
In 1982, Henry received a law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. After practicing law in New York City for two years, he returned to the Department of History at Iowa to follow his interests in legal history. He had a courtesy appointment in the College of Law, where he taught courses in British legal history. He received grants from the Leverhulme Trust (UK) and the National Endowment for the Humanities to produce annotated guides to the records of the Court of Chancery. His two publications, Chancery Equity Records and Proceedings 1600-1800 (Public Record Office Handbook 27, 1995), and Exchequer Equity Records and Proceedings 1649-1841 (Public Record Office Handbook 32, 2001), are regarded as particularly significant contributions to legal scholarship. He was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.
Colleagues recall that Henry made it his mission to create an egalitarian and collegial department that maintained high standards of scholarship during a time of significant changes in higher education. Henry provided strong leadership in making the department a welcoming place for new colleagues who had survived the department’s distinctively daunting hiring procedures. This collegiality extended to department meetings, sometimes lengthy ones, in which he set the tone that everyone’s opinion was to be treated with respect. Henry also was noted for his striking personal generosity to students and colleagues, and to the broader community.

Henry was instrumental in developing a new General Education model for non-majors, in which graduate students offer small sections of “Issues in Human History” as an alternative to the large lecture course format. Each year the department awards the Henry Horwitz Prize for the best “Issues” syllabus created by a graduate student. Although he retired from the department in 2004, Henry’s legacy lives on.

Henry will be missed by those who survive him: his wife Juliet Gardiner, his daughter Elizabeth Russell, his brother Tem Horwitz, his stepson Simon Cope, and former students and colleagues.

~ Jeffrey Cox