

# BARUN DE (1932-2013)

UMA DASGUPTA

**E**minent historian Barun De passed away on 16 July 2013 at a private nursing home in Kolkata after battling a brief illness. He was born on 30 October 1932 to a distinguished Brahmo family. He graduated from Presidency College in History Honours and took his doctoral degree in History from the University of Oxford on 'Henry Dundas and the Government of

India (1773-1801): A Study in Constitutional Ideas'.

He taught at the University of Calcutta, the University of Burdwan and the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. He was the Founder Director of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and the Founder Director of the Maulana Abul Kalam Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta.

In his later years he remained actively associated with key institutions to further the cause of research and cultural heritage. He was Chairperson of the West Bengal Heritage Commission, State Editor of the West Bengal District Gazetteers and Chairperson of the West Bengal State Archives for periods of time. He was on the Board of Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall and a member of the Governing Body of the Indian Museum. He was appointed by the Government of India as Visiting Professor to Uzbekistan for three years and published his experiences there in a book titled *Secularism at Bay: Uzbekistan at the turn of the century*.

He is survived by his wife Romabai and his children Urmila and Bikramjit.

*Alumnus (History /1960-61)*