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## In Memory of Richard P. Palmieri, 1945-1997

Hence, at the foot of truth, the undying quest  
springs like a shoot, and doubt is still the lure  
that speeds us toward the height from crest to crest.

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*, Paradiso IV (from Palmieri memorial program)

Cultural geographer Richard Pietro Palmieri died of cancer last November 18, at age 52. He was professor emeritus of geography at Mary Washington College in Virginia, where he had also been importantly involved with historic preservation and served as Curator of Furniture. A dedicated and highly popular teacher there since 1977, his combination of scholarly mind and exuberant style led to his receipt of the Mortar Board Outstanding Professor Award.

South and Inner Asia, especially the cultural ecology of their domesticated animals, were Palmieri's specialties. After he graduated from the State College (now University of Massachusetts) at Boston, in his home town, he undertook an MA under Frederick J. Simoons at the University of Texas; his thesis was "The Yak in Tibet and Adjoining Areas." Following Simoons to the University of California, Davis, Palmieri received his Ph.D. in 1976 on the basis of a dissertation entitled "Domestication and Exploitation of Livestock in the Nepal Himalaya and Tibet." In Nepal in 1972-73, with National Geographic Society and American Institute of Indian Studies support, he accomplished arduous fieldwork among the Sherpa in isolated areas, where, toward the end, his wife Nancy contracted amebic dysentery, necessitating evacuation.

To inventory Dick Palmieri's professional interests and activities alone is to miss much of the essence of the man. His was an unusually vital personality: a sense of his speech and his humor can be gained by listening to the "Tappet Brothers" on National Public Radio's *Car Talk*. Compassion and principle were among his sterling qualities. He was always ready to advise and assist other scholars and was a devoted family man and a good friend and mentor to many.

A list of Palmieri's publications related to the Himalayan region follows.

1972. *The Domestication, Exploitation, and Social Functions of the Yak in Tibet and Adjoining Areas*. **Proceedings of the Association of American Geographers** 4: 80-83.
1974. **Culture and Ecology of Tibetans in the Greater Nepal Himalayas**. The Conference on Nepal at Claremont. Claremont, Ca.
1975. (with Allen G. Noble). *Some Notes on Himalayan Mapping*. **Journal of Asian Studies** 34: 795-97.
1979. *Commentary on Frederick J. Simoons' "Questions in the Sacred Cow Controversy."* **Current Anthropology** 20: 485-86.
1980. *Results of Field Investigations in the Nepal Himalaya*. **National Geographic Society Research Reports** 12: 529-34.
1982. *Patterns of Indian Pastoralism*. **India: Cultural Patterns and Processes**, ed. Allen G. Noble and Ashok K. Dutt, pp. 325-36. Boulder: Westview Press.
1987. *Cattle Hybrids among the Sherpa of Nepal*. **Journal of Cultural Geography** 7: 89-100.
1991. *Tibetan Xylography and the Question of Moveable Type*. **Technology and Culture** 32: 82-90.
- i.p. *The Yak*. In **The Cambridge History and Culture of Food and Nutrition**, ed. Kenneth F. Kiple. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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