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978-0-521-11080-8 - Islamic Jurisprudence in the Classical Era: Norman Calder

Edited by Colin Imber and Robert Gleave

Frontmatter

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Islamic Jurisprudence in the Classical Era

Ten years after his untimely death, Norman Calder is still considered a luminary in the field of Islamic law. At the time he was one among a handful of scholars from the West who were beginning to engage with the subject. In the intervening years, much has changed, and Islamic law is now understood as fundamental to any engagement with the study of Islam, its history, and its society, and Dr Calder's work is integral to that engagement. In this book, Colin Imber has put together and edited four essays by Norman Calder that have never been published. Typically incisive, they categorise and analyse the different genres of Islamic juristic literature that were produced between the tenth and fourteenth centuries, showing what function they served both in preserving Muslim legal and religious traditions and in the day-to-day life of their communities. The essays also examine the status and role of the jurists themselves, and are particularly welcome for giving clear answers to the controversial questions of to what extent Islamic law and juristic thinking changed over the centuries, and was able to adapt to new circumstances. In his introduction to the volume, Robert Gleave assesses the place and importance of Norman Calder's work in the field of Islamic legal studies. This is a ground-breaking book from one of the most important scholars of his generation.

Norman Calder, who died in 1998, was Senior Lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Manchester. His publications include *Studies in Early Muslim Jurisprudence* (1993) and *Interpretation and Jurisprudence in Medieval Islam* (J. Mojaddedi and A. Rippin, eds.) (2006).

Colin Imber was formerly Reader in Turkish at the University of Manchester.

Robert Gleave is Professor of Arabic Studies at the University of Exeter, UK. He works mainly in the area of Islamic legal theory. His books include *Inevitable Doubt: Two Theories of Shī'ī Jurisprudence* (2000) and *Scripturalist Islam: The History and Doctrines of the Akhbārī Shī'ī School* (2007). He is currently working on an examination of interpretation and linguistic meaning in Islamic jurisprudence.

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NORMAN CALDER

Edited by

COLIN IMBER

Introduction and Afterword by

ROBERT GLEAVE

University of Exeter



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Editor's Preface

At the time of his death in 1998, Norman Calder was working on a book that was to form a sequel to his brilliant and controversial *Studies in Early Muslim Jurisprudence*. The four chapters presented here are the outcome of his research on this project, and although they are only part of the book that Norman had envisaged, they nonetheless make a substantial addition to the scholarly literature on classical Islamic jurisprudence. Their importance and position within this literature is the subject of Professor Robert Gleave's Introduction, while his Afterword provides a conspectus of Norman's intellectual and academic development as reflected in an important but easily overlooked part of his *oeuvre*.

The chapters were complete at the time of Norman's death, and my role has been strictly editorial, little more than incorporating hand-written material into the body of the text and providing full source references. I am particularly grateful to Robert Gleave for undertaking to write the Introduction and Afterword, and I must also record my thanks to Mustafa Baig for his bibliographic and technical help.