



Thomas R. Mark

September 10, 1924 - November 12, 2010

Thomas Mark, who taught in the English Department of Colorado State University for over four decades, died in his sleep at home on Friday, November 12. He was eighty-six years old. Professor Mark was born and raised in New York City, though he lived for several of his early years in Budapest, Hungary. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School in 1942. He joined the Army shortly thereafter and served as a combat medic with the 102nd Infantry Division in the European Theater. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism. After his discharge, Mark attended Brooklyn College, graduating in 1949. He then went to Columbia University where he was awarded the Ph.D. in English literature in 1956. While in graduate school, he began teaching at Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, now Colorado State University. He quickly fell in love with Colorado and often remarked, "There are only two places a civilized man can live, Paris and Estes Park." His courses in Shakespeare, Dante, and Milton challenged and delighted hundreds of students whose correspondence with him continued long past their college days. He was also among the faculty who helped the College in its transition to a University, separating the departments, such as English and Philosophy. While at C.S.U. he was active in its administration, serving as Graduate Coordinator, among other posts. He retired in 1994 and received an Alumni Association Best Teacher Award in 1996. Mark was awarded Fulbright, IREX Ford Foundation, and Collegium Budapest grants to study in Budapest in 1963, 1975, 1985, 1991, and 1996. He was a contributor

to several scholarly journals, but his most important work was a translation of "The Tragedy of Man" by the Hungarian dramatic poet, Imre Madách. It was published in 1989 by Columbia University Press and was awarded the Déry Tibor Prize in 1990. A second edition was published in Budapest in 1999 by Black Eagle Press and received the FÁ±st Milán Prize. Mark's love of music, which dated from childhood, led him to become involved in the local music scene. An active supporter of the Fort Collins symphony, he also successfully organized a program to enable broadcasts from Colorado's classical music station to be heard in Fort Collins. Married for fifty-seven years to Maxine Schlieker, he had two sons, Gregory of Randolph, New Jersey, and Brian of Denver, and two much beloved grandchildren, Julia and William Heckman-Mark, of Randolph, New Jersey. A memorial service will be held at Colorado State University in the Student Center West Ballroom on January 4, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. with reception to follow. All are welcome to attend. The family has requested that, in lieu of gifts or flowers, contributions be made to the Thomas Mark Memorial at the Colorado State University Foundation in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524 or <http://advancing.colostate.edu/DR.THOMASMARK>.

Tribute Wall

RK

“ Dear Maxine, I was sorry I didn't get a chance to talk to you at the Memorial Service for Tom. I was saddened at his passing. You and he were amongst the first people we met when moving to Ft. Collins in 1966. Tom's friendship and wisdom were something I always appreciated. He will be long and warmly remebered by his many friends. Rob Kelman

Robert Kelman - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Dear Maxine and family, Bob and I were so saddened to hear Tom had passed away. He was a very dear teacher and friend to many but especially those of us at the farm and "the nunnery," as he liked to call our all female apartment on Peterson Street. All of us will continue to share our many stories about him and will always miss his wise, affectionate, and funny ways. Love to you all, Carole and Bob Herold

Carole and Bob Herld - December 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ I took "Intro to Humanities" from Dr. Mark during my freshman year in Fall 1986. It was my first English class at CSU. When I saw the extensive reading list which included Beowulf, Crime and Punishment and many others I briefly considered dropping the course. I'm very glad I didn't because it turned out to be my favorite literature course and I ended up an English minor. Dr. Mark was a fantastic and inspiring teacher. My best wishes to his family.

Rebecca Carr - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GO

“ I was fortunate enough to have Dr. Mark as a professor at CSU from 1976-1980. His passion for classic literature, his humor, his intellect and his kindness made a lasting impact on me. I just had him for a few classes, but over 30 years later, I still can see him. I cannot say the same for any of my other fine educators. What a treat. What a man. What a legacy. I have made a career in advertising, and I can only imagine him rolling his eyes and saying "Mister Olson. Really?" with a sparkle that made me laugh. Dr. Mark taught me that cultural literacy did not mean snobbery. His sense of delight with the wit of Chaucer, Milton and Shakespeare will be a part of me the rest of my life. I envy those who knew him better than I. May he rest well knowing he made a difference. We should all be so fortunate. George R. Olson Colorado Springs, Colorado

George Olson - November 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM