Philip L. Kintner was born in Canton, Ohio, on Jan. 23, 1926, to William Wagner Kintner and Effie Erwin Kintner. During World War II he served in the European theater from 1944 to 1946 as a Technician 5th Class radio operator with the 102nd Recon Mechanized Cavalry. During his military career he was awarded the ETO medal with two bronze stars. After the war he continued on as a radio operator with the American forces that liberated the city of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, from German control. He earned a B.A. with honors in history from Wooster College in 1950, an M.A. in history from Yale in 1952, and a PhD in history from Yale in 1958. He taught at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., from 1954-64; at Reed College in Portland, Ore., from 1957-58; and again at Trinity College from 1958-64, attaining at Trinity the rank of assistant professor. In 1951 he married Anne Marie Genung; their three daughters Karen, Judy, and Jennifer were born in Hartford.

Joining the Grinnell College faculty in 1964, Kintner taught in the history department as associate professor from 1964-1969 and as full professor from 1970-1996, holding the Samuel R. and Marie-Louise Kosenthal Endowed Professorship in Humanities from 1976 to 1996. He served as chair of the faculty in 1972. He taught in the Grinnell in Florence program 1989-90 and received numerous study and research grants to pursue research in the city archives in Memmingen, Germany. He was instrumental in developing Chinese studies in history and culture at Grinnell College, efforts that helped to pave the way for Grinnell's longstanding and successful institutional exchange program with Nanjing University.

He is survived by his three daughters, Karen Kintner Bucky of Williamstown, Mass., Judith Kintner of Yellow Springs, Ohio, and Jennifer Kintner of Jonesborough, Tenn.; and by five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Elvan and William Kintner, by his sister Betty Kintner, and in 2003 by his wife Anne Kintner.