

## IN MEMORIAM

**Laila 'Ali Ibrahim** (1917-2002) passed away Sunday, July 14, 2002. She was 85. She was the most knowledgeable scholar of the architectural and urban history of Cairo. In fact, many students of Mamluk art and architecture have come to identify Laila with Cairo: she was the 'Godmother' of the City and the guardian of its monuments.

Laila had no formal art historical education. She gained her expertise through exposure to the best minds concerned with the fate of historic Cairo in the 1940s and 1950s. These included her father, Dr. 'Ali Ibrahim, a major Islamic art collector whom she adored, and K.A.C. Creswell, the eccentric Briton who spent most of his working life studying the Islamic architecture of Cairo. But she had one thing that most scholars of Cairo of her time did not have: total devotion to her subject. This showed in her publications, public lectures, and participation in countless organizations for the safeguard of the monuments of Cairo. It also came across in her formal and informal teaching. For many years, she taught the history of Cairo at the American University of Cairo (AUC) and made herself available to any researcher, Egyptian or international, interested in studying Mamluk Cairo.

Laila's articles and one published book are solid, carefully researched, and clearly written pieces. She focused mostly on little studied aspects of Cairene architecture that other scholars avoided. She took special interest, for instance, in Mamluk residential architecture, about which she published a number of erudite articles. She also delved into writing on little known or ruined monuments, such as the Khanqahs of Amir Qawsun and of Zayn al-Din Yusef or the Madrasa of Badr al-Din al-'Ayni. Her book on Mamluk building terminology, published in 1990 and co-authored with the late Muhammad Muhammad Amin, is an indispensable source for all students of Cairo. It is the distillation of the expertise of these two irreplaceable scholars: Laila with her intimate and extensive knowledge of the historic buildings and Amin with his profound familiarity with the legal documents related to them.

Laila spent more than half a century studying, teaching, and speaking for and on behalf of the architecture of Cairo. But she shunned all ceremonial social events and was interested only in productive or scholarly ones. Her admirers managed to put together a collection of essays in her honor, *The Cairo Heritage*, which was edited by Dr. Doris Abouseif and published by AUC Press in 2001, although Laila unfortunately was unable to read it. Laila left a small but extremely valuable library that I hope will find an institutional home where it would

become open to all researchers from all over the world. This is how Laila herself would have liked it to be.

NASSER RABBAT

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

**Salim Khaldieh**, assistant professor at Wayne State University, passed away on April 10, 2001 at the age of 44. Services and burial were in Lebanon. Dr. Khaldieh taught in the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Studies at WSU for four years. A most dedicated teacher, he received the College of Liberal Arts Teaching Award. He had recently completed and submitted for publication a manuscript on the teaching of Arabic as a second language. He played a major role in the development and recruitment of students in the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Studies. He relentlessly worked with students, and developed new teaching materials to suit the needs of a diverse student body. He never hesitated to teach overload courses in order to satisfy the needs of students and his students enjoyed discussing all aspects of Arabic with him and learned a great deal from his expertise and insights.

"Salim was the perfect colleague," said Dr. Aleya Rouchdy, "chair of the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Languages. "His services to the Department were numerous. He was always available beyond his regular duty hours to help us or advise our students. I will always remember his animated style of narration, his constant citation of humorous idiomatic expressions, and his warm laughter. We will miss him as a colleague, but above all we will miss Salim as a dear young friend."

The Salim Khaldieh Scholarship has been established by the Department of Near Eastern and Asian Languages to assist students in the study of Arabic Language and Culture. Contributions may be made payable to Wayne State University, with the notation Salim Khaldieh Fund, and mailed to the Department at: Room 437 Manoogian Hall, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202.

ALEYA ROUCHDY

*Wayne State University*

**Gregory C. Kozlowski** (1947-2002) Professor of History at DePaul University, died in Evanston, Illinois on May 29, 2002, after suffering complications in the wake of heart surgery. A scholar of South Asian and Islamic history, Professor Kozlowski was an international authority on Muslim philanthropic endowments in both British India and modern Pakistan and India, an innovator in teaching the history of world