

Death of Robert C. Elliott

April 14, 1981

Robert C. Elliott, professor of English literature and one of the founders of the literature department at the University of California, San Diego, died Monday, April 13, while hiking in the Anza-Borrego Desert.

Elliott, 66, apparently died of natural causes, according to a literature department spokesman.

Elliott, a long-time resident of La Jolla, came to the university in 1964 from Ohio State University where he had been a faculty member since 1946. He served as chairman of the literature department from 1968 through 1971.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 23, 1914, Elliott earned his bachelor's degree at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. He went on to attend Columbia University, earning his M.A. in 1936, and Brown University where he got his doctorate in 1946.

From 1937-1941 Elliott was an instructor at the University of Hawaii. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a combat intelligence officer.

During his academic career, he wrote a number of articles in various fields including eighteenth century English literature, literary satire and literary utopias.

Perhaps his best known book is "The Power of Satire: Magic, Ritual, Art" published by Princeton University Press in 1960.

Elliott was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He earned a Ford Foundation Fellowship in 1952-53, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1962-63 and again in 1972.

He was a member of the Modern Language Association, the International Comparative Literature Association, the International Association of University Professors of English and the American Association of University Professors.

At the time of his death, Elliott was chairman of the UC San Diego Committee on Academic Personnel.

He is survived by his wife, Mary. The couple had no children.

A memorial service for Elliott is pending. Mrs. Elliott suggests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to a memorial fund to be set up through the literature department.

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