

IN MEMORIAM

Labib Zuwiyya-Yamak, librarian and scholar, succumbed to a long and tragic illness on September 13, 1972.

Born in Lebanon on January 12, 1926, he earned his A.B. (in philosophy) and M.S. (in political science) at the American University, and his Ph.D., also in political science, from the University of Michigan. In addition to teaching at the American University of Beirut for several years, he began his notable career as a librarian at that institution, serving as Arabic cataloguer from 1954 to 1956 and advancing to the post of Head of Technical Processes from 1956 to 1958.

Labib is, perhaps, best known in connection with his service to the Harvard College Library, to which he came in 1959 as Middle Eastern Specialist. Three years later, when the Middle Eastern Division of Widener Library was organized, Labib became its first Head; and for the next ten years he guided its growth from a small and indifferent accumulation to an internationally known research collection.

During this period Labib, in addition to writing numerous reviews, edited the five-volume Catalogue of Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Turkish Books (Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Library, 1968). His major publication was The Syrian Social Nationalist Party: An Ideological Analysis (Harvard University Press, 1966).

When MESA was first organized, Labib was selected to serve on the Committee on Research and Training and was Chairman of the Library Sub-Committee, but the initial stages of his illness deprived MESA of his potentiality for service.

In addition to leaving behind an enduring monument in the Harvard College Library--his devotion to which is being memorialized in a special book fund for Arabic literature--Labib left all his numerous friends and associates with an unmatched example of courage and fortitude against a relentless illness. His life was devoted to learning and scholarship; his final years, a testimony to family love and depth of faith.

D. Partington
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