

Professor Wolf Leslau

[He] was born in Częstochowa in 1906, where he completed the Jewish high school.

Between 1926 and 1931, he studied at the Hebrew Pedagogical Institute in Vienna and, simultaneously, began to study Semitic languages there¹. Over the course of time, he became enthralled with the languages of Abyssinia² and, in 1931, he travelled to Paris to complete his studies with Professor Marcel Cohen [at the Sorbonne]. He did exceptionally well in his studies and, very soon, gained worldwide reputation. The world's greatest scholars extensively praised the dozens of books he wrote and, particularly, on the different dialects of the Abyssinian tongue. For this, he was also awarded a diploma [from] L'Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales [Fr; National School of Oriental Languages] and [the title] Docteur ès Lettres [Doctor of Letters] from the Sorbonne.

Following the Nazi invasion of France, in 1942, he emigrated to the United States.

Prof Leslau was invited to lecture, as a guest professor, in prestigious institutions such as the New School for Social Research in New York, the Indiana University Language Laboratory, the University College of Addis Ababa and others.

In 1961, he received the title of Professor Emeritus from the University of Judaism in Los Angeles and, in 1963, from its counterpart, the [Hebrew] Union College. In 1965, he was awarded the Haile Selassie Prize for Ethiopian Studies and, that same year, he was also appointed lecturer on [Near Eastern] Studies at UCLA.

Prof. Leslau's main field of interest has been that of the Abyssinian languages, in which he has carried out extensive research, the results of which have been published in numerous articles and books. His various findings regarding the Abyssinian-Semitic and Southern Arabian languages have been compared to the Hebrew language and this subject has been published in different research materials, particularly in the Hebrew Lexicon [?], in the chapters dedicated to Abyssinian and Southern Arabic.

¹ [TN: At the University of Vienna.]

² [TN: Modern day Ethiopia and Eritrea.]