

interest in Islam and seized the opportunity to found the McGill Institute of Islamic Studies in 1951.

The Institute of Islamic Studies opened its doors in Divinity Hall with only eleven students, in September, 1952. It was the first. Until that time there had been no institution in any university in Canada or in the US with the specific purpose of pursuing a detailed study of Islam. Professor Smith placed great emphasis on religion, since he was convinced that the history of the Muslim peoples could not be understood without recognizing that religion was the key, as well as the most important single force in the formation and development of Islamic civilization. The McGill Institute was founded for the purpose of a long-range study of the processes at work in the modern Muslim world. The innovative element was Smith's conviction that this could not be done effectively by non-Muslims studying in a non-Muslim institution without the presence of Muslims. The design for the institute, including the library, was his creative response to the dilemma, as he saw it, of how to study these processes in a way that would involve Muslims and non-Muslims, in a fruitful effort to use the best of contemporary scholarly methods to approach the data of the tumultuous Muslim world.

Professor Smith was only thirty-three years of age when, as the Director of the Institute, he gathered a community of international scholars around him and persuaded the university and foundation authorities in Canada and the United States that the Institute's work was important, relevant, and timely. Every afternoon at four, Smith rang the bell from the top floor of the building for the tea break, as if calling his disciples to assemble. All the members of the Institute and the library staff were expected to attend; tea was served in the common room. There, East and West met to discuss and resolve misunderstanding. For Smith it was important to generate dialogue between Muslims and Christians.

In 1964, Smith accepted a post at Harvard University. There, he helped plan the Center for the Study of World Religions. After nine years at Harvard, Smith by then age fifty-seven resigned to go to his third major appointment at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Smith returned briefly to Harvard in 1978. In 1984, Harvard University appointed him Professor emeritus of the comparative study of literature.

The Islamic Studies Library (ISL) opened its doors in Birks Building of Divinity Hall. Because of continuous expansion, ISL moved several times and in 1983 settled in the former Presbyterian College of Montreal, McGill's Morrice Hall. From 250 books at Smith's time, the ISL is now housed on three floors and comprises more than 125,000 volumes, approximately half of them in Oriental languages. The greatest number of works are in Arabic, but the library is also distinguished by the number and scope of the volumes in Urdu it has collected. ISL virtually owes its existence to the efforts of Professor Smith.

Professor Smith was a prolific writer of international renown. His books have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Urdu. There have been books, articles, and theses written about him.

Professor Smith was proud of his family: his beloved Muriel and their children and ten grandchildren. Two weeks before his passing away, in a private ceremony at Toronto's Grace Hospital he was inducted into the Order of Canada. The citation commended his four decades as "an important influence on the direction of religious studies in countless universities."

S. FERAHIAN
McGill University

The community of Middle East scholars and the Middle East Studies Program at the University of Washington has lost one of its far-sighted founders with the death of Professor **Peter Sugar** (1919-99). It was due to the vision and early spade work of Peter

Sugar that the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and the Middle East Studies Program eventually came into being. In the early 1960s, he chaired a University-wide committee that urged the University to invite a few scholars to join him in developing Near and Middle Eastern studies at the University. The result was, first the Near East Program hosted by the Department of Classics from 1966 to 1970, and then, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and the Middle East Center, since 1970. Although Peter's primary scholarly interest was the history of Eastern Europe, his research and teaching on Ottoman history provided a strong component to Near and Middle Eastern studies.

Peter Sugar earned a doctorate in history and Near Eastern studies at Princeton in 1959, and in the same year, he joined the History Department at the UW, where he taught for over three decades. In addition to his numerous articles, he authored eleven major works, including *Southern Europe under Ottoman Rule*, *Nationality and Society in Habsburg and Ottoman Europe*, and *A History of Hungary*.

Peter was a marvelous lecturer. Without the benefit of notes, he would lecture for a full hour in a lucid and spell-binding manner. But he would not suffer any disruptive behavior. He was known to storm out of a classroom and suspend a class session if such behavior occurred; his lectures were too important to be interrupted by frivolity. On the other hand, he was most kind and accommodating to serious students. Members of the Class of 1987 nominated him as the Instructor of the Year, that is, the instructor who had the greatest impact on their academic careers. Charles Royer, mayor of Seattle in 1989, declared March 9 of that year "Peter Sugar Day" in honor of his retirement. But even in his retirement, Peter continued to write and lecture to interested groups about Eastern Europe and its ethnic conflicts. The last such lecture, he gave only a few months ago to the University Faculty Auxiliary.

In his personal life, Peter was the perfect example of a family man. He loved his home, his collection of music recordings, his library. He took pride in the accomplishments of his children and the volunteer work of his wife Sally. He was basically a down-to-earth man who delighted in wearing his European beret, and carrying his lunch in a workman's lunch pail. His generous spirit was reflected in always speaking highly of the accomplishments of his colleagues, but never a word of censure or denigration. In his loyalty to his colleagues, Peter directed that in lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to the Department of History at the UW to be used for the travel of retired faculty.

FARHAT ZIADEH

The University of Washington