



OBITUARY

GEORGES ROUX 1914–1999

Georges Raymond Nicolas Albert Roux was born at Salon-de-Provence on 16 November 1914. His father was in the French army and he spent his formative years (1923–1935) in Syria and the Lebanon. From 1936 to 1939 he read Assyriology at the Ecole du Louvre and at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes while at the same time studying medicine (he graduated in 1941). He joined the Iraq Petroleum Company in 1950 and was Chief Medical Officer in Iraq from 1950 to 1959. From 1960 until his retirement in 1980, he was head of the International Medical Department of Glaxo-Wellcome in London and Paris. He lived in France for the next seventeen years but moved to London in 1997. He died in Paris on 12 August 1999.

To readers of *Iraq* he will be best known as the writer of *Ancient Iraq* first published in 1964, reissued by Pelican in 1966 and reprinted in 1969, 1972, 1976 and 1977. The second edition appeared in 1980 and the third in 1992. This readable and authoritative book has been essential reading for all students of Near Eastern archaeology and all travellers to Iraq for the last thirty-five years, as well as being an invaluable reference book for all in the field. An edition in Arabic was published in Iraq in 1987. *Mésopotamie*, its French counterpart, appeared in 1985, was updated in 1995, and translated into Spanish (1987; 1990) and Polish (1998). His book *Initiation à l'Orient ancien — De Sumer à la Bible* was published in 1992 and was also translated into Spanish (1996). Roux wrote a *History of Erbil*, published in Iraq in 1990 (Salahaldeen University), and articles for the journals *Sumer*, *Revue d'Assyriologie* and *L'Histoire*, and for encyclopedias.

Together with his wife Christiane, whom he married in 1972, Georges Roux regularly attended the meetings of the Groupe François Thureau-Dangin (Rencontres Assyriologiques Internationales) and lectures of the British School, of which he had been a member since 1952. We shall miss him.

Obituaries have appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* (26/8/99), *Le Monde* (31/8/99) and the *Guardian* (8/9/99).