

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**  
**GEORGES EDOUARD LEMAITRE**  
**(1898 – 1972)**

Georges Edouard Lemaître was born in Algiers on November 26, 1898. He studied at the Lycée of Algiers, where he was awarded the degree of "Bachelier-ès-lettres" in 1916. The following year, he entered the Sorbonne to further his studies in classics and ancient history, and then gained admission to the highly competitive "Ecole Normale Supérieure." In Paris, he earned a "licence-ès-lettres" (1917), and "agrégation de l'université" (1921), and finally, in 1931, the title of "docteur-ès-lettres."

In 1922, Georges Lemaître was sent on a diplomatic mission by the French Government to Yugoslavia, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland. He became acquainted with a number of important statesmen, including Benes, the prime minister and future president of Czechoslovakia.

A lieutenant in the French army, Georges Lemaître was a member of the intelligence service stationed in Düsseldorf, during the French occupation of the Ruhr (1922-1923).

Professor Lemaître held numerous teaching posts in Düsseldorf, London and Nova Scotia. Before coming to Stanford as Professor of Romanic Languages in 1939, he taught at the University of Wisconsin and McGill.

From his authoritative and lively presentation of "Four French Novelists" (1939) to his perceptive literary history entitled "From Cubism to Surrealism in French Literature" (1941), Georges Lemaître's books have been widely acclaimed. He is the author of two important monographs: "André Maurois" (1939) and "Beaumarchais" (1949). He was a regular contributor to Collier's Yearbook, in which he published a series of articles on France and the French Union between 1948 and 1957.

Georges Lemaître will long be remembered for his stimulating lectures on French civilization, political problems and contemporary French literature. To quote a former student who later became his colleague: "His eloquence could transform a dimly-lit classroom into the glittering palace of Versailles at the time of Louis XIV ... His lectures combined an amazing knowledge of several disciplines (art, geography, history, literature, philosophy) ... an unequalled organization and a clearness of presentation that illustrated the principles of his beloved Descartes." His gift of expression reflected his enthusiasm, his love of vivid imagery and a personal charm which endeared him to generations of students.

The university expresses its profound sorrow at the death of Georges Lemaître and offers its deep sympathy to his family and friends.

Pauline Newman-Gordon (Chairman)  
Robert G. Cohn  
Albert Guerard