

# MELA Notes

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## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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EUPHEMIA

Attending MELA's annual meeting resembles a visit to Euphemia's bazaar. In this emporium, one of the topoi limed so elegantly by Italo Calvino in Invisible Cities (Harcourt Brace Javonovich, 1974), merchants deal in stories and memories as well as ginger and cotton.

You do not come to Euphemia only to buy and sell, but also because at night, by the fires all around the market, seated on sacks and barrels or stretched out on piles of carpets, at each word that one man says -- such as "wolf", "sister", "hidden treasure", "battle", "scabies", "lovers", -- the others tell, each one, his tale of wolves, sisters, treasures, scabies, lovers, battles. And you know that in the long journey ahead of you, when to keep awake against the camel's swaying or the junk's rocking, you start summoning up your memories one by one, your wolf will have become another wolf, your sister a different sister, your battle other battles, on your return from Euphemia, the city where memory is traded at every solstice and at every equinox.  
(p. 36-37)

MELA Notes serves as MELA's memory between our November gatherings. It preserves for the record and sets astir associations so that words uttered publicly take hold back home and reverberate. In this way the goods of the bazaar we visit but once a year promote profit and stimulate new investment. In our home institutions, the Middle East is represented by a small stall in a fundamentally Western shopping center. Our immediate traffic takes us to catalogers, acquisitions staff, reference desks and other persons and enclaves that on the whole operate insouciant of the intellectual bazaar that supplies our shops.

While walking from one part of the campus to another - at NYPL the equivalent is careening through the social body of Times Square en route to the Annex -- perhaps our thoughts take us back to Ann Arbor or Los Angeles, to a discussion held in a map library or an aside passed along at a bar near Penn Station. As our thoughts fall out of step with bureaucratic bustle, we may realize how much the stuff of our daily work requires the spice of autumn dealing and periodic written statements in other seasons. By dropping out of the mundane, we give our ideas sufficient space to roam. On these pages, notions brave scrutiny to gain currency. Like the stories exchanged and renewed in Euphemia, words committed to formal discourse within MELA serve to keep us oriented (literally) as we swivel this way and that behind our desks.

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ADDRESSES, ESSAYS, LECTURES

Research in Arab Librarianship: A Review Article by Michael W. Albin

"There are more libraries in Cairo than readers", sighs a local librarian using hyperbole born of frustration. And this is only one of the problems. Middle Eastern libraries are generally dim, tatterdemalion affairs not built with the functions of a library in mind. Even the show-place libraries are either out of date or unfinished. The fleet can't be any tauter than the flagship, and often the flagship ought to be in moth-balls. Space, shelves, lighting, heating, cooling, security and clerical machinery are inadequate or non-existent. The conditions are not ameliorated by the administration. Formal library education or pertinent experience wins the librarian only the status of senior clerk. Not infrequently, qualified talent is supervised by clerks with greater seniority. The administration itself must work with low budgets and debilitating routine from ministry of university authorities. Independent action, fund raising for example, is beyond the administrative librarian's wildest dreams. The librarian fills his shelves with collections of cast-off books -- roba vecchia -- from well-meaning benefactors. These materials are no longer of any use to the donor or to the recipient. In many libraries hundreds of these free titles gather dust in corners and cupboards. Worse yet, whole libraries are sometimes composed of this polyglot dross. When the library contains worthwhile materials, the librarian faces the toughest challenge: organizing the contents for the readers. The unhappy fact is that many libraries are not organized for use, but for preservation -- not of the contents but of the librarian's job. The greatest internal weakness of the profession is the lack of service spirit, exemplified in the national library of one Arab country by a sign at the stack entrance which reads "Do Not Enter." If by chance some intrepid Barzuyah enters the stacks, he comes face to face with a warning at the butt of each range of shelves admonishing "Do Not Touch the Books."

These conditions are seen not as temporary obstacles thrown up by circumstances peculiar to Arab history, but rather as the natural state of affairs. Their fruit is a feeling of hopelessness and lassitude in the profession.

The Arab librarian trained abroad, at the Cairo University Department of Librarianship and Archives or, more hastily, at an institute or workshop must be held most proximately responsible for these disturbing conditions. However, no single element, not money, administrative reorganization, service spirit, technological innovation or educational reform, is sufficient to energize Arab librarianship. The grim statistic which looms over all endeavors to upgrade and improve libraries is the illiteracy figure. Is it possible for an Egyptian librarian to enjoy a recognized and honorable status when 75% of his compatriots are illiterate? In Syria or Iraq or

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North Africa the story is the same and in other parts of the Arab world it is even worse.

Just as it has been explicitly stated that the aim of the modern Arab writer is to introduce the idea of western fiction to the Arab reader, there being no local tradition, so the goal of library leaders is taken to be the same. The aim is to bring the west east, in toto and in the teeth of that awful percentage cited above. It is well known that libraries were a familiar institution in Islamic civilization, but the new librarian is quite as different from his medieval avatar as the modern lawyer is from the village qadi. The new librarian sits uneasily with a firm grip on skills and ways of thinking, the value of which lies steadfastly beyond the ken of most of his compatriots. Even a recent Arab League report on culture relegates libraries to a tertiary role in the development of modern Arabic cultural life\*.

A simple catalog of the woes of the Arab librarian does not tell the entire story. There are exceptions to this dismal rule, and the clouds part here and there. Some quarter of a century after the establishment of the Department of Librarianship at Cairo University, the profession, at least in Egypt, has turned out hundreds of academically trained practitioners as well as 13 M.A.'s and 6 Ph.D's, many of whom, in combination with graduates of foreign schools, have become the new generation of leaders in the field. Education for librarianship in the country and the activities of several of the specialized libraries have generated a momentum in Egypt that other Arab countries are competing to duplicate. The expansion of librarianship from Egypt east to the Levant and the Gulf and Peninsula and west to North Africa has afforded the Arab librarian great mobility both in pursuit of his formal education and the practice of his profession. This mobility, I may add, is one of the outstanding features of the profession today, and it benefits the individual librarian at the same time that it often hampers the accomplishment of institutional objectives. Taking advantage of his talent, some organizations around the region have been able to set up effective libraries. The fact of the matter is that libraries are becoming linked in the official mind with education and research so that a bright librarian can write his or her own ticket.

The Arab librarian who can abstract himself from the problems of the present may look forward to the development of the profession in a future in which technologies such as the computer, the microform, and the communications satellite will permit faster growth in some sections of the profession than could ever have been thought possible until recently. By means of this wondrous equipment, the handling and delivery of information may be able to jump over some of the stages of manual manipulation so laboriously (and successfully) applied in our country but which have never found rigorous application in the Middle East. Many Arab countries that never gave more

\*Dirāsāt Taḥlīlī 'an al-Taṭawwur al-Thaqāfī fī al-Aqṭār al-'Arabīyah.  
Cairo: ALECSO, 1977

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than lip service to the development of the traditional library part with large sums for the talent and machinery necessary to set up documentation or scientific information centers. Saudi Arabia is only one country which is investing millions in sci-fi facilities. Egypt, moving more cautiously, may be several years away from its intercontinental satellite links, but anticipates increased access to off-line document delivery from Europe and the U.S., greater control of its own technical literature and a significant contribution to humanistic research in the publication of the holdings of the National Library. These two countries, and others as well, are aware of the centrality of information in the development process.

The Arab librarian may wonder whether all of this isn't coming too fast. After all, the Arab countries have not absorbed the traditional techniques of the profession. Will the acceleration in documentation for the sciences, medicine and engineering only take the focus and resources from school and public libraries? May the desire for automation and data bases and satellites not stem more from a desire for the electronic trappings than realization of the true aim of the new technologies? And what about the efforts to Arabize the profession and its tools? To create standardized codes, thesauri, classification tables and textbooks in Arabic is a task which will occupy at least a generation of the best the Arab profession can produce. Who, one may well ask, should determine the scale of importance of each element of Arabization? In a field where so much needs doing, everything is relevant. Thus the competition for scarce resources may be won by the glibest or the best connected rather than by those with the soundest grasp of overall needs.

The strength of the profession at the moment may lie in the group of young leaders emerging from various library schools in the U.S. and Europe and from Cairo University. It is not a large group, perhaps twenty at most. One of the few forums they have for expression of their ideas and experimentation in new techniques or application of old techniques to Arab circumstances is in the publication program of the Documentation and Information Administration of the Arab League Economic, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). The group of works under review is published by this agency with the hope of promoting librarianship and information science among Arab specialists and practitioners, and hopefully government officials, who allocate resources in this part of the world.

Al-Ma<sup>c</sup> āyir al-Muwahḥadah li-Marākiz al-Ma<sup>c</sup>lūmāt 'Āmmatan wa-al-Tawthīq Khāssatan wa-ma-Yartabatu bi-hā min al-Mu'assasāt wa-al-Waḥā'if (United Standards for General Information and Specialized Documentation Centers with Matters Related to Organization and Function). By Saad M. el-Hagrasy. Cairo: ALECSO, 1977.

This is a collection of previously published articles brought together for the convenience of Arab librarians and library school students. The

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first section sets out a theoretical model for the field of information generation and management, with the aim of showing that standardization is the sine qua non for effective application of the theory over a wide geographic area. Five aspects of application must be considered in appraising multi-unit information systems: standards in media production; in selection and acquisition; in processing; in public service and reference; and in administration. Each of these points is discussed in light of the stage reached in Europe, Japan or North America and the current situation in the Arab countries. Neither in the theoretical nor in the practical discussion does the author mention that standards may have the effect, often intentional, of lessening the quality of a given operation rather than enhancing it.

The second section of the work is composed of the introductions to the first and second editions of the author's translations into Arabic of AACR Chapter Six and other selected material from the Anglo-American manual; correspondence of Mahmud al-Akhras of the Jordanian Ministry of Education responding to Dr. al-Hagrasy's Arabic translations of Chapter Six; and the transcription of the author's address to IFLA in Seoul, Korea in May-June 1976 in which he recounts the recent history of standardization of bibliographic description.

International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) was first adumbrated in a pan-Arab forum at the November 1973 ALECSO conference in Riyadh on Bibliographic Preparation of the Arab Book. One recommendation of the conference was that ISBD be disseminated and applied as widely as possible in the Arab world. ALECSO's Documentation and Information Administration undertook execution of the recommendation. This activity was taking place at the very time that Chapter Six was still in the press. (It was issued by ALA in September 1974).

By April 1974 Dr. el-Hagrasy had completed a set of Arabized rules based on the draft of Chapter Six. These were published under the title Ba<sup>q</sup> al-Taqnīnāt al-<sup>c</sup>Arabīyah lil-Waṣf al-Bībliyughrāfī. Published by ALECSO in 1975, they were circulated to Arab libraries with the request that they be used as a first step toward complete bibliographic unification. The libraries were also asked to record their observations on the use of the new rules for discussion at the Second Bibliographic Conference in Baghdad in 1977.\* The conference would discuss the draft and any recommended changes. The object was to move the final product on to IFLA for recognition as the ISBD for Arabic books.

Dr. el-Hagrasy points out that in spite of the fact that a foreign library, the Library of Congress, has taken the lead in applying ISBD to Arabic works, Arab librarians should find no major difficulty with the

\*A brief report on the Baghdad conference appeared in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin, Vol. 37, no. 16, April 21, 1978, pp. 265-266.

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arrangement of information according to Chapter Six. Nevertheless, some problems arise in cataloging Arabic materials in a wholly Arabic format. Numerals, for example, are not standardized across the Arab region. Punctuation marks, an unruly feature on modern Arabic typography, must be used more judiciously; and the shape of question marks, commas and semi-colons should be greed upon. Still another irksome issue is the lack of standardized spacing on the Arabic typewriter. Further, the author recommends abbreviations and acronyms which he hopes will become widely used. No serious attention is given to the difficulty of transliterating from European and Asian scripts into Arabic. This appears to be a problem that will take years of research to overcome.

In the attempt to bring ISBD to the Arabs ALECSO fortunately faces a situation in which most key librarians in the region are familiar with the Anglo-American rules. Studies at Cairo University's Department of Librarianship and Archives are based on AACR. Naturally, those librarians trained in North America or the United Kingdom are acquainted with the code. There is no doubt that these factors have mitigated the influence of German or French librarian-scholars in Egypt and other Arab countries over the past decades. The next stage is to insure that ISBD is taught in the newer training centers opening in the Sudan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Morocco.

Professor el-Hagrasy does not view descriptive cataloging in isolation from other aspects of standardization for eventual unified bibliographic control of Arabic books. The Riyad conference called for a comprehensive Arabic authority file. As a result an experimental computerized file was begun at the Scientific Computation Center at Cairo University. The project, still in its early stages, has as one of its objectives the publication of a complete list of personal names in printed and magnetic tape formats with periodic updatings.

El-Hagrasy presents strong arguments for the need for standardization in information management. Because of his writings and the example he sets one may hope that such a goal is possible.

Al-Majallah al-<sup>ḥ</sup>Arabīyah lil-Ma<sup>ḥ</sup>lūmāt (The Arab Magazine for Information Science.) Vol. 1, No. 1 (September 1977). Frequency not stated.

This new journal is an effort by ALECSO to supplement the series Silsilat Dirasat an al-Ma lumat (of which el-Hagrasy's works, reviewed above, is number four) with a periodical containing short studies and news of interest to Arab information and documentation specialists. There is no frequency noted for the publication, but one would expect it to appear more or less annually. Neither does the publication bear an ISSN. This is a most unfortunate omission in view of the fact that ALECSO is committed to applying international standards to Arabic publications. Most of the articles are abstracted in English.

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The issue can be divided into two parts. The first is devoted to studies in documentation that either introduce the reader to new ideas in the field or discuss the implications for Arab libraries of techniques being used in developed countries. The second section reports on conferences held in 1976 and 1977.

Contents of the first section:

1. "Al-Taṣnīf li-Aghrāḍ Istirjā' al-Ma'lūmāt" ("Classification and Information Retrieval"). By 'Abd al-Wahhāb 'Abd al-Salām Abū Nūr.
2. "Al-Takshīf li-Aghrāḍ al-Ma'lūmāt" ("Indexing for Information"). By Muḥammad Fathī 'Abd al-Hādī.
3. "Al-Tawthīq ka-Hājah wa Khidmah lil-Takhtīt wa-al-Tanmīyah fi al-Waṭan al-'Arabī" (Documentation as a Need and Service in Planning and Development in the Arab States"). By Muḥammad Tawfiq Khafājī.
4. "Al-Khidmah al-Muḥassibah lil-Ma'lūmāt al-Tibbiyah fi al-Waṭan al-'Arabī" (Computerized Service of Medical Information in Arab Countries"). By Saad M. el-Hagrasy.
5. "Al-Istikhlāṣ wa Ahamīyatuhu fi Khidmah al-Baḥth al-'Ilmi" (Abstracting and Its Importance in Serving Scientific Research"). By Abū al-Sa'ūd Ibrāhīm.
6. "Taṭwīr al-Iḥsā'āt ilā Mu'ashshirāt wa Dawruhā fi Rasm al-Siyāsah al-'Āmmah wa-al-Tanmīyah" ("Developing Statistics into Statistical Indicator and Its Role in Planning and Development"). By Muḥammad Fu'ād al-Bahī.
7. "Dirāsah wa 'Arḍ li-Wathā'iq Duwal Shamāl Afriqiyah fi al-Ahd al-'Uthmānī" (A Study of the Archives of North African Countries During the Ottoman Period"). By Maḥmūd 'Abbās Hammūdah.
8. "Kashshāfāt wa Khazn wa Istirjā' al-Ma'lūmāt" (Indexes, Data Bases and Information Retrieval"). By Nazār Muḥammad 'Alī Qāsim.

Contents of the second section:

1. Seminar on the Use of Arabic in Computers, Cairo. 13-14 April, 1977.
2. Meeting of Experts and Officials in Charge of Arab Documentation Centers. Cairo. 6-11 November 1976.
3. Eighth International Conference on Documents. Washington, D.C., 27 September - 1 October, 1976.

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4. Meeting of Experts and Officials on Educational Statistics in Arab Countries. Baghdad, 5-10 March 1977.

One hopes that the Arab Magazine for Information Science will continue at frequent intervals. The need is great for communication among professionals in this field. The infrequent conferences held to discuss developments are insufficient to stimulate sustained cooperation. The objective that ALECSO has set for itself of incorporating the Arab world into a future universal bibliographic network will in some small way be advanced by the regular appearance of this journal.

Al-Bibliyūjrāfiyā al-Mawḍū'īyah al-'Arabīyah. 'Ulūm al-Dīn al-Islāmī. 'Ilm Usūl al-Fiḥ (Arabic Subject Bibliography. Islamic Sciences. Sources of Jurisprudence). By 'Abd al-Wahhāb 'Abd al-Salām Abū al-Nūr, General editor. Cairo: ALECSO, 1978

This important work is a continuation of al-Bibliyūjrāfiyā al-Mawḍū'īyah al-'Arabīyah. It follows publication in 1976 of the volumes on 'Ulūm al-Qur'ān and 'Ulūm al-Hadīth and is simultaneous with 'Ilm al-Kalām, also published in 1978. The series is sponsored by ALECSO in an attempt to encourage concrete bibliographical output, while allowing authors scope for experimentation in approach and arrangement. The series covering the Islamic sciences is planned for six volumes of bibliographies and a seventh volume of indexes. ALECSO also intends comprehensive bibliographies in other fields. The series dealing with education is due to appear in 1979.

Unlike the other two books being reviewed, this one is not well printed, having been reduced and offset from typescript with predictable loss of evenness and sometimes legibility. Other production faults include mistakes in the indexes which consistently lead the reader to the page preceding the actual citation. Editorially, the plan of the volume could have been made plainer, for it appears that the experiment of applying letter-number subject codes is not successful. Another serious editorial fault is the neglect to inform the reader of the chronological limits of the bibliography. Time-consuming examination of the work reveals that the majority of the entries are for the 1930's through the 1970's. The editor has also neglected to inform us that this is a bibliography of periodical literature.

Despite these flaws which go far to conceal its merits, the bibliography is one of the most useful ever to have appeared for this branch of Islamic studies. It unlocks the door to reading which was accessible only to specialists in fiḥ or to those who were fortunate enough to serendipitously find material of interest. Behind the door is a treasure of modern Islamic thinking and preaching -- Muslims writing for each other about their own religious life. No western commentator presents us with discussion biased by reformism and the Muhammad 'Abdu tradition of which we should be tired by this time. The reader is now free to browse through the literature and to

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analyze and evaluate quite independently the reading he may do. The possibilities for reinterpretation and myth-breaking are limitless. Such current topics as women's rights and birth control are frequently cited. Indeed, the references to so-called personal status subjects (aḥwāl al-shakhsīyah, a term which does not, by the way, appear in the indexes) make up over 160 pages of text.

The bibliography is 739 pages long and contains 14,298 entries culled from 73 periodicals covering a period of forty years. The work is arranged according to subject, following the scheme published by the general editor in his: al-Taṣnīf al-Bibliyūgrāfī li-'Ulūm al-Dīn al-Islāmī (Bibliographic Classification for the Islamic Sciences. Cairo: Dar al-Thaqāfah lil-Tibā'ah wa-al-Nashr, 1973). The bibliography, in addition to providing the most comprehensive coverage of the periodical literature on the subject ever to have appeared, is an expanded application of Abu al-Nur's classification of the Islamic sciences.

I have one final criticism. It is that the work does not cover commerce. This is the single most disappointing aspect of the bibliography. In his 1973 book, Abu al-Nur devotes the class Ayn 4 to this subject, the focus of much attention in these days of fairy tale riches (and poverty).

The editors of this series are to be congratulated on the excellent work they have done to control Arabic periodical literature. With modern methods of documentation they may one day correct and expand the volumes already published, as they continue to update and cumulate them.

BOOKS FOR MIDDLE EAST AND AREA STUDIES LIBRARIANS by Ragai Makar

Educational Media Resources on Egypt, prepared by the University of Michigan Audio-Visual Education Center, Ann Arbor, 1977. For sale at G.P.O., Stock No. 017-080-01789-0.

This directory is intended as a convenient handbook of information about instructional Media which have utility in the study of Egypt. Most of the materials referenced in the directory deal specifically with Egypt. However, it was considered appropriate to include some items which treat Egypt in a larger context -- Egypt as a Middle Eastern county, Egypt as a member of the Arab world, Egypt as a Mediterranean country, Egypt with African neighbors. This directory includes some 424 items of 16 mm. films, 8 mm. films, 35 mm. filmstrips, slide sets, audio tapes, records, video tapes and kets. It includes a subject index, a title index and a list of distributors.

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Aman, Mohamed A. Arab Periodicals and Serials: A Classified Directory, New York, Garland, 1979.

A valuable research and bibliographical tool, this directory provides scholars, historians, area specialists, writers, and librarians with convenient access to information on regular as well as irregular serials (such as monograph serials, "proceedings", research reports, yearbooks, and annual reports of institutions) published in and about the Arab world. The directory includes not only Arab-language serials, but also those published in English, French, German, Hebrew, and Spanish. Classified by broad subject headings, the entries are numbered consecutively and arranged alphabetically within each heading, with cross-references interfiled in the alphabetical arrangement. A comprehensive index lists sponsoring bodies, subjects, and countries of publication.

Issues and Trends in Cataloging and Classification of Non-Western Library Material, edited by Mohammed M. Aman. Phoenix, Oryx Press, 1979.

This work is essential for all libraries that face the problem of cataloging Asian, African, and Middle Eastern materials. Dr. Aman's opening chapter on trends and issues in the cataloging and classification of non-Western materials is followed by chapters on such specific topics as cataloging and classification in Nigeria, non-Western materials in Ghanaian libraries, cataloging and classification of the Bantu languages, subject analysis of African literature, cataloging and classification of Southeast Asian materials, of Japanese language materials, of Urdu language publications, and of Bengali materials, India's contributions to cataloging, Slavic publications, cataloging and classification in Turkey, Hebraica cataloging and classification, cataloging and classification of Arabic materials, and the organization of the multilingual-multiscript collection. Each chapter was prepared by a knowledgeable contributor.

Huq, A. M. Abdul and Aman, Mohamed M. Librarianship and the Third World. New York, Garland, 1977.

Any study of modern librarianship would be incomplete without a bibliography of the library literature published by and about the developing nations of the world. This comprehensive, carefully annotated bibliography provides librarians with the first systematic record of Third World library literature published between 1960 and 1975. It was during these years that a great many developing nations, from Afghanistan to Zambia, launched their library programs, and the literature described here reflects that turbulent time of decolonization and the search for a national identity. The bibliography itself documents the enthusiasms and frustration behind the efforts to begin library programs in the Third World, and the care taken in their administration and structure. It provides the student of comparative librarianship with a chance to study how British influence in many of these countries has been modified by the American experience.

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Containing over 1,400 entries, this bibliography contains an author index and is organized by country and area of the world. It provides researchers with their first and only guide to this area of study and it is a valuable addition to all reference and library science collections.

PRINCETON MANUSCRIPT MICROFILMING PROJECT by Eric Ormsby

It may be of interest to MELA members to learn that the Princeton University Library has received a 3-year Title II-C grant for the purpose of microfilming its Garrett and Yahuda Collections of Arabic Manuscripts. The purpose of this grant is twofold: to ensure preservation of the manuscripts; and to reduce the costs of photoduplication to scholars requesting films. Formerly, it was necessary to charge patrons requesting films for the cost of a negative microfilm master which was retained by the library. The Title II-C grant will enable us to create a collection of such masters from which positive copies may be made, and thereby reduce costs to patrons by almost half the previous price.

The filming will occur in two stages. The first stage will concentrate on the original Garrett Collection, as catalogued by Philip Hitti, et al., in the Descriptive Catalog of the Garrett Collection of Arabic Manuscripts (Princeton, 1938). Filming will be done in order of catalogue number (rather than volume number). The second stage will deal with the Yahuda Collection as catalogued by Rudolf Mach: Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts (Yahuda Section) in the Garrett Collection (Princeton, 1977). The first collection consists of some 4,500 manuscripts; the second of 4,800 manuscripts. If possible, a further collection of some 2,000 manuscripts, a catalogue of which is now in preparation, will be filmed as well.

Filming of the Garrett Collection began in November, 1978, and is now well underway.

CRL HOLDINGS IN TURKISH NEWSPAPERS by Mary J. Nichols

(All in hard copy unless otherwise indicated)

Ankara

Ankara. (French) Mar. 9, 1935 - Aug. 26, 1937  
Ankara akşam haberleri. Daily. (continues Aksam Haberleri) 1950-52.  
Ulus. Apr. 5-9, 1946; 1950 - Dec. 3, 1953.

Istanbul

Akşam. Daily. Apr. 4-9, 1946; Feb. 13 - Nov. 25, 1950;  
Apr. 2, 1951-54; Jan. - Aug. 1955.

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Cumhuriyet. Daily. 1956 + (Microfilm).  
Gece postasi. Apr. 5-8, 1946; 1950 - Nov. 30, Dec. 6, 13, 26, 1954;  
Jan. - Nov. 1955.  
Hürriyet. 1950 - Aug. 1955.  
Milliyet. May 12, 1950 - Dec. 29, 1954; Jan. - Aug. 1955.  
Son posta. Apr. 4-9, 1946; 1950 - Dec. 30, 1954; Jan. - Aug. 1955.  
Son saat. 1950 - Dec. 3, 1954; Jan. - Aug. 1955.  
Son telegraf. Apr. 5-8, 1946; 1950 - Aug. 1955.  
Vakit. Apr. 4-8, 1946; 1950 - Aug. 30, 1952; 1953 - Aug. 1955.  
Vatan. 1950 - Oct. 19, 1955.  
Yeni Istanbul. Mar. 1950 - Aug. 1955.  
Yeni sabah. Apr. 4-8, 1946; 1950 - Dec. 19, 1955.

Izmir

Anadolu. 1950 - June 1954; Aug. 7, 1953.  
Yeni asir. Sept. 21, 1951 - Aug. 1955.

Konya

Yeni Konya. 1949 - 1953.

Mersin

Yeni Mersin (İçel). 1949 - Sept. 1953.

AN ACQUISITIONS TRIP TO IRAN by Abazar Sepehri

A two-week visit of bookstores in Tehran from mid-October 1978 left no doubt that Iran's publishing industry had benefited from the political changes that have occurred in the past year. There was a constant stream of Iranian book buyers entering or leaving bookshops. You could see the disbelief in booksellers' eyes when people queued to buy books.

According to the publishers the change started some nineteen months ago when Amir Abbas Hovayda, then Prime Minister, ordered a committee to look into the reasons for the decline of Iran's book trade. The move led to a special seminar on books attended by scholars, writers, translators and publishers, in which the government was criticized for "denying the people the right to read what they like." (For the resolution of the seminar see MELA Notes, Feb. 1977, pp. 19-20).

A list of nearly 1,200 books that had consistently failed to get the licence for publication was presented to the Prime Minister. The "blacklist" included many books published in Iran as early as 30 years ago but subsequently banned. After an investigation by the Prime Minister's Office, the Government placed the blame on Idārah- 'i Niğārish, Vizārat-i Farhang va Hunar, for unnecessary censorship and suspension of licences. The

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conclusion was that multiple misunderstandings with an excess of bureaucratic zeal had brought the Iranian book trade to the verge of collapse. Whoever the real villain was, the blacklist has now disappeared -- at least for the time being. Although, Baqir Mu mini, a leading Iranian writer, claims that at least nine titles still remain banned and are denied publication (Kayhan, Oct. 25).

In late October the most controversial books including some that had been considered inflammatory were freely sold without open restrictions. One could acquire, in complete sets, works of Āl Ahmad, Buzurg 'Alavī, Bihrangī, Hidāyat and Shari'atī, to name but a few. Books relating to social and constitutional histories of Iran such as Tarikh-i Ijtima'i-i Īrān and Tafsīr-i Qanūn-i Asāsi-i Īrān by Rāvandī were in great demand. One could even find some Hizb-i Tūdah-'i Īrān literature in the market. Until two years ago the average circulation achieved by books sold in Iran did not top 5,000. Now there are books that sell more than 150,000 in successive editions.

Serial publications are also on the increase. A number of periodicals including Firdawsi, Umūd-i Īrān and Sipīd va Siyāh that had been suspended for years are republishing now. There was talk that Tawfiq, the most popular comic-satirical periodical of Iran, would resume publication soon. Of course this was the time when the Press achieved complete freedom after a hard and tough battle. With the intensification of violence in early November and the fall of civilian government the censorship has been reimposed and the Press has gone on strike again. Like everything else the fate of the Iranian publishing industry is unclear at this moment.

Meanwhile, as part of the concessions given to the Moslem clergy in August 1978, Sharif-Emami's Government abolished the Imperial Calendar and announced the resumption of Shamsi date, which is 1357 now.

12/6/78

#### AN ACQUISITIONS TRIP TO EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA by George Atiyeh

From September 23 to October 22, 1978, I undertook a purchase and survey trip to North Africa and the Middle East. I visited a number of cities such as Paris, Madrid, Rabat, Casablanca, Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, Cairo, Amman, Jerusalem, Beirut and Riyadh. In the following paragraphs, I will give a brief summary of my activities and findings and describe the book production and trade situation, particularly in northwest Africa where I spent most of my time.

Paris, as it is well known by now, has become an important center for Arabic serial publishing. Three weeklies, al-Mustaqbal, al-Watan al-'Arabi and al-Nahār al-Dawlī wa-al-'Arabi are published there. The English

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language Arab Report and Memo is also published there. Plans to publish al-Mukhtār, the Arabic version of The Reader's Digest, and a daily, al-Muḥarrir al-Dawlī wa-al-'Arabī are well advanced. A scholarly bi-monthly journal, al-Bāḥith (116 Ave des Champs Elysées, 75008, Paris), is in its third issue. The emphasis of this periodical is on social and philosophical questions. Several other serial publications do appear in Paris but those which last are few.

Some Beiruti bookstores have moved to Paris such as Khayat (Les Editions Khayat, 25, rue de Berne - 75008, Paris). One of the major publishing projects of this company has been Mawsū'at al-Shi'r al-'Arabī in twenty volumes. Five volumes, beautifully printed in Italy, have so far appeared. I did not survey French publishing on the Middle East, inasmuch as I had in mind only Arabic publishing when I stopped in Paris. I would have liked to go to London too, but I could not fit that into my schedule.

Madrid was different in that a great deal of Middle East related cultural and publishing activities are taking place. I will mention here only the Instituto Hispano-Arabe de Cultura (Paseo de Juan XXIII, 5, Madrid - 3). Being affiliated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the primary function of this institute is to foster the cultural relations between Spain and the Arab World. However, it is also a research institute where studies, translations, and edition of manuscripts are carried out. A catalogue of the Institute's publications is available upon request. The first issue of a new yearly periodical Awraq was in the press when I was there.

In Rabat, I visited a number of learned institutions, publishers and bookstores. It is hard to provide even an approximation of the number of titles published there per year, however, I can state that the amount of serials being published is most impressive.

The hub of cultural life in Rabat is the University of Muhammad V. Two of the faculties, the Faculty of Lettres and the Faculty of Law publish a number of scholarly journals. Among the ones that have come out from the two faculties during the last two years mention may be made of Majallat Kulliyat al-Adab, and al-Majallah al-Maghribiyah lil-qānūn wa-al-siyāsah wa-al-iqtisād. The two may be acquired by subscription or exchange by writing to Miss Halima Ferhat, Librarian, Faculty of Lettres, and to the Dean of the law school, Dr. Mohamed Bennouna, for the second.

The Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique (al-Ma'had al-Jāmi'ī lil-Baḥth al-'Ilmī) New address rue Ma-al-Ainin-Agdal, Rabat -- formerly known as the Centre Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique (CURS) -- is formally affiliated to the university and in particular to the Faculty of Lettres but in many ways is autonomous. The institute, now headed by Dr. Abdelhadi Tazi, publishes two scholarly journals and several of the scholarly associations in Morocco publish their journals under the institute's auspices or in cooperation with it. The Societé de Géographie

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du Maroc publishes its Revue de Géographie du Maroc in cooperation with the Institute. Hesperis-Tamuda, Études Philosophiques et Littéraires (new series), Bulletin d'Archéologie Marocaine, Bulletin de la Société Naturelles et Physiques du Maroc, Bulletin Economique et Sociale du Maroc are all associated with the Institute in one way or another. The Institute's own journal includes al-Baḥṭh al-'Ilmī and the al-Majallah al-Maghribīyah li-'Ilm al-Ijtimā'. The Bulletin signalétique du CURS, which has been appearing very irregularly since 1962, is also one of its publications.

In addition to the university and the institutes attached to it, the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has a publication program, some of it funded by the United Arab Emirates. Two serials, Da'wat al-Ḥaqq and al-Irshād, are also published by this Ministry. Any requests should be addressed to the Minister who is now Mr. Shakni Tijani. The Ministry of State in Charge of Cultural Affairs publishes al-Manāhil, a quarterly, mostly of literature. Two new periodicals that seem to carry articles of permanent value are: al-Madīna in Arabic and Pro-Culture in French. The first's address is Boîte Postale 6595 and the second is 9, rue Beni Malek, Aviation, both in Rabat.

Again in the field of serials but not in the field of scholarly journals, a new firm called Mithāq al-Maghrib, which speaks for the newly organized government party, Rassemblement des Independents, has begun the publication of two new newspapers and two weeklies. The Arabic paper is al-Mithāq al-Watānī and the French is Almaghrib. The weeklies are al-Maghrib al-'Arabi and Maghrib-Hebdo (16 rue Abtal Akdal).

There are no major publishers in Morocco. The largest two are in Casablanca: Dār al-Kitāb owned by Mr. Boutaleb Abdou Abdelhay (Place de la Mosquée) and Dār al-Thaqāfah owned by Mr. al-Qadri al-Hasani Muhammad (Rue Victor Hugo, Place de la Mosquée Boîte Postale 4038). Les Éditions Maghribines (5-13, rue Soldat Roche) publishes mostly works in French dealing with the politics and economics of Morocco. The first two are willing to export books and to send lists and catalogs of books upon request. In Rabat the largest publisher is Dār al-Ma'arif owned by Zhiri M'hamed (rue Bab Challah, Boîte Postale 239, Rabat) who seems to be keen to do business with U.S. libraries. Retrospective materials and lithographed books may be found at Mohammad al-Tatwani (Saniat Zanbir, 17 Sale). Mr. al-Tatwani, a colorful old gentleman, has had a small but prosperous book business in his own home for a long time. Scholars and book dealers who are looking for retrospective materials usually visit him and seem to be willing to pay the high prices he requests.

Both in Rabat and Casablanca, there are a great number of bookstores where trade publications are available. French language Moroccan publications are available. French language Moroccan publications are likely to be found in Librairie Farairre (Corner Blvd. Mohammad V and Rue de Foucoud).

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There are a number of institutions in Morocco which one should get in contact with. One is the National Center of Documentation (Charii Maa Al Ainan, Haut Agdal Rabat, Boîte Postale 826), and L'Institut d' Études et Recherches pour l'Arabisation (Ave Ibn Battouta, Boîte Postale 430, Rabat).

The first which uses an on-line computer facility hooked to a European data base in Italy publishes a very detailed computer print-out on Moroccan affairs. The second, separate and distinct from the Bureau de Coordination de l'Arabisation dans le Monde Arabe (8, rue Angola, Boîte Postale 290), is set up since 1960 to reestablish Arabic as the major language in the country. It attempts to standardize the Arabic characters, to unify the scientific and technical terminology and finally to modernize the techniques of language transmission.

#### COLLATION

As part of a RLG cooperative microfilming project, Columbia has microfilmed the Encyclopedia of Islam, 1st edition. A positive copy may be purchased from Columbia University Library, Preservation Department, New York, New York 10027. \$29.10 for RLG members; approximately \$75.00 for others.

Michael Albin is trying to locate a copy of the following book: Kherbawi (or Khirbāwī), Basil M. Tarikh al-Wilāyāt al-Muttaḥidah mundhu Iktishāfihā ilā al-Zaman al-Hādir. Washington, C. C., 1913. The purpose of this search is simply to identify the existence of a copy. Please contact Albin, Library of Congress, American Embassy, FPO New York 09527, U.S.A.

The University of Arizona has an opening for a cataloger of Near Eastern materials. Arabic plus Persian or Urdu or Hindi; library degree; preference to OCLC or similar experience. Salary range \$11,800 - \$12,800. Deadline is September 15, 1979. Send resumes and inquiries to W. David Laird, University Librarian, University of Arizona Library, Tucson, Arizona 85721.