IN MEMORIAM

RAFAEL LEVY

On July 23, 1969, the career of Rafael Levy came to an end. It was a career completely dedicated to work; work for his family, for his religion, for his profession.

Rafael Levy was a man of peace, a gentle man, kind and considerate of others. A more devoted husband would be hard to find: Rafael and Helen were among the most faithful patrons of the fine arts; at concerts, plays, art exhibits, on campus and in town, one was almost sure to see the Levys. Unlike some who devote their energies to the scientific study of language, Rafael was sensitive to literature, both of the French middle ages and the contemporary scene.

He took pride in his two sons and always managed to find time for them as they grew to manhood and useful occupations.

Calm pride, love and faith marked also his self-image as a Jew. But his compassion and sympathy were extended to all men.

After receiving his Bachelor's degree before his twentieth birthday, Rafael Levy won his master's degree two years later and in another two years earned his Ph.D. Both undergraduate and graduate work were carried on at The Johns Hopkins University, in Levy's native
Baltimore. But study and research took him to Europe many times with the financial support of grants from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, Johns Hopkins University (Johnston Scholarship), the American Philosophical Society, and the University of Texas Research Institute.

Levy's teaching career was spent at the University of Wisconsin, of Baltimore, of Louisiana State, of Texas at Austin. It covered a period of 45 years. During that time his scholarly production was maintained at a high level: nine books, over a hundred articles, published both in this country and abroad. A large number of book reviews attest to the wide-ranging study of this scholar. The library he left was a marvelous thing to behold: each book was carefully wrapped in an envelope or a carton, together with any review of it that had appeared, and any pertinent reference to it. Thus each item on his shelves was more than a book, it was a collection of information on a given topic. Such meticulous attention to relevance of material characterized his work, and his library was truly a working library.

By his will Raphael Levy wished to have that portion of his collection of books dealing with Medieval French language and literature, with Judaeo-French and related subjects be given—without reservation—to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Through the Friends of the Hebrew University, over fifteen hundred volumes were sent to Israel. It has been characterized as a "princely" gift, because of the great care of the selection as well as the intrinsic value of many of the items.
The remainder of Levy's professional library was given to Huston-Tillotson College of Austin.

The major part of Raphael Levy's teaching career fell into a period when interest in Philology and particularly in Old French was at a low ebb. His influence as a teacher is then not to be measured in the number of graduate students who worked for their degrees in the field he had chosen for his specialization. Rather, large numbers of graduate students came under his influence and became his friends through the years during which Levy taught the course and gave the examination in the reading knowledge of French for the graduate degree. In this work Levy was expert and as always conscientious and helpful.

Between 1946 and 1966 Levy gave 27 addresses before such groups as Modern Language Association, South-Central Modern Language Association, Alliance Française de Houston, and local organizations: Hillel Foundation, Romance Club, Linguistics Club, Fortnightly Club (he was its President in 1950.).

The world of French Lexicography, French-Hebrew linguistic relationships, and Medieval Studies has lost an outstanding and indefatigable worker. The gap left in the ranks is not entirely empty, however, for younger men will come forward to continue the work, inspired and guided by the scholarly publications of Raphael Levy.

It is not exaggeration to say that, anywhere in Western Europe, in France, Germany, Scandinavia, Holland, Italy, when the University of
Texas was mentioned among scholars interested in these fields, the comment was something like: "Oh, yes, that's where Raphael Levy is!"

His reputation was indeed spread abroad as well as in this country. It was founded upon the breadth of his knowledge and upon the fact that his work was published in many of the most distinguished European journals (see the Bibliography here below).

Norman Hackerman
President of the University of Texas at Austin

Eugene M. Nelson
Secretary of the General Faculty

BOOKS BY PROFESSOR RAPHAEL LEVY

"Recherches lexicographiques sur d'anciens textes français d'origine juive," The Johns Hopkins Studies in Romance Literatures and Languages, Extra volume V (1932).
"Li Coronemenz Locis: Glossaire," (Baltimore, 1932).
"An Introduction to Current Affairs," (Baltimore, 1939).
Contribution à la lexicographie française selon d'anciens textes d'origine juive," (Syracuse, 1960).

*Over one hundred scholarly articles published in America and abroad.

These Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Ernest F. Haden, Chairman, James F. M. Stephens, Jr., and Stanley N. Werbow.