

civilizations, and a public figure speaking to the greater Chicago community on South Asian and Middle Eastern geopolitics and cultural relations.

After completing his B.A. in Theology at Loyola University of Chicago in 1970, he began to cultivate a lifelong interest in the Muslim world, pursuing first an M.A. in the History of Religions at the University of Iowa (1975), and then an M.A. (1978) and a Ph.D in History at the University of Minnesota, awarded in 1980. His dissertation was subsequently published as *Muslim Endowments and Society in British India* (Cambridge University Press, 1985).

His learning and expertise were as vast as his wit and conversation. Along with his concentration in the Urdu language, Gregory studied Persian, Arabic, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Turkish. In his scholarship and teaching, he linked European philosophy and Christian theology with Muslim philosophy and theology, British colonial law with Muslim law, and English social and political history with that of South Asia and the Middle East. This breadth of learning informed his nearly one hundred published articles, conference papers, and encyclopedia and reference book entries--as well as his textbook, *The Concise History of Islam and the Rise of Its Empires* (Copley Press, 1991, 2000), and his unfinished book manuscript, "Muslim Philanthropy in the Modern World." He was a frequent guest on "Chicago Tonight," the Chicago Public Television (WTTW) program of news and current affairs, and a frequent interviewee on a number of radio news and commentary programs, consulted for his expertise on conditions in Pakistan, India and the Muslim world. In his public lectures to civic groups and community colleges, and during his twenty-two years of teaching at DePaul University, he fascinated audiences with his experiences, his insight, his stories, and the occasional ribald joke. Apart from these public performances, Gregory was a charming and eloquent epistolean, deeply rooted in the beauties of language and expression. His unexpected death leaves a void in the public life of Chicago, and in the lives of his devoted students and friends, his colleagues and family. The halls no longer resonate with his presence.

DOUGLAS HOWLAND
WARREN SCHULTZ
DePaul University

George M. Makdisi, Emeritus Professor of Arabic & Islamic Studies in the Department of Asian & Middle Eastern (formerly Oriental) Studies, died at his home in Media on Friday, September 6, 2002. Dr. Makdisi was born in Detroit in 1920. Following an early educational career in both the

United States and Lebanon, Makdisi pursued graduate studies in France where he obtained the degree of *Docteur es-Lettres* at the Sorbonne in 1964. He taught at both the University of Michigan and Harvard before coming to the University of Pennsylvania as Professor of Arabic in 1973. He continued to teach Arabic and Islamic Studies until his retirement in 1990. During that period he served as Chair of the Department of Oriental Studies, and convened a series of conferences with his academic colleagues in Europe that were aimed at bringing together American and European research on the Arab-Islamic and Byzantine worlds during the medieval period.

Dr. Makdisi is acknowledged worldwide as one of the greatest Arabists and Islamicists of his generation. His greatest interest was in the study of Arabic texts from the great classical age of Islamic thought, and that was also the focus of his teaching. The large number of his distinguished students who hold academic positions in both the United States and Europe bear witness to the inspiration that his scholarly example provided to so many. Makdisi's own publications began by focusing on the intellectual environment within which theological controversies were discussed within the Muslim community and especially on the work of Ibn Aql, to whose masterwork, *Al-Wadih*, Makdisi devoted much attention during the earlier stages of his career and to which he returned after retirement in order to prepare the text for publication (Stuttgart: Steiner Verlag, 3 volumes). To the broader realm of medieval studies, one where he played a crucial role in insisting on an increased awareness of the role of Arab-Islamic culture among his more Eurocentric colleagues, Makdisi contributed a number of crucially important works, prime among which were his two volumes, *The Rise of Colleges* (1981) and *The Rise of Humanism* (1990).

Dr. Makdisi is survived by his wife, Nicole; sons John and Thomas; daughters Catherine Viscusi, Theresa Walsh, Ann Mazur and Jeanne Makdisi; sister, Mary Fayad; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

PEGGY GUINAN
University of Pennsylvania