

In Memoriam

MOUNAH KHOURI (1918-1996) was Professor (emeritus) of Arabic Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, when he died on December 28, 1996, in Walnut Creek, California. He was born in South Lebanon on November 26, 1918, studied at the American University of Beirut for his BA and MA and spent one year at Oxford before he entered Harvard to study for a PhD under the supervision of Sir Hamilton Gibb. The dissertation he submitted in 1964 was subsequently published in book form under the title *Poetry and the Making of Modern Egypt: 1882-1922* (Leiden, 1971).

After brief teaching stays at the American University of Beirut and Georgetown, Professor Khouri joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley in 1960, where he taught Arabic literature in the Department of Near Eastern Studies until his retirement in 1989. During this period Professor Khouri served as Chair of the Department and as Director of the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (Cairo).

Professor Khouri's publications encompassed a wide range of scholarly interests and disciplines. His studies at the American University of Beirut culminated in the publication of two pioneering works in Arabic: *Toynbee's Theory of History* (Beirut, 1960) and *The Literary Criticism of T.S. Eliot, Archibald MacLeish, and I.A. Richards* (Beirut, 1964).

At Berkeley, in addition to teaching and supervising many MA and PhD dissertations, Professor Khouri collaborated with several colleagues to produce perhaps the first professional college textbook for teaching Arabic to non-native speakers: *Elementary Modern Standard Arabic* (Cambridge, 1982). Directly related to this pedagogical interest are two other books, which he also coauthored, namely, *Readings in Arabic Literature* (Leiden, 1971) and *An Anthology of Modern Arabic Poetry* (Berkeley, 1974).

Poetry, more than any other literary genre, exercised the imagination of Professor Khouri and made a supreme claim to his intellectual gifts and scholarly endeavor. An impressive poet in his own right, he found spiritual affinity in the works of fellow poets and devoted his critical faculties to illuminating their insights to his readers. His last book, *Studies in Contemporary Arabic Poetry and Criticism* (Piedmont, CA, 1987), as well as his important article on Arabic literature in *The Genius of Arab Civilization* (1992), among others, amply attest to this special relationship. Those who knew Mounah personally will remember his love for Arabic poetry conjointly with his phenomenal ability to recite from memory an impressive number of lines on any given occasion.

Retirement from active teaching did not put an end to Mounah's numerous intellectual and creative pursuits. He maintained active contact with his many colleagues on the Berkeley campus and with many of his former students until the last days of his life. During the last two years he collaborated with the Lebanese poet Qaysar Afif, now residing in Mexico City, in writing his long-awaited

memoirs: *Hasad al-Dhakira: Mounah Khouri Yatadhakkar: Lubnan, Filastin, al-Mahjar* (Sayda, 1997). "Lazarus," his last poem, was left unfinished.

Shortly before his death, Professor Khouri was given the satisfaction of knowing that a volume of collected studies written in his honor by former students and colleagues had been completed. The book, edited by Professors Issa Boullata and Terri de Young, will be published by the University of Arkansas in June, 1997; it represents a fitting memorial to our much admired and already sorely missed colleague.

MUHAMMAD SIDDIQ

University of California, Berkeley

KARL STOWASSER, Professor Emeritus of Islamic History and Arabic Studies at the University of Maryland at College Park, died on February 14, 1997, at Fairfax Hospital in Virginia, after a long struggle against leukemia. He was 71 years old and had been a member of the Maryland faculty since 1970. He received his Dr. phil. *magna cum laude* in 1966 from the Westphalian Wilhelms University in Münster, Federal Republic of Germany. Prior to his appointment to the University of Maryland, he taught Arabic language and linguistics at Georgetown University.

Professor Stowasser was born in Kraslice (Graslitz), Czechoslovakia, where he completed his Gymnasium studies. Drafted into the German army in 1944, he was captured by American troops during the Allied invasion at Normandy and spent the remainder of World War II as a prisoner of war in the United States. Upon repatriation, he trained as a professional translator-interpreter, receiving diplomas for English, French and Arabic at the Institut für Fremdsprachen und Auslandskunde in Erlangen in 1949-50.

He held a variety of language positions in the 1950s, including service as a translator for the Syrian General Staff in Damascus (1951-52), secretary-interpreter at the Egyptian Consulate-General in Frankfurt/Main (1953-54) and head of the Middle East Radio-Monitoring Service of West Germany's Press and Information Office (1955-56).

He is the author of several dictionaries and lexicographical works, notably: with Moukhtar Ani, *A Dictionary of Syrian Arabic: English-Arabic*; with B.E. Clarity and Ronald G. Wolfe, *A Dictionary of Iraqi Arabic: English-Arabic* (both for Georgetown University Press, 1964); with Barbara F. Stowasser, "Versuch einer semologischen Analyse arabischer Lexeme," in W. Fischer, ed., *Festgabe für Hans Wehr* (Wiesbaden, 1969); "On the Treatment of Function Words in Bilingual Arabic Dictionaries," in A. Borg and P. Wexler, eds., *In Memoriam Prof. Haim Blanc* (Wiesbaden, 1989). His other published works are: *At-Tahtawi in Paris*, his printed doctoral dissertation (1968), which was revised for publication in 1988 as *Ein Muslim entdeckt Europa: Rifa'a al-Tahtawi's Bericht über seinen Aufenthalt in Paris, 1826-1831* (Munich, Leipzig); and "Manners and Customs at the Mamluk Court," *Muqarnas* 2(1984):13-20.9.

He had been working for a number of years on a critical edition of Maqrizi's *Khitat*, and had managed to transcribe, translate and fully annotate several hundred pages of the original text before he became too ill to continue. Although Karl