

MELA Notes

Number 1

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION Publications Committee, 1973
Bruce D. Craig (University of Chicago Library) President of M.E.L.A.
George N. Atiyeh (Library of Congress) Vice President-Program Chairman
Martha Dukas (Harvard University Library) Secretary-Treasurer
Richard S. Cooper (University of California at Berkeley Library)
John A. Eilts (University of Michigan Library)
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MELA Notes

The Middle East Librarians Association begins to publish MELA Notes as part of its reason for being. If this publication will continue to be read it is because we now encourage you to recall us to our purposes by your contributions and notices, and because you heartily do so. Our gratitude to the Officers and other lead-off writers. Suffice the Editor's fingerprints to be his faithful signature.

We "People of the Book" have special and professional ties with the civilizations of the Middle East especially since the rise of Islam. The many streams of consciousness of which we are a part long ago interested the rest of the international community, so we gather the books and make bibliophiles! Our imperial languages of past and recent history mellow as they bend to the task of interpretation and cooperation. Herewith please read our stated

Purpose:

It shall be the purpose of the Middle East Librarians Association to facilitate communication among Members through meetings and publications; to improve the quality of area librarianship through the development of standards for the profession and education of Middle East library specialists; to compile and disseminate information concerning Middle East libraries and collections and represent the judgment of the Members in matters affecting them; to encourage cooperation among Members and Middle East libraries, especially in the acquisition of materials and the development of bibliographic controls; to cooperate with other library and area organizations in projects of mutual concern and benefit; to promote research in and development of indexing and automated techniques as applied to Middle East materials.

Establishment. The Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) was established November 2, 1972, by 17 librarians attending the sixth annual Middle East Studies Association meeting in Binghamton, New York. The minutes of that inaugural meeting are reprinted in this first issue of MELA Notes along with an account of the steps leading to MELA's establishment written by David Partington, who chaired the Binghamton meeting.

Executive Board. The four Officers have not been able to meet to date but have carried on an active correspondence, exchanging interim reports on their activities. Despite the obvious difficulties, this method of conducting business has proven satisfactory.

The Executive Board made two major decisions during the year. The first was to accept overseas members, since several librarians in Europe, Asia, and Africa had expressed interest in joining MELA, and the Bylaws do not restrict membership to those affiliated with U.S. or Canadian libraries.

The second decision was to cooperate with the Middle East Studies Association in producing a preliminary directory of Middle Eastern collections in North America to be published as the 1973 "summer" issue of the MESA Bulletin. This joint project was proposed by I. W. Zartman, Executive Secretary of MESA and Editor of their Bulletin, at the beginning of the summer. James Pollock assumed responsibility for gathering information, by questionnaire, from over 65 libraries and sent the data to Mr. Zartman for final editing. The Officers expect that MELA can expand this initial survey in depth during the coming year with the object of producing a useful handbook for those concerned with resources in this area.

In this first year MELA has operated without a treasury, and expenses have been borne by the Officers' respective institutions. John Eilts has offered to handle all of MELA's printing at cost at his Sesquipedalian Press, and he has extended credit for printing expenses incurred to date. These cover a modest quantity of letterhead stationery, membership cards, and the first issue of MELA Notes. To establish a treasury, dues must be set at the next annual meeting and approved by a majority of the Professional Members.

The Executive Board plans to meet once prior to the annual meeting to approve the agenda for the business portion. Members who wish to propose topics for discussion at the business meeting should write directly to Bruce Craig. During this session a new President and Vice President are to be elected. The incumbents are eligible for re-election also, as each has served only one term, but George Atiyeh has indicated he will not stand for re-election. The Executive Board, which constitutes the Nominating Committee, has proposed the following slate of candidates, which may be supplemented by nominations from the floor: for President--Bruce Craig and John Eilts; for Vice President--Program Chairman--Aida Abboud and Richard Cooper.

Publications Committee. At the Editor's request a Publications Committee was appointed early in the year. A proposed name, contents and format for this "effort" was circulated to the Committee as an interim report, and the comments and ideas members sent were of definite aid. We sincerely encourage the readers of MELA Notes to write on topics that interest them, and to send a copy to the Editor for publication. Since readers pay the printing costs, critiques of this journal will also be read and attended to! Paragraph by JP.

Annual Meeting. Our second annual meeting will be held November 8, 1973, at the Marc Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association meeting. The exact location will be announced in the MESA Conference Programme. George Atiyeh and his Program Committee consisting of Margaret Anderson and J. Dennis Hyde have organized a panel discussion to precede the business portion of the meeting. Both sessions are open to the public, but Associate Members and non-members may not vote. Notice of this meeting has been sent to eight journals which previously published information about MELA. The schedule of the meeting is 1:00 - 4:00 P.M., Panel Discussion. Chairman, George N. Atiyeh, V. Pres. 4:00 - 5:00 P.M., Business Meeting. Chairman, Bruce D. Craig, President.

Membership. At present MELA includes 55 names. The 30 Professional Members and the 25 Associate Members represent over 45 institutions in 7 countries. Shortly after MELA was organized, membership packets consisting of a letter from the President, a list of Officers for 1973, a copy of the Bylaws, and an application, were sent to the 22 librarians who had attended either the Denver (1971) or the Binghamton (1972) organizational meetings. Packets were later sent to 20 other librarians suggested as potential members by colleagues. In March a news release about our association was sent to the editors of 12 professional and scholarly journals and was published by eight. As a result of this publicity, the Secretary-Treasurer received letters from 50 librarians and others requesting additional information and application forms. Since first applying, some members may now transfer between categories A - P. Following is a list of members as of Oct. 1, 1973:

Aida Abboud (P) Cataloger, Georgetown University Library
37th & O Sts., Washington, DC 20007 Tel.: 202-625-4175

Fawzi Abdulrazak (P) Arabic Specialist, Middle East Division,
Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138 Tel.: 617-495-2437

Michael W. Albin () Librarian for the Islamic-Middle Eastern Collection,
White Collection of Orientalia, Folklore & Chess, Cleveland Public Library.
325 Superior St., Cleveland, OH 44114 Tel.: 216-241-1020, ext. 280

Rosalie Cuneo Amer (A) Head of Technical Services, Cosumnes River College
Library, 8401 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823 Tel.: 916-421-1000

American Library Association. (A) Headquarters Library.
50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 Tel.: 312-944-6780

Margaret Anderson () Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto.
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George N. Atiyeh (P) Head, Near East Section, Orientalia Division,
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Wolfgang Behn (P) Referent für Iranistik. Orientalische Abteilung,
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Richard S. Cooper (P) Islamica Librarian. Collection Development Office,
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Melissa Ann Coury (A) Director, Cohoes Public Library. 148 Second St.,
Troy, NY 12180 Tel.: 518-272-7040

Bruce D. Craig (P) Middle East Bibliographer, Regenstein Library,
University of Chicago. 1100 E. 57th St., Chicago, IL 60637
Tel.: 312-753-3457

- Charles Cutter (P) Hebrew Bibliographer, Ohio State University Library,
1858 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210 Tel.: 614-422-1995
- Martin Davis (A) Director, Area Collections Department, Alderman Library,
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22901 Tel.: 703-924-3108
- Mark Tyler Day (A) Assistant Librarian for Government Publications,
Indiana University Library, Bloomington, IN 47401 Tel.: 812-337-6924
- H. Vail Deale (A) Director of Libraries, Beloit College, Beloit, WI 53511
- David Dorman (A) Coordinator of District Services, Harrisburg Public Library,
Front & Walnut Sts., Harrisburg, PA 17101 Tel.: 717-234-4961
- Martha Dukas (P) Assistant Middle East Librarian, Middle East Division,
Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138 Tel.: 617-495-2437
- John A. Eilts (P) Near East Bibliographer, Near East Division, University
of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 Tel.: 313-764-9371
- Meryle A. Gaston (A) Acquisitions Librarian, Ithaca College Library,
Ithaca, NY 14850 Tel.: 607-273-6039
- Virginia Gibbons (P) Technical Processing Specialist, Middle East Collection,
Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305
Tel.: 415-321-2300, ext. 2050
- Marie A. Gozzi (A) Children's Librarian, Fairfax County Public Library,
Martha Washington Branch, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307
Tel.: 703-768-6700
- Hollis Barbara Granoff () 510 Ellsworth Ave., New Haven, CT 06511
- John F. Harvey (A) Dean of Library Services, Zimmerman Library,
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 Tel.: 505-277-5241
- Joel Ananda Hettger (A) Acquisitions Librarian, U.S. Department of Labor
Library, Constitution Ave. & 14th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20210
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- Derek Hopwood (P) Middle East Bibliographer, Middle East Library,
St. Antony's College, Oxford University, Oxford, OX2 6JF (United Kingdom)
Tel.: 59896
- Maha Houry (P) Head Librarian, Institute for Palestine Studies Library,
P.O.B. 7164, Beirut (Lebanon)
- Marcia L. Humbaugh (A) Western Area Reference Librarian, Defense Intelligence
Agency, Arlington Hall Station - Stop 103, Washington, DC 20301
Tel.: 202-692-6169
- J. Dennis Hyde (P) Near East Bibliographer, Van Pelt Library, University of
Pennsylvania, 34th & Walnut Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19104 Tel.: 215-594-6675
- John R. James (A) Acting Middle East Librarian, University of Massachusetts
Library, Amherst, MA 01002 Tel.: 413-545-2728
- Patricia Philpott Kinchlow () 1415 Chartress St., New Albany, IN 47150
- David W. Littlefield (P) Subject Cataloger - Classifier, Processing Division,
Library of Congress, 6809 5th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20012
Tel.: 202-723-9527
- Shirley A. Lyon (P) Bibliographer for Near Eastern & Classical Antiquities,
Regenstein Library, University of Chicago, 1100 E. 57th St., Chicago, IL 60637
Tel.: 312-753-3457
- Dorothy McCombs (A) Assistant Humanities Librarian, Carol Newman Library,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Blacksburg, VA 24060
Tel.: 703-951-6170
- Khalil Mahmud (A) Deputy Librarian, Ibadan University Library, Ibadan (Nigeria)

- Hanneh Saleh Majaj (P) Head Librarian, U.S. Information Center Library,
P.O.B. 2415, Amman (Jordan)
- Ragai N. Makar (A) Social Work Librarian, Adelphi University Library,
Garden City, NY 11530 Tel.: 516-294-8700, ext. 7343
- Corinne Nyquist (A) World Study Center Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library,
SUNY--New Paltz, New Paltz, NY 12561 Tel.: 914-257-2202
- David H. Partington (P) Middle East Librarian, Middle East Division,
Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138 Tel.: 617-495-2437
- James W. Pollock (P) Librarian for Near East Studies, Indiana University
Library, Bloomington, IN 47401 Tel.: 812-337-9885
- Marian L. Sheets (P) Librarian, Middle East Library, Marriott Library,
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 Tel.: 801-581-6311
- Frank J. Shulman (A) Bibliographer/Librarian, Association for Asian Studies
and Center for Japanese Studies, 108 Lane Hall, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104 Tel.: 313-764-6307
- Svat Soucek (P) Cataloger, Near East Division, University of Michigan
Library, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 Tel.: 313-764-9371
- Mohammad H. Sulaiman (A) Sulaiman's Bookshop, P.O.Box 8258,
Beirut (Lebanon) Tel.: 238652
- Fawzi Tadros (P) Cataloger, Indiana University Library,
Bloomington, IN 47401 Tel.: 812-337-7511
- Emel Kürter Tekin (P) Turkish Specialist, Middle East Division,
Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138 Tel.: 617-495-2437
- Wilbert D. Tress (A) 319 East 25th St.- No. 2A , New York, NY 10010
- Frank H. Unlandherm (P) Middle East Bibliographer, Columbia University
Libraries, International Affairs Building, 420 W.118th St.
New York, NY 10027 Tel.: 212-280-3995
- Robert G. Wagner (A) Reference Librarian, Skyline College Library,
3300 College Drive, San Bruno, CA 94115 Tel.: 415-355-7000
- Donald John Weber (A) Assistant Head, National Collections,
Division for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress,
1291 Taylor St., N.W., Washington, DC 20542 Tel.: 202-882-5500
- Jan W. Weryho (P) Librarian II, Islamic Studies Library, McGill University,
P.O.B. 6070, Montreal 101, Quebec (Canada) Tel.: 514-392-5197
- Charles Willard (A) Librarian, Speer Library, Princeton Theological
Seminary, 20 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 Tel.: 609-921-8300
- Ruth J. Willet (A) Assistant Head, History & Government Department,
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203
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University of California--Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90024
Tel.: 213-825-4019
- Karolyn Pederson Zierold (P) Catalog Department, Marriott Library,
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 Tel.: 801-581-7265
- Jalal Zuwiyya (P) South West Asia & North Africa Librarian,
SUNY--Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13901 Tel.: 607-798-2883

News of the Members. Michael W. ALBIN graduated from the University
of Chicago School of Library Science and in June became Librarian for the
Islamic-Middle Eastern Collection, a part of the Cleveland Public Library's
White Collection of Orientalia, Folklore, and Chess.

Margaret ANDERSON has left her position as Arabic Bibliographer at the

Ohio State University Library and accepted appointment to the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Toronto. She has completed course work and examinations for the doctorate at Case Western Reserve University. Richard S. COOPER, Islamica Librarian at UC--Berkeley, represented MELA at the 29th International Congress of Orientalists at Paris in July and presented a paper entitled "The Problem of Land Classification Terminology in Medieval Egypt."

Bruce D. CRAIG, former head of the Middle East Collection at the University of Minnesota, assumed the position of Middle East Bibliographer at the University of Chicago on September 1st. His publishing firm, Bibliotheca Islamica, will remain in Minneapolis for the time being.

Martha DUKAS, Assistant Middle East Librarian at the Harvard College Library, last year permitted a Beirut publisher to translate and publish the thesis she presented at the American University of Beirut. It has just been released by Dar An-Nahar under the title 'Azmat al-Kuwayt; al-'Ilāqāt al-Kuwaytiyyah al-'Irāqiyyah, 1961 - 1963.

J. Dennis HYDE has joined George N. Atiyeh of the Library of Congress and David H. PARTINGTON of Harvard University on the MESA Library Committee. He replaces James W. POLLOCK of Indiana University, who resigned in order to devote his full energies to MELA Notes. Mr. Hyde has added the duties of the Slavic Bibliographer to his regular responsibilities as Near East Bibliographer at the University of Pennsylvania Library.

MELA will be included in the next issue of New Associations and Projects, a quarterly supplement of the Encyclopedia of Associations published by the Gale Research Company.

Notes of the Librarians' Meeting at the MESA Conference, SUNY, Binghamton, New York, 2 November, 1972. By Patti Philpott Kinchlow, Secretary pro tem.

The business meeting section of the Librarians' meeting was called to order by David Partington, who assured those present that this portion would be concluded by 2:30 p.m., when the program was scheduled to begin. Further business would be concluded at a later re-convened session. Dr. Partington distributed copies of the proposed by-laws of the Middle East Librarians Association to those who did not have them, and said he felt the main business at hand was to go through and approve, or approve with changes, the individual articles and sections in order to make the Middle East Librarians Association a viable organization. Dr. Partington then read a proposal submitted several years ago concerning research and training for Near East librarians. He noted that our present proposed organization and by-laws have originated from within the librarians' ranks, not from any move by a MESA committee.

The by-laws were then read and adopted article by article, section by section. Article II is not intended to mean that other purposes for the organization cannot be included at a later date. Article III concerns the two types of membership, the difference being in voting privileges only. Associate Members would receive notices, publications, etc. Section 3, Article III, was amended to read: "All members may attend committee meetings not designated as closed, but only Committee members may vote in committee deliberations." An addition was made to Section 6 that if a member were voted out by the membership, the current dues would be returned. At present only four officers are considered necessary for the organization, and that of Editor is of great importance. The name of the proposed publication was brought up, but it was decided to come back to this discussion later.

The Executive Board is to meet before the annual meetings, and this is intended to mean several days or weeks before, not a half-an-hour before. In Section 2, Article IV, the word "Board" was changed to "membership." The length of the term of office was discussed and it was decided to limit the terms of the President and Vice President to two (2) successive terms. The word "expenses" in Section 5 of Article IV is intended to mean expenses involved with correspondence or the preparation of documents. It is not anticipated that either the treasury or expenses will be large. A discussion of voting was halted at 2:30 p.m. because the program section of the meeting was to begin then, and it got underway on time.

Mr. Nabti took over the meeting to present the program section, which consisted of an informal panel discussion with three speakers: Mr. Jalal Zuwiyya from SUNY--Binghamton, Dr. Pierre A. MacKay from the University of Washington, and Mr. Bruce Craig from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Carl Petry also presented a brief resumé of the work he is doing at the University of Michigan on the establishment of a biographical data bank.

The business meeting was reconvened at 4:15 p.m. In the discussion of the annual meeting it was not intended that the business meeting and the program must be held on the same day. It was decided that the Secretary should hold the ballots for amendments to the bylaws for the same length of time as the election ballots.

The acceptance of the amended bylaws was unanimous and the election of officers was taken up as the next order of business. Nominations were opened to receive nominations from the floor. The following persons were nominated for the four offices: President--John Eilts, Bruce Craig; Vice President--George Atiyeh, Margaret Anderson; Secretary-Treasurer--Martha Dukas, Patti Philpott; Editor--James Pollock, Talaat 'Ukby. Michel Nabti was nominated for Vice President but declined because of a special project in which he is involved which will take up a great deal of his time. Zuhair Jwaideh was nominated for Editor but he also declined because of the heavy responsibilities he has at the Library of Congress, and the fact that he may not even be in the country for next year's meeting.

The balloting was semi-secret. The slate of nominees was written on a sheet of paper and when it was passed around to those present, each person placed a mark beside the candidate he wanted to vote for. The following persons were elected as the first officers of the Middle East Librarians Association: President--Bruce Craig, Vice President--George Atiyeh, Secretary-Treasurer--Martha Dukas, Editor--James Pollock.

The election of officers concluded the business at hand and the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

By Bruce Craig and George Atiyeh

President's Message. Dear Colleagues: The Middle East Librarians Association is approaching its one-year anniversary. The task before us this first year has been one of organization: recruiting new members, establishing committees, preparing the first issue of MELA Notes, planning for the annual meeting, etc. The publications committee and the program committee have been hard at work for some months, and the fruits of their labors will be apparent when we convene in Milwaukee in November.

During the course of this past year I have had the opportunity to talk to a great many Middle East librarians and to discuss with them the state of our field. Incidentally, I have received letters from our colleagues abroad--from such diverse locales as England, Egypt and Malaysia--commenting on the need for an organization such as ours, and congratulating us on having established MELA. Many of these letters spoke of the need for cooperation among us, even on an international level, asked to be included in our mailing list to receive MELA Notes, and offered services and assistance to us as MELA members, and as representatives of our respective universities.

The overriding impression that I have gained through my experiences and discussions during the past year is that academic libraries are facing a time of crisis, and that special area and language collections are especially vulnerable to the sort of problems brought on by the current fiscal crisis in the university community. At a time when many academic libraries are unable to appropriate sufficient funds to acquire the English language books essential to their teaching programs, it is difficult, indeed, to justify expenditures for Arabic, Persian and Turkish books, and to argue the need to maintain strong research collections in areas which benefit only a few scholars and students. This suggests to me the desirability of our investigating the possibilities for institutional cooperation in collection building, and the need to foster cooperation rather than competition in this effort. Frankly speaking, we can no longer afford the luxury of attempting to build the "best" collection at each of our universities, but must try to define areas of specialization where we can concentrate our efforts individually, letting each major collection assume primary responsibility for collection development in specific areas, and relying on others to do the same in other areas. Only in this way will we be able to insure the availability of a broad range of scholarly resources for Middle Eastern studies in North America.

I am also impressed with another problem, one that is more subtle, but equally distressing. That is the problem of communication, not among specialist librarians, but between these specialist librarians and the faculties to whom they are ultimately responsible. It is becoming increasingly clear to me that many scholars (and therefore, their students) do not have a realistic view of how large, bureaucratic academic libraries work, and that this lack of understanding can create frustration and animosity, and ultimately be very damaging to the environment which we as specialist librarians try to create, and in which scholarship can flourish.

Having made these two points, I would like to propose for your consideration that MELA dedicate itself during the next year to the dual tasks of seeking means of promoting cooperation among us in the tasks of collection building and service to scholarship, and communication between ourselves and the faculties and students in whose interests we exist.

Sincerely,
Bruce D. Craig

MELA Panel. The first panel discussion sponsored by MELA has for a title, "The role of the Middle East librarian in a university program." This topic is in a way too general, and like all general things it has universal appeal but lacks the necessary specifics which go into delineating the main features of a subject. Inasmuch as in these early stages of our endeavor to form a Middle East Librarians Association we can benefit, I presume, greatly from a general examination of our visions and our goals

without going too much into specifics, we have chosen a general rather than a specialized topic. It is hoped that this will help clarify for us the directions towards which we could direct our path.

Four distinguished gentlemen representing both the administrative as well as the library aspects of university programs will contribute their thoughts and ideas on this subject. Kenneth A. Luther, Director, Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, will speak on "The center program research and the Middle East librarian." Martin Davis, Director, Area Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, will discuss "The library - scholar interface in Middle East bibliography." Thomas Naff, Director, Near East Center, University of Pennsylvania, will speak on "Area studies program building and the Middle East bibliographer," and James W. Pollock, Librarian for Near East Studies, Indiana University, will reflect on "The role of the Middle East librarian in a university program," i.e., the main topic of the panel discussion.

Questions from the floor and discussion of the panelists' papers or speeches will then follow.

George N. Atiyeh

ARTICLES

"The Genesis of MELA,"

by David Partington

When the Middle East Studies Association of North America was founded in 1967, the Board of Directors, being composed mostly of academics, wasted no time in setting up a number of committees. One of the most important in those early days of great expectations was the Committee on Research and Training, headed by Professor William A. Schorger. Schorger set out in his characteristically vigorous way to: (a) determine the collective needs of the field, (b) establish projects to meet those needs, (c) find funds to support the projects, (d) identify persons willing and able..., and (e) assist those individuals in their work.

Schorger also asked each Fellow of MESA to answer a questionnaire dated April 10, 1968. He inquired: "What needs to be done to improve library and archival resources for research and training in your field... what was wrong with the Farmington Plan...what is your opinion of the PL 480 Program in Arabic materials?" I replied in part as follows: "In order to improve library resources, one must first discover where deficiencies exist--not only in each individual library but throughout the nation. This can only be accomplished by a well planned and competently executed survey of Near Eastern holdings. Dr. Yamak made his case for a survey at the first MESA meeting. I feel that a survey would not only lead eventually to improved resources for research but would also have a positive influence on the development of Near Eastern librarianship by publicizing deficiencies in personnel, 'hit or miss' acquisition procedures, administrative problems with each library, and the lack of serious attention given to Near Eastern librarianship by the library profession. On this last point I would respectfully recommend that your Committee...assist in setting up an organization for Near Eastern librarians.... A step in that direction could be joint-sponsorship with a library school of a symposium on Near Eastern

librarianship.... This symposium would urge, I assume, the creation of a professional organization attached to MESA or functioning within the American Library Association."

My interest in forming an organization of Middle East librarians had awakened the previous year at the 1967 meeting of the American Oriental Society in New Haven when Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, who had recently been appointed Chief of Orientalia at L.C., called together a few Middle Eastern librarians in his Park Plaza hotel room. Present were Dr. Yamak (Harvard), Dr. Michel Mazzaoui (then librarian at McGill), myself from Michigan--and perhaps a few more. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss means of cooperation and the need for organization, which Warren in his new post felt obliged to foster. And he did, for he went on to be the motive force in establishing the Asian and North African Sub-Section of the Subject Specialists section of ACRL. After a little experience in ALA, I saw that the Middle Eastern librarians were at a great disadvantage. Not only were we staggered by the oppressive ALA dues, but we were outnumbered by the Far Eastern and South Asian interests, and it seemed unlikely that the group would ever get down to discussing the immediate and practical problems of Middle Eastern librarianship. It was in MESA, then, rather than the AOS or ALA that our hopes lay.

In April, 1968, Bill Schorger's Committee had discussed at length the responses to the aforementioned questionnaire, and Dr. Labib Zuwiyya Yamak was asked to set up a Sub-Committee to deal with library and bibliographic matters. In a letter dated July 15 or 1968 (to George Atiyeh, James Pollock and myself) Labib laid down the mandate of his Sub-Committee as follows: "(a) to deal with all matters relating to Middle Eastern library resources and their bibliographic control, (b) determine the major library needs of Middle Eastern studies, (c) establish, initiate or sponsor projects to meet these needs."

An illness, eventually fatal, forced Labib to relinquish the chairmanship of the Library Sub-Committee. I was asked to take his place, and on November 8 of 1968 the first meeting was called. In our wide-ranging discussions it was evident that an organization was needed to secure the cooperation of our colleagues in working towards common professional goals. At our second meeting (January 24, 1969) James Pollock stressed the need for a list of contact people, and from that followed the idea of an association of librarians organized along more or less formal lines. (A directory to this effect had been an unfulfilled project of former associate Karolyn P. Zierold at that time. Ed.)

The next step seems to have occurred on September 3, 1971, when on behalf of the MESA Library Committee a general letter was written in which I invited all those interested to meet on November 11, 1971, at the annual MESA meeting in Denver and take part in an organizational meeting. George Atiyeh of L.C. chaired that meeting, full notes of which were recorded by Patti Philpott Kinchlow. The result was that, after a group name had been chosen, the members of the MESA Library Committee were charged with drawing up bylaws. However, the actual work devolved very largely upon Martha Dukas. She prepared several drafts, incorporating ideas and making modifications based on the criticisms of others, especially James Pollock, John Eilts, and Derek Hopwood. All interested persons again the next year were invited to meet and make final comments on the draft bylaws, and the discussions and further organizational procedures were recorded by Ms. Philpott. The final draft was accepted, with a few emendations, at the MESA meeting in Binghamton, November 2, 1972.

MELA is the first organization of Middle Eastern librarians in the USA. To be sure, a "Sub-Committee on Middle East Library Resources" was convened on April 11, 1960, by parallel action of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council, on recommendation of their Joint Committee on the Near and Middle East, and the Association of Research Libraries, through its Sub-Committee on the Farmington Plan. That sounds cumbersome, and it was, and its life was brief. Its flaw was that the people involved were almost all top-level administrators: it lacked working-level librarians and bibliographers with practical knowledge.

In conclusion, I should like to paraphrase the aforementioned letter of September 3, 1971 (and beg the indulgence of readers for the continual personal reference): We represent but a very small proportion of MESA membership, yet our problems are those which directly affect the present and future of Middle Eastern studies. Compared with other area groups, ours shows a perplexing lack of continuing concern for library matters. I hope that through MELA a sense of community will develop among us, and that a clearer idea of our proper role in the advancement of knowledge will be achieved.

David Partington is Middle East Librarian at Harvard.

"Gustave Von Grunebaum and the Near Eastern Collections at UCLA,"
by Robert Vosper

The Near Eastern Studies program at UCLA began as recently as 1955 with the appointment of two professors, for Arabic and Hebrew. The following year Dr. Miriam Lichtheim was appointed Near Eastern Bibliographer, and the Library began an acquisitions program so carefully focused and so forcefully pursued that in a mere fifteen years the collections have become of international stature. Several learned and enthusiastic members of the faculty and Library staff played a crucial part in this remarkable collection development effort, but all--and most assuredly myself--would proclaim that the prime mover was the late Professor Gustave von Grunebaum, who came to UCLA in 1957 as Professor of Islamic History and Director of the Near Eastern Center.

I was not surprised when one day he told me that before entering onto his academic career he had gone through the training program for scholar librarians at the Austrian National Library in Vienna. That insight into librarianship assured the UCLA University Librarian of an especially supportive colleague, for Gustave von Grunebaum not only pursued books avidly and shared generously in the search for funds to buy them, he also shared generously in the search for funds to catalog them. Most faculty members consider that effort to be the Librarian's task, and they generally groan with disbelief at the costs involved in effective cataloging. Our Near Eastern holdings, in all their exotic languages, are not only substantial in themselves, but they are also substantially cataloged because, to a degree unmatched in my experience, the Near Eastern Center Director channeled the Center's external grant funds to Library staff support as well as to book purchase support. I suggest Professor von Grunebaum's bibliothecal background as proper prerequisite for similar academic appointments.

In these fifteen years the Near Eastern Collections have grown from a haphazard and minor group of books to an eminent aggregation of about 200,000 volumes and 6,000 manuscripts. Professor Arnold Band assesses our current holdings in the bookish, intellectual tradition of Jewish Studies as "magnificent," surpassed among American university libraries only by that of Harvard. Of our Persian collection Professor Amin Banani asserts that only Harvard and Columbia have superior or comparable collections, and that "the Persian manuscript collection is certainly the largest in this country, with the history of medicine manuscripts constituting one of the finest collections of its kind in the world." Dr. Albert Z. Iskandar--who should know, for he is cataloging them--says that UCLA has the largest collection of Arabic scientific and medical manuscripts in the country. Avedis Sanjian, Professor of Armenian Studies, makes the same expansive judgment about our Armenian collection, "the largest and most valuable in the United States." Similarly, Professor Stanford J. Shaw claims that "UCLA has built up by far the best all-around collection of published material concerning the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey held by any library outside Turkey."

Such distinguished growth in such a short time came in part by the careful searching out of individual books, but in largest part by the advantageous en bloc purchase of private libraries from Europe and the Middle East, and in one case the outright purchase of the entire stock of a scholarly book store in Jerusalem. There have been generous gifts, and in several cases private donors made the purchases possible. In most cases, however, Professor von Grunebaum deftly negotiated with me in matching University Library funds with Center funds. In most cases other members of the Center faculty and Library staff either ferreted out the private collections or were involved at first hand in intricate maneuvers to acquire them, but no one more wholeheartedly enjoyed the whole business of finding scarce books, against competition, and then finding the funds to acquire them, than did Gustave von Grunebaum. He built himself several monuments, but none I think so enduring and so close to his heart as the extensive Near Eastern Collections in the University Library.

Robert Vosper was University Librarian at UCLA. Since July, 1973, he continues as Director of the Clark Memorial Library there and as professor in the School of Library Service. MELA Notes acknowledges with appreciation permission to reprint this tribute from the UCLA Librarian of June, 1972.

"The British Middle East Libraries Committee,"

by Derek Hopwood

In 1961 a British Government Committee on Oriental, Slavonic, East European and African Studies (known familiarly as the "Hayter Committee") recommended that the study of the modern Middle East should be encouraged in a number of British universities. These recommendations were quickly approved and the necessary action to further such studies was taken. Three British universities, London (School of Oriental and African Studies), Oxford and Durham were specifically designated as Centres of such studies and other universities were given money for new appointments and for research and travel.

By modern Middle Eastern studies was meant the history, politics, sociology, anthropology, economics and literature of the Arab world, Turkey, Israel and Iran during approximately the past two centuries. In addition, an

important recommendation of the Hayter Committee was that libraries should be given greater support to enable universities to service these new studies. It also recommended that special grants be given for cooperative action in buying and cataloging. On the basis of these new developments a number of librarians, either already in post before the Hayter Committee or appointed as a result of its recommendations, met in Cambridge in 1967 to discuss possibilities of cooperation. They constituted themselves as the Middle East Libraries Committee (MELCOM). This Committee has now met formally on some 10 occasions and smaller groups have met considerably more frequently. Membership has been drawn from eleven British universities and representation has always consisted of one librarian and one teaching member, the latter usually being the Director of the institution concerned. This method of representation has ensured that there has always been a close cooperation between librarians and users.

Several schemes have been discussed over the past six years and a number have borne fruit. The Committee has conceived its basic purpose to be that expressed by the Hayter Committee, namely cooperation. Of course, many side benefits have flowed from the regular meetings and the opportunity has often been taken to discuss such matters as curricula, academic visitors, the placing of students and so on.

1. Area Specialization. This is a scheme similar to the Farmington Plan whereby individual libraries agree to collect material in depth from certain countries. The material concerned is mainly government and semi-official publications. A library agrees to collect such material only in addition to its normal activities.
2. Current Newspapers and Periodicals. Detailed lists have been drawn up of current newspapers and periodicals and after much discussion the national coverage has been rationalized. It is now believed that most important periodicals are received from the Middle East by some library in this country. It may mean that a reader requiring a certain periodical in Oxford will have to borrow it from, say, London, but ease of lending is a prerequisite of this scheme. The delay in receiving material on loan may only be a day or two.
3. Back Numbers. The scheme outlined in 2 above has been extended to cover long back runs of newspapers and periodicals. Such material is very expensive and usually only one library in the country will hold, for example, the back runs of al-Ahram on microfilm. This particular title happens to be held by Oxford but is readily available on loan to any other library in the country.
4. Index Islamicus. Members of the Committee have been producing this cooperatively.
5. Index Arabicus. This work based on Index Islamicus is a listing of articles in some 50 Arabic periodicals which have appeared since the middle of the 19th century. 50,000 entries have been made and the work is now being prepared for publication. Again, all the work has been done cooperatively.
6. Middle East and Islam: A Bibliographical Introduction. This is a listing of a basic collection of books for a nascent library of Middle Eastern Studies. It was prepared collectively by members of MELCOM and published in 1972. A three day conference was held in Cambridge at which members were invited to prepare papers on specific topics, to defend them during discussion and to revise them for publication.

7. A Bibliographical Guide to Islamic Studies. This handbook has been based on Gabrieli's Manuale di Bibliografia Musulmana and results from a series of seminars held during 1972 at which 20 papers were given on various aspects of Islamic studies. These are now being revised for publication. They go into much greater depth than the previous item and should be useful as a basic bibliographical tool.

8. A grant has been obtained from the British Academy to produce a union list of all Arabic periodicals held by British libraries. Work on this project will begin in the near future.

9. MELCOM has been active in discussions which it is hoped will lead to the establishment of a British Institute for Egyptian studies in Cairo. A member of the staff of the Institute will be a librarian who will be responsible for purchasing books for members of MELCOM in a scheme somewhat similar to the Library of Congress PL 480 Center.

Visiting librarians from abroad are always welcome at MELCOM meetings and to date we have welcomed visitors from Germany, France, U.S., Egypt, Israel and Lebanon.

Derek Hopwood is Middle Eastern Bibliographer at St. Antony's College, Oxford.

"The Call of the Curlew, by Taha Husayn, an Essay in Appreciation,"
by Kenneth Nolin

Du'ā' al-Karawān was written in 1935, but only recently came into vivid, living reality for this reader. Thus perhaps a belated word of appreciation for the novel may not be out of place, and for its author, that "grand old man" of modern Arabic literature.

Taha Husayn has accepted the discipline of classical Arabic as a self-imposed limitation on his narrative.(1) Writers since his time have begun to use idiomatic spoken Arabic as a written form; this option was not acceptable in 1935--nor was it really necessary. Despite the formal, even stilted requirements of the classical structure, a tender and sensitive story "comes alive."

Conversations of village women, for example, could never have been in the high-class Arabic recorded here. The older sister warns, "Beware of doing what I did, or of being deceived as I was deceived, or of being driven to what I was driven."(2) The sentence is full of vocabulary and structures never used in colloquial Arabic. Again, Amna, the younger sister, has a violently emotional conversation with her mother, one which could not conceivably have been expressed in anything but the freest and most idiomatic of spoken Arabic.(3) And yet, despite the potential unreality, the emotional intensity does come through--is perhaps even heightened by the eloquence of its language.

For what is a limitation on one hand, is a vehicle of tremendous potential for creative expression, on the other. Amna's ambivalent feelings, as she is torn by inner decision, are described by different forms of the same verb root, but with opposite meanings.(4) The same word may be used twice in a single phrase, but with a prefixed particle to give an additional meaning.(5) The infinite richness of Arabic vocabulary shows itself in the pouring forth of synonyms to describe the emotional "feel" of some situation or person.(6) The paradoxes of life and its tensions appear as contrasting

adjectives.(7) The emphatic particles of classical Arabic appear frequently, giving intensity without any corresponding loss to the sense of reality.(8)

There is more to the secret of this book's power than the author's use of language. Along with that goes a remarkable ability to tell a story effectively. For example, the opening page appears again, later in the book. It is repeated exactly, ending with the same, tantalizingly suggestive line, "Then he turned toward his bedroom and I followed along behind him."(9) Only at the second reading is one aware of how infinitely different the situation is, from the one imagined at first. The clues are all there, but it is almost impossible to guess at their meaning until the story resolves itself later. Descriptions of characters are rarely of their physical appearance, but far more vividly, of their inner being, or of the reaction they provoke in another. Examples are the brutal coarseness of Amna's uncle,(10) or wealthy yet gentle and friendly Khadfja, the mistress for whom Amna came to work,(11) or the anguished older sister,(12) or the mother, caught in the horrors of a brutal social system.(13) Amna's reactions to each are painted with vivid word pictures that are grippingly convincing--the dread she felt of her uncle, and her hatred of him afterwards,(14) her obedience to her mother at first, and pity for her, but the change toward her later, to complete revulsion,(15) the terrible time of delirium she spent in her uncle's home,(16) the inner tensions she felt as her time of revenge drew near.(17)

One senses the deft yet sensitive touch of the writer's skill again and again in little things. Though it is Amna who tells the story, we read at one point, "I see her on the way east, and my heart fills with compassion and admiration for her," and then later, "Yes, I see myself on the way, alone, destitute."(18) Amna picks up the question of her mother, and uses it as a refrain in recording her revulsion at his coming.(19) Parallel phrases in the same sentence, either the same word at times, or an opposite one, demonstrate the writer's constant artistry.

The background for Call of the Curlew is Egyptian life, in all its many varieties; insights about it appear constantly. Examples that might be noted are: the two sisters' obedience to their mother, despite their distaste for what she suggested for them;(20) the mother's submission to the inexorable laws of her village society;(21) the hospitality of an unknown village 'Umda when the mother and daughters come to his door as complete strangers.(22) Vivid contrasts are painted between village and city life--as when Amna and her family eat with village women and she is horrified to remember how they hastily wolf down their food; it is a startling contrast to the gracious, lingering enjoyment of food Amna has observed in the city.(23) Again, a village family which has moved to the city is described; the children are going to school and entering into the exciting world of books, but the father is pitiful in his longing to be able to decipher and enjoy the volumes over which they pore.(24) The servant-master relationship is vital to the story, and is keenly described at several points, especially in Amna's first introduction to it.(25) And how very true to life is the description of Khadija when she received word of her engagement, inwardly excited, yet outwardly dejected, according to the mores of her social status.(26)

Village customs appear in all their stark reality--the supreme value placed on family honor,(27) and the importance of blood feuds, when the chief guard is murdered.(28) The abject position of the mother, symbolizing all village women, is noted,(29) but the possibility for independent initiative for women of strength and dubious character is also seen, in the village women who have made good in the city.(30)

But of course, nothing of this would have been effective without the story which they relate. It is not a pretty story, and contains much which could well have been told with crudity and illtaste. Yet the author has always used a kind of gracious reserve, a willingness to accept reality and its consequences without dwelling upon or enjoying it. Thus when Amna and her sister are taken away from the village by their mother, it is clear that the father has brought some kind of disgrace upon them, in his death. But no details are given. The same is true of other potentially sordid episodes in the plot. Evil is not dwelt upon for its own sake, but for its effect upon the characters, and upon the total plot.

But surely it is time now to trace on through the story itself. The three women--the mother and two daughters--all find work in the city (apparently a provincial capital in the Nile Delta, not Cairo), all in different homes. Amna is the most fortunate, becoming the companion for an upper-class girl about her own age. A touch of humor, with bitter irony, describes their relationship:

I was to accompany her in her play, but not play with her;
to accompany her to school, but not learn with her; to accompany
her during visits of private tutors, when they came in the after-
noons, but not to listen to the lesson with her.(31)

However, because Khadija is a particularly friendly and sensitive girl, the relationship develops into far more than this. Amna is able to absorb much about the more gentle ways of the upper-class, as well as considerable schooling.

The older sister is also happy in her work, as personal servant to a government-employed engineer who lives alone, in a house near that where Amna works. The mother is in still a third home, of village people who have moved to the city so their children can go to school. Once a week they all have some time off, and can meet in the tiny room which is their home in the city.

One time Amna arrives to find the two others sitting in gloomy silence. The mother finally blurts out, "We must leave the city!" Both the sisters are horrified, but especially Amna; however, out of obedience to their mother, they go along. Only later, as they spend the night in a village 'Umda's home, does Amna learn the reason for their flight. It is a moving scene as the two sisters sit together on the flat roof of the 'Umda's house, under the night sky, with curlews calling overhead. The older sister finds comfort in being held in Amna's arms, but pathetically makes her protest to the rigid, unbending social mores when she says, "I wish you were our mother, comforting me." Even here, though we know that the sister went on to tell Amna the whole story, and warned her about letting it happen to her, no details are given to the reader. Whatever happened to the sister at the home of the engineer is left in tactful obscurity.

The pitiful family accepts the hospitality of the 'Umda, joining the group of other women who are there, until the mother's brother arrives on his way home from a trading mission. Another typical custom of village hospitality is apparent here, as the 'Umda insists that this man must stay the night, so all can hear the stories he tells.(32) The next day he loads up his camels, and they all set out for home. He insists on travelling the next night; and it is under the shadow of darkness that he can cleanse the family's honor by killing the older sister.

Again, the curlews are calling as Amna realizes with horror that her mother has agreed to the deed. The narrative continues, as the mother cries,

"Did you do it, Nāṣir?" Then, behold, she burst into simple-minded tears, that crying of a completely submissive woman who has neither power nor ability to do anything but shed her tears.

Oh, you miserable woman, you can pour out your tears to the end of the age, and you will never wash away one drop of this innocent blood! Woe to you, oh guilty mother! You will never restore yourself to innocence and peace of mind! (33)

When Amna struggles to consciousness again, she is in a bed at her uncle's home. She wants to scream with terror, at the scarlet fountain of blood she sees pouring forth from her sister, in the nightmares of delirium; but she knows that if she screams her mother will come to care for her--she can no longer stand to see her or have her around. So finally, when she has regained some of her strength, she escapes and sets out, alone, for the city and her beloved Khadija. She is not alone, however. Always there are the "red demons" which haunt her, and the curlew's call to remind her of her sister. Never far from her thinking is a terrible drive for vengeance on the man who has caused the tragedy.

At Khadija's house, it is as if nothing had happened--Amna is welcomed back eagerly, and her life returns to its blissful learning in the companionship of her friend. But not altogether, for nearby the house of the young engineer continues to haunt her. Amna finds her thoughts turning inevitably toward him; one window looks out to view the entrance of his house, and furtively she comes to spend more and more of her time there, learning of his comings and goings. At one point she describes her fascination in these words:

He was the smoldering fire, and I the moth that flitted around and was drawn to it, knowing all the time that it will burn and destroy. (34)

Then one day a new blow falls--a bustle of activity begins in each of the two houses, in preparation for some great event. Amna discovers to her horror that an engagement has been arranged between Khadija and the young engineer. Though she goes about her work in preparation for the celebration, and though she listens to Khadija talk in bashful excitement about the news, inwardly, a terrible conflict is going on. Should she warn them? And if so, why? Is she really trying to save Khadija? Or was revenge her motive? Or could it be--the thought suddenly occurs to Amna--that she wanted him for herself? It was "as if she had inherited him from her sister, after her death." (35)

Finally, she can bear it no longer, and, asking for a moment of private with Khadija's mother, tells her the whole dismal tale. Then, knowing she can no longer bear to face Khadija, Amna leaves the house, never to return again. As a result of the disclosure, the engagement is cancelled, and Khadija's family arranges for a transfer to another city, to escape the shame of their broken promise.

The next episodes need not be given in detail. They are the weakest in the book, as the writer arranges events somewhat artificially, moving toward the climax--and that to which Amna has been working--when she manages to get her sister's former position for herself. As she meets the young man, the story goes:

My new master approached me, smiling, pleased, gazing intently into my face for a time, then turning his gaze to each part of my body, as if he were examining a toy he was about to buy.

If he could have, he would have rushed forward to examine me by the touch of his hands, but apparently he still had kept himself some shred of decency. So he had to be content with those long, lingering gazes which completely divest a woman of her clothing.(36)

We are left completely in the dark about what Amna intends to do in her new employment--perhaps because she also has such mixed motives. But gradually the awful poetic justice of the situation becomes clear to the reader, (and perhaps also to her), that she is determined to make herself graciously available to him at all times, without ever actually giving in to his debauchery! This is the startling context within which the opening page is repeated, taking on an entirely new meaning.

The youth comes home one night, after his usual late evening with his friends, to find his servant girl waiting for him at the door. When he asks about it, she replies cheerfully, "I thought my master might have need of me." He commends her, adding a few derogatory remarks about how deeply other servants have always slept, in his employ, and then suggests that she come with him to his room. Then comes the fatal sentence, so easily misunderstood before, "Then he turned toward the bedroom and I followed along behind him."(37) As we learn now, she is gracious to tend to his needs, while gently refusing any further advances.

This is the pattern which unfolds, then, a battle of wills, with the girl triumphant every time. She says once, "I had met him on the battlefield of his own choice, and defeated him."(38) His abject pleading is described as "that which destroys a man's manhood, making him seem strong as a lion, but weak as a mouse, strong as a lord, but despicable as a slave."(39) Eventually they came to a kind of truce, an acceptance of each other. The young man even begins to change his ways, spending less of his evenings out, and more time at home, to be near her.

Of course all this was bound to have its effect on Amna. She found herself torn between sympathy and a growing tenderness for him, now, and her older iron resolves to punish him. She found that the "red demons" of the night, and the vision of her dead sister, were receding from her mind. They were no longer with her constantly, as before.

None of this inner turmoil showed itself to the engineer. Not, at least, until he came to her one day, announcing that he has been transferred to Cairo, and she will not be troubled by him any more.

The sentence fell upon me like a bolt of lightning. I was bewildered, not answering and not trying to hide my bewilderment. Suddenly I burst into tears. The youth drew near to me; for once I didn't draw back from him. He put his hands on my shoulders, and I did not resist him. I was lost in silence, with my tears falling. The youth stood as he was before me, in a silence not usual for him, just looking at me silently, wondering; and turning from me slightly, he said in a voice like that of a ghost, "What's this I see. You do hate to leave me, then!"(40)

The rest is almost anti-climactic. He takes her with him to live in his parents' home in Cairo, to continue as his private servant. His parents are astounded at the change in him, and urge him to go out with his friends more often. He prefers to stay at home, often spending long hours in conversation with Su'ad (the name she had adopted when first employed by him).

One day he insists on facing with her the matter of their friendship, and asks her to marry him. She, of course, refuses, and when he repeats his

request, insisting that his parents would be willing to accept her, she goes on to say that Fate has ordained that this be impossible. He is mystified and pleads with her to explain what she means.

Her next movement is crucial. Until that time she has always insisted on maintaining her status as a servant. Many times he has urged her to sit, in his presence, and she has always refused. Now, she has been standing behind a chair, resting her hand on it. And in an act which symbolizes the final breaking of her resolves, she says, "Then give me permission to sit down," and goes ahead to sit, without waiting for his answer.(41)

The movie version of the book has appeared, and as is often the case, the ending was changed. The uncle appears, and seeing the two embracing, kills the boy. Even the Hollywood of Cairo could not bear the simple, unsophisticated charm of Taha Husayn's ending. The young man only comments on how the curlew has brought them together, and then, presumably, they live happily ever after. We have come a long way from the age of Romanticism, and find it hard to accept as real a non-violent, idyllic resolution to tragedy. We call it naive, unrealistic.

Maybe the Call of the Curlew has a message for us even today--that patient insistence on walking in the right can be redemptive, that love can grow out of the blood-red wells of revenge, or even, of lust. Perhaps we need once again the eternal message that good can triumph, if given a chance, and that the story of it is still worth painting, in the glorious hues of classical romanticism and eloquence. As Amna says in another context, "Who knows, it may be that your telling of it will be a warning to me, and a comfort to you."(42)

al-Suyūṭī lists a sense of "good taste" among many requirements for one who would appreciate the excellences of the Qur'ān. In one quotation, he compares it to a man's perception of beauty in two young ladies, one with far superior physical attributes, yet men of good taste instinctively prefer the other, without really knowing why.(43)

In a sense, this word of appreciation will mean little except to those who would also "experience" the book's beauty without it! And of course one always wonders if such an experience does mean the reader has good taste, or is simply sentimental, or old-fashioned, a hopeless romanticist. The only way to know, finally, is by encouraging others to try the book, and expose themselves to its charm. Thus the validity for writing the article.

Kenneth E. Nolin is minister of a church in Fredericktown, Pa.

Notes to this article. Page references following are to the 1958 Dar al-Ma'arif, Cairo, edition of Du'ā' al-Karawān. (1) Amna, when first introduced to the French language, comments, "I know there is the village language which I used to speak, the language of Cairo which Khadija speaks, and a third language which we read in books; though we are not unable to understand it, we find some difficulty in it." p. 95. As far as could be noted, only one colloquial word appears in the text, the honorific title with which a government employee might be addressed, "al-Bāsh-muhandis", p. 60. (2) The initial particle, "Beware," Iyyāki, is never heard in colloquial speech, and would invariably be iw'ī; the verb for "do", taf'ali and fa'alti, is limited to classical Arabic;

the passive construction only rarely appears in village speech, tukhda'ī kamā khudi'tu and aw tudfa'ī ila mithli mā dufi'tu ilayhi; the preposition ilayhi is only classical, and would become lu in colloquial. (3) p. 34-35.

(4) "impelled but repelled", tudfa'ī fa-tandafi'ī, p. 61. (5) "I stand in my place, bewildered, or like one bewildered", dhāhilatan aw ka-al-dhāhilah, p.31; and again, "The difference between them and the animals of the house was negligible, or almost negligible," wa-al-farq malghī aw ka-al-malghī, p. 130.

(6) "I hated the violence that was immediately evident to everyone coming into contact with him...that brutal tone so typical of his conversation, the determined voice which tossed out words at you with decisiveness (ḥazm), determination ('azm), and forcefulness (shiddah), not accepting any question or argument." p. 53. It is often difficult to find the English equivalents for a series of parallel synonyms like those used above. (7) "Did that miserable girl taste anything of life's pleasure except those bittersweet fruits?" p. 96 hādhihi al-thamarāt al-ḥulwah al-murrah. (8) "I drew back hastily," a pallid translation which in no way expresses the double emphasis possible in a classical Arabic construction: Innī la-atarāja' musri'atan, p. 52, and frequently elsewhere. (9) p. 10, 151. (10) p. 53. (11) p. 19 ff. (12) "This girl who looks behind her to see a love lost, and looking ahead of her, a terrifying fear," p. 60: hādhihi al-fatāt allatī tanzur warā'ahā fa-tarā ḥubban muḍayya'an wa-tanzur amamahā fa-tarā khawfan murawwi'an. (13) p. 52-53, 71. (14) p. 53-55, 102. In the latter, Amna is reacting to songs of love which she hears, and which remind her that her sister used to sing them; though they meant much to her, others who hear them are in no way affected by them. "It brings to mind that evil uncle who has heard the song a thousand and one times, but it did not bring him to his senses...never helping him to taste either the delight of love nor its pain, nor teaching him that there is in love what is above reproach, what is above crime, what is above punishment." p. 102. (15) p. 23 and 52-53, contrasted to 71 ff. (16) p. 72-82. (17) p. 114-115. (18) p. 83 ff., and 86. (19) "Yes, I knew my uncle, Nāsir," p. 53: Na'am, 'ariftu khālī Nāsir. (20) p. 23, 52-53. In the latter, Amna has a chance to meet the father of Khadija, a police officer, when he comes to investigate a crime at the village in which they have taken refuge. Her impulse to go to him was forbidden by her mother. "Yes, I had intended to do it, and almost did. But I saw my mother, and the misery of former times (the death of her husband, in disgrace) that was always with her; I saw my sister and the new misery she was experiencing. So I chose the agony of these two miserable souls over the good I would have preferred for myself. I stayed with them, waiting for what the days ahead concealed for the two of them." (21) p. 71. (22) p. 25. (23) "How different these gulping mouths which toss in the food frantically, so that it is hardly there before it is rushed on to the throats; as if nature had not created these mouths with any sense of taste to enjoy what they eat and drink, but only as a way to throats and bellies...Where could I find the strength to force my hand in among those grasping hands and move my mouth with those mouths? All I could do was sit among these women, looking at them in disgust, assuaging my hunger with the flat, wide, round loaves, rolling some in my hand and grasping at some food from time to time." p. 38. (24) p. 139. (25) p. 19. The passage is translated on p. 16 of the article. See also note 31. (26) p. 116: "...open, yet concealed, evident yet obscure; she approaches it, yet withdraws herself from it, accepts it as good news, but rejects it; her soul rejoices, but she is ashamed to talk about it;

her heart is filled with pleasure and delight, but good manners force her to pretend sadness whenever it is mentioned to her." (27) p. 71. (28) p. 51. (29) p. 71. (30) p. 40-46. (31) p. 19. (32) p. 55. (33) p. 71. (34) p. 103. (35) p. 115. (36) p. 150. (37) p. 10, 151. Only one small change was noted in the entire page; it was perhaps an oversight, or a misprint. (38) p. 152. (39) p. 155. (40) p. 165. (41) p. 175. (42) p. 29. (43) al-Itqān fī 'Ulūm al-Qur'ān, Cairo, Mustafa al-Babi al-Halabi (3d ed.), 1951, v. 2, p. 181, based on a quotation from Ibn Abī al-Hadīd. (In another edition of the Itqān, that edited by Muhammad Abu al-Fadl, Cairo, Matba'at al-Mashhad al-Husayni, 1967, the reference is to v. 4, p. 186-187.)

COLLATION FROM OTHER LIBRARY AREAS TOUCHING MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS

ARL. The Association of Research Libraries' Sub-Committee on the Middle East is surveying the Cairo PL 480 Program of very low cost book distribution to selected American Middle East Collections. The technical processes of receiving libraries were gauged in a 1973 questionnaire. (This has been the year of questionnaires!) This revealed a range of capabilities in dealing with backlogs of books and periodicals. David Partington is managing the survey, and he reports that the next steps to be taken are close studies of 1) the uses of these research materials in receiving institutions, and 2) the potential for more efficient use in schools which now must pay the dealer's price for books available from Cairo.

CRL. The Center for Research Libraries in Chicago is now operating its expanded Journals Project. This program of acquisition is moving towards the establishment in the U.S. of a comprehensive national lending library system for journals. Holdings emphasis will approximate proportions of 50 percent science and technology, 25 percent social sciences, and 25 percent humanities. Although not all institutions with major Middle East library collections are members of CRL, some journal titles relative to our area are already available there. Member institutions recommend titles that are new or that they wish to cancel, but which they need to have available on loan if called for. Titles of some interest listed through June of 1973 include: Bitzaron (N.Y.), IBLA (Tunis), Ishmael (Paris), Journal Asiatique (Paris), Middle East Perspective (N.Y.), and International Library Review (N.Y.).

ALA. From the 1973 Summer convention of the American Library Association we have first reports of the meeting in which the Asian-African Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (an ALA division) participated. These published (LC Information Bulletin, 8-17-73) and verbal accounts indicate that the discussion worked on problems special to serials librarianship, and did not go into matters arising from Non-Western language materials. Cooperation was a leading theme in the approach to serials work.

AJL. The Association of Jewish Libraries met in Los Angeles at the end of June. Its research division devoted one session to discuss the effects that the closing of the PL 480 office in Tel-Aviv will have on

their acquisition programs. Aside from the financial burden, the closing poses a more serious problem of obtaining current complete information pertaining to publications. The number of publications that appear in Israel every year (including numerous reprints) cover a broad range of subjects. Many titles are published by private or obscure publishers and it is difficult to maintain a complete and accurate count and description of these titles. The PL 480 lists were of course not complete but offered the most current listing of titles that would be of value to College and Research libraries. It also offered catalog copy that was used by LC for its preparation of cards. Now bibliographers will have to depend on book lists, ads etc. Kiryat Sefer, the bibliographic quarterly published by the Hebrew University is by far the best bibliographic tool that now one must rely upon. It too is not complete and is not always current.

Israel Book World, published by the Israel Export Center, too is not complete, and oftentimes the entries contained in their lists are conflicting.

ASI, the Israel Librarians Association, is sponsoring a project for public libraries. Catalog cards are being prepared for current publications. They can be purchased and used for a multiplicity of purposes.

Note by Charles Cutter, Ohio State

LIBRARY TOURS, LOOK-INS AND NOTICES

HARVARD Middle East Librarians are planning and preparing for publication a series of annotated subject bibliographies based on the Arabic PL 480 receipts. Fawzi Abdulrazak is working on historical materials received in 1973. We hope it can be published in the Spring number of MELA Notes, to be followed by others. And they are inviting other colleagues with access to this Arabic program to join them and choose a subject. David Partington's call for volunteers for the task back in the 1968 MESA Library Panel was conveniently "not heard" as being too formidable an onus. (Yet those with much to do seem to be the ones who accomplish a great deal!) Assistant Middle East Librarian at Harvard and Secretary-Treasurer of MELA, Martha Dukas, has plans for a close survey of the National Bibliographies of the Middle East. She too may ask for assistance in this large task, with our publication to benefit.

In this regard, MELA Members are delighted to see in print and hope that an "umr ṭawīl" will be enjoyed by Egypt's new annual listing of books in print, Dalīl al-Kitāb al-Miṣrī (1972-), and the League of Arab States' annual compilation of Arab book publishing, al-Nashrah al-'Arabiyyah lil-Matbū'āt (1970- , published in Cairo, 1972-). In the latter title, a hasty glance-over revealed that Saudi Arabia and Yemen missed the first issue. Now, thanks to Dr. Sheniti and his colleagues, the sea of Arabic imprints is in the course of time being bounded and known.

The MESA survey of Middle East library collections in the U.S. made during the summer of 1973 brought a good response, meaning over 50 percent. Follow-ups will be made to gain further information, and notes on the results will be in print. Hearty thanks to all respondents for their help. The U.S. topography of Middle East collections for library work is still familiar, having major, minor, and bush leagues of investment and capital resources. The great ones have earned appreciation for aggressive and knowing leadership over the years. Among the small a wise word runs, "Buy the best!"