

Summary of Proposed Amendments Not Passed. (By item no.)

- 1) Art. I, Sect. 2. Nature. To drop and add some modifiers of MELA's sphere of interest.
- 2) Art. III, Sect. 2. Election to Membership. Entirely revised to provide for approval by majority of Members present at a business session or by interim approval of Secretary-Treasurer until ratified.
- 3) Art. III, Sect. 3. Privileges of Members. Deleting "both categories of Membership" in parts A, B and C, and "only Professional Members" in part D. To substitute in each case "all Members." Deletions in Parts B and D to provide all rights for all Members.
- 4) Art. III, Sect. 4. Dues. Delete the word "Professional."
- 5) Art. III, Sect. 6. Resignations or Removal of Members. Deletions in part B to remove distinctions between categories of membership.
- 8) Art. IV, Sect. 3. Election of Officers. Add preliminary sentence: "Election to all offices, other than to the Presidency, to which the Vice President automatically succeeds, shall be held at the annual meeting." Delete "Professional" from next sentence, and sentence on the tallying of votes and their verification.
- 10) Art. IV, Sect. 6. Resignation of Officers. Delete "Professional." Delete sentence beginning "Time thus served..." and insert after "vacated term" the phrase "as well as his own term the following year."
- 11) Art. IV, Sect. 8, Part B. Committees (Nominating Committee). Delete the first sentence and replace with: "The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members who shall be elected at the annual meeting for a period of one year. The person receiving the most votes shall be Chairperson and Recorder."
- 12) Art. IV, Sect. 8, Part C. Other Committees. Delete "Professional." Delete sentence beginning "Each such committee..."
- 13) Art. V, Sect. 2, Part A. Form of Annual Meeting (Business Session). Rewriting more concisely to define quorum as 15 members.
- 14) Art. V, Sect. 3. Additional Meetings. Minor semantics.
- 15) Art. VII, Sect. 1, Part B. Proposal of Amendments (by petition). Delete "without regard to category of membership."
- 16) Art. VII, Sect. 3. Adoption of Amendments. Deletions of "Professional."

COLLATION FOR THE NOTES: MELA Program at Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, November 8, 1978. The program portion of the MELA meeting will consist of reports on Library of Congress activities in Middle East librarianship. It is expected that Mike Albin, LC's Middle East Field Director, will attend, and that one part of the program will be his report on the activities of the Cairo LC office.

The major portion of the program will consist of a report by the Program Committee, on current and planned Library of Congress activities, practises, and policies in Middle East librarianship. This report will be based on the two-day conference held at the Library of Congress on 6-7 July, 1978. The conference was attended by the following MELA members, who constitute the 1978 Program Committee: Edward A. Jajko, Ch., Fawzi Khoury (ex. off.), John Eilts, Chris Filstrup, Dennis Hyde, Francine McNulty and Eric Ormsby.

(Collation cont. on p.24)

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ADDRESSES, ESSAYS, LECTURES:

Received too late for inclusion in NOTES 14 were supplements to the first two articles. Wolfgang Behn modifies and expands his next to final paragraph. Miroslav Krek sends description of a recently received manuscript.

Supplement to "Persian Literature Published in Europe in the Sixties and Seventies," (See NOTES 14, p. 7, revised here) by Wolfgang Behn

...

At the moment it is difficult to make a meaningful evaluation of the Persian publications outside Iran. But a few words must be said about the magnitude of Persian printing, even though it is realized that quantity alone is no sound criterion for evaluating literature. In the course of compiling a bibliography of Persian exile literature the writer recently identified 366 European monographs of the years 1972 to 1977, totalling almost 41,000 pages; that is to say, disregarding serials (of which there are at least 81) as well as the translations of Marx's, Engels', Lenin's, Stalin's and Mao's works (more than 3,200 pages altogether), the average title amounts to 112 pages, the actual size ranging from 7 to 700 pages.

Apart from the European publications there are also works being published in the United States. In two monograph series at least 120 titles have been published in Houston, Texas, as well as in Springfield, Missouri, and Belleville, Illinois. Certainly some additional material is being published independently. It is probably safe to assume that at least since 1968 some hundred Persian underground titles are being produced annually everywhere. Whether a qualitative analysis of this type of literature will attest to its importance remains to be seen, but the situation in Iran being what it is, no objective study can be done solely on the basis of what emanates from the Iranian printing presses.

...

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Supplement to "Middle Eastern Manuscripts in the Brandeis University Library,"
by Miroslav Krek

12. Accession number: (nos. discontinued). Language: Coptic (Bohairic) and Arabic.

⌊Coptic liturgy and prayers. 7 leaves from larger work(s)⌋ Coptic (Bohairic) and Arabic.

Contents:

⌊1rv⌋	⌊246?⌋-247	Incipit:	انت الله العالی على كل الروساء وكل السلاطين
⌊2rv⌋	⌊176?⌋-177	"	هكذا نحن الخطاة نفضل طهر انفسنا واجسادنا
⌊3rv⌋	⌊Illegible⌋	"	الجليس والشريك الخالق مع الاب الذي صلاحه
⌊4rv⌋	152-153	"	ليمنى صدق الايمان سهل لنا طريق التقوى
⌊5rv⌋	CL ⌊sic⌋	"	ذاكرة الشرور القديمة وسريرة بغير مرايات وافكار
⌊6rv⌋	⌊177?-178⌋	"	الرسل التلاميذ والرسل الاطهار قايلًا لهم
⌊7rv⌋	196-197	"	واجعلنا مستحقين للسلامة السماوية ⌊sic⌋ بلاهوتك

13th to 14th centuries. (3)

Script: Coptic, fairly large uncial in dark sepia ink; Arabic, also rather large and clear, sparingly vowelled but dotted naskh. The 7 folios measure w 11.8 x h 16 cm; written surface about w 10 x h 14 cm. Text is arranged in two columns Coptic on left, Arabic on right, 14 lines to page. Red is used in letters ψ, ϣ, in initials, headings, punctuations ⤵, compendia and in numerals. Some source indications in margins are also in red.

Chapters appearing on fols. CL ⌊sic⌋ v bottom and ⌊177?⌋ r bottom read respectively: ⲚⲁⲛⲁⲪⲁⲢⲀⲛⲤⲈ ⲠⲓⲁⲢⲓⲁⲤⲔⲚⲓⲗⲗⲟⲥ قداس القديس كيرلس

and ⲠⲈⲚⲓⲱⲤⲈⲤⲢⲈ ⲈⲤⲠⲟⲤ ⲠⲟⲤ

صلاة من بعد ابينا الذي في نعم يا رب يا رب

Small ornaments in red and yellow are found middle top margin within abbreviations ⲓⲚⲥⲟⲩ ⲕⲣⲓⲤⲟⲩ for ⲓⲚⲥⲟⲩ ⲕⲣⲓⲤⲟⲩ apparently starting quires 15 and 12 ⌊sic⌋ respectively. The numerals which are located in the top inner corners would indicate that what we have here are perhaps folios of two works of one scribe bound together or a misnumbering. The paper is thick and light brown in color. The binding consists of beige paper over cardboard with lightly embossed flower and grape motif. Leather spine. The binding is of a later date.

Provenance: Gift of Maury A. Bromsen, member of the Society of Bibliophiles at Brandeis University, 1978. Formerly owned by Wilberforce Eames and Hugo Paltsits of the New York Public Library, whose signatures appear on the front flyleaf, the signature of the latter with the date April, 1907. Maisonneuve's emblem "A la tour de Babel" is pasted in inner front cover with references in pencil given to Guilmoto 5946 and Maisonneuven 1891 Cat. 6536.

Note added to this article: (3) Card attached dates the ms. as 9th-10th century.

This dating would be difficult to justify. Bilingual liturgical works did not come into prominence until the 12th century. Comparison with other mss. seems to indicate that the ornamental flourishes start at a later date.

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Al-Zahiriyyah,

by Michael W. Albin

There is no question that certain buildings, the dūr al-'ilm, deserve respect for the part they have played in accommodating scientific activity in the service of civilization and progress. One of these structures devoted to the pursuit of learning is the Zahiriyyah School which bears the name of the father of its founder, the Mamluk al-Malik al-Zāhir Baybars (r. 658-676/1260-1277). Construction began in 676/1277 and the building was opened in the following year. The Zahiriyyah was considered one of Damascus' most important schools. Classes were conducted in the Qur'an, hadith, fiqh, sources of Islamic law, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, the physical sciences, history and literature. The Zahiriyyah is located in the 'Amārah district at Bāb al-Barīd, across the street from Madrassah 'Adliyyah, today the headquarters of the Arabic Language Academy (Majma' al-Lughah al-'Arabīyah bi-Dimashq). In the mid-1870's the Zahiriyyah witnessed a transformation after having been distinguished as a center for legal scholars, hadith specialists, grammarians, historians and men of letters for a period of seven centuries. The building began to take in young students. A notice was hung on the door announcing it as the al-Malik al-Zahir School (Madrassah). Thus the Zahiriyyah became an official part of the modernizing educational system. Its manuscripts became subject to theft and sale in and out of Damascus. This pilferage of waqf manuscripts continued until a ruling was passed to collect books into a public library in the turbah of al-Malik al-Zāhir, the Zahiriyyah building, to print an acquisition book (daftāran bi-asmā' al-kutub) and to appoint custodians.

The library was opened to all and the stage of book acquisitions began. Afterward the library was joined to the Awqaf Bureau which also had authority for the other public libraries until the advent of the Arab Government on the 19th of February, 1919. At that time it was attached to the Education Administration (Dīwān al-Ma'ārif). The Administration was concerned with book matters and reading and required that the entire Zahiriyyah building be devoted to library purposes. This directive was published in the press on March 20, 1919: "The Arab Government has resolved on the foundation of a library (dār lil-kutub) in this capital for which will be acquired worthwhile books, both old and new, both in manuscript and in printed form in various sciences and arts, in Arabic and other languages for the purpose of facilitating the study for the Arab nation of the most beneficial sciences and literature. Whoever has books of this sort and wishes to sell them should inform the Education Administration. A price will be agreed upon and paid without hesitation or delay. To this effect this announcement is published." The library was Dār al-Kutub al-'Arabīyah and was attached to the Arab Science Academy (al-Majma' al-'Ilmī al-'Arabī) which was formed in June, 1919. However, the Dār al-Kutub remained confined to the dome of the Zahiriyyah where there was a storeroom for books and a reading hall. Administratively and fiscally it was linked, along with the Arab Science Academy, to the Syrian University.

As the number of readers grew, the Academy was forced to convert its large hall at the Dīwān al-'Adliyyah al-Shamālī, across the street, into a reading room. The unity of the library was split because of the continued presence of the elementary school in the building. The Academy sought to get

rid of the school in order to restore the structure and free it for books. It also sought budgetary and administrative independence from the University. The elementary school was finally moved at the end of 1927. Refurbishing of the building followed. The Academy began to furnish the library with manuscripts, printed books and serials, making it more attractive to readers. Copying of rare Arabic manuscripts from libraries in Europe and elsewhere was accomplished sometimes by hand and sometimes by photography. In 1937 the Zahiriyah library was organized into two sections, one devoted to school assignments and general reading and the other to the study of the rarer materials with the object of scholarly publishing. Today the library still has two reading rooms, a large hall for the use of young readers who profit from the quiet surroundings to do their homework or study for exams, and a smaller room, equipped with reference works for the use of researchers pursuing studies based on the library's manuscripts.

The Zahiriyah contains several bookstacks. There is the stack for the large collection of precious manuscripts covering all scientific and literary fields. These were written between the 9th and 19th centuries. The collection is reckoned to number 12,000 volumes, but as Zahiriyah director Mājid al-Dhahabī points out, individual works bound together might number as many as 50,000. At present the library does not acquire manuscripts either by gift or purchase. The reason lies in the inflexible bureaucracy of the Arabic Language Academy under whose administration the Zahiriyah falls, and the small amount of money available to acquire manuscripts in the market place where owners prefer to deal with merchants offering high prices. In this fashion intellectual treasures are lost. On the other hand, the most frequently used manuscripts have been photographed so as to preserve the original copy. All the manuscripts photographed have film copies on deposit at the Arab Language Academy. The Academy attempts to have further copies made from the negatives, also with the object of preserving the original. Mr. al-Dhahabī says that the entire collection is now in the process of being filmed. The manuscripts have been cataloged and the catalogs, arranged by subject, have been printed. The catalogs are available at libraries the world over. Through their use foreign scholars can obtain photographs of any manuscript by mail. The Academy sets the price of photographing so as merely to recover operating costs. It costs a quarter of a Syrian pound (roughly \$ 0.25) for a two-page shot on microfilm and a half-pound for a paper copy. The library responds to photographing requests within two days. The manuscripts have recently been moved to a cement storeroom equipped with modern fire extinguishers. The previous depository was the crypt of al-Malik al-Zāhir and al-Malik al-Sa'id. There are several problems still involved in handling the manuscripts, however. They are subject to deterioration because there are no specialists to give them proper care, for, unfortunately, Syria possesses no training center for instructing technicians in conservation and restoration. There is a need for young people to go abroad for training. Moreover, the manuscripts continue to be consumed by rodents and insects. The library is exposed to the threat of fire at all times. Surrounding it are a woodworking shop, a paper warehouse, a textile works, and a bakery. It is therefore necessary to try to remove these threatening activities from the library's vicinity.

The printed book section is the second stack division of the library. There are about 65,000 books and 44,000 serial volumes dispersed in three subdivisions, one for books, a second for magazines and a third for newspapers.

Each book bears two numbers, the general or accession number and the specific number, or the number assigned according to size. The catalog enters books under authors and titles. A subject catalog is nearing completion. The periodical stacks contain newspapers and magazines and all manner of reports in Arabic and other languages.

Books can be used only within the library; it is not permitted to take a book from the premises. Up until about twenty years ago readers could take books home and return them when they had finished. Now, to protect the books and keep them available for the largest number of readers, the books are not circulated. The library may have multiple copies of Syrian publications. According to Mr. al-Dhahabī, the Syrian publication law requires that five copies of each work published in the country be deposited with the Ministry of Education. The Ministry often passes as many as three of these deposit copies to the Zahiriyah. However, a perusal of the quarterly accessions list (al-Nashrah al-Maktabīyah bi-Kutub al-Wāridah ilā Dār al-Kutub al-Zāhirīyah) shows that the library must purchase many current Syrian imprints, although most publications of the Ministry of Culture, a major sponsor of literary works, arrive at the library as gifts.

The library has two reading rooms. The Amīr Muṣṭafā al-Shihābī Room is the general reading room. It has a capacity of 200 and is generally used by students. It is open from 8 am to 7:30 pm. The Shaykh Ṭāhir al-Jazā'irī Room is reserved for researchers. Reading room shelves contain references and text editions for the convenience of readers. The hours are from 8 am until 2 pm. Subject catalogs to the manuscripts are published by the Arabic Language Academy. To date catalogs have appeared for history, Shafi'ite jurisprudence, medicine and pharmacy, geography, Qur'an science, poetry, astronomy, philosophy, logic, mathematics, grammar and rhetoric.

Although Mr. al-Dhahabī asserts that the library is changing over to DDC, its collection is still largely classed according to a list of eighteen major categories devised by Youssef Eche. These categories are Qur'an sciences, hadith, kalam, fiqh, Islamic sects and Sufism, non-Islamic religions, general works (encyclopaedias, dictionaries, etc.), philosophy, pure sciences, fine arts, Arabic language sciences, foreign languages, Arabic literature (including criticism, literary history, general works on prose and poetry, dawāwīn and literary works translated into Arabic), foreign literature, history, geography and the social sciences. (1)

The Zahiriyah has up-to-date equipment for microfilming and photocopying and has two microfilm readers. The library can furnish scholars anywhere in the world with photo-or micro-copies of works in the collection.

There has been an increase in recent days in the interest shown by readers and researchers toward the library. Despite administrative limitations, services have increased with the increasing demands. Within two or three years, when the Arabic Language Academy's new quarters are opened on Ummayad Square, the Zahiriyah library expects to expand into the 'Adliyah, a building of comparable size. Additional pressure will be relieved in the mid-1980's when the new Asad National Library, groundbreaking for which took place on July 6, 1978 at Ummayad Square, is opened to the public.

It remains only to say that the Zahiriyah Library has been and remains one of those houses of knowledge which has produced scholars without number in the religious and secular sciences. These scholars have played an important part in the intellectual and spiritual world for seven centuries. To preserve the library building is to preserve a part of the Syrian intellectual and cultural history, yet what is of still greater importance is the restoration of the library's priceless manuscripts.

Zahiriyah Library Statistics.

Year	Printed Books	Manuscripts	Visitors	Books Used
1880	53	2400		
1919	1181	2833		
1928	9296	3730		
1973	57308	11860	21782	18236
1977	63789	11899 (A)	50800 (B)	23706

- A. 2778 manuscripts were used in 1977; in the same year 1810 were photographed.
 B. 250 scholars used the manuscript collections in 1977.

Notes to this article: (1) The article (in Tishrin) mentions only seventeen main headings. I was unable to verify the system on a visit to the Zahiriyah, but I suspect the missing heading is for the applied sciences.

This report is based on an article in Tishrin, a political daily newspaper published in Damascus, which appeared on July 26, 1978.

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COLLATION FOR THE NOTES: (Continued from p. 13) The Arab Librarians' Meeting in Baghdad, December, 1977.

ALECSO Conference Held in Baghdad.

In response to an invitation from the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the second Conference for Arab Bibliographers met in Baghdad on December 3-12, 1977, to discuss organization developments and achievements since the first conference held in Riyadh at the end of November, 1973. There were representatives from Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrein, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Somalia. Also attending were observers from other organizations including the American University in Cairo, the Middle East Librarians Association (Fawzi Khoury, University of Washington), and ALECSO's bibliographic expert, Saad M. el-Hagrasy, who is also consultant to the Library of Congress Office in Cairo.

Discussions and recommendations centered around four main issues.

The conference endorsed the rules for International Standard Bibliographic Description embodied in Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, chapter 6 revised, prepared in Arabic by Mr. el-Hagrasy and published by ALECSO late in 1976. The conference recommended that all the chapters be translated and adapted so as to have a complete Arabic code following ISBD. It was also urged that the departments of librarianship at Arab universities undertake the responsibility of teaching this code and training Arab bibliographers and catalogers

in its application. The conference also approved the project undertaken by ALECSO in collaboration with the Cairo University Scientific Computation Center to prepare a unified list of entries for Arab authors with references, making use of data available at the Library of Congress Office in Cairo.

The conference supported unification of efforts to compile a standard Arabic list of subject headings, and urged ALECSO to take steps to prepare and publish this list, as well as a standard list of descriptors in the field of libraries and information.

Noting that the several Arabic translations and revisions of the Dewey Decimal Classification do not serve the purpose of creating a unified system of classification of Arabic works, the conference took a stand against more translations and revisions, and urged the drawing up of a unified Arabic plan of classification in accordance with the principles and experiences of ALECSO since the 1973 Riyadh conference.

With reference to bibliographic work, the conference made a number of recommendations, including the endorsement of the Arabic version of the Library of Congress MARC Serials format prepared by Mr. el-Hagrasy, to be used in projects in Arab countries for preparing a union list of serials.

Note copied from LC Information Bulletin, April 21, 1978, p. 265-266; by Saad M. el-Hagrasy. Used by permission of the writer.

Library of Congress Officials Welcome MELA Delegates, July, 1978. In the August 4 issue of the LC Information Bulletin (p. 452-454) there is an illustrated write-up of the MELA visit to LC. Librarian of Congress Daniel Roorstin greeted the delegates at an opening day luncheon. Quoting now:

"Library staff who participated included Frank M. McGowan, director for acquisitions and overseas operations, Processing Services, and acting director for area studies, Research Services; Robert Sullivan, chief, Order Division; Nathan Einhorn, chief, Exchange and Gift Division (E&G); Susan Sayre, head of the African and Asian Section, E&G; Rodney Sarle, chief of the Overseas Operations Division, who was the Library's liaison to MELA for this program, and John C. Crawford, assistant chief of that division. Lucia J. Rather, director for cataloging, Processing Services, was present, and from her area, Mary K. Pietris, chief, Subject Cataloging Division; subject cataloger David Littlefield; Ben Tucker, principal cataloger, Descriptive Cataloging Division; and, from the same division, Laurie Smith, head, Miscellaneous Languages Section. CONSER operations coordinator Dorothy Glasby represented the Serial Record Division. Zuhair Jwaideh, chief, Near East and African Law Division; John Finzi, assistant director for the development of the collections, Research Services; James Agenbroad, Bibliographic Systems Office; Robert Davis, administrative assistant to Mr. McGowan; and Julian Witherell, recently named chief of the new African and Middle East Division, also participated. From the Orientalia Division came Warren Tsuneishi, chief; George Atiyeh, head, Near East Section; Lawrence Marwick, head, Hebraic Section; Dorothy Stehle, Arabic NUC Project; and Abraham Bodurgil, Ibrahim Pourhadi, and George Selim, all area specialists in the Near East Section."

Columbus Radio Hearing Music of Araby. Marsha McClintock writes of an interesting effort to interpret Near Eastern culture. She reports: "Three friends and myself now have a weekly half hour Arab music radio show on a local station."

It's a lot of fun and is very good for community awareness and understanding. We do several spots a week introducing the culture and literature of the area, which is wide and varied indeed."

Press Release from LC's Overseas Operations Division Office. (Rec'd 9-18-78)

In the November 18, 1977 issue of the LC Information Bulletin, the Library asked for comments from the library community on the desirability of a project whereby cataloging records for materials written in the vernacular scripts of South Asia would be issued in fully romanized form only, thus allowing input of these records to machine-readable form. The comments that the Library received were generally positive. Consequently, the Library proceeded to consider further the project implementation and to revise its procedures and routines to accommodate the change. The details have been finalized and the first phase of the project is scheduled for implementation on October 2, 1978. On that day the Library's field office in New Delhi, India, will begin preparing its entries for the accessions lists and thus the preliminary cards in romanization only. For the near future, items in the vernacular already in the pipeline, whether in New Delhi or Washington, will not be revised and thus will still appear in the vernacular in the accessions lists, and on final catalog cards. It will be some time before libraries begin receiving final catalog copy in romanized form only. However, participants in the Special Foreign Currency Program will see the romanized preliminary entries with the items they receive through the program. Phase II of the project will be implemented when the field office in Karachi, Pakistan, begins to produce the romanized records on January 2, 1979. All languages of South Asia will be romanized and records will be issued only in romanized form. The list below includes only those languages in which items are fairly regularly received.

Languages not to be issued in the vernacular: Assamese, Baluchi⁺, Bengali, Braj, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri⁺, Konkani, Lepcha⁺, Limbu⁺, Maithili, Malayalam, Maldivian⁺, Manipuri, Marathi, Mongolian⁺, Nepali, Newari, Oriya, Pali, Panjabi, Prakrit, Pushto, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Sinhalese, Tamil, Telugu, Tibetan, Tulu, Urdu. (+ = No romanization table available; therefore, no final cataloging will be prepared.)

Publication Announcement and Member News. The ACRL Office in Chicago reports on the following title: A Directory of Asian and African Librarians in North America has been prepared by the Asian and African Section of ACRL. Price is \$5 (\$6 for non-ACRL members) with a self-addressed mailing label to be sent to ACRL, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Paul Auchterlonie reports that he has been elected Secretary of the (British) Middle East Libraries Committee (MELCOM) on the retirement of Dr. Derek Hopwood from this post, held since MELCOM was organized. J.D. Latham (Manchester) and R.L. Bidwell (Cambridge) were re-elected Chairman and Treasurer.

Editorial: "To the Egress." P.T. Barnum's crushingly successful indoor menagerie show drew crowds determined to absorb knowledge of new things. People inside the display rooms stood and stared, and only with some pushing gave way to others in the queue, or crush as it were. So showman Barnum finally broke the jam slowing his ticket sales. A new wonder was advertised: "To the Egress," the sign read. Citizens from all directions hurried around the marked hallway. An usher beyond the turnstiles presided at the opening of the door. There it was seen-- the city sidewalk! The crush urged them on, the show took on new health, and wonders continued to be seen. Being apropos, this outbound editor hurriedly and heartily thanks readers for useful criticism and much generous cooperation. Long will live the Middle East, and Middle East librarians.

Jim Belock