

## Professor André Laronde

Professor André Laronde died on Tuesday 1 February 2011, carried away before his time by a heart attack at the age of 70. He had a rich and varied career. Born June 19, 1940 in Grenoble, in 1978 he became professor of Ancient History at the University of Grenoble until 1983 when he was appointed professor of Greek History and Director of the *Institut d'épigraphie grecque* at the Sorbonne (Paris).

He was a member and in some cases chairman of countless learned societies and academies in France and abroad: *Société Nationale des Antiquaires de France*, *Société Française d'Archéologie Classique* (SFAC), the Society for Libyan Studies, the *Société Française de Numismatique*, *Société pour l'Étude du Maghreb Préhistorique, Antique et Médiéval* (SEMPAM), as well as a member of the *Conseil National des Universités* (CNU) and of the Scientific Council and Administration of the *École française d'Athènes*. He was member and president of the *Académie Delphinale*, correspondent

of the *Académie de Savoie* and the *Accademia Peloritani* of Messina. Finally, he was elected on 15 November 2002 to the *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*. The professor received numerous honours and distinctions: he was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite, Commandeur de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques et Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. There are countless authoritative publications to his name, among which his major works include: *Cyrène et la Libye hellénistique*. *Libykai Historiai de l'époque républicaine au principat d'Auguste* (1987), *L'Afrique antique, histoire et monuments*, together with J.-Cl. Golvin (2001), *Leptis Magna, la splendeur et l'oubli*, together with G. Degeorge and M. Saïed (2005), and a multitude of books and articles about Libya and Greece. His scientific opus is one of the richest in the field, spread over a multitude of interests. He was a great Hellenist and Africanist, who loved Greek civilisation, Hellenistic and Roman epigraphy, art, ancient history, and numismatics.



*Professor André Laronde in the Apollonia Museum store (photo: Gilles Mermet).*

## OBITUARIES

André Laronde devoted much of his research to Cyrenaica (Apollonia, Cyrene, Latrun), Tripolitania (Leptis Magna) and the gulf of Sirt (tell el-Sultan). His interest in Libya, like that of many others, came from his teacher François Chamoux, who in 1976 founded the French archaeological mission in Libya, directed by André Laronde from 1981 to 2011 and now by myself. He was a great and respected head of mission in Libya, creating a multidisciplinary and multi-period French mission, in harmonious collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of Libya and in friendly partnership with different archaeological missions (Italian, Polish, British...). Always keen to promote and publicise the archaeological heritage of Libya, he directed various restoration projects both in Cyrenaica (Apollonia and Latrun) and in Tripolitania (the mausoleum of Qasr ed-Douirat). Throughout his

career, his determination endured, even in the most difficult periods in the history of Libya.

André Laronde was also a teacher renowned for his attention to detail and maintaining the interest of his audience. He contributed greatly to the reputation of his discipline through his passion for the subject and by transmitting his knowledge to generations of students and colleagues. A tireless worker and explorer, he will be much missed by his friends, colleagues and acquaintances. Professor André Laronde was already immortal as an academician, but it is through his work, his research and the transmission of his knowledge of history and archaeology between the two shores of the *Mare Nostrum* that he will be remembered always.

Vincent Michel