



Office of the Dean of the Faculty
9 Nassau Hall
Princeton, New Jersey 08544

Olga Peters Hasty, *Clerk of the Faculty*

November 13, 2018

American Oriental Society
Secretary of the AOS Office
Hatcher Graduate Library
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Dear American Oriental Society,

It is my privilege, as Clerk of the Faculty, to forward to you a copy of a Memorial Resolution adopted by unanimous rising vote of the Faculty at its meeting of November 5, 2018.

Please accept my condolences together with those of the entire faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olga Peters Hasty".

Olga Peters Hasty
Clerk of the Faculty

OPH\kan
Enclosure

BERNARD LEWIS

1916-2018

This Memorial Resolution
prepared by a special committee,
was approved by unanimous rising vote at the meeting
of the Princeton University Faculty
on November 5, 2018 and ordered spread upon the
records of the Faculty.

Bernard Lewis

1916–2018

Bernard Lewis, Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Emeritus, passed away Saturday, May 19, 2018, in Voorhees Township, NJ, at the age of 101, less than two weeks before his 102nd birthday. Lewis, who came to Princeton in 1974 with a joint appointment as Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and Long-term Member of the Institute for Advanced Studies, was the preeminent and most influential scholar of the Middle East during the second half of the twentieth century and into the first years of the twenty-first century. By combining formal training in the discipline of history with a thorough knowledge of the languages of the region, he was one of the first to break the mold of the traditional Orientalist scholar. His writings covered everything from the rise of Islam in the seventh century to the revolt of Islamists in the twenty-first century, from the empires of the Arabs and the Ottomans to the histories of sects and minorities, from the relations among states and cultures within the Middle East to the interactions between the Middle East and the West.

Born in London in 1916, Lewis earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of London in 1936 and, following a year at the University of Paris, his Ph.D. also from the University of London in 1939. Appointed an Assistant Lecturer in Islamic History at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in 1938 and Lecturer in 1940, Lewis then served in the British Army and British Intelligence during the war years. Returning to SOAS following the war, he was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1946 and Reader in 1947. In 1949 he was named Professor of the History of the Near and Middle East, a position

he held until his move to Princeton in September 1974. Following his retirement from Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study in 1986, Lewis became Director of the newly founded Annenberg Research Institute, a position he held for four years. During his second retirement, Lewis remained active, publishing sixteen books and over sixty articles.

According to Abraham Udovitch, long-time chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Lewis's arrival in Princeton in 1974, together with that of Middle East economic historian Charles Issawi in 1975, "transformed the Department of Near Eastern Studies into the preeminent department of the time." Udovitch noted that Lewis "was a brilliant teacher and very dedicated to his students. His door was always open; any student could come in and he was extremely available to his colleagues. He taught graduate and undergraduate students, and mentored graduate students who are now scholars around the globe," including in the Middle East. Among the advisees from the region that he trained were major scholars in Cairo, Tel Aviv, Amman, and Baghdad, and students of his students in Damascus and Khartoum.

Lewis strongly supported the establishment of the Program in Women's Studies at Princeton, now the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies. He was also well known among his students and colleagues as an advocate for gender studies and for gender parity in Middle Eastern Studies, and across disciplines.

Lewis was the recipient of numerous academic honors worldwide, including a Citation of Honor from the Turkish Ministry of Culture, the Harvey Prize from the Israel Institute of Technology, the Atatürk Peace Prize, and the

National Humanities Medal, as well as fifteen honorary doctorates, including from Tel Aviv University (1979), University of Pennsylvania (1987), Ankara University (1996), and Princeton University (2002). He was named the Tanner Lecturer (Oxford University) and the Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities (NEH), both in 1990, and he gave the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Lecture in 1992.

Lewis was a Fellow of the British Academy, a Corresponding Member of the Institut d'Égypte (Cairo), an Honorary Member of the Turkish Historical Society, a Member of the American Philosophical Society, a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Honorary Member of the Société Asiatique, an Honorary Member of the Atatürk Academy of History, Language, and Culture, an Honorary Member of the School of Oriental and African Studies, a member of the Board of Directors of the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (Vienna), and a Corresponding Member of the Institut de France, Académie des Inscriptions et des Belles Lettres.

Lewis published his first book, *The Origins of Ismailism*, in 1940, and his last book, *Notes on a Century* in 2012. In between, he wrote or edited forty-eight additional works. These include *The Arabs in History*, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, *Istanbul and the Civilization of the Ottoman Empire*, *The Middle East and the West*, *The Assassins*, *Race and Color in Islam*, *The Muslim Discovery of Europe*, *The Jews of Islam*, *The Political Language of Islam*, *The Middle East: Two Thousand Years of History from the Rise of Christianity to the Present Day*, *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*, *From Babel to Dragomans: Interpreting the Middle East*, and *Faith and Power: Religion and Politics in the Middle East*.

His edited works include *Historians of the Middle East*, *The Cambridge History of Islam*, and *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire*. He also served as one of the three senior editors of the second edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* for thirty-one years.

Perhaps his most important and best known work, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey* established the framework for the study of the late Ottoman Empire and its transformation to a modern and secular Turkey for generations of students and scholars by focusing on the actions of Ottoman statesmen and not on the actions of European statesmen in the context of the Eastern Question. Published in 1961 and based upon an extensive reading of publications in Ottoman Turkish, modern Turkish, and numerous European languages, *Emergence* is an elegantly written, authoritative, and insightful interpretation of late Ottoman history and the creation and growth of the Kemalist Republic.

A giant in the field, his academic legacy is well attested by an unmatched record of publication and by the many students and students of his students who have had a major impact in the field. A fitting epitaph comes from the preface to the Arabic translation of *The Middle East and the West* in which the translator writes, “The author is in any case one of two things: either a friend whom we consider to be above distorting truths, or a noble enemy who is unable to close his eyes to history.”

Mister President: For the Committee, I move that this Resolution be spread on the records of the Faculty; that a copy be sent to Buntzie Churchill, his longtime partner, Michael Lewis, his son, and Melanie Dunn, his daughter, and to the Archivist of the University.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michael A. Cook

Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Bernard Haykel

Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Shaun Marmon

Associate Professor of Religion