

Diane Oenning Thompson
1936-2013

Dr. Diane Oenning Thompson, a longtime member of IDS and a presenter of memorable papers beginning in C erisy in 1983, passed away 28 March 2013 in Cambridge, England after a brief illness.

Dr. Thompson was born in the American Midwest to a Norwegian-American family, and she had the virtues of that community: fierce integrity, straight-forwardness, a certain shyness, and unpretentious religious faith. At the University of Chicago she developed her interests in literature, linguistics, and psychology, and she worked for a time with famous child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim. But her principal fascination was Russian literature, especially Dostoevsky, and she developed this interest in her doctoral work at the University of Cambridge, supervised by Dr. J ostein B ornes, who encouraged her specialization in literature and religion.

This dissertation eventuated in Dr. Thompson's superb book, *The Brothers Karamazov and the Poetics of Memory* (1991). It is remarkable for its meticulous research and elegant writing, but most of all for its combination of close literary analysis within a conceptual framework of Christian thought. "Memory" – individual and cultural – is its guiding notion, which it pursues rigorously and honestly, analyzing the dilemmas and paradoxes that memory occasions.

Dr. Thompson's many articles on Dostoevsky developed a variety of contexts (science, music, mathematics among them), but her greatest contributions reside in her ability to bring together literature and religion in a non-dogmatic fashion.

Dr. Thompson was for many years a faculty member at the University of Cambridge. She is survived by her husband John, a professor of mathematics, by her daughter, Dr. Kari Sigrid Carstairs, and by two grandsons. We will miss her intelligence, learning, graciousness, and scholarly integrity.

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