

Prof. Michael Stone Short Bio – March 2026

Michael Stone was born in England in 1938. He grew up in Australia, where he received his BA (Hons.) degree in 1960 from University of Melbourne. In 1964 he was awarded a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures by Harvard University. In 1985 he was awarded the earned, senior doctoral degree, D.Litt., by the University of Melbourne. He holds honorary doctorates from Hebrew Union College and the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He has been awarded the major Israeli National Prize, the Landau Prize for Contribution to the Humanities. He taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem from 1966-2007, where he was Gail Levin de Nur Professor of Religious Studies and Professor of Armenian Studies.

Stone's academic activities have been devoted to two different disciplines, Armenian Studies and Jewish literature and thought in the period of the Second Temple. His research and publication has been divided more or less equally between these two fields.

In the field of Jewish Literature and Thought of the Second Temple Period, Michael Stone has been a leader in the study of literature and thought, in particular of the Pseudepigrapha. He has written numerous articles and monographs on this subject, with particular interest in the areas of literature and religious thought. His most widely known works are his commentary on 4 Ezra (published in 1989), various writings on the literature of Adam and Eve, and recently *The Aramaic Levi Document* (with J.C. Greenfield and E. Eshel, 2004) and his recent *Secret Groups in Ancient Judaism* (Oxford: 2017). He is one of the Editors of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He founded and was first director of the Orion Centre for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Hebrew University, and serves on numerous professional committees, including the Editorial Boards of *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*, *Dead Sea Discoveries* and *Henoch*.

In the field of Armenian Studies, Stone's work has focused around three major topics. The first is the study of the Armenian reception, remoulding and transmission of Jewish and Biblical tales and traditions and Jewish-Armenian relations. He has published a number of books and many articles in this field. He was founder and President for 20 years, and now Life Honourary President of the Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes. He was founder and editor of the *University of Pennsylvania Armenian Series* and is founder and continuing editor of *Hebrew University Armenian Studies*. He serves on the Academic Boards of the chief Armenian Studies Journals.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Humanities Academy, a Foreign Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy and of the Accademia Lombarda (Milan, Italy).

He is also a poet and writes and publishes original poetry.