Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 16, Folder 8, Davis, W. D, 1989.

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27:12:89 Den Mare This celler was reformed for the reason in Sicaler! I westook 259 For 89-At keep in touch. of could not resist enclosing - vanily of · rankes? - The award from Abjullean. One reason way I have ilways especially valued your penoship 45 that Im have always enemased me throughout the mais in by sports to solespret Christanily to few and

Justim & Brishans. Jon

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Buke University

DURHAM NORTH CAROLINA 27706

PS By a strange troot I have mustare the letter which was returned transfor find it.

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There say them of your Mnesses and received to know that you were.

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This have enabled you to san the confisence of the Christian commenter in a very rare of not unique way I crifrabilate Im al the end ga truly magnificent life of some to dronesm Thous. I woh love ones have been a Esssalp for Im: of any me reserved suckeyon is. I also menhoned that I had Seen healing of you in connection with or necking where Terry Souprod (Senator o former Personly Duke onthined has Thelegy for the irea of the Carebbean. I won there comed be a smular chategy for the Middle tast, indusing Grace. It would be impolarife for son to need Sanford & Hunk: he is in losshuffon. I wooh we were tack this it leveth. Then cean I am she working on McCouley Surain: Great is it " I would so vaine Jone thoughts. be so hope you are both in for health row & Shuds. Do Keep intouch In its a some les Farmen Will

W.D. Davies honored for Biblical scholarship

by K.E. Strayhorn Jr.

W.D. Davies, G.W. Ivey Professor Emeritus in the School of Divinity, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, England, in recognition of his contributions to Biblical scholarship.

This honor is the highest a Cambridge college bestows on any of its members, on receiving it, Davies joins the rank of some of the most distinguished British scholars.

There are approximately a halfdozen honorary fellows at Fitzwilliam. Three are Nobel Prize winners and the others have achieved great distinction in their fields.

Davies' main interest has been the interrelationship of early Christianity and Judaism.

During the past half century,
Davies and others have challenged
the traditional approach to Biblical
research. Previously, New Testament
scholars, who were primarily trained
in classical Greek sources, brought a
Greek influence to their studies.
Therefore, most major New Testament documents had been chiefly
understood as Hellenistic documents,
Davies said.

The Hebraic and Judaic tradition has been increasingly recognized as the most immediate matrix of early Christianity. Scholars increasingly rely on Jewish sources for their research.

Davies played a significant role in initiating and furthering this new approach through his first book, "Paul and Rabbinic Judaism" (London, 1948), called "a watershed, one of the few epoch-making books in modern Pauline studies." This was followed by "The Setting of the Sermon on the Mount" (1964) and "The Gospel and the Land: Early Christianity and Jewish Territorial Doctrine" (1974).

More recently, along with Louis Finkelstein, president emeritus of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City, he has been editing the Cambridge History of Judaism from the exile in 587 B.C. to the codification of the Mishnah, around 250 A.D.

The same concern to root early Christianity in Judaism inspired work in The International Critical Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, the first volume of which he has published along with a former Duke student, Dr. D.C. Allison Jr.

In addition to his writing, Davies has been an enthusiastic teacher. Apart from his classroom work at Duke 1950-55 and 1967-81, he taught at Princeton University, Union Theo-

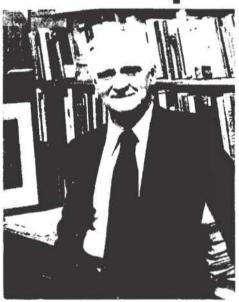
logical Seminary, Columbia and Fordham universities, New York; as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the University of Strasbourg, France. After his retirement in 1981 he became a professor at Texas Christian University in the newly endowed Bradford chair.

He has received honorary degrees from the University of Uppsala, Sweden, the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, the Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley and the University of Wales.

He is a Fellow of the British Academy and recipient of its Burkett Medal in Biblical Studies, a Corresponding Fellow of the University of Uppsala, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Academy of Jewish Research.

He is a past president of the International Society for New Testament Studies and Honorary President of the Society for Biblical Literature in the United States.

Davies also has been a member of the executive council of the World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, and worked with Jews, Christians and Palestinians on an academic and a more popular level,



Biblical scholar W.D. Davies has been elected an honorary fellow at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University.

regarding Israeli-Palestinian relations. He has always been concerned with bridging the gulf between the academic and non-academic worlds through non-technical works, especially his "Invitation to the New Testament" (1966), which was a limit Book of the Month Club selection, and appearances on CBS-TV.

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THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

W.D. & E.L. Davies 228 Monticello Avenue Durham, NC 27707

27: XI: 89

My dear Mare,

& have written he shangest possible letter on your behalf to the raties you gave for the Templetin Award. Mas you have no secretarial help and sent it in my own hand: if I can procure a copy (Thave when the Secretary tel me have me) I shall send it into you. I urged Jan election in The Sharees prouble terms and was delighted to be able to do so - because you deserve it, and for And Lang Sye! (The letter was sent immediate about 7-10 day saged have long would to be able talk with gon about It seems to me that drawn free the kind y coms to faced in the first centing, but I would so beneft from your herspechie varstom. Eurwen of hope to come to New York Japa Brushnas. He so so because I would. like to have Some lengthy fine with you when we Comes talk at leisnie. Perhaps your health does 201 permet his. I do hopethat you are now recovered and, with care able to confinue with your work ever in retirement. What days woned Sest sout In? I shall have to inquire wito the

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PS. Please paroon he hawming: my hand now revolts against the pen!

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