate in his 2019 keynote at the AAEH’s golden jubilee conference. As Richard Bosworth recalled, the committed Moses was certainly the scholar who “agitated” most strongly for “an association of historians of Europe”, and John was a true founder and a stalwart of the AAEH in many ways. He was elected its second-ever President in 1977, following the success of his book *The Politics of Illusion: The Fischer Controversy in German Historiography* (1975). Via this superb, brief synthesis of a very involved issue, and through his other work, he managed to raise ongoing concerns with the ideological baggage of the historical profession more broadly. With Paul M. Kennedy and other scholars, he worked towards an understanding of *Germany in the Pacific and Far East* (1977), as well as building on his greatest area of expertise and interest: trade unionism in Germany in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. His two-volume study of *Trade Unionism in Germany from Bismarck to Hitler* appeared in 1982.

As AAEH President, John convened the 1979 conference at UQ, which he ensured was named in honour of the late Associate Professor Ernest Kohn Bramsted – a formative influence on European History in Australia. John was elected President a second time, and managed the 1986 conference, leveraging his status as Editor of the *Australian Journal of Politics and History* to produce the first collection of AAEH papers at the end of 1988 (and drawn from the 1987 conference). An associate editor of the *AJPH* since 1969, John had succeeded founding editor Gordon Greenwood in 1984, and took the publication to new heights of sophistication.

Having trained at St Francis College in Brisbane, John was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church of Australia (1978), and was also a professorial associate at St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra (2007-2024), which is accredited through Charles Sturt University. His faith helped drive yet another aspect of his academic career, which bore fruit in particular with *The Reluctant Revolutionary: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Collision with Prusso-German History* (2009). John’s work on Bonhoeffer coincided with his time as Adjunct Professor at the University of New England, where his beloved wife of 60 years, Professor Ingrid Moses, AO, was Vice-Chancellor (1997-2006). While in Armidale, John convened the Trevenna Seminar with Iain Spence, and co-edited a valuable volume of papers arising from the seminar: *The German Empire and Britain's Pacific Dominions, 1871-1919: Essays on the Role of Australia and New Zealand in World Politics in the Age of Imperialism* (edited, with Chris Pugsley, 2000).

For a decade, John conducted over one hundred services at St Mary’s West Armidale Anglican Church, where he was a much-loved priest. A traditional (rather than evangelical) Anglican, he was convinced of the key role that faith and history had to play in resisting oppressive regimes (whether communist, fascist, colonial, or neoliberal).

He continued to publish new work in his final years. His memoir, *Looking over the Fence: Reflections and Reminiscences of an Historian’s Journey from the Australian Bush to a Wider World* (2023) appeared only months before his final historical study, *Combatting Totalitarianism: The Legacies of St. Paul and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the Collapse of the “Murderous Utopias” of Communism and National Socialism* (2024).

John is survived by Ingrid Moses (Chancellor of the University of Canberra, 2006-2010) – and their sons Dirk (Anne and Bernard Spitzer Professor of Political Science, City College of New York) and Rolf (CEO, Queensland Law Society, 2018-2024) and their families.

Professor Richard Scully

(University of New England)