

and equality. In losing him we lost a patient and thoughtful scholar/activist and a ringing voice for peace. He is survived by his wife of thirty-five years, Shirley Gold.

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Parker T. Hart, known to his Foreign Service colleagues as Pete, died on October 15, 1997. He was 87 and had been suffering from Parkinson's disease for some time. A former member of MESA, he was a trustee emeritus of the American University of Beirut and had served as president of the Middle East Institute from 1969 to 1971. He was a 1937 graduate of Dartmouth College and had a master's degree in diplomatic history from Harvard University.

Hart was one of the best known Middle East specialists in the Foreign Service, beginning his work in the area with his opening of the consulate at Dhahran while still a vice consul in 1944, on the eve of the oil era in Saudi Arabia, and remaining there until 1947. He returned as consul general in 1949 and then served as director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs in the Department of State (1952-1955). He was deputy chief of mission at the embassy in Cairo (1957-1958) and was appointed ambassador to Jordan in February 1958. That was canceled because Iraq and Jordan formed the Arab Union, whose diplomatic capital was to be Baghdad, in response to formation of the United Arab Republic between Egypt and Syria. Instead, Hart went to Damascus briefly as consul general, and was then called back to be deputy assistant secretary of state for the Near East and South Asia (NEA). He went to Saudi Arabia as ambassador in 1961 and from there to Turkey in 1965. In that post he played an important role in defusing the 1967 Cyprus crisis and later wrote a book about it: *Two NATO Allies at the Threshold of War* (Duke University Press, 1990). He was brought back to Washington to be assistant secretary of NEA in the fall of 1968, but was soon replaced by Joseph Sisco when the Republicans came into office. He served briefly as director of the Foreign Service Institute and then retired in late 1969 to become president of the Middle East Institute and a consultant to the Bechtel Corporation. Hart served in key posts during a formative period of US Middle East policy. Like most of us, he was not very enthusiastic about the direction it took much of the time, but he was a loyal civil servant who did his best to carry out those orders he could not change. He would never have claimed great fluency for himself, but he was one of the earliest "Arabists" in the Department of State to become tolerably proficient in Arabic. He also acquired a creditable level of proficiency in Turkish while serving as ambassador to Turkey. Hart's second book, *Saudi Arabia and the United States: Building a Security Partnership*, will be published by Indiana University Press this year. It provides an insider's detailed account of the early days of that partnership. Hart is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jane Smiley Hart, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

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