

## **Alan. R. Deighton Bio**

I came to Hull to take up a post as Lecturer in the Department of German in the University of Hull in 1976. Apart from periods as visiting lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, and at the University of Amsterdam, I remained in Hull until my retirement in 2009. During the intervening thirty years I taught German language and literature, serving both as Head of Department and latterly Director of Studies. My research focussed on the medieval period, and for a while I was the director of the university's Centre for Medieval Studies. I was particularly interested in the reception of the Tristan legend in Western Europe, including the way it was illustrated in manuscripts and tapestries, but was also lucky enough to find – in the York Minster Library - what was then only the second known manuscript of a fourteenth-century German scientific encyclopedia, and, closer to home, establish the context of the sixteenth-century Dutch life of St John of Beverley, that presents him as a drunken and incestuous murderer who finally finds redemption. Since retirement I have worked on a voluntary basis at the Carnegie Heritage Centre in Hull, publishing a short biography of the fake Polish count buried in the Hull General Cemetery, Adolph de Werdinsky, (of whose life one might say that you couldn't make it up!) and now the new edition of "Long Shadows".