

## IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL W. DOLS

ON 1 DECEMBER 1989, Middle Eastern and Islamic studies lost a dynamic scholar, a talented artist, and a gentleman with the most untimely passing of Michael Dols. Born in Baltimore on 6 July 1942 and raised in that city, Michael began his scholarly life with the receipt of a full scholarship to Trinity College, Hartford, in 1960. Upon graduating with a B.A. in history in 1964, he went to University College, London, for a year on a fellowship to the Institute for Historical Research. Returning to the United States in 1965, he began graduate school in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. While there, he developed a strong interest in Middle Eastern history. Consequently, after obtaining an M.A. from UNC in 1967, he entered Princeton, from which he received a Ph.D. in Near Eastern history in 1971.

Michael was one of the most innovative and brilliant of the generation of American students who were beguiled by Middle Eastern studies in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the halcyon days of Middle East area programs. His dissertation, on the Black Death in the Middle East, was one of the first truly non-traditional and interdisciplinary studies to appear in the rather hidebound field of Middle Eastern history. He subsequently played a leading role in reviving the study of the history of medicine in the Islamic Middle East and in making that subject an important dimension of Islamic social history. His pioneering and meticulous scholarship on topics which were of great consequence for the "process" of history in the Middle East, and which were also relevant, in many respects, to historical, medical, and social questions in other parts of the world, quickly earned him an international reputation. The widespread respect for his work was reflected in the support he received, as post-doctoral grants and fellowships, from the ACLS and SSRC, ARCE, NEH, Smithsonian, and Guggenheim Foundation, and in the solicitation of his expertise as manuscript referee for five prestigious university presses, NEH, and the U.S. Department of Education.

After leaving Princeton in 1971, he began his teaching career in the Department of History at California State University, Hayward. A demanding but highly esteemed teacher, he was promoted to full professor in 1981 and received CSUH's Exceptional Merit Service Award in 1984. From 1985 until his death, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford.

In the 1960s, Michael often spent part of the summer with members of his family and friends on the coast of North Carolina. Slim, face darkened by the sun, he would engage them in the lighthearted banter of those in love with life. He retained his affability and congeniality throughout

his academic career. If he encountered irrationality, absurdity, or vanity—which are not necessarily uncommon in academia—he would gently shake his head and roll his eyes in recognition and forgiveness of such human frailties.

My wife and I first met Michael in Egypt in 1974 when he was “chasing rats” in Cairo. He entertained us on more than one evening, ubiquitous pipe in hand, with his unexpected discoveries. Our paths later crossed on a number of occasions. In June 1988, he came to see us in Ankara. We spent a delightful week exploring the Mediterranean coast together, and then he set out to visit and sketch Seljuk hospitals in central Anatolia. He knew then, but we did not, that he had tested positive for the HIV virus, AIDS.

Even after the first symptoms of this cruel disease appeared, he kept the knowledge of it to himself and continued his research and writing. In December 1988 he was finally forced to return to San Francisco from Oxford for brief hospitalization. Although he learned that he had contracted meningitis, he managed to maintain an active work schedule. With the assistance of a former student, Diana Immisch, he devoted all his energy to completing his last project, a book on the madman in Islamic society. In October he suffered a paralyzing stroke which left him bedridden. When we last saw him he could barely speak, but his spirit was unbroken. There was still fire in his eyes.

His contributions to scholarship and community service, and his devotion to important ideals, were recognized when the Episcopalian Bishop of California officiated at his funeral.

GARY LEISER  
Vacaville, California

Limitations of space forbid us printing the bibliography of Michael Dol's publications here. The bibliography is available from the Editor.

#### ARCHIBALD ROSS LEWIS

ARCHIBALD ROSS LEWIS died suddenly of heart failure on 4 February 1990 at the age of 75. He succumbed at a time when he was still pursuing many interests as president of the Medieval Academy of America. Professor Lewis enjoyed a long and distinguished career. He attended Princeton University where he received his B.A. (1936) and, after studying anthropology at Harvard (1936–37), he returned to Princeton where he was awarded the Ph.D. in medieval history (1940). He taught at the University of South Carolina (1940–1950), the University of Texas (1951–1969), and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (1969–1985). In 1983 he became editor of a journal of maritime history, *The American Neptune*, a position which he held at the time of his death. Although he was trained as a Western medievalist under Joseph R. Strayer, he developed a deep interest in the Middle East early in his career and, consequently, he made many contributions to scholarship concerning the interactions among the sibling