

Tipití: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America

ISSN: 2572-3626

Volume 15
Issue 1 *Remembering William T. Vickers*
(1942–2016)

Article 12

6-15-2017

Introduction: Remembering William T. Vickers (1942–2016)

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Recommended Citation

Wasserstrom, Robert (2018). "Introduction: Remembering William T. Vickers (1942–2016)", *Tipití: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America*: Vol. 15: Iss. 1, Article 12, 1-1.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70845/2572-3626.1254>

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Introduction: Remembering William T. Vickers (1942–2016)



Photo: Edite Vickers

Most *Tipiti* readers already know that our colleague Bill Vickers died in September 2016. From the early 1970s onward, Bill worked with Secoya and Siona people in Ecuador’s north-eastern Amazon region. For the next two decades, he published widely read accounts of their traditional subsistence hunting and gardening practices, including a major *Science* article in 1988. At the same time, Bill was deeply involved in broader issues: chronicling the massive invasion of indigenous land by settlers from other parts of Ecuador; helping his Secoya and Siona friends defend their territorial rights; and ultimately, advising them about how to negotiate with oil companies. This work was very important to him, but is less well known to the wider academic community. In the following short remembrances, a group of Bill’s colleagues write about their experiences with him in the field or his influence on their own fieldwork. Our intention is to highlight what Bill sometimes called his “non-scientific” career: a long-term commitment to Secoya people and other native Amazonians.

—Robert Wasserstrom

[Editor’s note: Robert Wasserstrom has very helpfully contributed a map showing the location of Siona-Secoya villages mentioned by various authors. It may be found directly after the “References” section in Krøijer’s article in this issue.]