

J. D. PEARSON 1911–1997

Professor James Douglas Pearson, former librarian of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, died 1 August 1997. His obituary in *The Independent* [London], by B. C. Bloomfield, notes that Pearson “was the most influential librarian in Oriental and African studies ever known in Britain.” Pearson had a flair for languages, which he studied for six years between taking up a post as book fetcher at Cambridge University Library (after leaving school at age 16) and returning to the Cambridge University Library as Assistant in the Oriental Section. In 1945, upon his return from military service in the war, he became Assistant Under-Librarian at Cambridge and in 1950 became Librarian of SOAS.

Pearson’s publications include *Oriental Manuscript Collections in the Libraries of Great Britain and Ireland* (1954); *Oriental Manuscripts in Europe and North America: A Survey* (1971); *Index Islamicus, 1906–1955* (1958); *A Bibliography of Pre-Islamic Persia* (1975); and *Oriental and Asian Bibliography: An Introduction with Some Reference to Africa* (1966), the first textbook of its kind, which developed from his lectures and seminars at the School of Librarianship and Archive Studies, University College London. B. C. Bloomfield told me that condolences can be sent to Pearson’s widow: Mrs. Hilda Pearson, 79 Highsett, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1NZ, England.

RAYMOND LUM
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