

In Memoriam

JOHN S. BADEAU, the first Vice President of the Middle East Studies Association in 1967 and its President in 1971, died on August 25, 1995, 67 years after he sailed from Brooklyn to Beirut to begin a remarkable and varied career of educational and public service. He excelled in diverse roles—missionary, engineer, educator, development advisor and diplomat. He brought to those roles a zest for life and a deep respect for the peoples of the Arab world.

When, at age 25, Badeau and his wife Margaret arrived in Beirut en route to Mosul, they expected to spend the rest of their lives in the region. He learned two fundamentally important lessons within hours of his arrival. First, he discovered that his laboriously-studied classical Arabic was useless for chatting with people, which is how he enjoyed spending his time. Second, he was profoundly affected by a university student who responded to Badeau's comment that he would serve as a missionary for the Dutch Reformed Church: "But have you ever considered that my religion, Islam, is also a good religion? It comforts me when I am sick, it helps me when I am in difficulty. It is my experience of God." Badeau mused, "Nobody had ever said that to me before... I thought about it for a long time" (*The Middle East Remembered*, 1983, p. 14). Much later, he reflected that his start as a minister was actually important, since it "led to a profound appreciation for this dimension of Eastern life" (*Ibid.*, p. 256).

Badeau's synthesis of living and learning made him critical of those who studied Islam solely as an intellectual exercise. He also cringed if students viewed the Middle East as a political science "problem" rather than a living people. When he read Muslim philosophers and studied medieval Islamic law, he was fascinated by the societies that they depicted and searched for connections to contemporary life. His love for Cairo's mosques encompassed not only their architectural beauty but also the way they could evoke a sense of the religious community and historical epoch in which they were built. At quiet moments, he would sketch the elegant arches of the Ibn Tulun mosque.

He originally trained as an engineer, which proved useful when he designed and built his house in Baghdad in the early 1930s (complete with a hall to seat 75 people) and constructed communal outhouses for a summer camp in the Kurdish foothills. Later, he strung lights for receptions in the Embassy garden in Cairo. That agility prompted amused comments from Gamal Abdel Nasser, to whom intelligence officers had reported the US Ambassador's bizarre behavior.

Among educators, Badeau is best known for the period from 1936 to 1953 when he was professor, dean and president of the American University in Cairo. He lived through the country's extraordinary political transformations and became close friends with Egyptian intellectuals and politicians. Sensitive to the limited but potentially valuable role that AUC could play, he was always concerned to serve the society in which he had made his home.

Badeau served for eight years (1953-61) as President of the Near East Foundation, whose efforts to promote agricultural development extended to Jordan, Iran, Afghanistan and even South Korea and Ghana. He was drawn back to Egypt in 1961 when John F. Kennedy asked him to be ambassador under a mandate to make a fresh start in a country with which the US had troubled relations. Badeau's unusual personal contact with Nasser enabled him to establish a degree of trust between the two governments that helped them surmount the tensions over North

Yemen. But he recognized the limitations inherent in the relationship, particularly given the differences concerning Israel. Later, Badeau's *The American Approach to the Middle East* (Council on Foreign Relations, 1968) adopted the unfashionable view that Israel posed a problem for Washington in its relations with the Arab world and that a more even-handed diplomacy was therefore advisable.

Badeau came to Columbia University in 1964 as Director of the Middle East Institute and professor of Middle East studies. He later taught at Georgetown University before he retired in 1974. He struggled to reduce the dichotomy between disciplinary and area studies, a tension that still troubles the academic world. His keen mind and vivid anecdotes brought the Middle East to life, making his students eager to explore that region for themselves.

John S. Badeau lives on amongst his family, friends and students who remember his warmth and humor and who (hopefully) took to heart his advice to be concerned about "human situations and not merely a disembodied political process" (*Middle East Remembered*, p. 71), as well as his charge that "the ultimate education is the one that you give yourself" (*Ibid.*, p. 46).

I studied with John S. Badeau at Columbia University in the late 1960s and also had the special pleasure of having him serve as the minister for my wedding.

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JAMES PITTS ALEXANDER, Journals Director at Cambridge University Press, passed away at 45 years of age on July 18, 1995, in Manhattan after an extended illness. The Middle East Studies Association, and those fortunate to work with him personally, have lost a friend.

Jim Alexander received the Oliver Storer academic scholarship to attend Columbia University, which he entered in 1967. During his subsequent career in publishing, Jim held positions at Pergamon Press, Haworth Press and Human Sciences Press. Most recently, Jim was actively engaged in a career in academic publishing as Journals Manager and, since 1993, Journals Director at Cambridge University Press. Jim Alexander served on the Copyright Committee for the Association of American University Presses and for the Association of American Publishers. He was also a member of the AAP Journals Committee.

Editors of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, the *Bulletin* and MESA executive directors who worked with Jim benefitted from his keen appreciation of the publishing business and the requirements of scholarship. We always appreciated Jim's thoughtful efforts to maintain the delicate balance between the two. His understanding lightened the weighty pressures of running and publishing scholarly journals. Jim Alexander was professional in his work, gentlemanly and gentle in his demeanor and a pleasure to know. We will miss him.

ANNE BETTERIDGE
MESA

Ernest Gellner (1925-1995) died November 5th in Prague, the city his family fled in 1938 and to which he had returned in 1993 to head a Centre for the Study of Nationalism at the Central European University. In between, he served in the Czech Brigade, graduated with a first at Balliol and taught moral and social philosophy in the sociology department of the London School of Economics. At the LSE, he became attracted to social anthropology and, through mountaineering