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Prof. Banu Eligur Baskent University Ankara, Turkey

November 2, 2018

Dear Professor Eligur:

The officers of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa and the chairman of the ASMEA Academic Council are pleased to recognize your many scholarly achievements by awarding you the inaugural Bernard Lewis Memorial Prize.

This prize was instituted to achieve two goals. First, the prize aims to sustain the memory of Professor Lewis and ensure his legacy as an example for other scholars to follow. Second, it recognizes a member of ASMEA who has demonstrated superior scholarship and dedication to objective truth in the field of Middle East studies.

Educated at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies Prof. Lewis was the doyen of Middle East historians for over six decades. While teaching at the University of London and Princeton University he produced more than two-dozen books, hundreds of scholarly articles, and mentored scores of young scholars who shared his passion for the Middle East and its many peoples. His interests in the field were wide-ranging and included issues of race, slavery, class, and the status of women; translating classical Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and Hebrew poetry, and; interpreting current events in the context of Middle Eastern history.

From the perspective of the committee assembled to award this prize your publications and presentations not only demonstrate an abiding interest in some of the very subjects that occupied Prof. Lewis' efforts for so many years but also a record of excellent research and writing. In addition, your long-term membership in ASMEA and willingness to investigate complex issues in modern history speak to your commitment to academic freedom, ASMEA's *raison d'etre*, and a key principle of Prof. Lewis' approach to the scholarly profession.

Thank you for your many contributions and for helping ASMEA honor Prof. Lewis and the legacy of fine scholarship that he bequeathed to the field of Middle East studies.

Sincerely,

Prof. Mark T. Clark

President

ASMEA

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