



ALBERT ERNEST GLOCK¹
1925-1992

Albert Ernest Glock, professor of archaeology and director of the Institute of Archaeology at Birzeit University, was shot and killed by an unknown assassin on January 19, 1992, on the West Bank near Jerusalem.

Professor Glock was born September 14, 1925, in Gifford, Idaho. As a young man, he studied at the University of Chicago, Brandeis University, and the University of Heidelberg. In 1951 he graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He received a Master's degree from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in 1963, and in 1968 was awarded a Ph.D. in Near Eastern studies from the University of Michigan. From 1957 to 1976 he was professor of Old Testament theology at Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest, Illinois. Albert Glock is survived by his two brothers, his wife and their four children, and three grandchildren.

Dr. Glock was research professor at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research from 1970 to 1977, and director of the Institute from 1978 to 1980. During the period of his directorship, he visited all the Institute's field projects in Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan, always advocating rigorous standards for excavation, recording, and analysis. But his fundamental concern was not methodological, rather it was for the human beings whose lives and societies were partially revealed by the archaeological remains. During the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, he participated in and/or directed several seasons of archaeological fieldwork at a series of sites including Tell Salata, Tell Ta'anek, and Tell Jenin.

Glock was appointed professor of archaeology at Birzeit University in 1976, and was head of the Institute of Archaeology there until his death. The Institute is the first, and so far the only, program in archaeology at a Palestinian university. Despite the time-consuming job of initiating and maintaining this curriculum and, with it, a tradition of Palestinian archaeology, Dr. Glock published numerous articles on the archaeology of Palestine. His life-long familiarity with Jerusalem and the

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surrounding region made him vividly aware of numerous and continuing threats to the ethnographic, archaeological, and cultural heritage of this volatile area. In his own work and in that of his students, therefore, he stressed the necessity of ethnoarchaeological research in various contemporary settings, including refugee camps. At the time of his death he was working on the publication of a series of site reports based on the long-term archaeological and ethnoarchaeological research he and his students carried out at the site of Ta'annek. The first in the series is a book that had been scheduled for publication in 1992: *The Archaeology of the Village of Ti'innek, Palestine*.

Living in a country where the archaeological record is often treated unevenly to suit political ends, Professor Glock was thoroughly committed to the full span of Palestinian archaeology. He dedicated his career and gave his life to that subject and to the young people who shared his hopes for the development of an indigenous archaeology in the war-torn land. He was incredibly energetic and resourceful in his pursuit of that goal. He spared himself and others no effort or expense in searching out the latest archaeological techniques, methods, theories, and consultants wherever they might be found, once he decided they were necessary to the program he was directing. He adhered to the highest scholarly standards himself, and demanded that his students do the same. To them he was utterly devoted, and those who stuck with the stringent archaeological curriculum he devised deeply admired and respected him. One of his students says of him, "He was a meticulous scholar, dedicated, hard working, kind, witty, and endlessly giving."

Only by dint of his personal integrity, his sensitive intelligence, and his impeccable scholarly reputation was he able to persevere so long in what was and is an impossible situation. He understood very clearly the contradictions, ambiguities, and personal danger inherent in the course he charted. He unhesitatingly accepted the risks, and he achieved remarkable successes in the face of persistent, multifaceted, and violent opposition.

In spite of the unremitting struggle in which he was engaged for more than a decade, Al Glock was not at all a grim or taciturn person. He was a sociable, outgoing, kindly man, who bore his increasingly onerous and personally threatening burdens with amazing grace and good humor. He did not anticipate nor seek martyrdom, but his assailant gave him no choice. He was deeply loved and is mourned by his family, students, colleagues, and friends.

PATTY JO WATSON AND GHADA ZIADEH

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NOTE

¹ The lead photograph was taken in Dr. Glock's home in Jerusalem ca. the late 1980s, and appears courtesy Lois Glock.