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Subject: Lauri Honko is dead!
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Dear Colleagues,

Tragic news have just arrived: Lauri Honko, the professor emeritus of comparative religion and folklore studies at the University of Turku died this morning here in Turku, Finland at the age of 70. He had left for his regular morning jogging, but due to heart failure never returned home. He was about to leave for the Folklore Fellows Summer School, an institution the main architect of which he was, that started this afternoon in Lammi in Southern Finland. Lauri Honko was scheduled to do the work that he had done for more than four decades - to give lectures and consult Ph.D. candidates from all continents of the world.

Although comparative religion has a long history in Finland, it was, however, Lauri Honko who created conditions in the early 1960's to establish the discipline as a modern university subject. This took place first at the University of Turku (in 1963) and seven years later (1970) at the University of Helsinki. It was Lauri Honko who draw the boundaries of the study of religion as an academic field and positioned its scholarly identity on the fertile ground between humanities and social sciences.

We who continue Lauri's work would not have the kind of working tools that have proven so valuable in steering the scholarship and training of new practitioners into right track and which have given the Finnish science of religion its distinguishable mark.

For further knowledge on Lauri Honko and comparative religion, see my brief sketch in the webpages

http://www.utu.fi/hum/uskonto_tiede/history.html.

In memory of Lauri Honko
Yours sincerely
Veikko Anttonen

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Further information on Lauri Honko can be found in *Temenos* 27, pp. 11-20.