

## IN MEMORIAM

Myron Bement Smith, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, died on March 21, 1970.

In the recent death of Myron B. Smith both his friends and scholarship have suffered a great loss. At a time when focus of attention on the Middle East has stimulated wide ranging study of the area, Dr. Smith was one of the all too few who specialized in the field of Islamic architecture.

Trained originally as a registered architect, he brought to his work basic knowledge of monuments as constructions. Attracted early in his career by the appeal of Islamic structures, he stressed the concept of discriminating visual observation, especially through the medium of the photograph. It was this interest which resulted in his founding and building up the "Islamic Archives", containing over 87,000 photographic items according to a bulletin of the Library of Congress where he served as Honorary Consultant for some 30 years; and it was this same interest which inspired his posthumous report entitled "Investigation of the Use of Photodocuments in the Teaching of Languages, Cultures and Civilizations of the Near East", a HEW publication. For some years he had also been working on a book on Iranian arches and vaulted architecture which will hopefully be carried to publication.

Dr. Smith was at one and the same time a specialist's specialist, thorough in preparation and meticulous in presentation, as well as everyman's specialist, never more happy than when he could help a younger scholar or initiate the many audiences before whom he spoke in the rich perspectives of Islamic monuments.

(A copy of Dr. Smith's posthumous work, Investigation of the Use of Photodocuments in the Teaching of the Languages, Cultures, and Civilization of the Near East /US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, June 1970/ was mailed to the Fellows of MESA. Additional copies can be obtained from Miss Joy Schmidt, 3802 Military Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.)

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