

## EDITORIAL

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Dmitri Borgmann's death. To commemorate it we present three pieces: a final article by Dmitri from the editorial files, a description of a final chapter of *Language on Vacation* which Scribner's decided to eliminate from the book, and an imaginary visit by Dmitri to the UN in 1967 penned by the talented Australian logologist John Holgate.

Several Word Ways readers were startled by the picture of Dmitri's last years depicted in the November 1988 Word Ways—his paranoia, his obsession with death. His macabre article with its heavy-handed humor reveals, better than any biography, the disordered state of his mind during the last few weeks of his life. I believe Dmitri was terrified of his impending death, in particular the obliteration of his life and works. True logology would die with him--there would be no one capable of carrying on his work, which would become forgotten or (worse) distorted in the hands of those incapable of appreciating his unique vision.

Holgate's piece cryptically alludes to Mitrid Flared Brong Man, an anagram of Dmitri Alfred Borgmann. He appends the following explanation:

MITRID - of the Mitridae family of spirally sculptured seashells. Peter Mordan's pastiche of Gilbert and Sullivan in the Bulletin of the Macalogical Society of London says it all: "He quotes in elegiacs on the food of mitrid gastropods / Distinguishing the sipunc hooks from the undetermined clods".

FLARED - having a gradual increase in width

BRONG MAN – a native of the Brong-Ahafu region in Ghana where the Tribal Council includes the positions of President, Chief, Queen Mother, and Linguist. Of the Brong Man it is said "In relationships, Brong Men are direct, to the point! He lets his lady know exactly what he wants, and so you ladies that set store by a bit of romance, you are forewarned. You better speak Twi to him because it's only with a bit of imagination that his English is decipherable. And you, his lady, are required to speak, read and write English because he will get letters from his sons, nephews and nieces in Gyaaman, to which he has to reply. You can do no wrong if you can produce mountainous-sized fufu with the setting of the sun and as frequently as the sun sets. A lady who is ambitious for her children is well advised to stay away from the Brong man. He sees no reason why his children can not follow his path through life, but he is a proud father indeed if his children somehow manage to be educated and achieve prominence, and he lets no one forget his extraordinary efforts."