

On the Passing of Nelson Glueck

On Friday, February 12, 1971, Nelson Glueck, world-famous Palestinian archaeologist and president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, passed away after a short illness.

In many respects he was the founder of the American Jewish Archives. In 1947, shortly after his appointment to the presidency of the College, he discussed the future of the Archives with his friend and associate, Professor Jacob R. Marcus. The Archives had just recently been established. Without the slightest hesitation Dr. Glueck offered his friend the use of a building and, until the day of his death, encouraged him in the development of what is now one of the larger American archival depositories.

The Archives is but one phase—indeed a minor one—of the career of Nelson Glueck. In addition to the Archives and the Hebrew Union College Museum, he fashioned an academic empire of four colleges that stretch westward from the hills of Judea to the Pacific Ocean. Glueck was a great man, great because he possessed a very special type of vision and courage. He had the uncanny vision to sense needs and to select competent men to work with him. His courage lay in his indomitable will, his determination to finish what he started. Once he made up his mind, he went ahead. The present massive academic structure towers as his most enduring monument.

As long as the College-Institute stands, the memory of this far-sighted cultural architect will bring a glow of pride to those who were privileged to work with him.

J.R.M.