In Memoriam

Paul Shore (1956–2023)

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Paul together with his scholarly expert, Kitty

On February 27, 2023, Paul Shore passed away, profoundly shocking his loved ones, friends, and colleagues. He was only sixty-seven years old and worked tirelessly until his last days, engaged in many scholarly projects, pastoral service, and teaching. His remarkable career, which has taken him to almost all corners of the world, reflects what kind of man he was: remarkably open and courageous.

Readers of the Journal of Jesuit Studies know Paul primarily as its regular contributor and reviewer—a distinguished specialist in the history of the Jesuits in Central Europe from the sixteenth century to the restoration of the Society in 1814. His essays on Hungarian ex-Jesuits Adam František Kollár and György Pray, as well as on the primate of Hungary, Péter Pázmány, written in...

These contributions alone highlight the breadth of Paul’s erudition and research interests but represent only a fraction of his prolific scholarship. Suffice to say that his two posthumous books on the Jesuits’ relations with Islam are about to be published: *Jesuits and Islam in Europe* (Leiden: Brill), written with Emanuele Colombo, and *An Early Jesuit Translation of the Qur’an: Ignazio Lomellini’s Animadversiones, notae ac disputationes in pestilentem Alcoranum* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz). Both are the fruits of many years of dedicated efforts—he began working on a Jesuit translation of the Qur’an back in 2015. These results were made possible by Paul’s iron discipline, who began each day by studying and transcribing Arabic and Aramaic. Once, having outlined his language learning routine at my request, he wrote to me: “Although this program probably sounds tedious as I describe it, I actually enjoy this work and look forward to it each morning.” He was that kind of person.

I had the privilege of meeting Paul in April 2022 during a conference at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. He had no reluctance to chat with a doctoral student as if he were his peer. We walked together to the train station when he was leaving the conference. Although I managed to get us lost four times during the thirty-minute walk, he kept joking the whole time, sharing anecdotes about Canadian poetry, learning Czech, and the Anglican Church. A few days later, I received an email from Paul asking for my postal address so he could mail me a book. Thus began our nearly year-long correspondence, which abruptly ceased last February. Despite his numerous commitments, Paul always found time to craft thoughtful and extensive replies, a quality that often left me feeling humbled. (Those who kept in touch with him know what a great correspondent he was). Through our exchanges, I gradually came to know this generous and witty person and his remarkable life achievements.

Paul’s outstanding career began in the 1980s earning his master’s degree from Yale University (1980) and his doctorate from Stanford University (1986). Subsequently, he dedicated nearly two decades to St. Louis University as a professor of educational studies. Throughout his career, he worked with universities and institutions around the world, including Boston College, Brandon University, Central European University (Hungary), Harvard Divinity School, Huron University College, Kyiv Institute for the Humanities (Ukraine),
Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Neulateinische Studien (Austria), Trinity College Dublin, University of Aberdeen, University of Cambridge, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of Hradec Králové (Czech Republic), University of Minnesota at Moorhead, University of Notre Dame, University of Oxford, University of St Andrews, University of Toronto, and University of Wrocław (Poland). In recent years, his primary affiliations were with Brandon University, Huron University College, and Wolfson College (University of Cambridge). Furthermore, he was ordained deacon in 2017 and priest in the Anglican Church of Canada in 2021—an honor he held in great esteem.

Paul’s legacy reveals the diverse range of research interests characteristic of some outstanding scholars. He started in educational studies, which included research on the condition of the contemporary university (from a historical perspective), with perhaps the most important result being *The Myth of the University: Ideal and Reality in Higher Education* (Lanham: University Press of America, 1992). In it, he criticized American higher education boldly, pointing out its many flaws, most notably its consumerist attitude towards students and faculty and its departure from the early ideals of the university. To me, Paul represented these ideals to the fullest and, as such, was not afraid to speak out in the name of what he believed was true (even if it struck a nerve with some).

Although he did not stop writing on education after *The Myth of the University*, he soon began studying Central Europe’s history extensively. The result was numerous studies on Jews, anti-Semitism, and Jesuits, first in modern Bohemia and later in Austria, Transylvania, and Hungary. Among his many papers and books, we should mention especially the already seminal *The Eagle and the Cross: Jesuits in Late Baroque Prague* (St. Louis: Institute of Jesuit Sources, 2002) and *Jesuits and the Politics of Religious Pluralism in Eighteenth-Century Transylvania* (Aldershot/ Rome: Ashgate/ Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu, 2007). In addition to the research on the Jesuit translation of the Qur’an, he dedicated considerable efforts to studying the eighteenth-century Jesuit account of Kalmykia, near the Sea of Azov in recent years. Paul’s achievements garnered him worldwide recognition, as he received prestigious awards and grants from the Corvina Foundation, the Fulbright Program, the International Institute of Islamic Thought, and the Spalding Trust, among others. His extensive research was made possible by a phenomenal erudition and knowledge of languages (I counted at least eight), often acquired through direct immersion in foreign cultures.

Indeed, his insatiable curiosity about the world manifested in his frequent travels. After our first encounter in Poznań, we met again last December in Warsaw, where he attended another conference. Although only seven months
have passed since April, Paul had, in the meantime, been to Hradec Králové, Prague, Vienna, Istanbul, and Beirut and was planning a near trip to Adrar, Algeria. He flew to Warsaw from Canada, even though the event (like the earlier one in Poznań) was held in a hybrid format. He considered it a sign of respect for his colleagues and a unique opportunity to meet them. Paul was quite nervous about pronouncing the name of a certain Polish historian, one of the conference organizers, so he asked me to record a voice message with the pronunciation and then check whether he was doing it correctly. He was indeed a true gentleman.

The meeting in a hotel café in Warsaw was our last. Paul’s sudden, premature death caused the deepest grief to his loved ones, countless friends, colleagues, and students across the globe. We have lost a superb scholar, a devoted priest, and, above all, a wonderful man. In the first issue of the 2023 volume of the Journal of Jesuit Studies, we said goodbye to John W. O’Malley, S.J. When I informed Paul of his passing, he wrote to me, “Everything you will read in obituaries and eulogies is true: he was an exceptional human being, and very giving of his time and knowledge. Frankly, he is irreplaceable.” Today, I extend those same sentiments to you, dearest Paul. You are irreplaceable.

Semper tuus, Michał