

great civilization that at one time spread over a vastly broader area reaching through and beyond Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Frye was a good *épée* fencer, a competent horseman, and a superb raconteur. Well I remember inviting him to tell an informal gathering of graduate students about the countries in which he had been arrested. He held them spellbound. ✂

Richard W. Bulliet  
Columbia University

## Pierre Oberling 1929-2014

PIERRE OBERLING, DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN, ETHNOLOGIST, AND POET, DIED on 22 March 2014 at his home in Reston, VA following a brief illness. Oberling was born in Strasbourg, Alsace (France) in 1929 to the distinguished French pathologist Charles Oberling and his wife Martha. In his youth he traveled widely with his family throughout Europe and the Middle East. He spent two years in Tehran, Iran, during World War II before immigrating to the United States in 1942. He earned a master's degree in French literature from Cornell University (1951), a master's degree in international affairs (1953), and a PhD in Middle East languages and cultures (1960) from Columbia University. Following brief stints teaching in Athens and Istanbul, he taught European and Middle Eastern history at Hunter College (City University of New York), from 1963 to 1998. He also served as director and treasurer of the American Research Institute in Turkey, co-editor of *Near and Middle East Monographs*, and contributing editor to the *Encyclopedia Iranica*.

Oberling's early research focused on Turkic tribes in Iran, resulting in the publication of *The Qashqa'î Nomads of Fars* (1974). He was an outspoken advocate of human rights and became involved in documenting the political and cultural history of Turkish Northern Cyprus through two seminal works: *The Road to Bellapais: The Turkish Cypriot Exodus to Northern Cyprus* (1982) and *The Heart of a Nation: A History of Turkish Cypriot Culture 1571-2001* (2007). In 2001, Oberling was awarded the Distinguished Service Award of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey, for this work.

In addition to a love of fine food and travel, Oberling was passionate about twentieth-century classical music, counting among his favorite composers Philip Glass and Havergal Brian. He was also a lifelong poet, publishing a compendium of his early poetry as *Journeys to the Sea of Zanj: Poems 1947-1971* in 1971. In his later years, his poetry was published in the journal *Orbis*. In 2007, he completed the poem “Three Images”:

As lightly as snow  
whirls among the trees,  
dead leaves fall,  
barely touching the earth.  
It is October still,  
yet already winter writes  
its hieroglyphics of frost  
upon my window panes.  
In a bleak, empty field  
crows bursting into flight  
rip the air with  
their razor-sharp wings.

Oberling is survived by his wife Patricia Oberling and his brother Jean-Jacques Oberling, as well as his first wife Geraldine Oberling, their two children, Nicholas Oberling and Ariane Pinson, and three grandchildren. ✦

Ariane Pinson  
*U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Albuquerque District*

### **Rita G. Sabat** **1974-2013**

RITA G. SABAT, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT THE Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Notre Dame University-Louaizé, Lebanon, passed away peacefully on 29 December 2013 after a long battle with breast cancer. Sabat was born in March of 1974 in Lebanon to (Amin) George Sabat and Yolande Saber. She studied in Lebanon, Cyprus, and the U.S., and received a PhD in international affairs from Florida International University (2010).