

VITA

Herbert Warren Mason, Jr.



Education:

Schools: Tower Hill School, Wilmington, DE
Wilmington Friends School
Riverdale School, New York, '51
College: Harvard '55 (AB English)
Graduate: Harvard '65 (AM Middle East Studies)
Harvard '69 (Ph.D. Near East Languages and Literatures)
Abroad: Collège de France, '58-'60 (Islamic Studies with Professeur Louis Massignon)

Present Position

(since 1972): University Professor, Professor of History, Professor of Religion,
Boston University
(since 1991): A Directeur d'Etudes and (elected 1996) Vice-President, Institut des
Recherches, Louis Massignon, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris,
France
(appointed 2000): William Goodwin Aurelio Professor of History and Religious Thought,
Boston University

Current Teaching:

History: Islamic History, Historiography, Advanced Arabic Text Research, Comparative
Mediaeval Studies, History of Ireland
Religion: Myth and Religion in Literature, Sufism

Direction of Doctoral Dissertations, Masters Theses, Undergraduate Distinction Work

External Memberships, Committees, Trusteeships, Evaluations:

Elected Fellow, Society for Values in Higher Education, Catholic Commission on
Intellectual and Cultural Affairs
Member: PEN, Mark Twain Society, American Oriental Society, Mediaeval Academy of
America, American Historical Association, Consulting Editor of *Banipal* (London)
Boston Athenaeum, Harvard Club of Boston, Advisory Board of *Delos*, American
Academy of Poets, Japanese Museum of Contemporary Poetry, Iwate-Ken
Overseers Visiting Committee: Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Trustee: Edward Hopkins Fund, Harvard College, Advisor for Kittredge Fund awards,
Harvard University, External Evaluator for Woodrow Wilson Fellowships

Tenure and Promotion Evaluation Requests: Haverford College, Harvard, Princeton, Claremont, Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania, Tufts, Indiana University at Bloomington, etc.

Public Lectures, Readings of Works, Visiting Professorships:

Library of Congress, New England Poetry Club, Cambridge Adult Education Center, Boston Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston University, Harvard University, Brandeis, University of Southern Maine, Columbia University, Indiana University at Bloomington, Notre Dame University, Hope College in Michigan, Michigan University, College of William and Mary, University of California at Berkeley, at Santa Cruz at Chico, University of Tokyo and Sofia University in Tokyo, American University of Beirut, Collège de France and Sorbonne in Paris, UNESCO Paris, Yale University

Biographical Listings:

Who's Who in America, Directory of American Scholars, International Authors and Writers
Who's Who (G.B.), *Who's Who in Religion*

Home: 30 The Common, Phillipston, MA 01331
(508) 249-2295

Office: Boston University, The University Professors, 745 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 353-4020, FAX (617) 353-5084

Publications

Books:

Gilgamesh, new edition with new afterword, Houghton-Mifflin & Co., 2003.

Haythu Taltaqi al-Anhar, ("Where the Rivers Meet"), Cairo, 2000.

Disappearances, Poems Personal and Sufi, Nimatullahi Publications, London, 1999.

Al-Hallaj, Curzon Press Ltd., London, 1995.

Hallaj, Mystic and Martyr, Abridgement, Princeton University Press, 1994.

Testimonies and Reflections, Notre Dame University Press, 1989

Memoir of a Friend: Louis Massignon, Biography, Notre Dame University Press, 1988.

A Legend of Alexander and The Merchant and the Parrot, Dramatic Poems, Notre Dame University Press, 1986.

The Passion of al-Hallaj by Louis Massignon, 4 vols., Bollingen Series XCVIII, Princeton University Press, 1983. (Editor and translator)

Summer Light, a novel, Farrar Straus & Giroux, New York, 1980.

The Death of al-Hallaj, a Dramatic Narrative, Notre Dame University Press, 1979.

Gilgamesh, A Verse Narrative, Houghton Mifflin & Co., Boston, 1970; Mentor Edition, NAL, New York, 1972; 1977; 1984; 1992; 2002; currently its 31st printing. (National Book Award Nominee, 1971)

Two Statesmen of Mediaeval Islam, a study, Mouton & Co., The Hague, 1972.

Reflections on the Middle East Crisis, essays, Mouton & Co., The Hague, 1970. (Editor)

Selected Fiction, Poetry Studies, Articles, Reviews, Translations:

Essay, "Al-Hallaj," *Encyclopedia Iranica*, Columbia University Press, 2003.

Essay Review, *The Daily Life of the Ancient Egyptians*, B. Brier and H. Hobbs. Greenwood Press, 1999. *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 2001.

Essay Review, *The Cambridge History of Egypt*, 2 vols., Cambridge University Press, 1998. *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 2000.

Two poems of Amal-al Jaburi (tr. From Arabic), *Banipal*, London, no. 8, Summer 2000

Arabic Essay Foreword to "Laka hathahi'l Jasad la Khawfa 'alayhi ('My body is yours and I'm not afraid')", *Arabic Poems by Amal al-Juburi*, London, 1999.

Persian translations of two books *Al-Hallaj* and *The Death of Al-Hallaj*, Tehran, 1999.

"Hasan Basri, Monograph", *Sufi*, Issue 41, 1999.

"At Nai-ku Shrine," *Ise, Sufi*, London, Winter 1997–1998

"Hymns of Ancient Egypt," *Sufi*, London, Fall 1996

"A Memory of Death," memoir essay in *The Patient's Voice*, F. A. Davis, Philadelphia, 1996.

"The Ancient Near East," essay for The Dearborn Press *Encyclopaedia of Historians and Historical Writing*, London, 1996.

"Seeking the Real in Mysticism," the 1996 Thomas More Lecture at Yale, published in *Sufi*, London no. 30 Summer 1996.

New translation of *The Death of al-Hallaj* in Arabic, Amman, Jordan, June 1995.

"Surviving," poem, *Sufi*, issue 25, London, summer 1995; "Erosions," poem, Issue 28, Winter 1995-1996.

"Karen Armstrong's *A History of God*," review, *American Historical Review*, Spring 1995.

"Destination," memoir and poem, *Festschrift*, Edwin Honig, Providence, 1994.

"On Massignon *Biographia*," Essay-review, *Maghreb Review*, London, 1994.

"Shibli," poem, *Sufi*, Issue 23, London, 1994.

"Bruce Lawrence's edition and translation of *Fawa'id al Fu'ad* (Morals of the Heart) by Nizam ad-Din Awliya," review, *Journal of Theological Studies*, Fall 1994.

"George Makdisi's *The Rise of Humanism in Classical Islam and the Christian West*," review, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, Fall 1994.

"Nothing," poem, *American Poetry Review*, May-June, 1994; lieder by Composer Arnold Smit, debut concert Oct. 13, 1996, in Paris.

"Robert Fitzgerald's *The Third Kind of Knowledge*," review. *The Washington Times*, May 16, 1993.

"Hallaj" and "Holy Madness," poems, *Sufi*, Issues 19 and 21, London, 1993.

"Hallaj and the Baghdad School of Sufism," in *Classical Persian Sufism: From its Origins to Rumi*, ed. L. Lewisohn, KNP, London, 1993.

"Reflections on Louis Massignon and His Legacy of Dialogue," Text of a speech originally given in French at UNESCO in December 1992 at a "Colloque sur le Dialogue des Cultures," in honor of the 30th anniversary of Louis Massignon's death. Published in *Sufi*, Issue 20, Winter 1993-94, London, in English.

"Clouds," "I am On," "Like the Rose," "Yes," poetry, *Sufi*, Issues 15-18, London 1992.

"Seyed Darwiche," an evaluation of his art, Cairo Institute of Art, 1992.

"On the Drama of al-Hallaj," *Sufi*, London, 1991.

Chronique d'Une Amitié, French translation of Memoir of a Friend, Paris, 1990.

"Two Snake Charmers," *Denver Quarterly*, Winter 1990, portion of a forthcoming novel

entitled *Where the Rivers Meet*.

"Islamic Perspectives," *Delos*, Spring 1989.

Foreword to *L'Art de Seyed Darwiche*, LaPresse Jean-Yves Nagard au Guilvinec, France, 1988 (translation); and *Seyed Darwiche*, Galerie du Fleuve publication, Paris, 1991.

A Legend of Alexander and translations of the poetry of Badr Shakir al-Sayyab (from Arabic) recorded at the Library of Congress in a reading given April 18, 1988.

"Zionism and the Arabs, 1882-1948" by Yosef Gorny, Oxford University Press, 1987, and *The Vatican, Islam, and the Middle East*, ed. Kail C. Ellis, Syracuse University Press, 1987, review for *America*, V. 158, No. 8 October 1, 1988.

"Impressions of an Arabic Poetry Festival," *R&L*, 20 1 (1988).

"*The Impact of the Crusades on the Near East*, eds. Zacour and Hazard, Vol. V. of *A History of the Crusades*, ed. Setton, Wisconsin University Press, 1985," review for *Histoire sociale*, Ottawa University, Summer 1986.

"Massignon et Hallaj," talk delivered at Collège de France, Paris, December 9, 1983, as part of the commemoration of the centenary of Massignon's birth: appearing in book *Massignon*, Maisonneuve, Paris, 1986.

"On Gilgamesh," *The Poet's Other Voice*, 12 Poet Translators in Conversation on their Work, ed. Edwin Honig. UMass. Amherst Press, 1985; appeared first in *MLN* 90, Johns Hopkins University Press.

Gilgamesh. Arabic translation, Baghdad, 1985.

"Jean Pelegri," review of two novels, *Celfan Review*, Philadelphia, I:3 (1984).

"Under the Sign of the Seven Sleepers," narrative poem. *Journal of Religion in Literature*, South Bend, October 1983.

"Gilpin's Point," novella, *Sewanee Review* LXXXVIII, 4, Fall 1980.

"Myth as an Ambush of Reality," essay, *Myth, Symbol and Reality*, ed. A. Olson, Notre Dame University Press, 1980.

"*Militant Islam* by G.H. Jansen," review. *Saturday Review*, Spring 1980.

"Moments in Passage," memoir, *The Phoenix*, Morningstar Press, Haydenville, Mass. Vol. 7, 3-4, Spring 1980; Vol. 8, 1-2, Fall 1980.

"*Louis Massignon, Christian Ecumenist* by G. Basetti-Sani," review. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 98, 2, 1978.

"The Affable Priest," essay, *Disguises of the Demonic*, ed. A. Olson, Association Press, New York, 1975.

"Walter Muir Whitehill," poem, Boston Athenaeum, 1974.

Translations in Verse of the Arabic *Diwan* of al-Hallaj, *Introduction to Classic Arabic Literature*, ed. I. Lichtenstadter, Twayne, New York, 1974.

"The Death of al-Hallaj," poem, Special Supplement, *American Poetry Review*, Philadelphia, Fall 1974.

"Arab Algerian Literature Revisited," study, *Humaniora Islamica*, I/1973.

"Hallaj, a Martyr for the Truth," essay, *BU Journal*, XXI, 3, 1973.

"Gilgamesh and Humbaba," poem, *Psychology Today*, July 1971.

"Ibn Hubayra," monograph, *Studia Islamica*, Paris, 1970.

"Evocation de l'Epopée de Gilgamesh," essay, *L'Herne*, No. 13. Paris, 1970.

"The Death of Enkidu," poem, *American Scholar*, Vol. 40, 1, Winter 1970.

"Merton and Massignon," memoir, *The Muslim World*, Hartford, LIX, No. 3-4, 1969.

"Religious Consciousness and the Middle East Crisis," essay, *Religious Situation 1969*. Beacon Press, Boston, 1969.

"Einleitung," poem, *Al-Halladsch Martyrer Der Gottesliebe* by A.M. Schimmel, Köln, 1968.

"The Role of the Azdite Muhallabid Family in Marw's Anti-Umayyad Power Struggle, a Historical Reevaluation," study, *Arabica*, Tome XIV, Fasc. 2, Paris 1967.

"Mystic Sorrow," poem, *Catholic Worker*, New York, February 1966.

"Huysmans and Mystical Substitution," essay, *Bulletin Societe de J.K. Huysmans*, Paris, June 1963.

"Thoreau on Waking," essay, *Catholic Worker*, October 1962.

"*Zen Catholicism* by Dom Aelred Graham," review, *Current*, Winter 1961.

"Two Catholic Traditions," essay, *Commonweal*, Vol. LXXIV, 21, New York 1961.

"Mill Hollow," poem, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, Fall 1957.

Translations of *Memoir of a Friend*, *A Legend of Alexander*, *The Death of al-Hallaj*, *Gilgamesh*, *Al-Hallaj*, and *Hallaj, Mystic and Martyr* have been made in full or in long excerpt form into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Japanese, among other languages.

There have been numerous readings, theatre adaptations, musical compositions, textual uses by other authors of *Gilgamesh*, *The Death of al-Hallaj*, *A Legend of Alexander*, and the poems *Nothing* and *The Seven Sleepers*, from 1971 to 1999 in Boston; Portland, Maine; New York City; Santa Cruz, CA; Chico, CA; Memphis, TN; and Paris and Tokyo among those known to have acquired rights.

In addition, the Italian painter Dino Cavallari and the Iraqi painter Rakan Dabdoub have illustrated the English and the Arabic editions respectively of *Gilgamesh* and *The Death of al-Hallaj*.