

course. In the later 1950s Tom prepared another text for the course: *Swanland*, based on his research in Western Australia and focusing on society and land settlement after World War II.

Tom was a very popular teacher and was always available to students. He had an easy, pleasant way about him and was a gracious and sincere individual who was always willing to help. Tom Field will be missed by all who had the privilege and benefit of knowing him.

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Demetrius J. Georgacas (1908–1990)

Demetrius John Georgacas died at his home in Grand Forks, North Dakota, on February 7, 1990, eight days after his eighty-second birthday. He was active until he died and had not long before travelled to his native Greece.

Born January 30, 1908, in Siderokastro in the Peloponnesus, Georgacas in 1926 began his study of classical languages, art, and archaeology at the University of Athens, and later comparative linguistics. He completed his compulsory two-year military service, spending, he later reported, much of the time in tutoring and in preparing for his comprehensive examination at the university, which he passed in 1932 with highest honors. Between 1932 and 1934 he had the elementary school-teachers of the Southwest Peloponnesus collect placenames for him, a contribution to the “register and indexes” of toponyms eventually published with co-author Professor William A. McDonald in Greece as a supplement to the journal *Peloponnesiaka* and in 1967 distributed in the United States in book form by the University of Minnesota Press. Georgacas, an unrelenting worker, often had to wait to see the flowering of his efforts.

He began his formal lexicographic career in 1934 at the Academy of Athens, collecting materials and preparing entries for the *Historical Dictionary of the Greek Language*. On leave, 1938–41, he completed doctoral studies in Indo-European linguistics at the University of Berlin. Substantial parts of volumes 2 and 3 and a part of volume 4 of the *Ἱστορικὸν Λεξικὸν* (Athens, 1933–54) depended on Georgacas for their final editing.

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In 1946–47 he did post-doctoral research at the University of Chicago, taught Greek and Latin there, 1948–49, and Greek from 1949 to 1951 at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago. He was assistant professor of classics at the University of Utah, 1951–53, and in 1953 joined the faculty of the University of North Dakota. He retired in 1978 with the titles University Professor Emeritus and Research Professor of Classics. As a teacher, he was rigorous, resourceful, and (of course) learned; many of his students retain a lasting regard for him.

He was a charter member of the American Name Society and in 1960 and 1961 was the Editor of *Names*.

Georgacas was a historical lexicographer of admirable diligence and persistence. The work on which he labored for some thirty years, a modern Greek-English dictionary, has not yet reached publication, but through the support of the NEH its 2,189,000 card-entry base is accessible on microfilm (261 rolls), and a substantial part is in redacted typescript. That it is not in a computer base may be attributed, at least in part, to his deeply ingrained misgivings about the substitution of mechanical means for human. Many gifted scholars at various times helped Georgacas, but his only long-term associate in this massive undertaking, which has been compared to that of James A. H. Murray, was his wife of forty-two years, Barbara Williams Georgacas, Associate Professor of Greek at the University of North Dakota.

In support and recognition of his research, Georgacas was awarded Guggenheim Fellowships during 1957–58 and 1965–66 and an NEH Senior Fellowship, 1967–68, in addition to grants from his own university, the NEH, the US Office of Education, the ACLS, the National Bank of Greece, the Kostas and Helen Ourani Foundation, and the American Philosophical Society. He was active in many professional societies, including the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, the International Committee of Outer Space Onomastics, and the American Name Society, and many who came to know him in the work of editorial boards and at national and international meetings not only respected him for his prodigious and ready learning, but delighted in his wit and his genial friendliness.

While he did not live to see his greatest work in print, Georgacas published an impressive number of books, monographs, articles, reviews, notes, and reports. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and two sons.

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