

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Thomas R. Trautmann, Ph.D., Marshall Sahlins Collegiate Professor of History and Anthropology, professor of anthropology, and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2010.

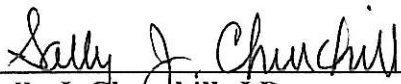
Professor Trautmann received his B.A. degree from Beloit College in 1962 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of London in 1968. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1968, and was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and professor in 1977. He was appointed Marshall Sahlins Collegiate Professor of History and Anthropology in 1997.

Trained as a historian of ancient India, Professor Trautmann made contributions to that field as well as to the historiography of colonial India, the history of anthropology and the history of kinship. His early work revised the authorship of a canonical Sanskrit text, the *Arthashastra*; subsequent work laid a lasting foundation for all later studies of Dravidian kinship. More recently, his studies of British Orientalism in India have made signal contributions to the intellectual history of colonial India as they have refashioned understanding of the history of anthropology as a discipline. The range of his erudition and influence is suggested not only by his publications, but also in his role as editor of the prestigious journal, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, from 1997-2006.

Professor Trautmann taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Indian civilization, ethnology, and kinship. He also provided distinguished service as director of the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies (1975-77), chair of the Department of History (1987-90), and the Mary Fair Croushore Professor of Humanities and director of the Institute for the Humanities (1997-2002). From 2003-09 he served as a development officer in the Department of History; during that time, the department's endowment funds nearly doubled, from \$12.5 to \$22.6 million.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Thomas R. Trautmann professor emeritus of anthropology and professor emeritus of history**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2010