

MELA Notes

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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REPORT FROM ALA-NEW YORK by Frances Morton

Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials,
Resources and Technical Services Division.

At the program meeting of this Committee two speakers from the Library of Congress gave informal presentations on issues of concern to the Committee, followed by a question and answer period.

The first speaker was Mrs. Lucia Rather, Director for Cataloging. LC, who came in response to enquiries to LC on priorities, minimal level cataloging, automating non-Roman scripts, and access to APIF.

She said that at present selection officers for the various subject areas assign cataloging priorities on a scale from one to seven. Those materials which are presently in priority seven are given preliminary records and put into the arrearage. New language-independent priorities based on content are now in draft form and will be as follows:

- 1 members of Congress and Cataloging in Publication (CIP)
- 2 English materials of high need and research value
- 3 foreign language materials of high research value and English materials of medium need
- 4 medium need foreign language materials and lower need English materials
- 5 lower need foreign language materials.

Those English materials in priority 4 and foreign language materials in priority 5 will be given minimal level cataloging, as there is little hope that these materials will ever receive full cataloging. These will go into LC's Automated Process File and will consist of the main entry, full description through the collation, and ISBN. Access will be by title, author/title, and ISBN, as well as the component word search at LC. At present this procedure applies to monographs only, although it may be extended to serials and must be negotiated through CONSER. These records will be available on MARC but not this year--that is, if the utilities find the format acceptable.

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The question of what LC would do if outside libraries wanted categories reconsidered was raised. Mrs. Rather said to write LC. Recommendations for upgrading records in minimal level cataloging to full cataloging will be co-ordinated by the Collections Development Office and forwarded to the selection officers.

She announced that LC will not adopt Pinyin but will provide cross references from headings in Pinyin. LC has no non-Roman alphabets in machine readable form. However, RLIN is developing character sets for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, and this project should be operational in three years. Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, and Hebrew (JACKPHY) will continue to be cataloged in the manual mode because of the specialists' position. Minimal level records on these languages will, of course, be in romanization.

NUC will become a register-index catalog, and romanized JACKPHY records from participating outside libraries may be included.

The second half of the program was a presentation by Kay Elsasser, Subject Cataloger, Subject Cataloging Division, who talked about expansion of the DT classification schedules for sub-Saharan Africa and subject headings for African history. The Committee expressed considerable interest in the methodology followed in updating schedules and subject headings in an area which has long been a subject for recommendations by librarians. At the end of the meeting the hope was expressed that David Littlefield could make a similar presentation at a future meeting in the area of the Middle East, North Africa, and Islam.

At the business meeting members of the committee gave reports on activities of the past year and discussed plans for the coming year. The Middle East representative is in the process of submitting to LC a status questionnaire on questions raised by MELA members which appeared in the reports of the two ad-hoc subcommittees two years ago. In addition a questionnaire will be submitted to the membership asking for further cataloging recommendations. Plans were made for the forthcoming Mid-winter and San Francisco meetings, and a decision to support public complaints against OCLC's not loading on its database the cataloging records of Northwestern University's Africana collections was endorsed.

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Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access, Resources and Technical Services Division.

The subject of major concern to MELA members in the four meetings of this Committee was the proposed rule change on the cataloging of microforms under AACR2. Known as the Willard proposal, this amendment would keep the imprint the same as the material subjected to microforming instead of making the production of the microform the basis of the imprint. Although a strong majority of the non-voting representatives, including the MELA representative, indicated their approval of the Willard proposal (on which MELA professional members were surveyed) the proposal failed to pass in the Committee vote.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, SALT LAKE CITY, NOVEMBER 6, 1979

Members present: David Partington, president-elect; Chris Filstrup, editor; Marsha McClintock, secretary-treasurer; Fawzi Khoury, ex officio.
Member absent: Ed Jajko, president.

Due to the sudden illness of the president, the president-elect chaired the meeting and served as president during the entire MELA meeting on the following day. Items which were discussed or passed by the Executive Board were:

1. To raise the subscription price of MELA Notes from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per calendar year for non-MELA members. (\$5.00 membership dues includes MELA Notes subscription) Additional funds generated will be used to improve the content and appearance of the MELA Notes.
2. To upgrade the contents and appearance of the MELA Notes, several suggestions were discussed: determining the membership's research interests; making appeals to individuals for articles; generating some type of questionnaire of current or proposed research to generate research activity which might lead to publication of results in the MELA Notes changing the format to something similar to the MESA Bulletin, still a low-cost publication.

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Actions taken following the discussion were: David Partington offered the services of the Harvard College Library to absorb the job of typing MELA Notes; Marsha McClintock will submit three possible cover designs for the new Notes format; Fawzi Khoury will contact J.D. Pearson about the possibility of having the Notes included in the Index Islamicus list of periodicals covered.

3. Candidates for the vice-presidency were nominated: Basima Bezirgan and Brenda Bickett.
4. David Partington discussed the possibility of having an occasional papers series, including those papers delivered at MELA conferences. He will look into publishing prospects for this project.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

PUBLISHING IN IRAN SINCE THE REVOLUTION by Abazar Sepehri

Now that the Iranian revolution is more than one year old, you may wonder whatever has become of the brisk book market I reported on (MELA Notes no. 17) after a book buying trip to Iran in October 1978. The news I have gathered from our book dealers, newspapers and Iranian library contacts points to a semi-revolution within the publishing industry itself. After seven to eight months of phenomenal growth for the book trade in late 1978 and the first quarter of 1979 (during which time the number of books sold is reported to have been the total of all copies sold in the previous twenty-five years) a big slump hit the market. Many of the government or semi-official publishing institutions such as universities, Bungāh-i Tarjumah va Nashr-i Kitāb, Bunyād-i Farhang-i Irān, Anjuman-i Āsār-i Millī, Intishārāt-i Surūsh, and Kānūn-i Parvarish-i Fikrī-i Kūdukān va Nawjavānān are still in a state of reorganization, after all the purges that have been going on. This has left many well known writers, editors and translators in financial difficulty. As for the

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private sector, apparently publishers are keeping a wait-and-see attitude and expect to resume their activities as soon as a number of uncertainties are clarified.

The reading public, which had reportedly purchased 200,000 copies of each of 'Alī Shari'atī's 40 titles (totalling 8 million books) is a bit impoverished now because of unemployment and reduced flow of cash, but there is enough evidence that it will support a reactivated book industry. Writers, translators, compilers and editors that have temporarily suspended or been forced to suspend their works will resume production as soon as the conditions are favorable. Private publishers, ranging from the giant Amīr Kabīr group to the smallest ones established just before the revolution, do have the capital or can raise it when things return to normal and good manuscripts come their ways. Printing presses, somewhat overloaded by increasing numbers of newspapers and weekly periodicals, and sometimes by badly programmed text-book publishing by the government, are still capable of handling an enlivened book industry. Printing materials, especially those locally produced, are still in adequate supply. The uncertainties hanging over the Iranian publishing industry are as follows:

1. Censorship. During the last days of the previous regime the book censorship was almost totally lifted. The National Library which served as a censorship agent for the government was no longer given the manuscripts for pre-publishing screening and registration. At present there is still no registration requirement but incidents of attacking bookstores and burning leftist books have been widely reported. One evident case of censorship was the collecting on Public Prosecutor's order of all copies of Hidāyat's satirical *Tūp-i Murvārf* from the market. The new constitution includes a statement about freedom of speech and press, but publishers and writers are not sure just how much this freedom will actually be granted.

2. Royalties. In the past royalties fluctuated between ten to thirty percent. Small publishers feel there should be some kind of a ceiling on the amount of royalties paid to the authors so that book prices can be stabilized.

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3. Distribution. The old channels of book distribution, i.e. publishers choosing their own agents, are no longer trusted by the publishers. Due to political unrest and administrative irregularities, publishers are not getting their share of sales from their agents, especially in provinces. So there is a strong feeling that a central distribution agency should be formed and held responsible for publishers' accounts.

4. Copyright. Despite the copyright law of 1969 and its supplement pertaining to translators and sound recordings, violations have frequently occurred since the passage of the law. Several complaints have recently been reported. You may have read or heard of Ismā'īl Rā'īn's differences with Amīr Kabīr over the latter's allegedly unauthorized offsetting of the former's "Farāmāsūnirī dar Īrān," and the legal complications that followed.

5. Nationalization. In view of certain nationalizations within the national economy, publishers and others wonder whether the publishing industry should also be nationalized, whether it should be further decontrolled or whether it should be a combination of both.

Note: This article is based on a detailed analysis about the future of publishing industry in Iran by Karim Imami in: ĀYANDAH no. 4-6 (Summer 1979), pp. 191-203. In an editorial note the journal is inviting comments and views from all of us about the questions raised.

AN ACQUISITION TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA AND THE NEAR EAST
by George N. Atiyeh

This report deals with my activities, findings and impressions during an acquisition and survey trip undertaken between September 23 and November 22, 1978. My itinerary included Paris, Madrid, Rabat, Casablanca, Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli (Libya), Cairo, Amman, Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Beirut, and Riyadh.

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The main aims of the trip were the acquisition of publications, the survey of the book production and distribution situation, and the establishment of exchange programs--or their stimulation wherever these were already established.

PARIS, FRANCE

In Paris, I wanted to learn more about the Middle Eastern and especially Arabic publications that have multiplied in the French capital. At least ten serial publications in Arabic--or published by Arabs--appear there, including three weeklies: al-Mustaqbal, al-Watan al-^CArabī, and al-Nahār al-^CArabī wa-al-Duwalī, and one in English, al-Nahar Arab Report and Memo. The first three enjoy high circulation in most of the Arab countries, Europe and the United States. Their story of success and the security and free atmosphere of Western Europe have encouraged other Arabic serial publications to move from Beirut and other Arab cities to Paris and London. As a result, a daily paper, al-Muḥarrir al-^CArabī wa-al-Duwalī, and the Arabic version of The Reader's Digest are scheduled to appear in Paris. The first will be published by the same company that publishes al-Watan al-^CArabī and the second by al-Nahār under the editorship of a well-known journalist, Edmond Saab. Several of the other serial publications belonged to different political groups or organizations or expatriate intellectuals. They include such titles al-Yasār al-^CArabī and al-Rughbah al-Ibāhīyah. Ordinarily, this type of serial does not live long. The more intellectual side of Arab journalism in Paris is represented by al-Bāhith. This is edited by a Lebanese expatriate, Dr. George Zeinati, who holds a doctoral degree in philosophy. al-Ihyā' al-^CArabī is to be published by Ṣaleḥ al-Bitār, one of the original founders of al-Ba^Cth Party. The artistic side is represented by Cinemarabe, Afrique, Asie, Amerique, Latine. Also an Iranian studies journal is slated for publication.

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In addition to a growing number of Arab writers, some publishers have moved to Paris too. One of them is Les Éditions Khayat (25 Rue de Berne, 75008 Paris, Tel. 293-68-33). The Khayat Co. is now a corporation managed by Mr. Faruq Darwish. A reduced number of monographs is published by them, but the main function of the company is distribution of Lebanese and other Arab publications to Europe and the Middle East. One of the main publishing projects of this company has been MawsūCat al-Shi^Cr al-^CArabī in twenty volumes of annotated compilations. Only five have so far appeared. Les Editions Oueidat, (101 Rue St. Dominique, 75007 Paris, Tel. 555-5736), is another Lebanese publisher doing business from Paris. Although Mr. Oueidat does not own a bookshop in Paris, he receives orders and tries to fill them upon request. His Beirut address is P.O. Box 628, Beirut, Lebanon. The only bookstore exclusively for Arabic publications is Dar al-Karawane (135, Blvd. de Menilmontan, 75011 Paris, Tel. 806-39-22) where both serial and monographic materials are found. Of course, Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner (12 Rue Vavin, 12-75006) Librairie Orientale H. Samuelian (51, Rue Monsieur-le-Prince, 75006), and B. P. Maisonneuve (11, Rue Victor-Cousin, 75005) are still the major bookstores dealing with Near Eastern material.

Institutions Visited

Paris has various institutions dealing with Middle Eastern affairs that are worth visiting or contacting. However, because the purpose of my stay was limited, I visited only one, Le Centre de Hautes Études sur l'Afrique et l'Asie (13, Rue de Four, 75006), better known by its acronym CHEAM. While the Centre's early scope was limited to North Africa, it has now expanded its activities to include the "Third World" countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Formerly, it prepared French administrators for the North African countries under French rule, but now provides training for French as well as "Third World" administrators. It also publishes a journal, L'Asie et l'Afrique, and runs a library open only to researchers. The most valuable holdings of the library are the reports and memoirs of the French administrators in North Africa and the Levant (Syria and

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Lebanon). The director of the Centre, Professor George Malicot is very much interested in establishing an exchange program with the Library.

Mention should also be made of a new center for Arab studies in France, the Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur l'Orient Arabe Contemporain (CEROAC). The objectives of CEROAC include the building of a documentary, monographic and serial collection and the publication of studies and bibliographies dealing with the Arab World. Studies are underway on Syria, on agricultural problems in the Middle East, Arab universities and the League of Arab States. Its address is: Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur l'Orient Arabe Contemporain, Université de Provence, 29 Ave Robert Schuman, 13621 Aix-en-Provence (Tel. 42 59-99-30).

SPAIN

Because of its long history of association with Arab culture, Spain has had a steady and continuous interest in Arab studies. The number of Spanish scholars involved, in one way or another, with Arab affairs is impressive. Most universities now give their students a choice between Arabic or Greek as a prerequisite for graduation. In addition, a number of research centers dealing with the study of Arabic culture and Arab-Spanish relations are among the leading institutes in the country. Books on Islamic Spain are still commonplace in bookstores and the rising trend to translate modern Arabic literature is now stronger than ever.

After visiting the National Library, I went to the Instituto Hispano-Arabe de Cultura (Paseo de Juan XXIII, 5, Madrid - 3). Founded in 1954, the Institute's mission is to disseminate the Hispanic culture in the Arab World and the Arab culture in Spain. Being affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its primary function is to foster the cultural relations between Spain and the Arab World. It is also a research institute where studies, translations, and edition of manuscripts are carried out. The first part of the mission is carried out through twelve cultural centers spread all over the Arab World, and the second through lectures, meetings and translations. The Institute, which seems to be

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the most active and most solvent of the research centers I visited, publishes works both in Spanish and Arabic. It has an annual serial publication, Awrāq, the first issue of which was to appear in October (1978). It has more than a dozen full time researchers and holds an impressive collection of books and serials on the Arab World and Islam. The Librarian is the famous Arabist, Father Felix Pareja. The Director of the Institute is Mr. Francisco Ultray, the deputy director is Mr. Ramon Armengod Lopez, and the Secretary General, who effectively runs the Institute, is Dr. José Perez Lázaro, a Spanish Arabist of exceptional energy. The Institute publishes two bulletins, Arabismo and Boletín de la Asociación Española de Orientalistas, which provide information on Arabic and archaeological studies in Spain and/or by Spaniards.

Another research institute I visited was Escuela de Estudios Arabes, Hortaleza 104, Madrid - 4. As part of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the school is named Instituto Miguel Asin Palacios. The newly appointed director is Professor Fernando de la Granja. Its official serial publication is the prestigious al-Andalus.

Another important research institute dealing with North Africa is the Instituto de Estudios Africanos (Paseo Recoletos, 16, Madrid - 1) now located close to the National Library. In the Institute, I met Dr. Mariano Arribas Palau, who specializes in North African Affairs. I had learned from other sources that the Institute was in a financially precarious situation, so when I asked him about the future he assured me that the demise of the Institute is not forthcoming. Because of a smaller budget allotted to the Institute's activities, their publication program had to be cut down and the issuance of their periodical Africa suspended, hopefully temporarily, as of March 1978. Furthermore, the archives and library of Dirección General de Plazas y Provincias Africanas which was affiliated with the Institute were transferred to a small town, Alcalá de Enares, twenty miles north of Madrid where all overseas archives are now consolidated.

I also visited the research institute known as Instituto Egiptio de Estudios Islámicos (Paseo de la Habana, Francisco de Asis Mendez de Casariego, No. 1, Madrid - 2). This institute, founded by the Egyptian government in 1950, attempts to foster

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the cultural relations and collaboration between Arab, particularly Egyptian, scholars and Spanish scholars. It has a press of its own, a library and a lecture hall, holds conferences and seminars, and publishes a journal--Revista del Instituto de Estudios Islamico de Madrid (Ṣaḥīfat Maḥad al-Dirāsāt al-Islāmīyah fī Madrīd).

Finally, in addition to the titles mentioned above, there are a number of serial publications coming out of Spain that deal with Arabic and Islamic affairs. As I did not have time to check on all of them, I only list them with their addresses:

Alcor. Published by La Asociacion para la Amistad Islamo-Christiana. (Condado de Trevino, 21 16C Pinar de Chamartin, Madrid - 33).

Almenara. (Canizares, 3, Madrid - 12).

Cuadernos de Historia del Islam. Published by the Department of History of Islam, University of Granada. (Avda. de Cervantes, 13, 30 A., Granada).

Cuadernos de la Alhambra. Published by Patronato de la Alhambra. (Palacio de Carlos V, Granada).

Miscelanea de Estudios Arabes y Hebraicas. Published by la Facultad de Letras, Universidad de Granada Puentzuelas, 35, Granada).

MOROCCO

The Kingdom of Morocco was the first of the Northwest African states on my itinerary. During my stay I visited only two cities--Rabat, the capital, and Casablanca, the largest city--in an effort to acquire publications on my desiderata list as well as current publications. Furthermore, I tried to survey the publication situation and to establish contacts with learned and research institutions.

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The Publishing Situation

Because of decentralization and lack of a national bibliography, it is hard to form a comprehensive view of the publishing situation. In Morocco a laissez-faire system prevails, and therefore there is no central agency that controls publishing. That does not mean, however, that the government does not subsidize publishing. It does, in more forms than one. In the first place, most of the learned and research institutions that publish journals, essays, research reports and monographs are all government subsidized. In the second place, some of the ministries, in particular the Ministry of Awqāf (ministry of Religious Endowments and Religious Affairs), and the Ministry of Culture publish both journals and monographs. This, in addition to strictly government publications such as annual reports, statistics and laws, makes the government the most important factor in the publishing situation. A short explanation is called for.

The hub of cultural life in Rabat is the University of Muhammad V. Two of the faculties, Letters and Law, publish a number of scholarly journals. Among the ones that have come out during the last two years, mention may be made of Majallat Kulliyat al-Adāb and al-Majallah al-Maghribiyah lil-qānūn wa-al-siyāsah wa-al-iqtisād. The two may be acquired by subscription or exchange by writing for the first to Miss Halima Ferhat, Librarian, Faculty of Letters, 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^ci lil-Ba^hth al-^cilmī) New address: Rue Ma-al-Ainin-Agdal, Rabat --formerly known as the Centre Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique (CURS)--is formally affiliated with the University and in particular with the Faculty of Letters, 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 own journals under the Institute's auspices or in cooperation with it. The Société de Géographie du Maroc publishes its Revue de Géographie du Maroc in cooperation with the Institute. Hespéris-Tamuda, Etudes Philosophiques et Littéraires (new series), Bulletin d'Archeologie Marocaine,

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Bulletin de la Societé 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 journals include al-Bahth al-^Cilmī and the al-Majallah al-Maghribīyah li-^Cilm al-ijtimā^C. 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 Awqāf and Religious Affairs has a publication program, some of it funded by the United Arab Emirates. Two serials, Da^Cwat al-Haqq 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.

In terms of trade publishing there are no major publishers in Morocco. The largest two are in Casablanca: Dār al-Thaqāfah owned by Mr. al-Qadri al-Hasani Muhammad (Rue Victor Hugo, Place de la Mosquee, Boîte Postale 4083) and Dār al-Kitāb owned by Mr. Boutaleb Abou Abdelhay (Place de la Mosquee). 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^Cārif, 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-Tatwāni (Saniat Zanbir, 17 Sale). Mr. al-Tatwāni, 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 that he requests.

Serial publications in Morocco are numerous and varied. In the field of newspapers, Maroc-Soir, Le Matin (du Sahara) and L'Opinion are well established French language newspapers. al-Anbā' and al-^CAlam are the major newspapers in Arabic. al-Bayān and al-Muharrir are important for their voice of opposition.

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A new firm called Mithāq al-Maghrib (16 Rue Abtāl Akdal), 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-^cArabī and Maghrib-Hebdo.

In the field of magazines and journals, there are two relatively new titles that seem to carry articles of permanent value. They are al-Madīnah in Arabic and Pro-Culture in French. The address of the first is P.O. Box 6595, and the address of the second is 9, Rue Beni Malek, Aviation. Both are in Rabat.

The National Library (Bibliothèque Generale et Archives)

The head of the National Library is Mr. Ben Abbes Kabbāj. Before visiting him at the Library, I met him twice on social occasions. The Library is a legal depository but not too many authors or publishers obey the law. This hampers the issuance of a national bibliography. What the Library publishes and calls Bibliographie Nationale Marocaine is merely an analytic list of newspaper articles dealing with Morocco. However, certain monographs are sometimes reviewed.

L'Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique

When I visited this institute it was in the process of moving to its new address mentioned above. I met with its director, Dr. Abdelhadi Tāzi, an old acquaintance of mine, for only a short period and I was able only to acquire some of the issues of al-Baḥth al-^cilmī that were missing from our collection. I then visited him at home and we had more ample time to discuss questions of exchange. Dr. Tazi is writing a multi-volume work on Morocco's diplomatic history and one volume is dedicated to the Moroccan-U.S. relations issue.

Mohammad V University in Rabat

The University lacks a central library, but the adjacent

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Bibliothèque Générale probably serves in this capacity. However, each faculty has its own library, the most important being that of the Faculté des Lettres. Unlike my previous visit to this library, I found that there is a great interest and desire to establish an exchange program.

The Ministry of Waqfs and Religious Affairs

I visited the Ministry on the last day of my stay in Rabat and met with Mr. al-Murabit, one of the high officials there. I was told that it would welcome the establishment of an exchange program with the Library of Congress. I was also promised a set of the Ministry's publications and whatever is available of a list of missing issues of Da^ḥwat al-Ḥaqq and al-Irshād.

Other Contacts

The other institution that I visited in Rabat was the National Center of Documentation (Shari^ḥ Mā al-^ḤAynayn-Haut Agdal, Box 826, Tel. 749-44). The director of the Center, Dr. Ahmed el-Fassi-Fihri, is a very energetic and forward-looking scholar.

I also visited the Institut d'Études et de Recherches pour l'Arabisation (Ave. Ibn Battouta, Box 430, Tels. 719-13 and 720-65). Established in 1960, this institute attempts to make replacement of the French language by Arabic an effective concern. Its director is Ahmed Lakhdar Ghazal.

Bibliothèque Royale, directed by former Ambassador Abderrehman El-Fassi-Fihri, and the Bureau de Coordination de l'Arabisation dans le Monde Arabe (a league of Arab States agency) which publishes al-Lisān al-^ḤArabī, were visited for very brief periods.