

Andrew S. Ehrenkreutz 1921-2008

ANDREW S. EHRENKREUTZ, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MIDDLE EAST HISTORY, University of Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2008 in Melbourne, Australia, which had been his home since 1987. As my mentor and then as a close friend, I write this note with a sad heart recognizing that one of the most humane, kind, caring individuals with a constant twinkle in his eye and a willingness to accept life at its fullest whatever turn took place, has died.

Born in Poland on December 19, 1921, Andrew was the son of two distinguished scholars. Whatever plans he envisioned for himself, they were brought to an abrupt halt with World War II. After the collapse of Poland, Andrew fled to France to join the Free Polish forces. He was decorated with the Croix de Guerre in 1940 but was then taken prisoner by the Germans, escaped, recaptured in 1941, and finally liberated by American forces in April 1945. Throughout his life, Andrew never forgot his commitment to a free, non-Fascist, non-Communist Poland. During his many years in the United States he was always an active member of Polish-American organizations and in Australia he established the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs [AIPA].

Finding himself in London after WWII, Andrew entered the University of London where he received his B.A. in 1950 and his Ph.D. in 1952 under Bernard Lewis, for whom he had great admiration and affection. He then moved to the States and by 1954 had joined the University of Michigan faculty which was his academic home until his retirement in 1987. Twenty of his essays produced in London and Ann Arbor were collected in the Variorum Collected Studies Series: *Monetary Change and Economic History in the Medieval Muslim World* (1992), while his monograph *Saladin* (SUNY Press, 1972) was a serious response to the earlier, almost panegyric works of Gibb, Lane-Poole, and others. The decision to retire and move to Australia with his wife Blanche reflected their wish to be closer to their son Stefan and his family. In Australia Andrew offered courses on medieval Islamic history and the history of the Crusades at various universities as well as giving many public presentations on topics related to the Middle East as well as Polish-Australian issues.

As a teacher and mentor, Andrew was always accessible and always encouraging. He would tease that if one understood that Woody Hayes, the coach of the University of Michigan football team's chief rival, embodied evil, studying medieval Islamic history would be easy. But in a more serious vein Andrew constantly made available references to further research

on any topic he discussed by sharing the thousands of references on 3 x 5 cards he accumulated in his pre-computer world. He also would invite his graduate students to give presentations in his class, encourage them to present their research at professional meetings, and urge them to submit their research to professional journals. When one of his students was in an academic audience and a topic close to the student's work was being discussed, Andrew would make a point of inviting that student to comment.

For those who had the opportunity to travel with him, particularly in the Middle East, such as Steve Humphreys in Anatolia or myself in Syria and Egypt, there was no better travelling companion. He shared his ideas and sought out ours. He was passionate about his research, particularly his criticisms of Saladin's economic and monetary policies, but also cared deeply about contemporary politics often fearing that too many Americans, particularly in the 1960s, took their liberties and freedoms for granted. What made Andrew special was that he never personalized these differences. He demonstrated by his actions, his commitments, his enthusiasm, his respect even for those with whom he differed, what it meant to be *latif*, a gentleman in the best sense of the word. ✧

Jere L. Bacharach
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Jeanne Jeffers Mrad 1921-2009

THE PASSING OF JEANNE JEFFERS MRAD on May 27, 2009 is a great loss for the community of Middle East and North Africa researchers and for anyone who has ever come to know her. As director of the Center for Maghrib Studies in Tunis (CEMAT) from 1986 to 2001, Jeanne ensured that the Center ran smoothly and even flourished. Under her watch, CEMAT was home base for many American and other researchers in Tunisia.

Jeanne was the perfect CEMAT director, not only because of her deft managerial skills but also because of her love for her adopted country. Although a pleasant tourist destination, Tunisia is a minefield for researchers. Without inserting herself in thorny politics or stirring up sensitive issues, Jeanne subtly guided successive waves of foreign researchers through the intricacies of research in the country. In a recent exchange, a fellow alum-