



In Memoriam

Joseph Nevadomsky, professor of anthropology at California State University, Fullerton for 30 years, died January 15, 2020. He was recognized as the Humanities and Social Sciences Distinguished Professor in 2000. An educator for more than 45 years, he was a visiting lecturer in the Department of Art History at both UCLA and USC, an instructor of Art History Education at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and he also taught for many years at the University of Lagos in Nigeria and the University of Benin. In the Division of Anthropology, Dr. Nevadomsky taught numerous courses, including Culture and Art, Traditional Cultures of the World, Contemporary Anthropology, History of Anthropology, Visual Anthropology, and more. He guided numerous graduate students in their MA theses, and also supervised many graduate students in installing exhibits in the Anthropology Teaching Museum. These included “The Vietnamese in Orange County”; “Royalty and Ritual: The Kingdom of Benin”; “The Anasazi: Southwest Art and Archaeology”; “Primates of the World”; and “Puppets Round the World: Expressions of Culture.” In addition, with the late Armand Labbé he co-curated “Benin: Art of Power” at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, and in a collaboration between CSUF and Mission San Miguel, he curated an exhibit entitled “San Miguel Mission Museum Renovation.”

Dr. Nevadomsky was well known and sought after in his fields of expertise, which included the Kingdom of Benin, rituals of kingships, Benin brass and other arts, effigies, and architecture. He was a noted photographer, and in fact 20,000 of his photographic images on the Benin Kingdom were been gifted to the Smithsonian Institution for the Eliot Elisofon Archival Collection at the National Museum of African Art. Just since 2000, his photographs have been exhibited in the Stockholm Museum of Ethnography; the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; the Chicago Art Institute; the Berlin Museum; the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford; the Seattle Art Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Volkerkunde, Vienna/Berlin/Paris/Chicago; and on the National Museum of African Art website. Earlier exhibitions include the National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC, the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution, and many more locations prior to 2000.

Dr. Nevadomsky’s more standard published works include more than 100 journal articles, monographs, chapters in edited volumes, book reviews, exhibition reviews, commentaries, exhibition catalogue texts, letters to the editor, and prologues. The journals and books in which Dr. Nevadomsky’s work appears are a tribute to his reputation and expertise in African culture and art and the visual arts. These include *Minorities and Politics in Nigeria*; *Museum Anthropology*; *African Arts*; *Emotan: Journal of Art and Culture*; *Benin: Rise and Fall of the Empire of Noble Bronzes*; *African Archaeology Review*, *Culturologia*; and *Sacred Waters: Arts for Mami Wata and other Water Divinities in Africa and the African Atlantic World*. Some of the titles of his recent publications include “Benin Art and Casting Technologies”; “An Ethnographic and Space Syntax Analysis of Benin Kingdom Nobility Architecture”; and “Sacred Rituals of Kingship in the Late 20th Century Former Kingdom of Benin.”