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William Alexander McClung was born on January 22, 1944, in Norfolk, Virginia and was raised in Richmond, Virginia. He attended Williams College where he received the B.A degree in English Literature in 1966, and subsequently earned a Ph.D. in English in 1972 at Harvard University. He held teaching appointments at Mississippi State University, from which he retired as Professor Emeritus in 2001, and at Connecticut College, Georgia Tech, Meisei University (Tokyo), and UCLA.

He was awarded several fellowships, including those from the Huntington Library and the American Philosophical Society, and lectured by invitation at the Folger Shakespeare Library, The University of Virginia, the University of Oregon, the University of California Riverside, and at many meetings of learned societies, including the Society of Architectural Historians, The Renaissance Society of America, and the Modern language Association.

He was the author of three books published by the University of California Press: *The Country House in English Renaissance Poetry* (1977), *The Architecture of Paradise* (1983), and *Landscapes of Desire: Anglo Mythologies of Los Angeles* (2000). He edited the commentary for volume VIII of *The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne* and contributed essays to many publications, including *Milton Quarterly*, *Studies in the History of Art*, *Huntington Library Quarterly*, *Moreana*, and the inaugural exhibition catalogue of the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

