

# In Memoriam

## Richard B. Elrod

Professor Richard B. Elrod died suddenly in his home in Kansas City, Missouri, in June 1985. He was forty-four years old.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lincoln University and a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Illinois in 1963-1964, Professor Elrod earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in European history at the University of Illinois in 1967. His dissertation was on *The Venetian Question in Austrian Foreign Relations, 1860-1866*. He taught as assistant professor of history at Lincoln University, Towson State University, and Illinois State University and served in Vietnam as a United States Army intelligence officer before coming to the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1972, where he served as assistant and associate professor of history until his death. While he taught a wide range of courses in European history and historical theory and methods, his chief teaching and research interest remained Central Europe and nineteenth-century international politics. He published nine articles on Habsburg foreign policy, the Concert of Europe, and related topics in leading journals, including *World Politics*, the *Austrian History Yearbook*, and, most recently, the *Journal of Modern History*. At his death he was working on a study of Austrian foreign policy in the 1860s under Foreign Minister Count Rechberg.

The chairman of the department of history at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Professor James S. Falls, writes:

Rich Elrod's students will miss his erudition and the clarity of his lectures in which he gave them a vivid picture of such a complex subject as nineteenth-century European history—in particular, Habsburg foreign policy and politics. They appreciated his adept organizational skills as a lecturer and his contagious enthusiasm for both his own field and the discipline. Students welcomed the meticulous and insightful attention he gave their papers, especially those enrolled in his undergraduate and graduate methodology classes.

His talents as a scholar and writer were respected by colleagues as well as students. He always had time to exchange or share expertise or, when asked, to lend his own polished skills to the final revision of a manuscript.

Beyond his scholarly pursuits, Rich loved the outdoors, was an ardent fisherman, and an accomplished guitarist and musician. And his colleagues remember Rich's unfailing generosity, sensitivity, and quiet humor.

Elrod was the first student to complete his Ph. D. work under my direction at the University of Illinois. He set standards for hard work, thoroughness of research, penetrating analysis, and dedication to his goals which few of his successors have matched and none have exceeded. His untimely death was a particular tragedy because his promise of high scholarly achievement, delayed at critical times by his national service and by ill health, was just now coming to full fruition. It is a loss which I feel keenly, as do his many other friends and associates, and the community of Austrian historians in general.

*University of Illinois, Urbana*

PAUL W. SCHROEDER