

IN MEMORIAM

ALEXANDRE BENNIGSEN

ALEXANDRE BENNIGSEN, Professor of Russo-Turkish History at the University of Chicago from 1971 to 1983, died on June 3, 1988. Born in St. Petersburg in 1913, Bennigsen left Russia with his family after the Revolution, eventually settling in France.

After World War II, during which he was active in the Resistance, he received degrees from the School of Oriental Languages and from the faculty of History at the University of Paris, specializing in the history of Islam and the Turks in the Ottoman Empire and Central Asia.

He authored or co-authored numerous articles and books, among which *Islam in the Soviet Union*, *Muslim National Communism in the Soviet Union*, *Les Musulmans oubliés*, and *Le khanat de Crimée dans les Archives du Musée de Topkapi* may be mentioned. In some of these works and his classes and lectures, he constantly emphasized the unique scientific importance of the Ottoman Archives. He was a gracious colleague, an inspiring teacher, and an indefatigable advocate of integration of Eastern European, Russian, and Middle Eastern history.

He is survived by his wife Hélène, three daughters—Marie, Fanny, and Elisabeth—and a son Pierre.

This notice has been taken from the fall newsletter of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Chicago, pp. 1–2.

AZIZ S. ATIYA

AZIZ SURYAL ATIYA, founder of the University of Utah's Middle East Center, and Distinguished Professor of History, died September 24, 1988, after a short illness.

Professor Atiya was an internationally known scholar who was born in a small village in Egypt in 1898. He earned a Bachelor's degree from London University, as well as advanced degrees from the University of Liverpool, the University of Utah, and a law degree from Brigham Young University.

In the summer of 1958, Dr. Atiya came to the University of Utah as a visiting professor. One year later, at the invitation of then-President A. Ray Olpin, Dr. Atiya returned to the University of Utah as a Professor of Languages and History. In 1962, with the support of the University's administration, Professor Atiya established the Middle East Center and directed it for the next five years.

Dr. Atiya's approach to institutional development was unique and has often been cited as a model for area studies programs. He argued forcefully that centers of excellence can only be developed around research resources

which will attract outstanding faculty. That argument is common in the sciences but not in the humanities. Consequently, Dr. Atiya's major efforts were initially directed toward the development of resources for Middle East research which served as the basis for the creation of the Aziz S. Atiya Library for Middle East Studies, ranked as one of the major Middle East research libraries in the United States. This library is remarkable not simply for its breadth but also for the unique and rare collections that make it a focal point for scholars from around the world.

Beginning a new career at a new institution at an age when many individuals would be planning for retirement, Dr. Atiya made extensive contributions to the University of Utah: the development of the foundation for the Middle East collection of the Marriott Library, the creation of the Middle East Center, and the expansion of faculty concerned with the Middle East. In 1979, he expanded his commitment to the Coptic Encyclopedia, which will be published by Macmillan. He secured substantial financial support for the Encyclopedia from the National Endowment for the Humanities and personally raised all of the required matching funds. To ensure that research on the Copts would continue, he created a trust to support continuing research at the University of Utah, which will be funded by private donations and the assignment of all royalties from the Encyclopedia. This project will continue under the direction of Professor Atiya's wife and assistant, Lola Atiya.

Dr. Atiya's academic accomplishments were exceptional. Although his work on the Crusades remains the standard in the field, his work spans three critical fields: the Crusades, Islamic studies, and Coptic studies. He published approximately twenty books, many multi-volume projects. His journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia contributions have appeared regularly over a period of thirty-five years. His pursuit of research materials has led to major, unique discoveries such as the *Codex Arabicus* and the *Codex Georgianus* of Mt. Sinai, the *Scrolls of Mt. Sinai*, and other rare papyrus scrolls.

The University of Utah gained much from Dr. Atiya, as did his numerous students, who have scattered to the four corners of the world. Dr. Atiya was an exemplary scholar, but he will also be remembered as a courtly gentleman who always had a kind word of encouragement for students and set an example for us all with his untiring efforts, working until his last days at his desk in the library that bears his name.

This notice has been taken with minor changes from the fall 1988 issue of the University of Utah's Middle East Center newsletter.