

préceptes du Béhaïsme (2 vols., Paris, 1905-06), which included Haft wadi (The seven valleys), Kalamat-e maknuna (The hidden words), Lawh-e hekmat (Tablet of wisdom), Lawh-e aqdas (The most holy tablet), and several other works. In 1907-09 Dreyfus collaborated with the American Bahai Laura Clifford Barney (see ii, below) on the publication of Persian, French, and English editions of the answers of 'Abd-al-Baha' to philosophical and theological questions that she had put to him (published as Mofawazat-e mobaraka, Les leçons de Saint Jean d'Acre, and Some Answered Questions respectively). In later years he translated several more of Baha'-Allah's books: al-Ketab al-aqdas and So'al o jawab (both unpublished), Lawh-e Šayk (Paris, 1913), and a three-volume collection of Baha'-Allah's works containing his own earlier translations and some new ones (Paris, 1923-28). He also published a number of books and scholarly articles on Bahai topics.

In 1911 he married Barney, and both took the surname Dreyfus-Barney. In the same year he served as translator when 'Abd-al-Baha' visited Paris. The Dreyfus-Barneys continued their travels, visiting China and French Indochina in 1914. During World War I Hippolyte worked as a postal censor in Marseilles. In 1920 the couple once again visited Southeast Asia.

... [Excerpt] ...

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ii. LAURA CLIFFORD DREYFUS-BARNEY

Laura Clifford Barney (b. Cincinnati, O., 30 November 1879, d. Paris, 18 August 1974) became a leading American Bahai teacher and philanthropist. The daughter of Albert and Alice Pike Barney, a socially prominent artist from Washington, D.C., she was educated by private tutors. While continuing her studies in Paris Laura met May Ellis Bolles (later Maxwell), a Canadian Bahai, and was converted to the faith in about 1900. Her mother was converted soon afterward.

Laura Barney financed the visit of the Persian Bahai scholar Mirza Abu'l-Fazl Golpayagani (q.v.) to the United States in 1901-04, in order to propagate the faith there, and helped to publish the translation of his *Hojaj al-bahiya* (Cairo, 1342/1925; tr. Ali-Kuli Khan as *The Bahá'í Proofs*, New York, 1902; 2nd ed., ed. J. R. I. Cole, Wilmette, Ill., 1983). In 1904 she visited 'Abd-al-Baha' in 'Akka', Palestine, where she remained about two years, acquiring a working knowledge of Persian and becoming an intimate of his household. During that time she arranged to have 'Abd-al-Baha''s answers to her questions, mainly on philosophy and Christian theology, recorded by his secretaries. She collaborated with her future husband, Hippolyte Dreyfus (see i, above), on the editing and translation of this work (*al-Nur al-abha fimofawazat 'Abd-al-Baha'*, Leiden, 1908; tr. L. C. Barney and H. Dreyfus as *Some Answered Questions*, London, 1908; tr. H. Dreyfus as *Les leçons de Saint Jean d'Acre*, Paris, 1909). In 1905-06 she visited Persia, the Caucasus, and Russia with Dreyfus. After their marriage in April 1911, when they both adopted the surname

Dreyfus-Barney, she traveled extensively with him.

... [Excerpt] ...

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During World War I Laura Dreyfus-Barney served in the American Ambulance Corps (1914-15) and the American Red Cross (1916-18) in France and helped to establish the first children's hospital in Avignon (1918). The remainder of her life was devoted to international humanitarian and philanthropic activities, most connected with the League of Nations and the United Nations. For her services she was named chevalier (1925) and officier (1937) of the French Légion d'Honneur. There is a copy of her unpublished memoirs in the Bahai national archives in France.

Bibliography: Bahá'í International Community, United Nations Office, Report to the United Nations and Public Information Policy Committee, New York, 21 July 1988 (on celebration of the centennial of the International Council of Women in honor of the memory of Laura Dreyfus-Barney). A. Fazel Mazandarani, Zohur al-haqq VIII/2, Tehran, 132 B.E./1975. U. R. Giachery, "Laura Clifford Dreyfus-Barney, 1879-1974" in The Bahá'í World 16, 1978, pp. 535-38. R. Mehrab-Kani, Zendagi-e Mirza Abu'l-Fazl Golpayagani, Langenhain, Germany, 1988, p. 277. Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942 I, Chicago, 1968, p. 59.

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