

Julien Klener was born in Ostend, Belgium in 1939.

During World War II he was a hidden child in Brussels. Since 1945, being back in Ostend, he went to primary and secondary school and later on studied Germanic languages (BA) and Semitic languages (BA, MA and Ph D.). His main languages being Biblical Hebrew, Accadian, Biblical Aramaic, Talmudic Aramaic, Ugaritic, Arabic and also a non-Semitic language, Indonesian. After a few years teaching on higher secondary level he continued his career at Dutch-speaking Ghent University where he lectured until 2004. His main teachings concerned: Judaism as cultural system, Biblical Hebrew (undergraduate and graduate students) Comparative linguistics of the Afro-Asiatic languages (graduate students), Semitic [[epigraphy] (graduate students)] and General Introduction to Semitic Studies (graduate students). He also studied in Amsterdam, Jerusalem and in 1977 received a Fulbright grant which brought him to California. During his tenure at Ghent University, he also taught, for about ten years, at the French-speaking University of Liège. He published approx. 110 monographies and articles on different aspects of his subjects. He was invited as a guest-lecturer in Paris, Madrid, Naples, Riga, Budapest, Venice, Florence, Amsterdam, Jerusalem, Porto Alegre, etc. Although being retired in 2004, he was invited to lecture on Judaism at the Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University of Leuven on Biblical-Aramaic and Philological Analysis of Biblical Texts at the *Institut d' Etudes Juives* of the Université Libre de Bruxelles and on Judaism at the Instituut voor Joodse Studies at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. He is an honorary active member of the section for moral and political sciences at the *Royal Academy for Overseas Studies*. He is also active within different, academical and non-academical, Jewish, inter-religious and inter-convictional organisations.

He is since 2000 the president of the *Consistoire Central Israélite de Belgique*, which is the official Jewish umbrella organisation representing Judaism vis-a-vis the Belgian State.

National Honours

- In 1991: Officer in the Order of Leopold;
- In 2003: Grand-Officer in the Order of the Crown and
- In 2007,^[4] he has been ennobled by the Belgian king, with hereditary peerage and the personal title of Baron, his motto being "*Memini ergo Ago*", I remember thus I act.