

European academic community. At the same time, he was heavily involved with institutions of Islamic learning in London. He was a trustee of the Muhammadi Trust in Bayswater and editor of their journal, *Alserat*, and a member of the Board of the Irshad Trust. He also played an advisory role in the setting up of the College of Islamic Sciences in Finchley Road and served on the editorial board of its journal.

John had a great love of life and a passion for travel. His death will be greatly mourned by his colleagues and by an international cast of friends.

Charles Melville

Richard W. Cottam (1924–1997)

Richard Cottam, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, died on 29 August 1997, after a long illness. He had spent nearly fifty years as a scholar of Iranian politics and international relations and an advocate of political liberalization in Iran. His passing will be mourned by the entire community of Iran scholars and by the thousands of Americans and Iranians whose lives were touched by this gifted scholar and teacher.

Dick Cottam was born in Provo, Utah, on 1 October 1924. He attended public schools and the University of Utah, where he initially majored in pre-medical studies. After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Utah in 1948 with a degree in political science. He subsequently began graduate studies in political science at Harvard University and was drawn to the nationalist movement then emerging in Iran. Working under the direction of the late Rupert Emerson, he studied Persian and obtained a Fulbright fellowship to do his dissertation research in Iran during the 1951–52 academic year, completing his Ph.D. in 1953. In 1951 he married his high school sweetheart, the former Patricia Ferrell, who has had a distinguished career as a senior research scientist at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Seeking an opportunity to continue his research on Iran, Cottam entered government service as an Iran specialist in June 1953. He was not involved in the CIA-led coup of August 1953, which brought down the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq and severely weakened Mosaddeq's National Front movement. He strongly opposed the coup, believing that the United States should support rather than subvert popular movements like the National Front, and he told his superiors that the coup was a serious mistake.

In 1956 Cottam was sent to Iran to serve in the American embassy, remaining there until 1958. His main responsibility during this period was to monitor the National Front, with which he had established close contacts in 1951–52. Throughout this period he encouraged his superiors to adopt a positive view of the National Front and encourage the Iranian shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, to cultivate their support. He also undertook covert operations aimed at encouraging the Shah to embrace the National Front and promote political liberalization, placing articles in the Iranian press aimed at achieving these goals and helping

the *New York Times* reporter Sam Pope Brewer research a controversial article published in early 1958 on the widespread unrest that existed in Iran at the time. He was also the key American official assigned to monitor the February 1958 coup plot by the progressive nationalist General Valiollah Qarani, which the American embassy watched but did not disclose to the Iranian government.

Cottam left government service in 1958, both to pursue the academic career he had always intended to take up and to enable his wife to pursue her career. He took a position at the University of Pittsburgh, where he remained until he retired in 1990 with the title University Professor. His groundbreaking book *Nationalism in Iran* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1964), which was based on his Ph.D. dissertation and subsequent research, examined the historical origins and social bases of Iran's nationalist movement. This book established Cottam as one of the leading Iran scholars of his era—and led the Shah to ban him from Iran for many years. He also published *Iran and the United States: A Cold War Case Study* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1988) and numerous articles about Iran and United States-Iran relations. In addition to his scholarly work, he testified at congressional hearings and served as an advisor to various American government agencies about Iran, most notably during the Iranian revolution and the 1979–81 hostage crisis.

Cottam also made important scholarly contributions in the field of international relations, focusing especially on the role of perception and misperception in foreign policy. He published two additional books: *Competitive Interference and Twentieth Century Diplomacy* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1967) and *Foreign Policy Motivation: A General Theory and a Case Study* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1977). At the time of his death he was writing a book about nationalism and patterns of political identity with his daughter Martha Cottam, a professor of political science at Washington State University, as well as a book on political strategy in international politics with Bahman Fozouni of California State University, Sacramento.

In addition to his scholarly work, Cottam was a gifted teacher and a valued colleague at the University of Pittsburgh. He was a very popular professor, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on nationalism, Middle East politics, American foreign policy, and other topics. In 1970 he was honored with the University of Pittsburgh's College Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award. He played an energetic, inspiring role in Pitt's graduate program, serving as advisor and mentor to Ph.D. students such as William Campbell, Bahman Fozouni, Hanna Freij, Richard Herrmann, and Raymond Hinnebush. When I phoned him one night in 1983 as a graduate student at another university desperately seeking help with a dissertation on United States policy toward Iran, he was very generous with his time and advice, and he subsequently remained an inspiration to me. He also served on the executive council of the Society for Iranian Studies and was a leading figure in the community of Iran scholars.

In addition to his wife Patricia and his daughter Martha, Cottam is survived by his sons Russell and Douglas, another daughter Carolyn, two brothers, a sister, and seven grandchildren. In his honor, the University of Pittsburgh has established the Richard W. Cottam Memorial Fund, which will award prizes to outstanding Ph.D. students writing dissertations in the areas of nationalism, ethnicity, international relations theory, and Middle East politics. Anyone inter-

ested in contributing to this fund should contact Bert Rockman in the Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh.

Mark J. Gasiorowski
Louisiana State University

Hans R. Roemer (1915-1997)

On July 15, 1997, Hans Robert Roemer passed away at the age of 82 after a rich scholarly and family life. One of the most dynamic personalities in the field of Middle East Studies (*Islamwissenschaft*) in post-World War II Germany, Hans Roemer admirably maintained the delicate balance between the requirements of research, teaching, and administrative duties during his tenure as professor at the Oriental Institute (*Orientalisches Seminar*) at the University of Freiburg (1963-1983), member of university committees, and chairman of the *Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft* (1972-1984).

His scholarly interest encompassed a wide variety of issues concerning—to use conventional periodization—the history of the late medieval/early modern Middle East, that is, the fourteenth through eighteenth centuries. Within this field he proved to be a true generalist whose expertise encompassed the Turco-Iranian sphere (the successors of the Ilkhans, Timurids, Turkmens, and Safavids) as well as the Mamluk state.¹

Roemer took his Ph.D. in 1938 at the University of Göttingen, where Walther Hinz was his supervisor. His thesis dealt with Safavid Persia at the end of the sixteenth century.² Then the Timurids attracted his attention. Besides working with chronicles,³ he took a special effort in making accessible and in using other kinds of source materials such as documents from royal chanceries, administrative manuals, and official guides for royal correspondence. His *Habilitationschrift* was devoted to a Timurid bureaucrat's guide to official correspondence.⁴ Roemer stimulated quite a few of his colleagues and disciples to concentrate on the field of documentary sources which had so long been neglected in German research on Islamic history. Years of research in Egypt and Lebanon let him take a special interest in Mamluk history and historiography. He initiated the edition of the fourteenth century universal history *Kanz ad-durar wa-gami'*

1. A complete bibliography up to 1979 is to be found in *Die islamische Welt zwischen Mittelalter und Neuzeit, Festschrift für Hans Robert Roemer zum 65. Geburtstag*, Beirut Texte und Studien, vol. 22, (Beirut-Wiesbaden, 1979), 691-702.

2. *Der Niedergang Irans nach dem Tod Isma'ils des Grausamen (1577-81)*, (Würzburg, 1939).

3. He edited and translated *Sams al-husn: Eine Chronik vom Tode Timurs bis zum Jahre 1409 von Tag al-Salmani*, (Wiesbaden, 1956).

4. *Staatsschreiben der Timuridenzeit: das Saraf-nama des 'Abdallah Marwarid in kritischer Auswertung*, (Wiesbaden, 1952).