Eighth Annual Wadie Jwaideh Memorial Lecture

October 5th, 2009 at 7:00 pm
University Club
Indiana Memorial Union

Reflections on the Historiography of Modern Iraq

Presented by:
Professor Peter Sluglett
University of Utah

Opening Remarks by:
Professor Nazif Shahrani

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*Thank you!*
Peter Sluglett is Professor of Middle Eastern History at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. He has held many visiting positions throughout the United States and Britain including: Leonard Stein Lecturer at Oxford University, Visiting Fellow at All Souls’ College in Oxford, Visiting Professor in the History Department at Berkeley, Visiting Professor and Gibb Memorial Fellow at Harvard University, and Lecturer in Middle Eastern History at the University of Durham. Professor Sluglett also served as the Director of the Middle East Center at the University of Utah for six years.


Professor Sluglett is a historian of the 19th and 20th century Arab Middle East, of the area which is now Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. He is also interested in 'straight' political and socio-economic history, as well as in the urban social history of a somewhat wider area (the Arab Mashreq as a whole, i.e. Egypt, Greater Syria, and Iraq). In addition, Professor Sluglett researches the realities and the legacy of colonial rule in the region, especially between about 1920 and 1948: including an interest in dictatorship, opposition and the possibilities for democracy.
Professor Wadie Elias Jwaideh had a long and distinguished career both within and outside of Indiana University. He received the degree of Licentiate in Law from the University of Baghdad in 1942. In 1960, he received his Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. During this time, he also held a lecturer position in Arabic at Johns Hopkins University.

His dissertation entitled “A History of the Kurdish Nationalist Movement” is the most comprehensive study ever made into the Kurdish question. This work established him as one of the world’s leading experts on the Kurds. It was published posthumously as The Kurdish National Movement: Its Origins and Development in 2004 by Syracuse University Press.

Dr. Jwaideh joined the faculty of Indiana University in 1960 and became the founder and chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature and Professor of History until his retirement. In 1972, Professor Jwaideh was given the Lieber Memorial Award for Distinguished Teaching. A number of his colleagues and former students contributed articles for a Festschrift in his honor. Dr. Robert Olson edited this book, entitled Islamic and Middle Eastern Society (Amana Books, 1987).

After his retirement from IU in 1985, Dr. Jwaideh accepted an appointment as Adjunct Professor of history at the University of California at San Diego, where he taught until 1990.