



Steven Edgar Ozment

February 21, 1939 - December 12, 2019

Prominent Author and Harvard Professor

Steven Edgar Ozment, McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History Emeritus at Harvard University and a leading scholar in early modern and modern Germany, The Protestant Reformation, and the family in early modern Europe, died on December 12, 2019, at Evolve at Rye, a memory care community in Rye, New Hampshire. He was 80 years old.

Born on February 21, 1939, in McComb, Mississippi, and raised in Arkansas, Ozment attended the University of Arkansas on a football scholarship, transferred to Hendrix College after two years, and began the academic study that became his life's calling. He obtained a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Drew University and a PhD at Harvard University. In 1977, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in the field of Renaissance History. As a professor, he was a dedicated mentor to his many graduate students and infused his undergraduate lectures with his engaging storytelling flair. Over the years, he taught at The University of Tubingen in Germany, Yale, Harvard, and Stanford.

In his thirteen books, he wed beautiful writing with erudite scholarship, bringing the past that so intrigued him to life. His *Age of Reform, 1250-1550* (1980) won the Schaff History Prize and was nominated for the 1981 National Book Award. Five of his books were selections of the History Book Club, and

several have been translated into European and Asian languages. He was also co-author of the widely used *The Western Heritage* and *The Heritage of World Civilizations* textbooks.

When he wasn't working, he loved fishing, swimming, biking, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. A long-time resident of Newbury, Massachusetts, he would bike fifteen miles along Route 1A to The Clam Box in Ipswich for fried oysters. He often recalled the animals and home-made apple pie from childhood summers spent on his grandmother's farm. Though his academic achievements took him all over the world, he never strayed from his belief that the most important things in life are the simplest things.

Ozment is survived by his wife, Susan Schweizer of Portsmouth, New Hampshire; five children: Joel Steven Ozment (Sadiann) of Branford, Connecticut, Katherine Ozment of Chicago, Illinois, Amanda McMeekin Ozment of New Haven, Connecticut, Emma Foster Ozment of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and Abigail Susan Clare (Michael) of Winchester, Massachusetts. He is also survived by a brother, Dr. Kerry Ozment of Hot Springs, Arkansas, a sister, Carolyn Womack, of Little Rock, Arkansas, and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Lowell Matthew Ozment.

Services will be at 12 noon, Saturday, December 21, 2019 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 52 Gould Road in New London, NH. A memorial service will be held at Harvard University at a date to be announced in early 2020. In lieu of flowers, the family requests tributes in Steven's memory to be made to the Steven E. Ozment Endowed Scholarship Fund at Hendrix College in Conway, AR. <https://www.hendrix.edu/givenow/>

Previous Events

Service

DEC **21**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
52 Gould Road
New London, NH 03257

Tribute Wall

RR

“ *Though I never got to study directly under Steven, his book, **A Mighty Fortress**, was my first serious introduction to real History scholarship as an undergraduate history student. I was in awe at how he was able to turn a compendium of a people into a sort of nonfiction novel that kept me wanting more after every page. His writing and scholarship, to me, has always been an example of how history should be taught. You could always feel the excitement in his authorship, a fire I wish other teachers and historians had. Though he has now moved on to the next stage of his soul's journey, I'm glad that the world got to experience him for the time he was here, passing on his knowledge to those who were willing to listen, of which there were many.*

Rest In Peace Steven, and thank you for sharing your beautiful mind.

*Ryan Reyes
BA History, East Stroudsburg University*

Ryan Reyes - June 29, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ *Steven Edgar Ozment*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM

JH

“ I'll always be grateful to Steve for his mentorship when I was first hired by Harvard in 1985 and for his support for my promotion to tenure in 1992. We disagreed about a lot but always with good humor. My late wife Virginia appreciated having a fellow Southerner on the Harvard faculty she could talk with when she got tired of all the Yankees.

James Hankins - March 08, 2020 at 09:57 AM

TO

“ I will always have warm memories of Steve, both from our time in Harvard and Tuebingen.
Steve was a long time friend.
Toetie Oberman

Toetie Oberman - January 06, 2020 at 07:32 AM

DV

“ I am extremely sad to hear about Professor Ozment's departure. I have very fond memories of the course on German History he taught in Venice at the Ca' Foscari-Harvard Summer School in 2006. It was pure joy to engage with him in discussions on topics ranging from Arminius to Angela Merkel... May he rest in peace.
Daniele Vecchiato

Daniele Vecchiato - December 20, 2019 at 09:54 AM