

IN MEMORIAM

Gustave Edmund von Grunebaum, Professor of History and Director of the Near Eastern Center, University of California at Los Angeles, and its founder, died Sunday night, February 27, 1972. He was born September 1, 1909 in Vienna and married Giselle E. Steurnam in 1941. Their children are Tessa Jennifer and Claudia Constance.

He received his Dr. Phil. degree from the University of Vienna in 1931 and was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Berlin in 1932-33. Coming to the United States in 1938, he taught Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Asia Institute in New York. He joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in 1943, was named Professor of Arabic in 1949, and continued teaching there until 1957, when he went to Los Angeles to teach and to organize the Near Eastern Center. He was also three times a visiting professor at the University of Frankfurt (1952, 1956, 1957).

From the late 1940's and early fifties, both his influence as a scholar of depth and great humanistic breadth and his talents for administration and organization began to be widely felt. Gracious, modest, and urbane, in the best sense of those words--like the *adib* or the *zarif* about whose ideals he more than once wrote--he moved easily on both sides of the Atlantic organizing conferences and symposiums. The list of research institutions, academies, and associations devoted to scholarship and teaching in which he took an active and often leading part is a long one. He was thus a natural choice to serve as Honorary First President of the Middle East Studies Association at its First Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1967.

Among his many publications were Die Wirklichkeitweite der Früh-arabischen Dichtung, Medieval Islam, A Tenth Century Document of Arabic Literary Theory and Criticism, Kritik und Dichtkunst, Modern Islam: The Search for Cultural Identity, Studien zum Kulturbild und Selbstverständnis des Islam (ed. Dorothea Gallup et al.), and Classical Islam: A History, 600-1258. He was cofounder and member of the board of Comparative Studies in Society and History and Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, co-editor of Studia Islamica, and editor of the current book series "Bibliothek des Morganlandes" and "The World of Islam."

His sensitive perceptions and solid insights into the esthetic, social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of the life and culture of the Islamic world sprang naturally from his own wide sympathies and deep humanity. By his kindness and encouragement to others, especially younger scholars, and by the visible example of his good humor, courage, and self-discipline he made a deep imprint on many which is as important in personal terms as his contributions to scholarship and his labors in its corporate enterprises.

Lois A. Giffen
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