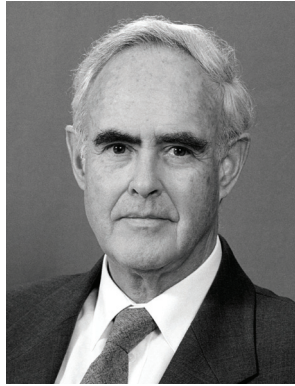


IN MEMORIAM



Ian Chalmers Semple (December 2, 1928–December 1, 2011) was a member of the Universal House of Justice, the supreme governing body of the Bahá'í Faith, from 1963 to 2005. Mr. Semple was a popular speaker and delivered any number of well-researched and elucidating talks on key topics related to fundamental Bahá'í tenets at various Bahá'í gatherings. He was a sincere supporter of the `Irfán Colloquium and a valuable contributor to the *Lights of `Irfán*. The texts of some of his talks are published in Books Six, Nine, Ten and Twelve, of the *Lights of `Irfán*. In addition the texts of the following talks are published in other sources:

Interpretation and the Guardianship, a talk given at a seminar in Haifa on 18 February 1984.

Obedience, a talk given on 26 July 1991 in the Reception Concourse of the Seat of the House of Justice in the Spiritual Enrichment Program.

Knowledge and the Covenant, a talk given at the Conference on Knowledge and Scholarship on 5–6 December 1997 in the U.K.

From the Tablets of the Divine Plan to the Ridván Message 2007, a talk given at the Swiss Winter School 25–30 December 2007

The International Bahá'í Council and the Universal House of Justice, a talk given at the Changing Times Conference in the Czech Republic in December 2008

The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, a talk given at the Changing Times Conference in the Czech Republic in December 2008

Mr. Semple was born in New Barnet, England, U. K. He did his national service in the British Army, during which period he earned a commission in the Royal Corps of Signals. Mr. Semple studied at Pembroke College, Oxford University, obtaining a BA degree in German and French Languages and Literature in 1952, and an MA degree in 1955. He subsequently studied accounting in the City of London, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1955, becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

In 1950, the last year of the British Bahá'í community's Six Year Plan, Mr. Semple embraced Bahá'í Faith and joined British Bahá'í community and served as an active member of a number of the National Committees for the next several years. In 1956 he was elected to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles and served as its secretary. In 1957 he was appointed as a member of the Auxiliary Board in Europe with particular responsibility for the north of England, Scotland, Norway and Sweden. In 1961 he was elected to the International Bahá'í Council, and moved his residence to Haifa. In 1963 he was elected to the Universal House of Justice and served in that capacity until 2005. After retirement, Ian moved to Bulle, Switzerland, where many members of his family live. He is survived by his wife Louise, whom he married in 1963, two sons, Michael and Nick, and a daughter, Jenny.

The sad news of the sudden passing of Mr. Ian Semple was announced by the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the world in the following message:

In Memoriam

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
Bahá'í World Centre • P.O. Box 155 • 31001 Haifa, Israel

Transmitted by email

TO: All National Spiritual Assemblies

DATE: 1 December 2011

MESSAGE:

Our hearts are laden with sorrow at the passing to the Abhá Kingdom of our dearly loved former colleague Ian C. Semple, staunch, clear-sighted, outstanding servant of the Blessed Beauty. Having embraced the Cause of God in the prime of his youth while at university, he devoted his considerable energies, eloquent pen and keen intellect to its protection and to the promotion of its vital interests throughout the rest of his life. A distinguished record of six decades of uninterrupted labour in the Divine Vineyard included service as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles, of the Auxiliary Board for Propagation in Europe and of the International Bahá'í Council, and culminated in forty-two years of membership of the Universal House of Justice from its establishment in 1963 until

2005. The shining qualities of his being, his immense courtesy, surpassing humility, purity of heart, irrepressible joy and unflinching optimism—all born of an unshakeable faith in the Word of God and its capacity to redeem humankind—endured him to everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Lights of 'Irfán Book Thirteen

We extend our loving sympathy to his beloved wife, Louise, to his dear children, Michael, Nicholas and Jennifer, and to his grandchildren for the loss they have sustained and pray for the bounties of God to surround them. May Ian's valiant soul receive a joyous welcome in the celestial realms above and be richly rewarded for his fealty and his exemplary dedication to duty. We call upon the friends everywhere to hold memorial gatherings in his honour, including befitting commemorative services in the Houses of Worship throughout the world.

The Universal House of Justice