MEMORIAL MINUTES 223

Page 1 of 2

file:///C:/Users/Ed/Pictures/Riteris.gif 8/14/2017

JOHN M. RITERIS

1935 - 1979

John M. Riteris, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Indiana University in Indianapolis, died on August 15, 1979. He had served as Acting Chairman of the Department of Philosophy during most of the preceding three years, and had also held every office, includ­ing that of President, of the Indiana Philosophical Association between 1972 and 1975. He first came to Indianapolis after com­pleting his graduate courses at Indiana University in Bloomington in 1967. During his foreshortened career he delivered numerous scholarly addresses, especially on biomedical ethics, and published some articles and book reviews. But the loss that his death means to philosophy cannot easily be measured by such stock criteria. From the time when his family fled from Latvia in 1945, he was called upon to live his philosophy existentially in the face of seem­ingly insurmountable adversity. After progressive kidney disease resulted in total kidney failure, he became the first recipient of a successful kidney transplant from a non-identical twin in 1959. Having thus borrowed time to achieve an academic position in philosophy, he was struck down by a massive coronary in late 1974. He left the hospital in May, 1975, with a life expectancy of six months, and devoted himself all the more to intellectual pursuits. Hospitalized twice more in 1979, he spent what he knew to be his final days teaching two courses and visiting with his friends. In addition to a son, a former wife, a brother and a sister, and both of his parents, he leaves many colleagues and friends who learned from him a living example of philosophy.

Edmund F. Byrne