
EDWARD DUDLEY

AT ED DUDLEY'S RETIREMENT party in 1999, I remarked to him that I had known him longer than anyone else at that gathering excepting his wife. He had to agree. I was his student at UCLA in the Spring of 1964 in a course called "Spanish Literature 1850-1898." The Galdós novel scheduled to be read by us was *Fortunata y Jacinta*. (I remember thinking: "I hope it's a short one, like *Marianela*.")

I was at that party because it was among the festivities in connection with the symposium given at SUNY Buffalo in his honor. Some of the papers from that symposium, and other solicited ones, appeared in a *Festschrift* published in my Juan de la Cuesta—Hispanic Monographs series. This book, *Cervantes for the 21st Century*, is populated by a Who's Who of Cervantists who wrote articles to show their appreciation for Ed's contribution to our field.

Ed Dudley's major contribution to the field, his *magnum opus* without a doubt, is his award-winning *The Endless Text. Don Quixote and the Hermeneutics of Romance*. Since it was published at the end of the century, as one reviews the Cervantine scholarship from that hundred-year period, it can safely be said that it was one of the ten best books about *Don Quijote* in the 20th century. It was also published at the end of Dudley's active career. With a lifetime of study—in Spanish literature, in English literature, and in Comparative Literature—he put everything together into this groundbreaking work. Certainly he forsook other projects over the years to devote his scholarly attention to this book.

John Cull ends his on-line review for the American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain by stating: “Dudley’s study is a provocative and challenging reading which proves at times to be both controversial and brilliantly insightful.” And Nicholas Spadaccini, in his review published in this Bulletin (18.2 (1998): 148-50.) begins by saying: “This beautifully-written, erudite book is the work of a distinguished comparatist who combines the best tools that philological scholarship has to offer with sophisticated contemporary theories of reading.”

If there are CSA members who do not know that book yet, they should go immediately to their university library—it’s in the collection—and check it out.

What follows is an obituary written by Edward Wescott, a short appreciation of Ed Dudley by Geoffrey Ribbans, and a listing of Dudley’s published works.

TOM LATHROP

EDWARD J. DUDLEY
July 18, 1926 — July 21, 2008

EDWARD J. DUDLEY, PH. D., PROFESSOR of Spanish and Comparative Literature and longtime chairman of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the State University of New York at Buffalo, died from the effects of Parkinson’s disease July 21 in Sanford University of South Dakota Medical Center, Sioux Falls. He was 82.

Born in St. Paul, Minn. in 1926, Ed Dudley joined the Navy at 17 and served in the final years of World War II. After the war, he returned to the University of Minnesota on the GI Bill and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English literature. He traveled extensively in Europe and South America during the early 1950s, working as an English language professor, before teaching Spanish at St. John’s University in Minnesota and earning his doctorate in Spanish literature in 1963. In 1959, he married Patricia Hayes, a concert pianist.

Dr. Dudley, a scholar on the works of Miguel de Cervantes, taught Spanish and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Pittsburgh before joining the faculty of SUNY at Buffalo in 1974

At SUNYAB, Dr. Dudley served as chairman of the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and then the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. He stepped down in 1983 to return to the classroom. He also was the director of the Council on International Studies from 1981 to 1983.

Edward Dudley retired from teaching in 1999, at which time his life work was honored with "Convergencias Hispánicas," an international Hispanic studies symposium sponsored by the SUNY at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences and its Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. Featured speakers were Rosario Ferré, Puerto Rico's most celebrated and popular author, and eminent critic and editor Diana de Armas Wilson.

Author and editor of several articles and books, Dr. Dudley's most recent book is *The Endless Text: Don Quixote and The Hermeneutics of Romance*, which was selected as an outstanding academic book in English of 1998 by Choice, the journal of the American Library Association.

He continued to publish articles and mentor graduate students and younger colleagues until the effects of Parkinson's disease limited his ability to write and study.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and two sons, John and David.

A memorial service was held on August 9 in Holy Spirit Church, St. Paul.

EDWARD J. WESCOTT

WAY BACK IN 1970, IT was a marvelous experience for a visiting professor from England to encounter at Pittsburgh a chairperson as urbane, cultured, and generous as Ed Dudley. With Javier Herrero, we formed an all but inseparable trio in academic and non-academic discussions. As a result, with Ed, and his charming wife Patty, and

their fine sons, John and David, I developed a warm and enduring friendship, consolidated when I came to the United States in 1978. At both Pittsburgh and Buffalo, Ed gave to the departments he led, which included Comparative Literature as well as Hispanic Studies, the firm, yet considerate, direction they needed, as well as providing an outstanding example of dedicated scholarship, especially on Cervantes and related Golden-Age themes. He justly deserved the tribute of a major *Festschrift* a few years ago. He will be sorely missed by his innumerable friends.

GEOFFREY RIBBANS

EDWARD DUDLEY:
A Bibliography of Published Works

BOOKS

El Cuento. Co-edited with John Crow. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1966.

The Wild Man Within: An Image in Western Thought from the Renaissance to Romanticism. Co-edited with Maximilian E. Novak. Pittsburgh: U of Pittsburgh P, 1972.

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