C. H. George, longtime NIU history professor, 89, died of cancer June 21, 2011 in retirement at Mt. Wolf, PA.

A beloved teacher and imposing presence in the history department for more than thirty years, George published three books, The Protestant Mind of the English Reformation, 1570-1640 (1961), an anthology of primary documents, Revolution: European Radicals from Hus to Lenin (1971), and, in retirement, Journey to Dachau: An American Soldier’s Odyssey, an account of his World War II experience with the 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion. Internationally renowned and a close friend of Christopher Hill and E. P. Thompson, he also published scholarly articles in the Journal of Modern History, the Journal of Religion, the Journal of the History of Ideas, Church History, Past and Present, Science and Society, Marxist Perspectives, and the Social Science Quarterly, as well as chapters in several books.

Following his return from Europe, C. H. George graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Gettysburg College in 1946 and took his Ph. D. at Princeton University under the direction of Joseph Strayer. In subsequent years, he held temporary appointments at Stanford University, Pomona College, Colorado College, the University of Rochester, and the University of Washington before settling in at the University of Pittsburgh, where he taught from 1957 to 1961. At Pittsburgh, George met and married his wife Margaret. He came to Northern Illinois University in 1961, and Margaret George joined the department a few years later. Meg George died in 2009.

At NIU, C. H. George taught undergraduates and graduate students in the history of Tudor-Stuart England, including Thomas M. Burton, Judith Cox-Henderson, George, Juretic, and Robert Michael Rogers who earned the Ph.D. under his direction. He was a prominent member of a group of NIU historians of Marxian inclination, once dubbed “the reds in the cornfield.” As a senior member of a department rapidly expanding in the 1960s and early 1970s, he mentored numerous junior faculty who also achieved professional distinction at NIU or elsewhere. In his later years of teaching, C. H. was easily recognizable at NIU by his shock of white hair and his blue work shirt.