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978-0-521-57397-9 - *The Thousand and One Nights* in Arabic literature and society

Edited by Richard G. Hovannisian and Georges Sabagh

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GIORGIO LEVI DELLA VIDA CONFERENCES

The Thousand and One Nights in Arabic literature and society

The Thousand and One Nights has become almost as much a part of the Western literary tradition as it is of the Eastern tradition. The tales have captivated audiences for centuries. Historical and non-historical figures come to life in stories which carry messages of universality. Yet, since medieval times, *The Thousand and One Nights* has not been considered worthy of serious literary debate and has been marginalized in the tradition of high Arabic literature. André Miquel, the recipient of the twelfth Giorgio Levi Della Vida award, has successfully defied this taboo, and in a brilliant combination of medieval and modern studies has emphasized the continuity, rather than the compartmentalization, of Arabo-Islamic culture. In this volume, André Miquel's theme-setting essay is followed by contributions from Jamel Eddine Bencheikh, Roy P. Mottahedeh, Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Seeger A. Bonebakker, Muhsin Mahdi, and Stanislav Segert, who examine the literature and societal components of *The Thousand and One Nights*.

Richard Hovannisian is the Holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Armenian History of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Georges Sabagh is former Director of the Gustave E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies and Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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The Thousand and One Nights in Arabic literature and society

May 12–14, 1989

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The Giorgio Levi Della Vida Medal of the Gustave E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, is awarded biennially to an outstanding scholar whose work has significantly and lastingly advanced the study of Islamic civilization. The scholar is selected by a committee appointed by the chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles, meeting under the chairmanship of the director of the Gustave E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies.

The award carries with it a bronze medal and a prize of money, together with the obligation to present in person a formal lecture as part of a conference at the University of California, Los Angeles. The recipient of the award chooses the theme of the conference and selects the other participants. The proceedings of each conference are published in a special series, of which this volume is the twelfth.

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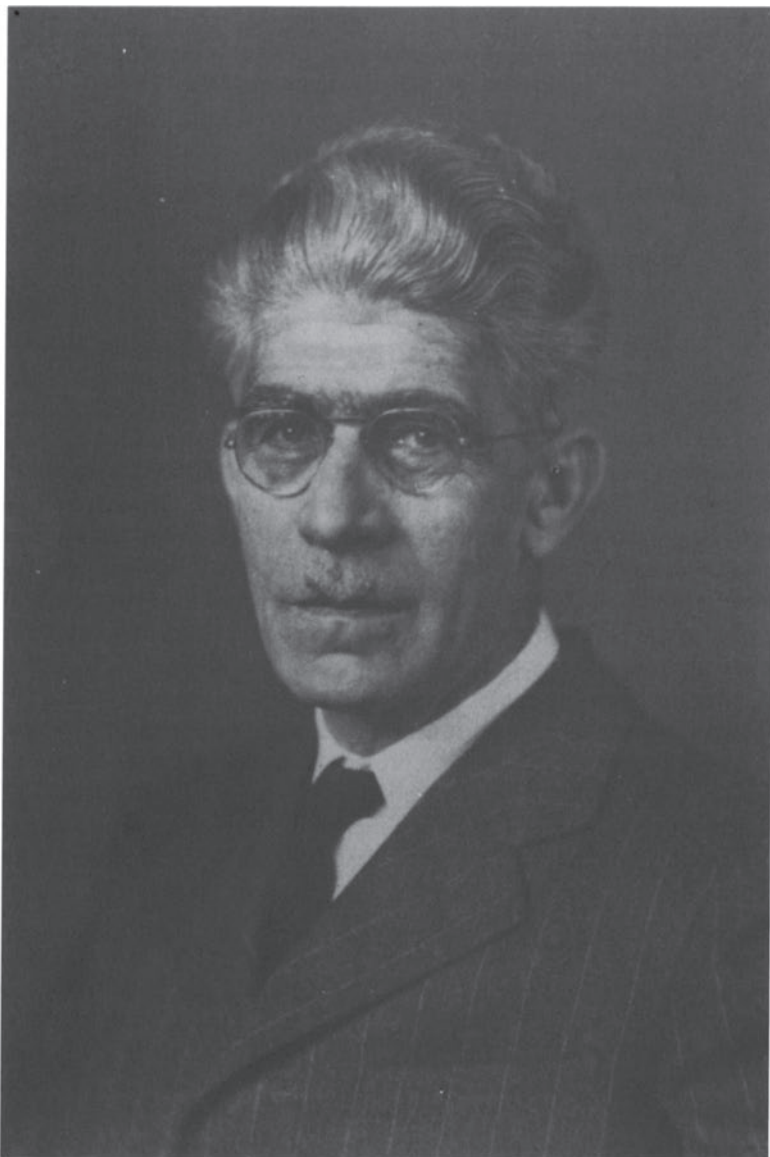
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*The Thousand and One
Nights in Arabic literature
and society*

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