

Dick pushed against that barrier in the early fall of 1978 when the Shah's opponents were gathering massive strength. He asked to bring Ibrahim Yazdi, an aide to Khomeini, to see Gary Sick in the White House. Too high up, someone decided; better that he talk to me, newly become the desk officer for Iran. I agreed and set an appointment. Undersecretary Christopher got wind of it and directed that I cancel. In doing so, I established contact with Cottam and later, through him, with Yazdi.

During the Christmas holidays that December Cottam went to Tehran and, at our request, visited the Embassy, putting the staff in touch with key members of Khomeini's circle, among them Ayatollah Mohamed Beheshti. When the Embassy was seized by an armed group on Valentine's Day after the fall of the Shah, Beheshti and Yazdi came to the compound to free Ambassador Sullivan and his staff. We had Cottam's introductions to thank for that rescue.

He continued to advise us during the confused, sensitive period of the Bazar-gan provisional government in 1979. In September Foreign Minister Yazdi told me they hoped Cottam would be named US Ambassador. The trust and respect revolutionary Iranians felt for him might have made a difference in our dealings with Tehran. It might have made a difference if he, rather than Ramsay Clark, had been picked as Presidential envoy to Khomeini when the hostages were taken.

During the Hostage Crisis our biggest problem was to find someone to talk to in Tehran. After a bit, Cottam reached another old contact, then Foreign Minister Sadeqh Ghotbzadeh. Through their almost daily telephone calls we could at least communicate indirectly. But power was by then fast slipping away from Cottam's circle of oppositionists.

The relationship between the State Department and Cottam was a strange one, moving over the years from early consultation to hostility to near dependency. Always a very hard country to understand, Iran's high garden walls which sheltered kin and friends and excluded strangers represented a political reality. If we had listened to Cottam, those walls might not have seemed quite so high.

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James Douglas Pearson (1911-1997) died on 1 August 1997 having suffered a stroke a week previously. Professor Pearson was one of the most eminent and pioneering librarians and bibliographers in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies, and beyond that in Oriental studies generally. Born in December 1911, he grew up and was educated in humble circumstances in Cambridge. First employed in Cambridge University Library at the age of 16 as a book-fetcher, he developed a taste for, and skill in, "exotic" languages and was awarded a scholarship at St. John's College, graduating in Hebrew in 1936. He was then employed in the Oriental Section of the Library until 1941, when he was enlisted for war service until 1945. He worked again in Cambridge University Library as an Assistant Under-Librarian from 1945 until 1950.

In 1950 he was appointed Librarian of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London and until 1972 oversaw the drastic expansion and

development of the SOAS Library in what were probably the most important years of its history. He also devoted himself to bibliography (in the enumerative sense), being responsible for a number of fundamental reference tools and surveys, most notably *Index Islamicus*, which began publication in 1958, *Oriental Manuscripts in Europe and North America* (1971), the series of world bibliographies of African, Asian and Oriental bibliographies (1975), the Supplement to Creswell's *Bibliography of the Architecture, Arts and Crafts of Islam* for 1972-1980 (1984), and the series of comprehensive surveys of British archives relating to Asia, Africa and the Middle East (1965-1994). He was working on a further volume in this series at the time of his death. Pearson was appointed Senior Fellow in 1972 and subsequently Professor of Bibliography with reference to Asia and Africa in the University of London. He retired in 1979 and moved back to his native Cambridge, while still working on bibliographical projects.

Apart from his own work as librarian and bibliographer, he was active in encouraging and inspiring colleagues elsewhere in Britain and other countries to follow his lead. In 1967 he took the initiative in establishing the Middle East Libraries Committee (MELCOM)—now MELCOM (UK)—which brought together most British librarians in this field and gave birth to a long series of major and minor bibliographies and research tools, in several of which Pearson actively participated. He was closely involved in the beginnings of a European dimension to this activity in 1979, resulting eventually in the formation of MELCOM International. An enthusiastic and assiduous traveller, he visited many colleagues, Orientalists, and scholars throughout the world, becoming well known for his genial conviviality as well as his practical advice. He will be greatly missed and mourned not only by his British colleagues but also by a wide international circle of friends, companions, and collaborators, and by all those who have benefitted from his bibliographical legacy.

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Walter F. Weiker (1931-1997), Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University at Newark, died of pancreatic cancer on 8 June 1997. He was a major contributor to the study of Turkish politics and related subjects.

Weiker was born in Berlin; he emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1938, ultimately settling in Boulder, Colorado. He earned the BA at Antioch College in 1954, the MA at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University in 1958, and the PhD in Political Science at Princeton University in 1962. He was a Research Assistant in the Foreign Policy Studies Division of the Brookings Institution in 1961-1962, where he worked with the late Dankwart Rustow. In 1962, he became Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University at Newark. He remained at that institution for the next 35 years, achieving the rank of Professor in 1973. In addition to his teaching duties, he was active in administration and as guest lecturer at other institutions. He served as Chair of the Department, directed the graduate program, was an adjunct