

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

CONFERS UPON

ABAZAR SEPEHRI

THE

DAVID H. PARTINGTON AWARD

IN RECOGNITION OF

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION

PRESENTED AT THE 35th ANNUAL MEETING
BOSTON, MA NOVEMBER 17, 2006

CITATION

A bazar Sepehri spent the major part of his professional life at the University of Texas at Austin where he was the Middle Eastern Studies Librarian from 1979 until his retirement in 2005. Under his able leadership the program at the University of Texas flourished. Currently it ranks among the top ten Middle East collections in the country. He was also instrumental in receiving a large grant from the US Department of Education to acquire, catalog and preserve Turkish and Azerbaijani periodicals, a project that he has also supervised. The University recognized his contribution by awarding him the Professional Librarian Excellence Award in 1993 and a Staff Honor Award in 1998.

Abazar Sepehri also served the Dropsie University in Philadelphia and then moved to Princeton where he was the Near East Bibliographer. From Princeton Sepehri went to the University of Chicago Library where he served as the Assistant Head of its Middle East department. Prior to coming to the United States, Sepehri was the Head of Acquisition Department of the Tehran Book Processing Center and he also worked as the Kurdish Translator for the Foreign Broadcasting Service of the US State Department in Kyrenia, Cyprus.

Sepehri not only maintained a high standard of Middle Eastern librarianship and librarianship in general, but also contributed to the world of scholarship. With three books and numerous periodical articles to his credit, he has enhanced our understanding of complexities in Middle Eastern librarianship, especially in the areas of Iranian publishing industries and the acquisition of library materials from the Middle East in general.

Sepehri's contribution to the profession, especially to the Middle East Librarians Association is no less remarkable. In 1984 he served as the Vice-President and Program Chair of the MELA and then in 1985 he led the organization as its President. Being a frequent contributor to its journal, the MELA Notes, and by providing active leadership, he has promoted the cause of Middle East librarianship in this country and helped the organization to set on a better ground.