

## C. Scott Littleton

(\*1 July 1933 – †25 November 2010)

C. Scott Littleton, a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Indo-European Studies* since its inception, was born in Los Angeles 1 July 1933 and died in Pasadena from complications of heart surgery 25 November 2010. He was very proud of his service in the Korean War. He had to lie about his age to get into the army, but it was during the war that he read a book that convinced him to become an anthropologist. He obtained his B.A. from UCLA in 1957 and his M.A. in 1962, the same year he started work at Occidental College, where he remained as a professor until 2002.

Littleton's *The New Comparative Mythology: An Anthropological Assessment of the Theories of Georges Dumézil*, first published in 1974 (Third Edition 1981), was based of his dissertation, with which he earned his Ph.D. in 1965. This work was largely credited with making Dumézil's hypotheses widely accessible to the English-speaking world. Littleton was also known for a wide range of works in several fields of anthropology in addition to folklore and mythology, with a special interest in the Arthurian legends and the Japanese Shinto tradition. While Littleton is more popularly known for his work on UFO and parapsychology, he was a Fulbright scholar to Japan in 1976-77 and in 1980-81. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Graduate Commencement Speaker at UCLA in 1965, a member of the Occidental College Faculty Hall of Fame (1997) and a recipient of the Occidental College Alumni Association's annual Honorary Alumni Seal Award for Emeritus Faculty.

His publications include books on comparative mythology (*Mythology: The Illustrated Anthology of World Myth and Storytelling*; 2002), the Arthurian tradition (*From Scythia to Camelot*, with Linda A. Malcor; 1994), Shinto (*Understanding Shinto: Origins, beliefs, practices, festivals, spirits*,

*sacred places*; 2002), a memoir about his years growing up in Hermosa Beach during World War II, two science fiction novels (*Phase Two*; 2002; the second is still in press.), and literally hundreds of articles, reviews, monographs and other publications. He also served as editor for many publications, most notably *Eastern Wisdom* (1995, reprinted as *The Sacred East* in 1999). He was a member of many professional societies too numerous to list in the space allotted. His contributions to his primary field and related fields were significant and extensive. He will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, his daughters, Leslie and Cynthia, and his granddaughter Daisy Anna.

Linda Malcor