

## Robert L. Cord

Robert L. Cord, who passed away on August 30, 2022, was a distinguished professor of political science and a pioneering constitutional scholar at Northeastern University for over 30 years. He was also a colleague with an impish streak.

Professor Cord's cutting-edge scholarship—particularly with respect to free speech and the establishment clause—was on greatest display with his books *Protest, Dissent and The Supreme Court* (Winthrop Publishers, 1971) and *Separation of Church and State: Historical Fact and Current Fiction* (New York: Lambeth Press, 1982). He joined the Northeastern faculty in 1962 and became assistant professor of political science there in 1966. On account of illness, Bob was forced to give up teaching in 1996.

A formidable colleague in department meetings, few appreciated what a prankster he could be outside of the written agenda. Case in point: during my first semester as an assistant professor at Northeastern, in the hallway Bob Cord—to me a Very Senior Full Professor—struck up a conversation with decades-long legs. He began by asking where I was from. Then he asked if that's where my parents also came from. When I told him I grew up on Long Island but my parents were from Brooklyn (technically a fallacy, because Brooklyn is geographically part of Long Island), he then volunteered that he himself was a Brooklynite. He then asked which neighborhood my parents came from, and what they did for a living.

"My late father"—he had died just two years before—"was from Brownsville," I answered. "He was a high school science teacher before he went into business as a technical writer."

"And your mother?"

## Roger Masters

Family, friends, faculty colleagues and former students mourn the loss of Roger D. Masters, the Nelson Rockefeller Professor of Government Emeritus at Dartmouth College. Roger, a member of the faculty at Dartmouth for 56 years, died peacefully at the Jack Byrne Center in Hanover on June 22, 2023, shortly after his 90th birthday. Roger was born on June 8, 1933 in Boston. He is survived by his three children, Seth, William and Kathy, four grandchildren, Nina, Julia, Zoe, and Beatrice, and his former wife, Judith Bush.

Roger came to Dartmouth in 1967 after receiving his PhD in Political Science from the University of Chicago, serving in the US Army for two years and after teaching at Yale University for six years. He wrote his dissertation on the political philosophy of Jean-Jacques Rousseau under the direction of Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey. Roger always regarded Strauss as the most important influence on his professional life. Nevertheless, in a remarkable number of respects, Rousseau seems to have set the pattern for Roger's intellectual career and collegial stance. Yet, Roger emphatically disagreed with many of Rousseau's arguments on the basis of scientific advances in evolutionary theory, chemistry and physics, as his "Critical Reflections" in his first book had already made clear.

When Roger began his study of Rousseau's thought, Anglophone scholarship focused on Rousseau's contributions to the French Revolution and his connection to nationalist and totalitar-

"My mom is a nurse," I answered. "From Bensonhurst."

"That's interesting," he said. "I once dated a girl from Bensonhurst who was going to nursing school in New York." He paused. "Flower Fifth Avenue Nursing School," he mused.

"That's where my mother went," I told him enthusiastically, inspired by the coincidence.

"Yes," my bachelor colleague, continued, nostalgically. "Her name was Helen."

That's when my political science hallway suddenly felt like an ice chamber.

"That's my mother's name, too," I muttered.

"Helen..." And that's when he who had been instrumental in the decision to hire me uttered my mother's maiden name.

That's when I felt my blood turn to ice. How romantically involved had my new, Very Senior colleague been with my own mother?

As it turns out, the real coincidence was the circumstances that gave rise to this practical joke. It turns out that: a) this colleague's sister had gone to nursing school with my mother and, b) his sister and my mom had recently reconnected after decades of having lost contact. My mom boasted of her son becoming a professor at Northeastern University and her friend boasted of her brother already being a hot shot at Northeastern. That's how he had the elements to weave this emotional initiation rite for my entry into the fraternity of social scientists.

He had an impish streak, this scholar of constitutional law and church-state separation. And along with his commanding approach to advising the department on how to proceed in the best direction, this is how I will remember Robert (Bob) Cord. ■

—William F.S. Miles, Northeastern University

ian movements. Many scholars argued his thought was inconsistent, moving between Rousseau as individualist and naturalist (*Discourse on Inequality*) and Rousseau as collectivist (*Social Contract*). Roger's dissertation and the book that grew out of it treated Rousseau as a coherent thinker and an uncommonly careful writer.

The appearance of *The Political Philosophy of Rousseau* (Princeton University Press, 1968) was a landmark in Rousseau studies. It was soon recognized as the most comprehensive account of Rousseau as a systematic thinker. There had been scholars who argued that Rousseau had a system, but Roger demonstrated it in detail with interpretations of all his major texts. It has become a classic work and continues to be one of the most cited works of Rousseau scholarship.

Roger was among the first of a wave of scholars, many of them fellow students of Strauss, who began to produce careful, accurate translations of European philosophers. In preparation for writing this book, Roger, with Judith Masters (now Judith Bush) translated Rousseau's *First and Second Discourses*. They remain among the best translations of Rousseau. Roger with Judith decided to translate Rousseau's other works. Originally this was to consist of four volumes. He invited Christopher Kelly to become his partner on the *Collected Writings of Rousseau*, which led to 20 years of work and 13 volumes. They comprise the most complete set of translations of works by Rousseau, including several that had never been translated, making the totality of Rousseau's thought available in English. The first volume,