

studies at Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained a Catholic Priest in 1963. His first parish was St. Genevieve in Chicago and he later became a teacher at Niles College of Loyola University. He also completed his PhD in Classics at the University of Chicago.

In 1975, Father Infantino was received as a Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, where he first served at Annunciation To Our Lady Parish in Waukegan and was now a member of St. Lawrence Episcopal Church in Libertyville. In keeping with his love for teaching, in 1973 he became a professor at the College of Lake County in Grayslake. He taught Philosophy, Comparative Religion, Medical Ethics and Middle East Studies. What began with a commitment to civil rights in the 1960s, followed with his involvement in multiple organizations that are working toward a just peace in the Middle East, including Americans for Middle East Understanding and Seeds of Peace.

Surviving are his wife Cynthia (née Percak) Infantino of Green Oaks, his mother Mary (née Maggio) Infantino and sister Joanna (Kenneth) Krzywicki, both of Elk Grove Village; a nephew, Kenneth Krzywicki of Chicago; niece, Karolyn (Lance) Sefcik and grand nephew, Michael Sefcik of Addison. He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph, in 1973. Mass of the Resurrection was held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, March 4 at St. Lawrence Episcopal Church, 125 W. Church St., Libertyville. A private family interment service was held at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hillside. Visitation was held at the church from Noon until time of services on Saturday. In lieu of flowers, friends may honor his commitment to education by contributions to the Infantino-Percak Memorial Scholarship Fund, a scholarship that benefits foreign-born students, c/o College of Lake County Foundation, 19351 W. Washington St, Grayslake, IL 60030.

Prepared by the family of the REV. DR. STEPHEN S. INFANTINO

**Wilfred Cantwell Smith**, one of the past century's most influential contributors to interfaith dialogue and the comparative study of religion, died February 7, 2000 of natural causes in his native Toronto at the age of 83. Wilfred Cantwell Smith was born in Toronto on 21 July 1916. His father, Victor Arnold Smith, came to Canada from Grenada, British West Indies, at the age of eighteen. He became a successful self-made businessman and was an influential elder of the Knox Presbyterian Church. He possessed a belief characterized by Internationalism. His mother was a US citizen by birth and came to Canada upon marrying Mr. Smith. She taught Classics at Ohio Wesleyan University in the days when few women went to university.

As a small child, Smith attended the Victor Arnold and Sarah Cory (Cantwell) School in Toronto. He left Toronto's sheltered life and Upper Canada College and spent a year, at the age of seven, at the Lycée Champollion in Grenoble, France. At the age of seventeen he was elected Head Boy at Upper Canada College of Toronto. Also at the age of seventeen, Smith spent a year in Spain and Egypt. In 1939, he married Murial Mackenzie Struthers, the daughter of Dr. Gordon Struthers of Toronto. They had five children: Arnold, Julian, Heather, Brian, and Rosemary.

In 1939, Smith obtained a B.A. Honours in Oriental Languages (Classical Semitic Languages and Eastern History) from the University of Toronto. From 1938 until 1940 he was a research student in theology at St. John's College and Westminster College in Cambridge, England. Accompanied by his wife, he lived seven years (1940-46) as a missionary in India. He taught Indian and Islamic History at the Forman Christian College in Lahore, India and studied the life of the Indian Muslim Community.

In 1946, Smith left India to return to North America to complete a doctorate in the Department of Oriental Languages at Princeton University under the Arab historian Philip K. Hitti. The title of his dissertation was "The Azhar Journal: Analysis and Critique," a study of the Arabic monthly journal published at the seat of Islamic Orthodoxy in Cairo. He obtained his PhD degree in 1948. In 1948, Smith came to the McGill Faculty of Divinity as the W. M. Birks Professor of Comparative Religion. There he continued to pursue his

interest in Islam and seized the opportunity to found the McGill Institute of Islamic Studies in 1951.

The Institute of Islamic Studies opened its doors in Divinity Hall with only eleven students, in September, 1952. It was the first. Until that time there had been no institution in any university in Canada or in the US with the specific purpose of pursuing a detailed study of Islam. Professor Smith placed great emphasis on religion, since he was convinced that the history of the Muslim peoples could not be understood without recognizing that religion was the key, as well as the most important single force in the formation and development of Islamic civilization. The McGill Institute was founded for the purpose of a long-range study of the processes at work in the modern Muslim world. The innovative element was Smith's conviction that this could not be done effectively by non-Muslims studying in a non-Muslim institution without the presence of Muslims. The design for the institute, including the library, was his creative response to the dilemma, as he saw it, of how to study these processes in a way that would involve Muslims and non-Muslims, in a fruitful effort to use the best of contemporary scholarly methods to approach the data of the tumultuous Muslim world.

Professor Smith was only thirty-three years of age when, as the Director of the Institute, he gathered a community of international scholars around him and persuaded the university and foundation authorities in Canada and the United States that the Institute's work was important, relevant, and timely. Every afternoon at four, Smith rang the bell from the top floor of the building for the tea break, as if calling his disciples to assemble. All the members of the Institute and the library staff were expected to attend; tea was served in the common room. There, East and West met to discuss and resolve misunderstanding. For Smith it was important to generate dialogue between Muslims and Christians.

In 1964, Smith accepted a post at Harvard University. There, he helped plan the Center for the Study of World Religions. After nine years at Harvard, Smith by then age fifty-seven resigned to go to his third major appointment at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Smith returned briefly to Harvard in 1978. In 1984, Harvard University appointed him Professor emeritus of the comparative study of literature.

The Islamic Studies Library (ISL) opened its doors in Birks Building of Divinity Hall. Because of continuous expansion, ISL moved several times and in 1983 settled in the former Presbyterian College of Montreal, McGill's Morrice Hall. From 250 books at Smith's time, the ISL is now housed on three floors and comprises more than 125,000 volumes, approximately half of them in Oriental languages. The greatest number of works are in Arabic, but the library is also distinguished by the number and scope of the volumes in Urdu it has collected. ISL virtually owes its existence to the efforts of Professor Smith.

Professor Smith was a prolific writer of international renown. His books have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Urdu. There have been books, articles, and theses written about him.

Professor Smith was proud of his family: his beloved Muriel and their children and ten grandchildren. Two weeks before his passing away, in a private ceremony at Toronto's Grace Hospital he was inducted into the Order of Canada. The citation commended his four decades as "an important influence on the direction of religious studies in countless universities."

S. FERAHIAN  
*McGill University*

The community of Middle East scholars and the Middle East Studies Program at the University of Washington has lost one of its far-sighted founders with the death of Professor **Peter Sugar** (1919-99). It was due to the vision and early spade work of Peter