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Andras Hamori

Tradition and Reception in Arabic Literature

Essays dedicated to Andras Hamori

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The sign on the cover, designed by Anwārī al Ḥusaynī, symbolizes a scale.

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Preface

Andras Hamori grew up in Budapest, began his undergraduate studies of Arabic and Persian at the University of Vienna, and completed his A.B. at Princeton. After finishing his Ph.D. at Harvard, he joined the faculty of the Near Eastern Studies Department at Princeton in 1967, where he worked for forty-six years and became the Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies. Andras Hamori's scholarship on pre-modern poetry and prose literature in Arabic reveals crucial insights into the intersection of diverse world views, the sedimentation of conventions, the nuances of manners, allusions to religion, the aesthetics of rhetorical devices, the artistic shaping of historical narrative, form and logic, and attitudes toward the human experience of time. In addition, he explores some of the same issues in Hebrew literature. Whether he is investigating the intersection of highbrow and folk culture, navigating the serious and the comic, analyzing patterns of composition, uncovering ethical dynamics, or exploring how rhetorical devices articulate structures of thought, Andras Hamori guides us through a tradition that is as rich and self-assured as it is different from modern culture in its assumptions about the literary representation of social life. When Andras Hamori taught third year Arabic, organized graduate seminars on topics of students' interest, designed qualifying exams, advised dissertations, or guided colleagues in planning and revising projects, he generously shared his in-depth and extensive experience in the modern scholarly reception of pre-modern Arabic literature.

As a teacher and scholar of Arabic language and literature, Andras Hamori has helped to shape the work of a range of students of Arabic literature, including students who pursued careers in the fields of Arabic language and literature, comparative literature, area studies, history, philosophy, religious studies, education, English, and law. Professor Hamori's commitment to excellence in philology and to helping students develop their own insights into Arabic texts has enabled them to complete rewarding projects that offer new and diverse perspectives on Arabic literature and culture. As a colleague in the field of Arabic language and literature, Andras Hamori has displayed a commitment to collegial discourse that is as pleasant and engaging as it is intellectually rigorous and challenging. His bibliography, and the chapters by his students and colleagues in this *Festschrift*, demonstrate the ways in which Andras Hamori has helped to define our understanding of Arabic poetry, prose literature, and language within the context of global intellectual culture.

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