

IN MEMORIAM

R.P. MICHEL ALLARD

Among the many casualties of the current crisis in Beirut is the noted scholar and humanist R.P. Michel Allard, Director of the Institute of Oriental Literature at the University of Saint-Joseph. Father Allard was killed by a rocket explosion in his room on the night of January 16 at the age of 51. A theologian, Docteur es-Lettres and Arabist, he had previously been a Chargé de Recherche at the French National Center for Scientific Research. He was the author of A Chronology of the Works of Al-Ghazzali, The Problem of Divine Attributes in the Works of Ach'ari and his First Disciples and a Treatise on the Trinity. He was also founding editor of Travaux et Jours. Father Allard developed as well a conceptual analysis of the Koran through the use of keywords for computer which was useful in permitting the integrated and detailed study of the Muslim scripture from both the theological and literary as well as social and historical points of view. His work at his death was concentrated on a structural analysis of Ibn Khaldun. Above all, his life's work was directed toward the development of dialogue and understanding between Christians and Muslims, between Christian and Muslim thought and between philosophical and social understanding of the world in which he worked.

I. William Zartman
New York University



World of Islam Festival
London April-June 1976

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Islamic civilization, spreading east to Indonesia, west to Morocco, north to Tashkent and south to Nigeria, has brought a sense of cultural unity to many diverse races. For over 1300 years it has given to the world a culture of great artistic and intellectual achievement, with the Qur'an as its inspirational source and Mecca as its religious center. In cities like Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Fez, Cordova, Isfahan, Istanbul and Delhi, universities fostered scientific and artistic development to which the West is permanently indebted. The fruits of Islamic architecture, engineering, medicine, calligraphy, music, philosophy and poetry have enriched the world's cultural heritage. The World of Islam Festival will reflect the splendour of this civilization and encourage a new, informed understanding of Islam for both laymen and scholars.

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