

## Prof. JAN DE WAARD – ZIKKARŌN – IN MEMORIAM

Jan de Waard (24 Avril 1931 – 29 Juin 2016) a oeuvré toute sa vie pour l'Alliance Biblique Universelle (ABU/UBS) sur le terrain en Afrique, puis en Europe, en tant que consultant pour les Sociétés Bibliques nationales, puis coordonateur des équipes de traducteurs.

Il a également été Professeur associé d'Ancien Testament à la Faculté de Théologie Protestante de Strasbourg, après la retraite du Professeur Edmond Jacob (1978-1980) et à l'Université Libre d'Amsterdam, où une chaire de "Traductologie" fut créée pour lui.

Il était spécialiste de la critique textuelle de l'A.T. et a encore co-signé le récent *Genesis* (2016) de la "Biblia Hebraica Quinta", après ses ouvrages sur *Esaië* (1997), *Jérémie* (2003) et *Ezéchiel* (à paraître).

Avec son collègue E. Nida, il a promu la traductologie, une sous-discipline de l'exégèse biblique qui théorise les problèmes rencontrés par les traducteurs dans les différentes langues. Ses travaux se caractérisent par un réel "gai savoir", mais étayé par une rigueur et une précision impressionnantes, deux qualités indispensables en ce domaine qu'il illustre parfaitement.

La cérémonie d'A-Dieu a eu lieu samedi 2 Juillet 2016, à 9 h 30, au temple de Lourmarin (Vaucluse).

Notice rédigée par Jean-Georges Heintz (juillet 2016)

**Jan de Waard (April 24, 1931 - June 29, 2016) worked all his life for the United Bible Societies (UBS) in the academic field; as a translation consultant for national Bible Societies, first in Africa, then in Europe; and in shaping the translation policies of the UBS.**

**He was also Associate Professor of Old Testament at the Faculty of Protestant Theology of Strasbourg after the retirement of E. Jacob (1978-1980) and at the Free University of Amsterdam, where a chair of Translation Studies was created for him.**

**He was an expert in OT textual criticism and also co-authored the recent *Genesis* (2016) of the "Biblia Hebraica Quinta" (BHQ) after his excellent books/works on *Isaiah* (1997), *Jeremiah* (2003) and *Ezekiel* (forthcoming)**

**With his colleague E. Nida he promoted "Translatology", a sub-discipline of biblical exegesis which analyzes problems encountered by translators in different languages. His publications are characterized by a real "joyful science", but supported with impressive rigor and precision, two qualities essential in this field in which he was a pre-eminent practitioner.**

**Jan de Waard (24 Aprile 1931 – 29 Giugno 2016) ha lavorato, a livello accademico, per tutta la sua vita per l'Alleanza Biblica Universale (ABU) sia come consulente scientifico per la traduzione nelle Società Bibliche nazionali africane ed europee, sia come studioso, contribuendo a definire la metodologia di traduzione della Bibbia per l'ABU.**

E' stato Professore associato di Antico Testamento alla Facoltà di Teologia Protestante di Strasburgo, in seguito all'emeritazione di E.Jacob (1978-1980), e alla Libera Università di Amsterdam, dove fu istituita per lui una cattedra di *Scienza della Traduzione*.

Esperto di critica testuale dell'Antico Testamento , è stato coautore del recente volume *Genesis* (2016) della serie *Biblia Hebraica Quinta (BHQ)*, dopo i suoi importanti lavori su *Isaia* (1997), *Geremia* (2003) e *Ezechiele* (in corso di pubblicazione).

Con il suo collega E.Nida, ha promosso lo studio della *Scienza della Traduzione*, 'Translatology,' una disciplina dell'esegesi biblica che analizza le difficoltà incontrate dai traduttori nelle diverse lingue del mondo.

Le sue pubblicazioni sono caratterizzate da un reale spirito di 'gioiosa scienza' accompagnata da una impressionante e rigorosa precisione, qualità essenziale in questo ambito di ricerca, che lui padroneggiava magistralmente.

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Message posté sur le site l'Alliance Biblique Universelle le 13 juillet 2016\*

We have received the news of the death on June 29, 2016, in Marseille (France) of Dr. Jan DE WAARD. Born on April 24, 1931, in Sommelsdijk (Netherlands) Jan De Waard spent his whole working life with United Bible Societies, both in the field, in Africa, and in management roles. He was also associate professor of Old Testament at the Protestant Theology Faculty, University of Strasbourg, France, and at the Free University of Amsterdam, where a chair in translation was established for him.

His particular areas of expertise were : (a) Old Testament textual criticism: following numerous publications, he also co-authored the very recent *Genesis* (2016) in the "Biblia Hebraica Quinta"; (b) 'Traductology', a sub-discipline of biblical exegesis which he created with Eugene Nida, within the framework of United Bible Societies, to develop theories relating to the problems encountered by translators into various languages. He was co-author, of : *From One Language to Another : Functional Equivalence in Bible Translation* (1986).

His work was characterized by a genuine 'joy of learning', but underpinned with impressive precision and rigor. These are essential qualities in this field and he exemplified them perfectly. They were greatly valued by the international research teams with which he worked regularly and actively. The same can be said of his linguistic expertise : from Biblical and Talmudic Hebrew to Aramaic and the Dead Sea Manuscripts (Qumrân), which were the subject of his doctoral thesis (Amsterdam, 1965). He also had expertise in Syriac and Greek, among others.

As the Hebrew biblical term *Zikkâron* aptly puts it : "May he be of blessed memory !"

Claire BEDOT

\*Based on a text supplied by Jean-Georges Heintz, honorary professor of Old Testament, Protestant Theology Faculty, University of Strasbourg, and of Semitic Epigraphy, Ecole du Louvre, Paris.