

In Memorium

GEORGE EDEN KIRK, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Massachusetts, died of cancer on February 18, 1993, in Amherst. Born in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, on February 3, 1911, he read classics at Queens College, Cambridge, earning a B.A. and an M.A. He went to the Middle East in the late 1930s, hoping to become an epigrapher.

World War II changed his plans, however, and he served as an intelligence officer in the British army, living for many years in Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon. After the war, he taught at the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies in Jerusalem, writing the pioneer introductory textbook for Islamic and modern Middle East studies, *A Short History of the Middle East*, which went through seven editions. He later worked for the Royal Institute for International Affairs, writing *The Middle East in the War* and *The Middle East, 1945-1950* as part of the RIIA series, Survey of International Affairs. In 1954 he became a lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the American University of Beirut and in 1957 at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, where he wrote his last book, *Contemporary Arab Politics: A Concise History*.

In 1966 he became Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and returned to teaching his first love, ancient history. He was a meticulous scholar who held strong opinions about imperialism and nationalism in the Middle East, challenging many of the ideas fashionable among his students at the time. As befitted a scholar of classical Greek and Latin who also read modern Arabic, French, German and Italian, he was a vigorous critic of slovenly English, and I remember how the margins of my research papers would be filled with comments and corrections in a copperplate script. A avid hiker, he was active for many years in the Appalachian Mountain Club; indeed, I first met him at Pinkham Notch, where he, I and my wife's family were preparing to climb Mount Washington. He later supervised both my M.A. thesis and my Ph.D. dissertation at Harvard. He insisted on accurate, well-documented information but tolerated my divergent views as long as I could support them. Sometimes viewed by both Israelis and Arabs as a polemicist, he read widely from both scholarly and journalistic works about the Middle East and also had a delightful fund of anecdotes about the peoples of the Middle East.

ARTHUR GOLDSCHMIDT, JR.
Pennsylvania State University