

In Memoriam

THE NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY has lost a longtime friend and colleague. Professor David Brion Davis passed away on April 14, 2019. As Professor Eric Foner noted in the *New York Times*, “No one did more to inspire the revolution in historical understanding that places slavery at the center of American history and indeed of the history of the West.” Moved by his experiences during the Second World War, Professor Davis expressed to his parents his desire to study history because it “might make people stop and think before blindly following some bigoted group to make the world safe for Aryans, Democrats, or Mississippians.” This motivation inspired his work with students as well; a teacher of thousands of undergraduates and advisor to more than sixty doctoral students over his distinguished career, Professor Davis also reached out to high school teachers in numerous professional development workshops. His teaching and scholarship posed a model for why history matters, why it tests our assumptions and cautions us against the dangers of moral arrogance.