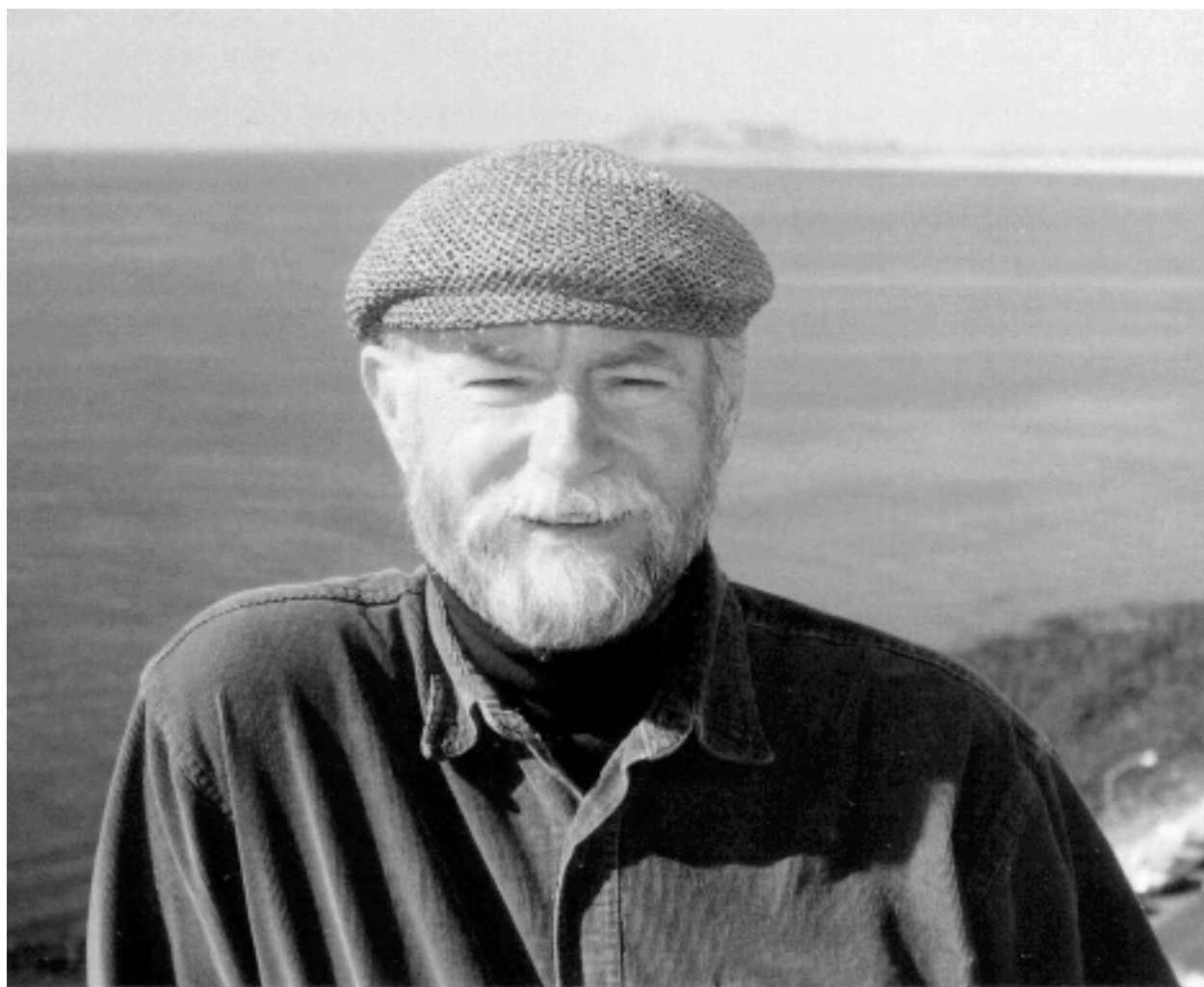


In Memory of
Robert E. MacLaury
1944-2004



This collection of articles is dedicated to Robert E. MacLaury who died on February 18th 2004 at 59 years of age. Rob MacLaury was a seasoned scholar of color anthropology who began his academic life as an anthropologist, doing fieldwork in Oaxaca State, Mexico, where he carried out an exhaustive study of phonology, grammar and semantics of Zapotec languages. Amongst the many publications resulting from this work was a seminal 1989 paper on the semantics of Zapotec body part locative terms. Rob's formal training was at UC Berkeley, Language Behavior Research Laboratory 1974-1986 under Drs. Brent Berlin and Paul Kay at the time when their universalist evolutionary approach to color categorization and naming was breaking ground. His Mesoamerican Color Survey of 900 speakers of 116 languages became his dissertation (1986) and later provided the basis for his vantage theory framework (1997). This framework added cognitive modeling to Berlin and Kay's perceptual foundation of color research. Supporting developments in cognitive science on the UC Berkeley campus include Rosch's (e.g., 1975) prototype concept and Cognitive Linguistics (e.g., Talmy 1975, summarized by Lakoff 1987), which encouraged MacLaury to improve the model of categorization with an account of cognitive dynamics (see his 1997 book entitled *Color and Cognition in Mesoamerica: Constructing Categories as Vantages*). Rob's involvement in research in color perception and language spanned most of Central America, as well as parts of Africa, Canada, New Zealand and American North and Southwest. Arguably the most prolific collector of color naming data from under-researched languages, he published continuously in the forefront of color anthropology, and his influences were widely seen throughout the cross-cultural color naming literature. He is survived by wife Maria and family.

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