

evaluations, what I consider to be most important are indications that I continue to have passion for the subject matter. This is absolutely still Lou standing in front of my first Middle East class generating new awareness and excitement, introducing me to an intellectual universe that was heretofore unknown to me. Lou will be sorely missed, but his spirit—his passion—still lives on through the many people he touched.

David W. Lesch
Trinity University

Lucie Wood Saunders 1928-2008

Lucie Wood Saunders, emeritus professor of anthropology at the Lehman College of the City University of New York, passed away on July 26, 2008, after a long struggle with cancer. Lucie's husband Jack Saunders, whom she had married in Cairo, passed away in 2001; they are buried together near her childhood home in Virginia. She had a lively mind and a good sense of humor until the end, and she is mourned by her many friends in the US, Egypt, and elsewhere. Her experience in the anthropology of the Middle East began in the 1950s, and she did field work in rural Egypt in the early 1960s and again in the late 1970s.

Lucie Wood was born in King William County, Virginia, and was raised on the family farm. She earned her BA in English from Sweet Briar College in Virginia, and then moved to New York where she eventually earned a PhD in anthropology from Columbia University with a theoretical thesis on parallel cousin marriage (1959). Her teachers and mentors included Conrad Arensberg, Eliot Chapple, and Vera Rubin. While preparing her thesis she worked at the Rockland State Hospital Research Facility, where she met her future husband, a medical doctor and researcher. In 1961 she was invited by Laila el Hamamsy of the Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo to conduct field research in Egypt, and eventually settled on a study of an Egyptian delta village, Tafahna el-Ashraf, which had been selected to provide immigrants to the newly reclaimed areas near Alexandria. This research was conducted with the assistance of Sohair Mehanna of the SRC, initiating a life-long partnership.

The results of this research were published in a series of articles over the years dealing with various aspects of family life and gender relations. The topics were manifold, ranging from the local practice of the *zar* cult to modern-day entrepreneurs in the poultry business. She had an unblinking appreciation for the ebb and flow of gender roles; her research on gender was pioneering and innovative. Over time the focus shifted from a psychological approach to one highlighting economic relations, but the style was the same, a fine-grained focus on individual strategies and predicaments. Because Cynthia Nelson had conducted research

in a nearby village, the two collaborated on an article comparing the income generating strategies, particularly for women. Lucie's work stands as one of the few examples of site-based anthropological research in Lower Egypt.

In addition to her own research, Lucie was a tireless promoter of the research and careers of others. She was a mentor to several younger scholars as they were beginning their research involvement in the Arab World, among whom one could note Suad Joseph, Barbara Larson, and Nadia Atif. But she also gave astute advice and a helping hand to other researchers on their projects and interpretations. Her encouragement of younger scholars and students gave her a central role in academic life as a dispenser of sage advice, and sometimes as a protector against ill-tempered academic infighting. She also supported Egyptian and other Middle Eastern scholars who had come to the US. She focused on ensuring that younger scholars had a clear career track ahead of them.

Her influence was manifested in New York anthropological and Middle Eastern circles through her long-time teaching career at Lehman College, and through her involvement in the New York academic community. Except for leaves of absence, she also chaired the Lehman department of anthropology from 1970 until her retirement in 1996. Lucie participated in seminars and other meetings in the local universities, but most of all she participated in the Anthropology Section of the New York Academy of Sciences. In all these venues she made sure that sympathetic and intelligent treatment of Arab and Middle Eastern issues was prominent. Her principled stands on social and political issues made her a model of courage and integrity.

She was a stalwart participant in the affairs and meetings of the Middle East Studies Association, serving on the Ethics Committee in 1986. She was also active in the American Anthropological Association, where she helped establish the Middle East Section of the AAA in 1996, and was its first president. She was a key participant in debates on the future of anthropology and especially its role in the academy, and she took up the cause of the itinerant adjuncts.

The number of anthropologists working on the Middle East has multiplied since the 1950s, and those who owe something to the teaching, research, and friendship of Lucie Saunders are legion. We will all remember her fondly and respectfully.

Nicholas S. Hopkins
American University in Cairo