

REMARKS IN HONOR OF SAM KLAUSNER, 10/29/97

It is a great pleasure to take part in honoring our distinguished colleague and my dear friend, Sam Klausner, who retired last year from teaching after twenty nine years at Penn.

Sam is a unique scholar. In an age of increasing specialization, he exemplifies the breadth that is expressed by the term interdisciplinary, and he does so in a most extraordinary way. A math major in college, he holds doctorates in psychology and sociology, reads widely in the humanities, and knows Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, French, Spanish, Yiddish, and Dutch. His Hebrew and Arabic are good enough that he has taught in those languages in Israel, Egypt and Morocco. He has long specialized in the sociology and psychology of religion, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. His books include *Psychiatry and Religion: A Sociological Study of the New Alliance of Ministers and Psychiatrists* (1964), *Religion in the United States* (1971), and *Jews in the Executive Suite* (1987). He has also published several studies of Israeli society. His research has ranged over subjects as diverse as energy policy, pharmaceuticals and the social environment, alcoholism among Alaskan Eskimos, sexual life in Islam in Israel, martyrdom, skydivers, poverty, and interpretations of the Holocaust in modern Jewish policy. He has worked as a clinical psychologist in Israel, has been Program Director at Columbia's Bureau of Applied Social Research, held several positions at the Bureau of Social Science Research in Washington, and was Director and President of the Center for Research on the Acts of Man in Philadelphia. He has been a consultant for the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering and has also served on a number of governmental advisory committees, advising the Departments of Transportation and the Interior. He has served on the International Committee of the American Friends Service Committee. And he has served as editor of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* and of *Contemporary Jewry*, as Executive Secretary of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and as President of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. The latter organization, last December, presented him with the Marshall Sklare Memorial Award for a Career of Distinguished Scholarship in the Study of Jewry.

Following two years as a navigator for the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II, Sam graduated from NYU in 1947, spent time studying in Israel, where his studies were interrupted by a stint in the Foreign Volunteer Unit of the fledgling Israeli Air Force during Israel's War of Independence, and then went on to earn his doctorates in psychology and sociology from Columbia. He came to Penn in 1967 and became Professor of Sociology, an Associate of the Middle East Center, and one of the original members of the Jewish Studies Program. He has also taught at Columbia, Union Theological Seminary, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Al Mansoura University in Egypt and Muhammad V University in Morocco.