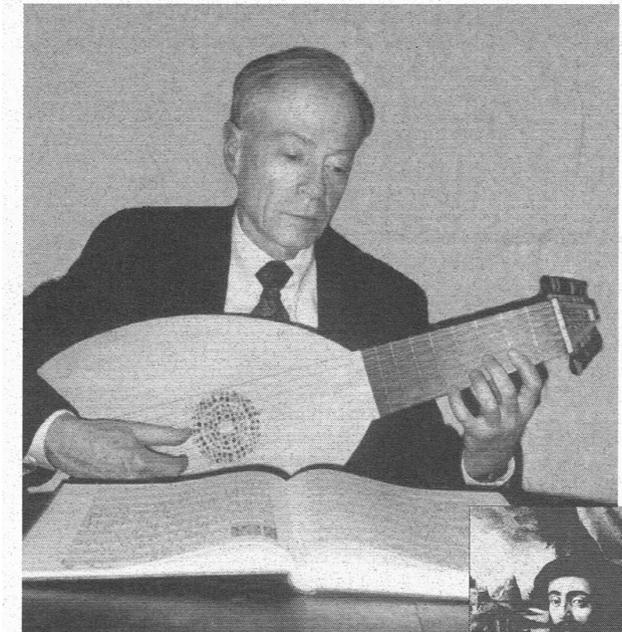


IN MEMORIAM:
DOUGLAS ALTON SMITH (1944-2018)

After a long illness, Douglas Alton Smith died at his home on August 9. Over the decades Doug made numerous contributions to the Lute Society of America in a variety of roles, most recently as a member of the board of directors and as guest editor and senior consulting editor of the *Journal of the LSA*.



Doug received his PhD in music from Stanford University in 1977. His dissertation, “The Late Sonatas of Silvius Leopold Weiss,” could be considered the starting point of modern lute players’ fascination with Weiss and the baroque lute. Doug also was the original editor of *Sylvius Leopold Weiss, 1686-1750, Complete Works for Lute*, an edition sponsored by the Musikgeschichtliche Kommission, with further support in the form of research grants from the Alexander Humboldt Stiftung, the Leverhulme Trust, and King’s College London.

Doug’s contributions to lute scholarship cannot be overstated. He published numerous articles in the *Journal of the Lute Society of America*, the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, *Early Music*, *Le Luth et sa Musique*, the *Galpin Society Journal*, and *The New Harvard Dictionary of Music* on topics as varied as Matthäus Weissel’s instructions of how to play the lute to the chitarrone and the 13-course ba-

roque lute. In 1976 he published a translation of Ernst Gottlieb Baron's *Study of the Lute (1727)*.

The book that most people will remember Doug for is *The History of the Lute from Antiquity to the Renaissance* (LSA, 2002), which remains the only book of its kind. He was often asked if he was going to write Volume II on the baroque lute, and his answer was always that someone else should take on that project.

Doug's many other projects were not all lute related. Those included writing restaurant reviews for his local newspaper, some of which were later turned into the book *The Midpeninsula Scotch Gourmet: The Frugal Epicure's Guide to Eating and Drinking on the Lower San Francisco Peninsula*. He was interested in playing folk guitar, a project that expanded into the composing of a folk opera, which he only recently finished. Doug also spearheaded the four *JLSA* issues devoted to the life and work of Patrick O'Brien (Volumes 47 through 50). Volume 52 of the *JLSA* will be a festschrift in memory of Doug.

In tribute to Doug, the LSA has created the Douglas A. Smith Scholarship, which will pay for a lute student to attend one of our festivals. You might also consider a donation in Doug's memory to the society's digital lute music library, a project that was dear to Doug's heart. But perhaps the best way to remember Doug is to purchase a copy of *The History of the Lute*, which is available on the society's website. (If you already have one, why not pick up another copy and donate it to your library?)

Doug will be missed, but warmly remembered.

