

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Roger LeTourneau was the leading expert on the history of Fes, the Director of the foremost center of North African studies and above all a scholar with a sense of dedication, humanity and openness unsurpassed by his peers.

He began his career in North African studies by teaching in the Franco-Muslim secondary school in Fez under the Protectorate, during which he served as friend and mentor to leading Moroccan figures who would later guide their country's independent destiny. During the early years of World War II he was Director of Education in Tunisia but was later interned. After the war he was Deputy Director of the Centre des Hautes Etudes d'Administration Musulmane in Paris, and in 1947 was appointed as professor of history and civilization of the Muslim West in the University of Algiers. In 1957 he was offered the chair of Islamic civilization at Aix-en-Provence, and directed the Center for Research on Mediterranean Africa. During the student revolts of 1968, he was elected Director of his Unit of Teaching and Research. On alternate years over the past decade Professor LeTourneau was also Visiting Professor at Princeton University.

Professor LeTourneau was author of numerous works on Muslim urban history including Damas de 1075 à 1154 (1952); Fes avant le Protectorat; Fes in the Age of the Marinides; Les Villes musulmanes de l'Afrique du Nord. He also wrote a comprehensive political history of emerging North Africa: L'Evolution politique de l'Afrique du Nord musulmane, 1920-1961; his other important works of history include: L'Islam contemporain (1952); Les débuts de la dynastie Sa'dienne (1954); and most recently, The Almohad Movement in North Africa in the 12th and 13th Centuries. He revised the second volume of Charles-André Julien's Histoire de l'Afrique du Nord. Professor LeTourneau was a member of the Board of Editors of the International Journal of Middle East Studies and was responsible for creating and editing the Annuaire du l'Afrique du Nord since 1962.

Professor LeTourneau was devoted both to his scholarship and to his students. He increased knowledge and understanding of the North African area, but perhaps an even greater contribution was the personal dedication with which he trained North Africans, Frenchmen and Americans to continue the work of scholarly investigation in his principle participation in human affairs. Professor LeTourneau died on April 7, 1971.