

Obituary

AWAD MUSTAFA AL-SADAWYA

Awad Mustafa Al-Sadawya, Director-General of Antiquities for Libya, was one of the victims of the disaster when a Libyan aeroplane was shot down by Israeli fighters on 21 February 1973. He was born in Susa (Apollonia) on 21 March 1936.

He had been Director-General since 1970. He began work in the Department of Antiquities at Cyrene under the late Richard Goodchild and, after taking a degree in History in the University of Libya, Benghazi, he entered the University of Liverpool in 1961; in 1964 he was awarded an M.A. for a thesis on the Greek Archaeology of Cyrenaica. Returning to Libya, he resumed work in the Department with great energy and success, and in 1970, after the change of Government, was appointed to the post of Director-General of Antiquities for Libya. From the very first he was quietly confident about the future of archaeological work in Libya and made every effort to develop contacts with foreign scholars and to ensure the archaeological training of his own staff in Libya and abroad. His collaboration with the newly-formed Society for Libyan Studies was a particularly fruitful and successful one. His friends will all remember him for his kindness, great integrity and conscientiousness. His death, together with that of two of his colleagues Isa Salem Al-Aswad and Mohammed Fadil Al-Mayar, is a dreadful blow to many British archaeologists who work in Libya and to whom he was a wise counsellor, a gracious host, an unlimited source of assistance and, above all, a good friend.

Isa Al-Aswad, from Cabao in the Jabal Nafusa, is specially mourned by those archaeologists who made Tripoli their base and who were for long familiar with his patience, his efficiency and his always cheerful spirit and smiling face. He is also remembered with gratitude by all of us who have published articles in *Libya Antiqua*, for which he was the responsible departmental officer.

Fadil Al-Mayar was a promising young archaeologist whose special interest was in Islamic archaeology.

DONALD EMRYS STRONG

The Society has suffered a grievous loss in the sudden death, on 21 September 1973, of its Chairman while visiting Turkey to attend the International Congress of Classical Archaeology. He was forty-six years old.

Donald Strong, who read Greats at Brasenose College, Oxford in 1948–51, and then took the Diploma of Classical Archaeology in 1952, equipped himself still further for his chosen study of the civilization of the Roman Empire by his apprenticeship as Classical Scholar at the British School in Rome in 1952–54. He obtained his D.Phil. in 1954. It was during this period, too, that he first visited Libya, as a member of Richard Goodchild's expedition to Syrtica and Cyrenaica in 1951. He then entered the Greek and Roman Department of the British Museum and became widely acknowledged as one of the leading authorities on Roman imperial art.

In September 1968, he succeeded Richard Goodchild as Professor of the Provinces of the Roman Empire in the University of London and, in the following year, he took part in the creation of the Society of Libyan Studies of which he became Chairman of the Executive Committee. Under his guidance, an important programme of field research has continued in Libya at a time when other contacts between Libya and the United Kingdom were reduced. In particular, he took a keen and responsible interest in the excavation of the Sidi Khrebish site at Benghazi, which was the Society's main activity in 1971–73. The dig had begun as a rescue operation by the Libyan Department of Antiquities and the Society was invited to participate. The demands on the Society's resources were large; time was short, funds had to

be raised and workers found. Consequently the necessary organization had to be improvised almost from month to month. Bearing the brunt of all this was Donald Strong and it was mainly due to his ready response to all calls on his time that the work was carried through.

He never spared himself, and his room at the Institute of Archaeology was a meeting place for students of all ages; all seeking help from him and none being turned away. At the time of his death his two main preoccupations were to bring the Sidi Khrebish enterprise to a successful conclusion and to plan a programme of publications which would enable the Society to take its place worthily among its contemporaries in similar fields. The attaining of this objective will be the most fitting memorial to a man who, apart from his scholarship, had a great personal charm, wit, and an outstanding talent for friendship. Everyone who knew him is conscious that in his enjoyment of his work, and his eagerness to help everybody and all good causes, Donald Strong burned himself out, to the irreparable loss of the Society and the University. Members of the Society will wish to join in an expression of sympathy to his widow and family.