

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR MYRA MOSS

Myra E. Moss, emeritus professor of Philosophy and Government at Claremont McKenna College, died on July 26, 2016 at age 79. Her B.A. was from Pomona College and her Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. She came to CMC in 1975 (originally as an adjunct professor), was tenured in 1991 (she was at the time one of the few tenured women professors here), served as chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies from 1992-1995, and retired in 2007.

Myra was an expert in modern philosophy, with a special emphasis on Italian philosophy. At the height of her career, she was undoubtedly the top American expert in Italian philosophy, and was so recognized by Italian academics. She was the author and/or editor of several books and multiple essays in philosophical journals. Her edited works included The Philosophy of Jose Gaos (Rodopi: 1997). Her books included Benedetto Croce Reconsidered: Truth and Error in Theories of Art, Literature, and History (1987: University Press of New England) and Mussolini's Fascist Philosopher: Giovanni Gentile Reconsidered (2005: Peter Lang). Two of her most cited essays are, "Enduring Values in the Philosophy of Benedetto Croce," Idealistic Studies 10 (1): 46-66 (1980) and "Croce and Collingwood: Philosophy and History," in Verdicchio, Trafton, and D'Amico (eds.), The Legacy of Benedetto Croce: Contemporary Critical Views (1999: University of Toronto Press).

Myra was a committed teacher, dedicated to her craft; her students frequently commented on how much real learning went on in her class. For several years she taught seminars in philosophy for selected CMC first year students. Later in her career she was known for courses in fascism and theories of history. She was also an excellent colleague and citizen of CMC.

On a personal level, it should be noted that in her youth Myra was a highly accomplished, near-Olympic level, equestrian, and her love of horses continued throughout her life. She was married to Dr. Andrew Rolle, Robert Glass Cleland Professor of American History at Occidental College, for many years.