Nelson Mandela’s Fulbright Prize Address
Oct. 1 1993, Washington DC.

The following are excerpts from a transcript of Mr. Mandela’s address.

In July I turned 75. And a day or two before that, I met a young lady of about four or five years, and she asked me some pointed questions. She asked, “How old are you?” I said, “Well, I can’t remember but I was born long, long ago.” She said, “A year ago?” I said, “No, more than that.” “Two years ago?” I said, “No longer than that.” “But when were you born?” I said, “Well I’ve told you I can’t remember, but it was a long time ago.”

Then she suddenly switched and said, “Why did you go to jail?” I said, “I didn’t go there because I liked it, some people sent me there.” “Who?” I said, “People who don’t like me.” “And how long did you remain there?” I said, “Again I can’t remember but it was a long time ago.” She again repeated, “One year, two years?” And I said, “No, I can’t remember.”

Then there came a very devastating comment on her part which will put into context the glowing remarks which have been made here. When I couldn’t tell her exactly when I was born, she said, “You are a foolish old man, aren’t you?”

If any of us is credited with a vision, you must remember the remarks of that young lady. And if my remarks here confirm what the young lady said, I hope you’ll not be as frank. I consider it a great honor to be standing before you today to receive the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding. I count it also a great privilege to be with you on the occasion of the Fulbright Association’s 16th annual conference. In expressing my heartfelt appreciation of the accolade bestowed on me, I am not unmindful of the responsibilities one assumes.

Significance of the prize
And it is against the background that awards of this nature go to strengthen the democratic forces in our country, to strengthen men and women of vision. There are thousands of them in our country, and that is part of the significance of us getting this Fulbright Award. We accept it not as a gesture to an individual. It is a source of tremendous inspiration, and courage, and hope, for those of us who have spent a number of years behind bars – you have to be behind bars to appreciate the policy of a country because it is there that the cruelty of men to men emerges – the knowledge that the ideas for which you had fought were alive, that our people outside prison were on their feet and fighting back, that the national community had mobilized itself to isolate a regime which had through apartheid committed a crime against humanity – those were glorious moments. When we went through those harsh experiences in a prison where all the warders were white and where all blacks were prisoners, a place of indescribable brutality, it was through gestures of this nature that we always knew that one day we would be back.

Generations of the World
And this prize, this award, is a source of tremendous inspiration, not only to an individual, but to the men and women right across the length and breadth of our country who decided...
to fight back, and to you, part of that family, those men and women who have chosen the world to be the theater of your efforts. We are thousands of miles away. Why should people of the United States of America worry about what is happening at the tip of the African continent? It is because we now have produced at this generation men and women who are not satisfied with addressing and solving problems within the borders of their country, who regard themselves as part of humanity. I am very proud to be here today. I go home like a battery charged ready to carry out the work that destiny has placed us.

"The Fulbright prize honored Mr. Mandela for his personal courage and selfless determination to eliminate racial and political barriers in South Africa and to focus international attention to the divisive practices that have for so long been part of the daily lives of South Africans of all races," said Stanley N. Katz, then president of the American Council of Learned Societies and chairman of the international committee that selected Mr. Mandela to receive the Fulbright prize. The prize recognized in particular Mr. Mandela’s commitment to the resolution of long-standing injustices in a peaceful and pluralistic way, Dr. Katz said.

Stanley N. Katz
Director, Fulbright Association Board

Many of my fellow Fulbright alumni might not know of Fulbright Association’s special relationship to Nelson Mandela, the inaugural honoree of the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Peace and Understanding.

The memory of that event holds a special place in my heart, since I was the founding Chair of the Selection Committee for the Prize in 1993. Selecting Mandela, who had just been released from prison, as the first honoree was pretty obvious. My memory is that it required practically no discussion. We were thrilled when he agreed to come to the States for the presentation at the State Department auditorium, and then I got to sit next to him at the luncheon.

You may be amused by this memory of that meal. I told Mandela that it was a thrill and an honor to shake his hand, but I confessed that he was the second of my personal heroes whose hand I had shaken. “Who was the other?” he asked. “An American profession athlete, sir, and I don’t think name would mean much to you.” “Try me!” “Well, it was a baseball player named Henry Aaron.” “You mean Hammering Hank?” What a guy!

Nelson Mandela was a great man and he will indeed be missed. We should all be proud of the fact that our Association was perhaps the first international organization to honor Mandiba.

May he rest in peace.

On Oct. 1, 1993, Michael DeLucia (President, Fulbright Association Board of Directors) awarded the Fulbright Prize to Nelson Mandela.
Announcing the Fulbright–National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship

Fulbright’s Outreach Team

Introduction

The Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship (Fulbright-National Geographic) is a component of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. This program will support a Fellow’s digital storytelling efforts on a global issue or set of issues affecting citizens of both the United States and another country or set of countries (up to three countries).

The wide variety of new media platforms, such as the Internet, blogs, social media, and low-cost video production has created unprecedented opportunity for people from all disciplines and backgrounds to share their personal narratives with global audiences. Fulbright and National Geographic are committed to helping individuals develop these storytelling tools which serve as a powerful resource in building ties across cultures. In addition to receiving traditional Fulbright benefits, Fulbright-National Geographic Fellows will be paired with National Geographic editors who will offer training, mentorship, and guidance. Fellows will provide material for a blog on the National Geographic website, on a regular and frequent basis throughout their grant term.

This Fellowship will be launched on December 17, 2013. The application period will run off-cycle to February 28, 2014. The selection process will be completed by June 2014, and fellows will depart for their host countries in September-October of 2014 for one academic year.

Georgia Chapter

From Civil War Battles to Urban Transformation – fall trip 2013

By Lee Pasackow

We arrived at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park just in time for the 10:00 caravan tour with the ranger. At four stops in this vast 9000 acre park we heard details on two major battles of the American Civil War: the Battle of Chickamauga and the Chattanooga Campaign. We enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds and students viewed the overview film in groups.

After checking into our hotel in Chattanooga, we had a short time to get settled. The vans were then loaded up for our 1-hour drive north to the Tennessee Guest Ranch. The organizers wanted us to arrive while it was still light so the students could tour the stables and enjoy the mountain vistas.

We were greeted by young students on their horses and hot hors d’oeuvres outside. The students put on a show in the ring highlighting the life of the cowboy over the decades. We lined up for our buffet dinner; then were escorted into the barn to enjoy our meal. Students really enjoyed the barn dancing with instruction. Surrounded by bales of hay, the students danced with each other and the instructors laughed at their missteps and surprised themselves with their newly acquired dancing skills.

Southern hospitality was the operative word of the evening as illustrated by the fact that the instructor only stopped the dancing when informed that we must return to the city.

After breakfast at the hotel, students were eager to check out their Bike Chattanooga bicycles. We took two vans north of the city to check out bikes near the river parks while other students retrieved their bikes from stations near the hotel.

Chattanooga was quiet on a Sunday morning. Experienced and first-time bikers easily formed groups with four leaders to explore the city on two wheels. We climbed up to the “Walking Bridge,” one of the centerpieces of Chattanooga’s urban renewal and the second longest pedestrian bridge in the nation. We explored the art district while marveling at the numerous sculptures throughout the city. Some dismounted to visit sites while others took extended rides to arrive late for lunch! Students who chose to explore the city by foot were delighted to meet friendly locals along the way. Some visited popular sites such as the Chattanooga Choo Choo and all managed to snap numerous photos and even some videos that were then posted to Facebook.

After lunch we headed to the Moccasin Bend National Park to tour a special trail that had just opened, commemorating the Cherokee Trail of Tears. We could have mistaken the ranger for a Broadway actor; he was so passionate and animated. We walked through the woods to the bend in the river at which point the Native Americans boarded boats to cross the river, departing Tennessee and their native lands 175 years ago.

Students exchanged addresses and cell phone numbers before boarding the vans for the trip back to Atlanta and Athens. Participants were from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Lebanon, Argentina, Morocco, Tunisia, UK, Panama, Germany, Russia, Romania, China, Indonesia, Mozambique, Brazil, India, Colombia and Laos.

Quotes from attendees

• I had so much fun during the trip I didn’t want to go home

• Thank you for organizing this trip.

It’s important for Fulbrighters to build social networks. The friendship is very helpful for people away from their home country

• Broadened my knowledge: there was not just a civil war but a war to fight slavery and inequality

• I became more aware of the role that southern states played in the civil war. It makes me understand more about the place where I live now.

• We got to walk on the same route of the sad evacuation of the Cherokee people. Good way to experience history by being at the proximity of the event and imagine the situation then.

• This trip helped me broaden my understanding of Americans world view, life style and culture

• Addressing the Civil War and the Native Americans … made me understand the source of American ideals and America’s role in the world today
By Deborah Addis and Agnes Serenyi

As an American holiday, Thanksgiving has no rival. The mere thought of the holiday evokes thoughts of family reunions, ample food, giving thanks, turkeys, sharing. It is in the spirit of sharing and showcasing American culture that the Massachusetts Chapter began this event many years ago. This year the event was, once again, a great success, due to the extraordinary efforts of Linda Gregario and Agnes Serenyi, board members of the Massachusetts Chapter who organized the event.

Inevitably, finding the right number of Fulbright alums to serve as hosts for the large number of Fulbright students and visiting scholars interested in experiencing this special day in an American home, gets off to an ominous start. Besides finding hosts, there are many other challenges such as transportation and last minute schedule changes. At the same time, there is such enthusiasm among visiting Fulbrighters who signed up at the Opening Reception in September and online that it makes dealing with those challenges easier.

Chun-Ching, one Fulbrighter summed it up when he wrote hopefully, “I really look forward to experiencing the American Thanksgiving!”

Luckily, Chun-Cheng had a happy Thanksgiving, and so did all the others who signed up. The organizers arranged to have 15 families host 45 students from nearly 20 countries, including Turkey, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Russia, Venezuela, France and Greece.

Linda Gregorio, in consultation with Agnes Serenyi and with help from Royce Anderson from the International Center in Worcester, worked tirelessly until hosts were found for every hopeful Fulbright student. Linda personally hosted a family of five from Poland. From Plymouth, Massachusetts, Linda reported, “I had a Polish family with us and it was fantastic.”

Other hosts also cherished the experience. One host reported, “We so enjoyed our guest, Bettina. She came by subway and we walked down to meet her at Brookline Hills when suddenly half a dozen wild turkeys appeared; we could not have scripted it better. Please keep us on your list for next year.”

Despite the challenges and the effort that goes into this annual Massachusetts Chapter event, the Chapter is committed to upholding this tradition. “Next year will be just as challenging,” said the Linda and Agnes, “and it will be just as successful. But we don’t guarantee the wild turkeys.”

Family: Sam Kauffmann (Uganda, 2004) Professor of Film, Boston University Students: Fazli Azeem (Pakistan, MassArt) & Fabienne Rudolph (Germany, Northeastern U.)
Alumni Accomplishments

> Michael Forster Rothbart

_Would You Stay?_

The devastating nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl scattered radioactive fallout across 30 countries in Europe. Yet in the regions with worst contamination, the vast majority of people stayed, despite the potential danger. A generation later, after the 2011 tsunami triggered disaster in a power plant that’s still leaking nuclear waste, the people of Fukushima, Japan, are confronting the same impossible questions about safety, security, and their future. In _Would You Stay?_, Photojournalist Michael Forster Rothbart tries to understand why people refuse to leave Chernobyl and Fukushima despite the risks. With Forster Rothbart’s personal narrative as guide, this stunning and provocative book blends photos, interviews, maps, and audio recordings to help us weigh the true value of home. In the end, Forster Rothbart and the reader both confront the ultimate question: _Would you stay?_

> David Churchman

_David Churchman_ draws on the experience of two Fulbright grants in conflict management (Cyprus and Ukraine), twenty years of chairing a large graduate degree program in conflict management (100-125 earned degrees awarded each year), and a lifetime of reading within and outside the academic literature.

The book draws on two dozen academic disciplines to describe over 100 theories that seek to explain a broad range of human aggression and conflicts and over 75 methods for managing them. It is arranged by “level” of conflict: individual, interpersonal, community, organizational, intrastate, and interstate. It departs from this scheme at four points. Chapter 1, the most important in the book given the number of contradictory theories in the literature, proposes six criteria for distinguishing good from bad theories. Chapter 2 describes analytical methods useful across a wide range of conflicts. Chapters 5 and 6 consider intellectual and moral conflicts—topics social scientists tend to avoid despite their importance. Finally, Chapters 18 and 19 consider applying and advancing theory.

> Jenny Lynn McNutt

_Senior Fulbright, Ivory Coast and Cameroon, 1993-4_

“Why This World”, new paintings, sculpture and drawings Galerie Witteveen, Witteveen Visual Arts Center, October 12, Vernissage 4-6 pm, _Exhibit - October 12- November 14 - Exhibit Extended_.

Concurrent with the show at Witteveen a solo show of McNutt’s drawings are on view at Wednesday’s West- Tetterode Drawing Exhibit, 158 Da Costakade.

> Flora Keshishian

Ph.D., Associate Professor Dept. of Rhetoric, Communication and Theatre, St. John’s University

Flora’s articles were published in two international journals:


> Evelyn Barish,


A major work of investigative biography over two decades in the making, _THE DOUBLE LIFE OF PAUL DE MAN_ (to be published byLiveright in MARCH 2014) chronicles the remarkable journey of an intellectual powerhouse who traversed the 20th century in Ripley-like manner. When Paul de Man died in 1983 he was heralded in a front page New York Times obituary as a cultural giant, an esteemed philosopher and co-creator of Deconstruction, who—from his lofty perch at Yale— injected theory into university classrooms worldwide. But little known at that time was just how de Man rose to that pinnacle of influence in the halls of academe. Artfully hidden from view was a complex past that suggested a master chameleon who adapted brilliantly to his surroundings: including Nazi occupation.

Barish, a former teaching colleague of de Man’s, followed a lengthy document trail and conducted nearly two hundred interviews across five countries in Europe and America to form a better picture of the respected professor worshipped for his erudite ideas and almost impenetrable lectures. What emerges is a kind of academic grifter who was incapable of telling the truth yet always one step ahead of detection, evading accusations of Nazi collaboration, bigamy, blackmail, and forgery.

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF PAUL DE MAN reads like a who’s who of American post-war intellectual life as de Man slyly buried that dubious career to devote his energies climbing the academic ladder and forming (with Jacques Derrida) what would inauspiciously be known as Deconstruction: a literary movement that conveniently eschewed narrative and biography. It is only fitting that Barish gives us a thorough, accurate, and beautifully written account of a man who tried to rewrite history.
Dr. Allen Taylor has traveled the globe giving scientific lectures about the biochemical processes that contribute to age-related eye diseases. But when he visited the new Al Quds University campus in Abu Dis, the West Bank, he had more in mind than lecturing. Dr. Taylor was also there to foster the organization he started and directs, STEP-GTP (Science Training Encouraging Peace – Graduate Training Program).

Dr. Taylor conceived of STEP-GTP while a Fulbright scholar in Israel. Deeply disturbed by the inability of governments to create a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Taylor knew he had to act to create change on the ground. What was needed, he concluded, were interpersonal contact and dialogue, not closure and isolation. After meeting with Israelis and Palestinians to see how he could help, Taylor decided to start with what he knew best: science. “Science knows no borders,” he said. “I have seen how people from different cultures and worlds come together and bond when confronting a common scientific challenge.” And so, Scientific Training Encouraging Peace -- Graduate Training Program, or STEP-GTP, was born. When he returned home, he secured the support of then Tufts University President, Larry Bacow, and then proceeded to get Ben Gurion (Israeli) and Al Quds (Palestinian) universities on board as well. These three academic facilities are STEP-GTP’s guiding institutions.

STEP-GTP is a unique person-to-person, cross-border science-training program that will provide pairs of student fellows (one Israeli, one Palestinian from the West Bank or Gaza) with advanced, critical medical and health science education. In addition to enhancing their scientific expertise, the program is designed to encourage the partners to become professional colleagues. Beyond academic training, STEP-GTP will also assist the fellows with job searches at home in the Middle East, while encouraging them to remain mutually supportive after they complete their STEP-fellowship period and as they build their professional lives as teachers, clinicians, or creators of new enterprises.

Growing STEP-GTP has been difficult in the current political climate. But this year, STEP is proud to announce several accomplishments:

- We have leveraged donations so that, beginning this semester, for every dollar we raise, participating academic institutions are contributing a dollar amount that is equal or more.
- A pair of STEP-GTP fellows has been accepted to Ben Gurion University to improve skills for diabetes care. Diabetes is in epidemic proportions in the region.
- Two pairs of STEP-GTP students have been accepted into the dental program at Hebrew University, Jerusalem and are beginning their studies this semester.

Another pair of STEP-GTP students is already engaged in their training at Ben Gurion University’s public health program.

Taylor’s wife, Kim Kronenberg, has joined the endeavor as Associate Director. The Steering committee has the three presidents of universities, two Nobel Laureates, and other luminaries. Dr. Taylor will be returning with his wife to the region this year to advance STEP-GTP. For further information, please visit the website at: www.step-gtp.org

Stephen Cottrell
On June 13, 1966 I was introduced to war about 30 klicks south of Danang, Vietnam. For the nearly half century since, my life has been profoundly influenced by that introduction. The English novelist George Orwell best captured my young "bush" marine experience with his penetrating words: “If the war didn’t kill you it was bound to start you thinking.”

In 2006, I learned that an Arkansas senator had provided me a vehicle to put my "thinking" into action through the U.S. Department of State Fulbright Scholarship program. Senator J. William Fulbright’s philosophy of beating the swords of war into the plowshares of peace through international education exchange was the perfect goodness-of-fit for both my past life and present career at Mississippi State University. Subsequently, I applied and was awarded my first Fulbright grant.

In late 2007 my scholarship took me to Mae Jo University (MJU) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In some surreal way it was a type of homecoming since I had spent months in that city as a Peace Corps language trainee in 1972. My first impression was how much Chiang Mai had grown. In large part, the city’s expansion was the underlying reason for my returning 35 years on. My Fulbright project included providing lectures on the geography of urbanization and exploring with MJU faculty core issues pertaining to Thai urban migration. Specifically, we collaborated on sustainability models that could enhance the quality of life for both the local Thai and surrounding hill tribe communities.

As an agricultural institution, MJU has had a long exchange history with MSU. During my brief tenure, I was introduced to several Thai administrators and faculty who hold MSU degrees and a few students who had spent short stays at MSU studying horticulture. Both faculty and students were very patient with my long forgotten Thai language skills and seemed very impressed that I could remember anything after so long a hiatus. Many of our breaks were spent helping me refresh my vocabulary. The students’ eagerness to learn English and my struggle to remember Thai placed this gray-haired “farang” (Thai for foreigner) and his students on a somewhat level playing field as we taught and learned from one another. Some of the students that MSU has hosted since my visit were faces whom I had met during those informal breaks.

In preparing this article many remembrances were stirred by jottings from my well-worn journal. Through dog-eared pages and penciled notes I was warmly reminded of late night chats over cool drinks with Thai colleagues about our different beliefs and how we acquired them. We often ended our evenings agreeing that believing is a lot easier than thinking... but not as much fun! Mr. Orwell and Senator Fulbright would be proud.
Fulbright Obituaries

Dr. Edward H Bourque
FAIRFIELD, Conn. - died Dec. 16. He was 88.
Charles D'Souza

Dr. Bourque was the son of Raoul Bourque and Annette Martel Bourque of Pawtucket, R.I. He received his Bachelor of Education degree from Rhode Island College, Master of Liberal Arts from Middlebury College, and Doctor of Philosophy from Walden University. He was awarded a Fulbright scholarship and taught in France after service in World War II as a translator during the American occupation of Europe.

Dr. Bourque was a teacher and an administrator for districts in Rhode Island, New York, and Connecticut. He also served as assistant superintendent of the Fairfield Public Schools. He was president of Connecticut Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (CAS-CD). After his retirement he continued teaching French and Latin at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield.

Dr. Bourque is survived by his daughters, Susan Rink and Michele (Ken) Jentzen; six grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and many friends.

Arthur Waldhorn
Arthur Waldhorn, a noted Hemingway scholar, died in his home on December 9, 2013, at the age of 95. A sergeant in the US Army Air Forces from 1942-45, he received a BA, MA and PhD from New York University. He was a professor of English and the founder of the Davis Center for the Performing Arts at the City College of New York, and a part-time guest professor at NYU. Along with three Fulbrights (England, Italy and Japan) and frequent contributions to the Hemingway Society, he wrote, co-authored and edited over a dozen books of literary criticism and scholarship. His Reader’s Guide to Ernest Hemingway remains a widely used introduction to Hemingway’s work forty-one years after its initial publication. Much loved and respected by his family, students and friends, he remained a constant source of scholarly generosity and availability in retirement. In a long and illustrious career, he devoted himself to his vocation with a passion and singularity that stamped itself on generations of students.

He is survived by his partner, Anne Saidman; his daughter Valerie and son-in-law Daniel Auerbach; his son Stephen and daughter-in-law Mary; five grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Dr. Abolghassem Ghaffari
Renowned scientist Dr. Abolghassem Ghaffari, who had taught at Harvard and Princeton Universities, died November 5, in Los Angeles. He was 106 years old. In the early part of his career, he was Albert Einstein’s colleague at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, and at the Institute for Advanced Study he worked in the early 1950s with Albert Einstein on the Unified Field Theory of Gravitation and Electromagnetism. J. Robert Oppenheimer, who headed the U.S. atom bomb program during World War II, was director of the Institute at the time and interviewed Ghaffari before the latter became a member of the Institute (Oppenheimer later befriended Ghaffari).

He has lectured as a Professor of Mathematics at American University in Washington, DC and at Tehran University, where he joined the Faculty of Sciences and was appointed full Professor of Higher Analysis from 1941 to 1956. In 1956, Ghaffari moved permanently to the U.S. to take up a position as a senior mathematician at the U.S. National Bureau of Standards. Part of his work there involved calculations of the motion of artificial satellites.

In 1964, three years into the manned space program, he joined, as aerospace scientist, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center, where he studied the mathematical aspects of different optimization techniques involved in the Earth-Moon trajectory problems, and different analytical methods for multiple midcourse maneuvers in interplanetary guidance. He later investigated the effects of solar radiation pressure on the Radio Astronomy Explorer Satellite Booms as well as the effects of General Relativity on the orbits of Artificial Earth Satellites.

He was awarded in Iran the Imperial Orders of the late Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, and the U.S. Special Apollo Achievement award (1969) at a White House ceremony with President Nixon. He has published more than 50 papers on Pure and Applied Mathematics in American, British,
and French, and Persian periodicals. In addition to two textbooks, he is author of the mathematical book "The Hodograph Method in Gas Dynamics" (1950).

In 2005, Ghaffari received the Distinguished Scholar award from the Association of Professors and Scholars of Iranian Heritage (APSIH) at UCLA. In 2007, he received a proclamation from former Beverly Hills mayor and current Goodwill Ambassador Jimmy Delshad acknowledging his numerous lifetime achievements. He also recently was appointed as a Hall of Fame inductee by SINA (Spirit of Noted Achievers) at Harvard University. He is survived by his wife, Mitra, and two daughters, Ida and Vida.

Arthur C. Danto

Influential art critic, dies at 89.

By Hillel Italie and — Associated Press, Published: October 28

Arthur C. Danto, a provocative and influential philosopher and critic who championed Andy Warhol and other avant-garde artists and upended the study of art history by declaring that the history of art was over, died Friday at his home in New York.

Mr. Danto, art critic for the Nation from 1984 to 2009 and a professor emeritus at Columbia University, died of heart failure at his Manhattan apartment, daughter Ginger Danto said.

Starting in the 1960s, Mr. Danto, an academically trained philosopher, became central to debates about art. He was initially troubled and then inspired by the rise of pop art and how such artists as Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein could transform a soup can or a comic strip into something displayed in a museum as a work of art.

Starting in the 1960s, Mr. Danto wrote hundreds of essays. He also taught at Columbia University. He often returned to the most philosophical question: What exactly is art? In a 1964 essay about Warhol's now-iconic reproductions of Brillo boxes, Mr. Danto wrote: "Is this man some kind of Midas, turning whatever he touches into the gold of pure art? ... Never mind that the Brillo box may not be good, much less great art. The impressive thing is that it is art at all. But if it is, why not indiscernible Brillo boxes that are in the stockroom? Or has the whole distinction between art and reality broken down?"

In such essays as "The End of Art," Mr. Danto noted the progression of styles in the 19th and 20th centuries— impressionism, modernism, abstract expressionism, pop art. After Warhol's Brillo show at New York's Stable Gallery in 1964, art had reached its ultimate expression and became a medium not of trends but of individuals.

"When I first wrote about this concept, I was somewhat depressed," Mr. Danto later observed. "But now I have grown reconciled to the unlimited diversity of art. I marvel at the imaginative-ness of artists in finding ways to convey meanings by the most untraditional of means. The art world is a model of a pluralistic society in which all disfiguring barriers and boundaries have been thrown down."

Mr. Danto would be praised by the New York Times as "arguably the most consequential art critic" since Clement Greenberg, an influential critic who helped propel the abstract expressionist movement. But Mr. Danto’s ideas were not universally accepted, and he frequently had to explain that art wasn’t dead, only art history.

Rival critics such as Hilton Kramer, writing in 1987, described Mr. Danto’s views as one of "those ingenious scenarios that are regularly concocted to relieve the tedium of the seminar room and the philosophical colloquium."

In "What Art Is," published this year, Mr. Danto responded that his goal was "to describe art" in a way that did not fit "the conservative taste of most of the New York critics."

"That is to say, my role as a critic was to say what the work was about — what it meant — and then how it was worth it to explain this to my readers," he wrote.

Mr. Danto’s books included "Encounters and Reflections," winner of a National Book Critics Circle prize in 1991, "Beyond the Brillo Box" and "After the End of Art."

Born in Ann Arbor and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Danto studied art, history and philosophy at Wayne University and Columbia University. He received a Fulbright scholarship in 1949 to study at the Sorbonne in Paris and then returned to Columbia as a professor.

After the Warhol show in 1964, Mr. Danto pursued a definition of art that could be applied to both the Sistine Chapel and a Brillo box. He rejected the ancient Greek idea that art was imitation and the Renaissance ideal that art was defined by aesthetic pleasure. In "What Art Is," Mr. Danto concluded that art was "the embodiment of an idea," defined not by how it looked but by what it had to say.

Mr. Danto’s stature as a critic overshadowed his early career as an artist. He was an accomplished printmaker whose woodcuts were exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Gallery of Art and elsewhere in the 1950s.

Mr. Danto’s first wife, Shirley Rovetch, died in 1978. Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Barbara Westman, and two daughters.