

William A. Graham

*Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity and Dean, Harvard Divinity School
Harvard University*

Education: Ph.D. (1973) Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,
A.M. (1970) 1966-73: Comparative History of Religion/Islamic Studies
A.B. *summa cum* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1961-4, 1965-6:
laude (1966) Comparative Literature (Classics, German, French)
Non-degree studies Universities of London (Institute for Historical Research) and
Tübingen (Orientalisches Seminar), 1971-72
Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies (British Foreign Office),
Shemlan, Lebanon, 1967-68: intensive Arabic language
University of Göttingen, 1964-65: German Literature

Academic appointments (Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences): Professor, 1986- ;
Sr. Lecturer, 1981-86; Associate Professor, 1979-81; Asst. Professor, 1974-79; Lecturer, 1973-74

Principal Related Harvard Academic and Administrative Responsibilities:

The Humanities Center, Advisory Committee, 2005-
University Task Force on Women Faculty, 2005
Co-chair, University Allston Task Force on Undergraduate Life, 2003-5; member, Master
Planning-Allston Committee, 2004-6
Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, 2002- [acting dean, January-August, 2002]
Chairman, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 1997- 2002
Master of Currier House (Harvard undergraduate residential college), 1991- 2003. Chair,
Council of College Masters, 2001-2
Director, Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 1990-96; (Acting Director, 1988)
Chairman, Committee on Middle Eastern Studies, 1991-96 (Acting Chair, 1988)
Chairman, Committee on the Study of Religion, 1987-90; director of Ph.D. studies, 1984-87;
head tutor (director of A.B. studies in Comparative Religion), 1974-77, 1980-82
Special Review Committee for Harvard College Administrative Board procedures, 2001-2
Hoopes Prize selections committee (for undergraduate Humanities theses), '96, '98, '00, '01
Faculty Council, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 1989-92
Committee on the Core Curriculum in Harvard College, 1981-86 (Chair of Foreign Cultures
Area of the Core Curriculum, 1981-86; member, 1978-86, 1997-99)
Committee on Pedagogical Improvement, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 1987-95
Committee on Middle Eastern Studies, 1990-96, 1999-
Committee on African Studies, 1992-96
Committee on Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, 1991-2004
Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology, 1988-92
Advisory council, Center for the Study of Medicine and Culture, (Medical School), 1991-95
Allston Burr Senior Tutor [academic dean] in the John Winthrop House and member,
Administrative Board [council of deans], Harvard College, 1975-77
Faculty, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 1973- ; Executive committee, 1988-96, 1999-
Faculty, Center for the Study of World Religions, 1973-93, 2002-

Selected Other Professional Activities, Responsibilities, and Service:

Advisory Council on Religious Studies, Central European University, Budapest, 2005-
Vice-President/President elect, Harvard Alpha Iota chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, 2001-3
(resigned after assuming deanship)

Chair, Council on Graduate Studies in Religion (North America), 1993-96; vice-chair, '89-93

Associate Editor, *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, E. J. Brill, Leiden, 1995-2006

Associate Editor, *Cambridge Studies in Religious Traditions*, Cambridge U. Press, 1996-2003

Editorial boards: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 1995-99; *The Muslim World*,
1994- ; *Muqarnas* (Islamic Art and Architecture), Cambridge, Mass. , 1994- ;

Harvard Middle East and Islamic Review, 1994-96

Special Consultant (Religion, Islam), *American Heritage Dictionary*, 1992-

Advisory Board, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Univ. of North Carolina, 1992-2006

Aga Khan Islamic Architecture Program Committee, Harvard-M.I.T, 1991-96

Lecturer and resource person, The National Faculty, 1990-94

Joint Committee on the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies, Social Science Research
Council and American Council of Learned Societies, 1988-93

Visiting Lecturer (*Gastdozent*), Friedrich-Wilhelms-University, Bonn, Winter term, 1982-3

Keller Visiting Scholar in Religion, High Point Univ. (N.C.), spring 2001

Co-director, Microfiche Translations Bank, Islamic Teaching Materials Project, American
Council of Learned Societies (N.E.H. grant) 1978-87. Steering Committee, 1974-78

Advisory Council, Dept. of Religion, Princeton University, 1982-94; Acting Chair, 1988-9

Director, Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies Program on Modern Egypt, Cairo, 1976

Faculty Lecturer, Harvard Alumni College Programs: 1975, 1983, 1985, 1991, 1996

Co-Director, Harvard N.E.H. Institute for College Teachers in Religion, June-July, 1988

Selected consultant work: *External Reviews*: U.C. Berkeley, N. Eastern Studies, 1995; U. of
Toronto, M. East and Islamic Studies, 1995, and Centre for the Study of Religion,
1998; Duke U., Religion, 2001; *Core Curriculum planning*: Univ. of Nevada, Reno,
1992; Eckerd College (St. Petersburg FL), 1990; Grants Committee: New Jersey
Dept. of Higher Education, Humanities Program, 1986, 1987

Professional Societies: American Society for the Study of Religion (Exec. council, 1993-6,
'00-); American Oriental Society; Middle East Studies Association of North
America; American Academy of Religion; Middle East Medievalists Association

Fellowships, Honors:

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, elected fellow, April 2006

Doctor of Humane Letter *Honoris Causa*, Lehigh University, 2005

Doctor of Humane Letters *Honoris Causa*, University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), 2004

2000 IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research, quinquennial international prize for
contributions to Islamic studies, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and
Culture (IRCICA) of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (conferred at the
O.I.C. Ministerial meeting, Istanbul, October 25, 2000)

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, 1981-2 (postponed to 1982-83)

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship (Federal Republic of Germany), 1982-83

American Council of Learned Societies 1979 Prize for Best First Book in the History of
Religions, 1976-1978 (for *Divine Word and Prophetic Word in Early Islam*)

National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship (Arabic), 1972-73

Harvard Travelling Fellowship, 1967-68, 1971-72

Danforth Graduate Fellowship, 1966-1973

Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship, 1966-67
University of North Carolina-Göttingen Exchange Scholarship, 1964-65
Phi Beta Kappa, University of North Carolina, 1964
John Motley Morehead Scholarship, University of North Carolina, 1961-66
Harvard National Scholarship, Harvard College, 1961 [declined]

Publications (Books):

- 2005 Albert M. Craig, William A. Graham, Donald Kagan, Steven Ozment, and Frank M. Turner. *The Heritage of World Civilizations*. 7th rev. ed. Prentice Hall. (sections on Middle East, Africa, Iran, India, S.E. Asia and Central Asia by W. A. G.). [1st ed., Macmillan, 1986].
- 2002 *Three Faiths, One God* (co-authored with Jacob Neusner and Bruce Chilton). Leiden: E.J.Brill
- 1987, *Beyond the Written Word: Oral Aspects of Scripture in the History of Religion*. Cambridge
1993 (U.K.), New York, Melbourne, Sidney: Cambridge University Press
- 1983- *Islamfiche: Readings from Islamic Primary Sources*. Ed. William A. Graham and Marilyn
1987 R. Waldman Series I, II [microfiche text selections, with introductions and indices]. Zug,
Switzerland: Inter Documentation Company
- 1977 *Divine Word and Prophetic Word in Early Islam: A Reconsideration of the Sources, with
Special Reference to the Divine Saying, or So-called "Hadîth Qudsî"*. Religion and Society,
vol. VII. The Hague: Mouton and Co. (*A.C.L.S. History of Religions Book Prize, 1979*)

Publications (Articles):

- 2006 "Recitation and Aesthetic Reception of the Qur'an" (co-authored with Navid Kermani), in
Cambridge Companion to the Qur'an, ed. Jane McAuliffe (Cambridge Univ. Press), 115- 141
- 2004 "Hikaku-shukyogaku-saiko" [Japanese trans. of "Reflections on the Comparative Study of
Religion"] in *Shukyo Kenkyu (Journal of Religious Studies, Japanese Association of Religious
Studies)* 339 (2004): 16-40
- 2004 "Scripture and the Qur'an", in J. McAuliffe *et al.*, eds. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* (Leiden:
Brill), 4:558-569
- 2003 "Orality", in J. McAuliffe *et al.*, eds. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* (Leiden: E.J. Brill), 3:584-87
- 2002 "Fâtihah", in J. McAuliffe *et al.*, eds. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* (Leiden: Brill), 2:187-92
- 2001 "The Earliest Meaning of 'Qur'ân'", revision of 1984 article from *Die Welt des Islams*,
republished in Andrew Rippin, ed., *The Qur'an: Style and Contents* (Brookfield, VT and
Aldershot, UK: Ashgate/Variorum)
- 2001 "Basmalah", in J. McAuliffe *et al.*, eds. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* (Leiden: E. J.
Brill), 1:207-211

- 1997 "Sharîf" [expansion and revision of 1926 *EI* article by C. van Arendonk], in C. E. Bosworth *et al.*, eds., *The Encyclopaedia of Islam. New Edition*, 9: 329-337
- 1996 "Politics and Religion in Islam in Historical Perspective: Some Reflections", in Gudrun M. Grabher, ed., *Islam: Future Dimensions* (International Symposium of the Harvard Club of Austria, Vienna, 3 February, 1994). [Innsbruck], pp. 22-33
- 1995 "'The Winds to Herald His Mercy': Nature as Token of God's Sovereignty and Grace in the Qur'an", in Albert Blackwell, Sang Hyun Lee, and Wayne Proudfoot, eds., *Faithful Imagining* [Richard R. Niebuhr Festschrift] (Atlanta: Scholars Press), pp. 19-38
- 1994 "Das Schriftprinzip in vergleichender Sicht", in Alma Giese and J. Christoph Bürgel, eds., *Gott ist Schön und Er Liebt die Schönheit/God is Beautiful and He Loves Beauty, Festschrift für Annemarie Schimmel* (Bern, Berlin, etc.: Peter Lang), 209-226
- 1993 "Traditionalism in Islam: An Essay in Interpretation", *Journal of Comparative History* 23 (1993): 495-522
- 1991 "Scriptures and Classics: An Introductory Course in Religion", in John B. Carman and Steven P. Hopkins, eds., *Tracing Common Themes: Comparative Courses in the Study of Religions* (Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press), 179-198
- 1990 "Koran und Hadîf", Chapter 2 of *Orientalisches Mittelalter*, ed. Wolfhart Heinrichs. Vol. 5 of *Neues Handbuch der Literaturwissenschaft*, ed. Klaus von See, 25 vols. Wiesbaden: Athenaion, pp. 166-185
- 1989 "Scripture and the History of Religion", *Bulletin of the Center for the Study of World Religions*, Harvard University 16:1 (Fall-Winter, 1989-90): 2-15
- 1989 "Scripture as Spoken Word", in *Rethinking Scripture: Essays from a Comparative Perspective*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1989, pp. 129-169
- 1986 "Scripture", in Mircea Eliade et al., eds., *The Encyclopedia of Religion* (16 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1987), 13: 133-145; *ibid.*, 2nd, rev. ed., 2005
- 1985 "Qur'ân as Spoken Word: An Islamic Contribution to the Understanding of Scripture", in *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies*, ed. Richard C. Martin (Tucson: University of Arizona Press), pp. 23-40, 206-215
- 1984 "The Earliest Meaning of 'Qur'ân'", *Die Welt des Islams* 23/24: 361-377
- 1983 "Islam in the Mirror of Ritual", in *Islam's Understanding of Itself*, ed. Richard G. Hovannisian and Speros Vryonis, Jr. Eighth Biennial Giorgio Levi della Vida Medal Conference Volume (Malibu, Calif.: Undena Publications), pp. 53-71
- 1983 "'Those Who Study and Teach the Qur'an'", in *International Congress for the Study of the Qur'an*. Ser. I, ed. Anthony H. Johns (Canberra: Australian National University), pp. 9-28

- 1982 "Transcendence in Islam", in *Ways of Transcendence: Insights from Major Religions and Modern Thought*, ed. Edwin Dowdy. Australian Association for the Study of Religions, Selected Papers Series (Ed. Victor C. Hayes), vol. 4. (Bedford Park, Australia), pp. 7-23
- 1982 "Devotional Movement and Subsequent Crystallization of Religious Communities in Mughal India", *The Journal of Religious Studies* (Patiala, India) 10: 32-45. [Seminar discussion paper printed without author's consent]
- 1978 "Rethinking General Education at Harvard: A Humanistic Perspective", in *The Humanities: A New Role for a New Era* (Santa Barbara: Educational Futures International), pp. 58-72

Other Publications (Minor Articles, Book Reviews, Book Forewords, and Other Shorter Pieces):

- 2001 article "Kanon: Islam", in Hans Dieter Betz *et al.*, eds., *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Vierte Auflage* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck) vol. 4 s.v.
- 2000 article "Heilige Schriften: Islam", in Hans Dieter Betz *et al.*, eds., *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart. vierte Auflage* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck), vol. 3, s.v.
- 2000 [book review] Navid Kermani, *Gott ist Schön. Das ästhetische Erleben des Koran*, in *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam* 24 (2000): 529-534.
- 2000 Introduction to *Al-Ghazali's Path to Sufism: his Deliverance from Error, "al-Munqidh min al-Dalal*, trans. R. J. McCarthy. Louisville, KY: Fons Vitae, pp. 15-16.
- 1999 Preface to Susan Gilson Miller, ed., *In the Shadow of the Sultan: Culture, Power, and Politics in Morocco*. Harvard Middle Eastern Monographs, XXXI. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Harvard University Press, pp. vii-viii.
- 1999 [book review] Wilferd Madelung, *The Succession to Muhammad*, in *The Muslim World [MW]* 89 (1999): 106.
- 1998 article "Andrae, Tor", in Hans Dieter Betz *et al.*, eds., *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart. vierte Auflage* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck), Vol. 1, s.v.
- 1998 "Tarwiya", "Tashrîk", [updating of 1960s *EI* articles by R. Paret], in C. E. Bosworth *et al.*, eds., *The Encyclopaedia of Islam. New Edition*, 9 (1998), s.v.
- 1997 [book review] Mohammed Arkoun, *Rethinking Islam*, in *Journal of Ecumenical Studies [JES]* 34:2: 256-257
- 1994 [book review] Daniel Gimaret, *Les noms divins en Islam*, in *JES* 31:1/2: 178-179
- 1994 [commentary] "Go in Peace?", One Perspective on the Israel-PLO Accord", in "Religion & Values in Public Life: A Forum from Harvard Divinity School", 2, no. 2, p. 4

- 1993 *Foreword* to Kendall W. Folkert, *Scripture and Community: Collected Essays on the Jains*. Ed. John E. Cort. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press/Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, pp. ix-xi
- 1992 [book review] Gordon Newby, *The Making of the Last Prophet*, in *History of Religions* 32.1 (August): 93-95.
- 1990 [book review] Klaus Hock, *Der Islam im Spiegel westlicher Theologie*, *JES* 27:1: 144-145
- 1988 [short article] "Religion in the Liberal Arts at Harvard: Profile, Committee on the Study of Religion", *Harvard Graduate Society Newsletter* (Spring), pp. 8-10
- 1988 [book review] Michael Mildenerberger and Hans Vöcking, eds., *Islamische und christliche Feste*, and M. Lelong, ed., *L'église nous parle de l'Islam*, in *JES* 25:2 (1988): 274-275
- 1983 [book review] Fazlur Rahman, *Major Themes of the Qur'ân*, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* [JAOS] 103: 445-447
- 1983 [book review] Michael Cook, *Early Muslim Dogma: A Source-Critical Study*, in *Middle East Studies Association. Bulletin* 17, no. 1 (July): 92-94
- 1983 [Obituary review article] "In Memoriam Rudi Paret (1901-1983)", *MW* 73: 133-141
- 1981 [book review] Merlin Swartz, ed. and trans., *Studies on Islam*, *MW* 71: 257-258
- 1981 encyclopedia articles "Hadith", "Qur'an", "'Ulama'" (co-authored with A. K. Reinhart), "Shari'a", "Ijma'", "Shafa'a", "al-Bukhari", "Muslim b. al-Hajjaj", "Burda", "Mawlid", *Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions*, ed. Keith Crim et al. (Nashville: Abingdon Press)
- 1980 [book review] John Wansbrough, *Quranic Studies*, in *JAOS* 100: 137-141
- 1980 [film review] "Mideast--Islam: The Unifying Force", *Film Library Quarterly* [FLQ] 13, no.1: 45-46
- 1976 [film review] "Islam: The Prophet and the People", *FLQ* 9, no. 3: 55-56
- 1977 Condensation of Academic Paper: "The Study of the Hadith in Modern Academics: Past, Present, and Future", in *The Place of Hadith in Islam* (Proceedings of the International Seminar on Hadith in Honor of the 1200th Anniversary of Al-Bukhârî). [n.p.: Muslim Students' Association of North America], pp. 29-31

Selected Invited Lectures, Addresses:

- 2006 Elon University, N.C.: James P. Elder Lecture: "The Myth of Political Islam" (6 April)
- 2005 Central European University, Conference on "Sacred Texts and Print Culture", Budapest, Hungary. Keynote Address: "On the Concept and Functions of Scripture" (3 December)

- 2005 Lafayette College, PA, Ninth Annual Roethke Humanities Festival Religion Lecture: "‘Book, Writ, and Word’: Sacred Texts and their Uses" (20 October)
- 2005 Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. "Clash of Civilizations? Reflections of an Islamicist", Baccalaureate Address, (22 May)
- 2001 High Point College, High Point, NC. The 2001 Finch Lecture in Religion: "The Protestant Scripture Principle in Comparative Perspective" (27 March)
- 2000 Heidelberg, Germany, international conference sponsored by Univ. of Heidelberg and Bar Ilan University, Israel), "Scripture and the History of Religion: Reflections on Conceptualizing and Comparing Religious Phenomena" (1 February)
- 1999 Wheaton College, MA. The 1999 Arthur Martin Lecture in Religion: "A Discourse of Signs: The Qur'an as Scripture" (1 November)
- 1997 West Virginia University Distinguished Theological Lectures, 1997: "The Question of So-called 'Fundamentalism' in Islam"; "Claiming Abraham: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Shares in a Symbolic Figure" (28-29 October)
- 1995 Columbia University Seminar on Arabic Studies: "*Sharif* as a Problem for Islamic Studies" (12 December)
- 1995 University of Toronto, Center for Religious Studies guest lecture: "Nature as Token of God's Sovereignty and Grace in the Qur'an" (20 February)
- 1992 Commonwealth North Forum, Anchorage, Alaska: "Islam and Politics", (7 July)
- 1990 Seventh European Theological Congress, Dresden, Germany: "Das reformatorische Schriftprinzip in vergleichender Sicht" (24-28 Sept.)
- 1990 The University Center in Georgia, Visiting Guest Lectures: University of Georgia, "Scripture: The Oral Dimension"; Emory University, "Scripture: The Islamic Instance"; Georgia State University, "Scripture: The Definitional Problem" (18-20 April),
- 1989 Ida Beam Lectures, University of Iowa, School of Religion: "Under Western Eyes: The Qur'an in Western Scholarship"; "Through Muslim Ears: The Qur'an in Muslim Piety" (1-2 November):
- 1989 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Middle East Symposium: "The Study of Islam and the Western Academy" (1 April)
- 1987 American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, First Plenary Session Address: "'Book, Writ, and Word': Scripture and the History of Religion", (5-8 Dec.)
- 1986 University of Chicago: "The Speaking Page: Qur'an and the Problem of Scripture" (24 Feb.)

- 1984 Annual Conference, National Assn. of Academic Affairs Administrators, SE Region, Atlanta, Keynote Address: "Changing Strategies in Higher Ed.: Curriculum Development", (10 Oct.)
- 1984 National Council of Churches, Task Force on Christian-Muslim Relations, New York : "The Children of Abraham", (21 May)
- 1983 University of Hamburg, Seminar für Geschichte und Kultur des Vorderen Orients: "Islam und Ritus: Religionswissenschaftliche Ueberlegungen am Beispiel des Hajj" (31 Jan.)
- 1982 Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Bonn: Studium Universale series, "Heilige Schrift, Heiliges Bild": "Das geschriebene und das gesprochene Wort der heiligen Schrift", (26 October)

[Other invited lectures at colleges and universities also include: Colorado College (2004), Boston College (2000), Columbia Univ. (1981, 1984); Mt. Holyoke College (1993); Brandeis University (1992); West Virginia University (1990), Wheaton College MA (1989), Washington Univ., St. Louis (1988); Centenary College, LA (1982); Yale Univ. (1981); Middlebury College, VT (1980); Cornell College, Iowa (1975); U. of Pennsylvania (1974).]