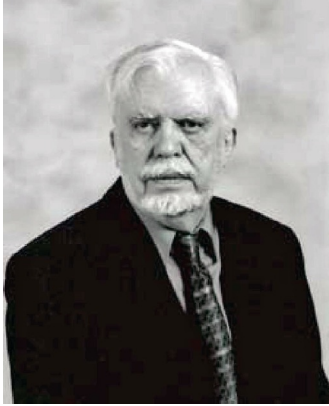


Louis W. Crompton



Louis Crompton was born in Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada, on April 5, 1925. He graduated from the University of Toronto with an M.A. in mathematics in 1948, and from the University of Chicago with a Ph.D. in English in 1954. After teaching mathematics at the University of British Columbia and English at the University of Toronto, he joined the English department at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1955, retiring in 1989.

Louis was an openly gay English professor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) who pioneered early gay studies in American higher education.

In 1970, he helped introduce and teach one of the nation's first university courses on homosexuality, titled Proseminar in Homophile Studies. Despite intense political scrutiny and pushback from state legislators and regents, the interdisciplinary course became a milestone for academic freedom and LGBTQ+ curriculum.

In the early 1970s, Crompton became the faculty advisor for the Gay Action Group, forerunner of today's UNL Queer Ally Coalition, and also helped found the UNL Homophobia Awareness Committee, which became the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns.

He co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Caucus of the Modern Language Association (MLA) in 1974. He authored major historical and literary works, including *Byron and Greek Love* and *Homosexuality and Civilization*.

His last book, *Homosexuality and Civilization*, published by the Harvard University Press, covered 2500 years of world history and was awarded the Bonnie Zimmerman and Vern L. Bullough prize of the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality award for 2003.

Louis died at age 84 in El Cerrito, CA on July 11, 2009. At the time of his death, Louis was a professor emeritus of English at UNL. He was survived by his partner of forty years, Luis Diaz-Perdomo, also a former UNL faculty member who served many years with Counseling and Psychological Services at UNL and facilitated the Gay Men's Discussion Group.[4][6]

In 2009, a scholarship was established at UNL in his name for students working toward "a more just, inclusive society for the LGBTQ community." In 2023, a Nebraska State Historical Marker was erected on the UNL campus in honor of Louis Crompton.