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very much compared to other neighboring countries. Prior to the Lebanese crisis, most Jordanian writers published in Lebanon. As the Lebanese crisis deepened, however, and the security problem became acute, Jordanians began to publish their own writings. There are yet no big commercial publishers; the University of Jordan is underwriting the publication of University professors, and the Ministry of Information and Culture subsidizes authors by purchasing large quantities of their works (either for outright distribution or for exchange purposes). I was able to acquire more than fifty titles from both places. Risālat al-Maktabah, the organ of the Jordan Library Association (Box 6289, Amman), lists from time to time books published in Jordan or by Jordanians. A Palestine-Jordan Bibliography in two volumes prepared by Mahmūd el-Akhras, Head, Libraries Division, Ministry of Education, adds also a great deal to our knowledge of publishing in Jordan. The first volume covers the years 1900 to 1970 and the second 1971 to 1975. Both volumes are published by the Jordan Library Association.

Scholarly publications are coming out mainly from the University of Jordan and the Royal Jordanian Society. The University publishes a number of serials, mostly irregularly, among which Dirāsāt al-^CUlūm al-Insānīyah, Dirāsāt al-^CUlūm al-Ṭabī^Cīyah, and Majallat Kullīyat al-Adāb can be found.

The Ministry of Culture publishes al-Funūn al-Sha^Cbīyah and Afkār. There is a monthly magazine dealing with economic affairs al-Fajr al-Iqtisādī. There are also a number of professional journals.

There are several newspapers in Jordan, the most important of which is al-Ra'y, was government owned until June of 1974 when it was turned over to the Jordan Press Co. Since October 1975, this same company has been publishing Jordan Times, the only English daily. Other papers include al-Akhbār, al-Dustūr, al-Urdunn--the oldest in the country (1927--). al-Liwā' is a weekly, and so is Akhbār al-Usbū^C.

The book trade, like many other places in the Middle East, is not well developed. Perhaps the best bookstore is Amman is Maktabat al-Muḥtasib, located on King Husayn Street. A branch of this bookstore is in East Jerusalem, which serves as a major source for the acquisition of Arabic books

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by Israeli institutions and individuals. Mr. Muhammad al-Muhtasib, the owner, is willing to export books upon request. A service to sell Jordanian books to foreign institutions has been set up recently by Mr. ^CIzzat ^CAwf Zāhidah, the Reference Librarian at the University of Jordan. Mr. Zāhidah is now preparing lists of Jordanian books available for sale. His address: P.O. Box 20670, Jordan University Library, Jordan. Other bookstores include Maktabat Amman, Prince Muhammad Street, or P.O. Box 420, Amman; and Jordan Distribution Agency which deals mostly with serials, books being available from the Agency's offices--^{Tal}^Cat Jabbāl, Amman, or P.O. Box 375, Amman.

JERUSALEM

My major concern for going to Jerusalem was to locate, and if possible, to acquire the files of the Palestinian papers prior to 1948. I was able to discover that most of these papers, in various levels of physical condition and completeness, are held by the Hebrew National Library at the Hebrew University. Discussions were started with Ms. Gail Levine, the curator of the Arabic collection, to have the files of al-Karmel microfilmed. al-Difā^C and Falastīn are already on microfilm and are available from the Inter-Documentation Company together with other current Palestinian papers. I was furthermore able to locate the files of Mir'āt al-Sharq in the house of the publisher's son, Mr. Aziz Shehadah. Discussions are actually proceeding on the best way to microfilm the files. Both the Harry S. Truman Center for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the Shiloah Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University hold substantial collections of post-1948 Palestinian and other Arab newspapers.

Publishing in the Arabic language in Israel and in the Occupied Territories of Palestine (The West Bank and Gaza Strip) is somewhat limited. However, there are three Arabic newspapers in East Jerusalem: al-Fajr, al-Quds, and al-Sha^Cb, and also one in Bethlehem--al-Bashīr. Two Arabic newspapers appear in Israel proper: al-Anbā' in West Jerusalem, and

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al-Ittihād in Haifa. Professor Shmuel Moreh has published a Bibliography of Arabic Books and Periodicals Published in Israel 1948-1972. This was followed by a second updated edition entitled Arabic Books Published in Israel (1948-1977) which leaves out some of the titles in the previous bibliography. Both editions include lists of Arabic serials. The second lists only those that were published for more than three issues. Reprints of famous Arabic authors, usually unauthorized, are not listed.

In the Occupied Territories, East Jerusalem is the Center of publishing in the Arabic language. Most books that appear there are literary or political in nature. However, with the recent setting up of three universities, one in Bir Zeit, one in Nablus, and the third in Bethlehem, research-type publications are beginning to come out slowly. The universities are still young and have to cope with a multitude of problems, so I do not expect a great pace of publishing to be sustained. Bir Zeit University has already an established publishing program, and the Library there is willing to set up exchange programs with American institutions. Address: P.O. Box 14, Bir Zeit, West Bank, via Israel. During my visit, I acquired a set of the University publications which included a number of monographs on Palestinian literature and society under Israeli occupation.

There are several bookstores in East Jerusalem, al-Muḥtasib being the major one. Maktabat Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn is another. Both are located on Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn Street, the main business street in East Jerusalem. Both are willing to export books and serials.

In Jerusalem, I bought a number of Palestinian publications including some issues of the serials al-Jadīd, al-Bayādir, and al-Shirāḥ.

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BEIRUT, LEBANON

My original plan was to proceed to Teheran from Amman, but the political upheaval that was taking place in Iran and which was assuming a high degree of tension and violence by the time I went back to Amman from Jerusalem, convinced me that I should change my plans. I went instead to Beirut. The situation in that war-torn city was less dangerous than in Teheran only if one moved cautiously and stayed in one section, East or West. I stayed in West Beirut because the American University and the American Embassy are located there and also because most of the publishing going on in Lebanon comes from West Beirut. The center of town, especially the Lazarite Building and the surrounding streets where the major publishers of Lebanon had their headquarters, has been burned or destroyed. Only a small number of bookstores on Syria Street have escaped complete destruction. Some of the publishers have moved to West Beirut. Others transferred their operations to Cairo, Kuwait or Paris. Many of the excellent presses that existed in Beirut have been destroyed, but not all. For example, the Catholic Press, one of the best in the Middle East, did not suffer any damage.

The Civil War in Lebanon affected publishing by completely destroying several publishing houses. Many newspapers and periodicals were forced to close down or move their operations to Europe. A great number of bookstores were burned down totally such as the Librairie Orientale, the central branch of the Librairie du Liban and Dār al-Thaqāfah.

In spite of all the destruction, Lebanese publishing remained quite alive. Numerically speaking, the number of monographs and serials published each year did not decrease. A proliferation of short lived, small sized dailies and weeklies took place. More than forty new titles of serials appeared during the hot war of 1975 and 1976, each speaking for one of the multitude of factions comprising the "Left" or "Right" or "Muslims" and "Christians" as the American Media labeled the fighting groups. I was able to acquire a small number of these serials. Another effect was the appearance of Arabic weeklies in Paris and London. These were sometimes

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owned by affluent people from the Arabian Peninsula, but edited by seasoned Lebanese and Palestinian journalists.

One noticeable trend in publishing is the proliferation of Arab research and documentation centers. Until recently, most research centers were attached to universities or sponsored by Italian, French, English or German associations. But now and for a variety of political reasons, Arab groups attempting to present their points of view in a more scholarly fashion are setting up research and documentation centers.

In addition to the Institute for Palestinian Studies and the Research Center of the Palestine Liberation Organization, two new centers--one for the study of Arab Unity and one for Arab Development (already mentioned in the section on Libya)--have been recently established. Plans for still another center to be sponsored by the newspaper al-Safir, were, I was told, well underway. al-Katā'ib Party (Phalanges) were also in the process of setting up a documentation center in the Beirut suburb of Jdaydeh in the North Matin District. Each one of the centers publishes a periodical and a number of monographical series. All seem to be affluent and well organized.

I visited a number of bookstores in West Beirut: Librairie Antoine on al-Hamra Street, Khayyat Bookstore on Bliss Street, and Ras Beirut Bookstore also on Bliss Street. All were well stocked with recent Lebanese monographs and serials.

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

My stay in Riyadh was short. I went there to discuss possibilities of tapping resources for cultural and bibliographical projects that could be sponsored by the Near East Section. Unfortunately, the timing of my arrival there was right after the Adha Feast. Many of the people I wanted to see were not yet back from their vacations. I was able, however, to acquire from the University of Riyadh Library more than one hundred monographic and serial titles, and I was also able to purchase some of the missing issues

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of the two monthly periodicals--al-^CArab and al-Fayṣal.

There are no book publishers in Saudi Arabia. Most monographic publications are publications of either the universities or the Ministry of Information. There is a growing number of specialized serials as well as serials of a general nature.

The book trade caters to the local community and is not greatly interested in undertaking any exporting activities. From Saudi Arabia, exchange and travel will remain the only means of acquiring publications for the foreseeable future.

APPENDIX I

Major Trade Publishers in Northwest Africa

MOROCCO

Dār al-Kitāb
Place de la Mosquee
(P.O. Box 4018)
Casablanca

Les Éditions Maghrebine
5-13, Rue Soldat Roche
Casablanca

Dār al-Thaqāfah
Place de la Mosquee
Rue Victor Hugo
(P.O. Box 4038)
Casablanca

Dār al-Ma^Cārif
Rue Bab Challah
(P.O. Box 239)
Rabat

ALGERIA

Société Nationale d'Édition
et Diffusion
3, Blvd. Airout Youcef
Algiers

Office des Publications
Universitaires
29, Rue Abou Nouas-Hydra
Algiers

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LIBYA

Maktabat al-Fikr
54, Avenue de la Liberté
(P.O. Box 3006)
Tripoli

al-Dār al-^CArabīyah lil-Kitāb
Ghūmah al-Maḥmūdī Street
Wafā Bldg.
(Box 3185)
Tripoli

al-Sharikah al-^CĀmmah
lil-Nashr
(The General Publishing
Distribution and
Advertisement Company)
Box 959
Tripoli

TUNISIA

La Maison Tunisienne
de l'Édition
54, Avenue de la Liberte
Tunis

Société Tunisienne de
Diffusion
5, Avenue de Carthage
(P.O. Box 440)
Tunis

Établissements Bousalama
(Dār Abū Salāmah)
15, Rue de la France
Tunis

CERES Productions
Rue de Besanson
Tunis

Établissements A. Ben
Abdallah
17, Rue de la France
Tunis

Éditions Ennajah
11, Rue de la France
Tunis

al-Dār al-^CArabīyah lil-Kitāb
43 bis Juhartah Street
Tunis

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Bookdealers Mentioned

Éditions Khayat
25 Rue de Berne
75008, Paris, FRANCE
Tel. 293-68-33

Les Éditions Oueidat
101 Rue St. Dominique
75007, Paris, FRANCE
Tel. 555-5736

Dār al-Karawane
135, Blvd. de Menilmontón
75011, Paris, FRANCE

La Libreria del Consejo
Superior
4, Medinaceli
Madrid - 14, SPAIN

Libreria Meisner
14, Jose Ortega y Gasset St.
Madrid - 1, SPAIN

Libreria Sanchez Cuesta
29, Serrano St.
Madrid -1, SPAIN

Dār al-Ma^Cārif
Rue Bab Challah
(P.O. Box 239)
Rabat, MOROCCO

Mohammad al-Tatwānī
17 Šaniat Zanbir
Salé, MOROCCO

Librairie Farairre
Corner Blvd. Mohammad V
and Rue de Foucoud
Rabat, MOROCCO

Office des Publications
Universitaires
43, Didouche Mourad
Algiers, ALGERIA

al-Dār al-^CĀrabīyah lil-Kitāb
Ghūmah al-Mahmūdī St.
Wafā Bldg. (Box 3185)
Tripoli, LIBYA

Tunisian address:
43 bis Juhartah St.
Tunis, TUNISIA

Maktabat al-Fikr
54 Mizran St.
(P.O. Box 3006)
Tripoli, LIBYA

Les Livres de France
36 Rue Qasr al-Nil
Cairo, EGYPT
Tel. 51512

^CIzzat ^CAwf Zāhidah
Box 20670,
Jordan University Library
Amman, JORDAN

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Maktabat Amman
Prince Muhammad St.
(Box 420)
Amman JORDAN

Maktabat Salāh al-Dīn
Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn Ṣt.
East Jerusalem
via ISRAEL

Jordan Distribution Agency
Tal^cat Jabbal ^cAmman
(Box 375)
Amman, JORDAN

Librairie Antoine
al-Hamra St., Ras Beirut
Beirut, LEBANON

Maktabat al-Muḥtasib
Salāḥ al-Dīn Ṣt.
East Jerusalem
via ISRAEL

Khayyat Bookstore
Bliss St., Ras Beirut
Beirut, LEBANON

Ras Beirut Bookstore
Bliss St., Ras Beirut
Beirut, LEBANON

BOOK REVIEW by Michael W. Albin

Yūsuf As^cad Dāghir. Mu^cjam al-Masrahiyāt al-^cArabīyah wa-al-Mu^carrabah (Dictionary of Arabic Plays and Plays Translated into Arabic). Baghdad: Ministry of Culture and Arts, 1978. (Silsilat al-Ma^cājim wa-al-Fahāris, 20)

In the film produced by the Egyptian Documentary Film Center on the life of Tawfīq al-Ḥakīm at least half the footage was shot in France. There the Egyptian author had spent difficult but fruitful years as a student and there, decades later, his dramatic work was recognized not only by specialists in oriental arcana but also by the general playgoer. What is interesting about the film is the implication that recognition in the West is the measure of success for any Arab writer or artist. No one in the arts really makes it unless he has standing in Europe or the United States. Of the contemporary literary arts Arabic drama is the least studied and appreciated in the West. The investment of Arab governments in their playwrights, actors, critics and theaters has gone almost unnoticed outside the region. In his travel account,

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Arabia through the Looking Glass, Jonathan Raban describes the half-funny, half-tragic plight of the national playwright of Abu Dhabi, who ran out of steam after his first success yet remains on the payroll of the ministry of culture in the hope that one day his writer's block will clear. Lamentations by Louis Awad and other prominent Egyptian critics make it clear that the theater is not much more vigorous in their country, which was, as recently as twenty years ago, alive with drama. Arab theater is a tree falling in a forest with no Western ears to hear.

It is too much to ask of a mere bibliographer to reverse this situation, but a recent work by Yūsuf As^Cad Dāghir points in the right direction and may help make access to Arab theater a good deal easier for readers. Dāghir's Dictionary is a list of 3,611 Arabic plays performed or published since 1848, when Mārūn al-Naqqāsh produced what is considered the first modern Arabic play, al-Bakhīl, based on Molière's L'Avare. Neither Western surveys of Arabic literature nor Index Islamicus give the literary historian or critic the citations needed to study the Arabic theater broadly. Dāghir has tried to give us a vade mecum to this literature.

The work is correctly called a dictionary, because it is not simply a bibliography. There are lists of references to Arabic studies of the theater and a brief review of the history of the theater in nine Arab countries and Palestine deoected from the writings of Arab critics. The compiler has indexed the work by author and translator and provided an index to prose and verse plays. Finally there are lists of theatrical groups, theaters and "stars."

This is a mouthwatering compilation of facts in a field very poorly bibliographized. Unfortunately, it does not live up to its promise. The work is not in the same class with the compiler's al-Usūl al-^CArabīyah lil-Dirāsāt al-Lubnānīyah, perhaps his most important bibliographical study. Authorial and editorial mistakes and omissions abound. It would have been advisable for the publisher to have interleaved the volume with blank pages for the reader's convenience in making additions and corrections. Among the works omitted from the Dictionary are plays by

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Tawfiq al-Hakīm, ^CAlī Sālim and Sa^Cd Wahbā. The Iraqi dramatist Yūsuf al-^CĀnī is nowhere mentioned. Many Egyptian plays written and performed during the early part of this century are not cited in spite of the fact that Dāghir appears to have used the historical survey by Ramsīs ^CAwād covering the literature until 1919. The index to theatrical troupes and theaters might have been the badly needed guide we need to these evanescent institutions. Sad to report, the compiler simply lists groups and theaters, more often than not giving no information on their founders, activities or dates.

A ruinous flaw is the bibliographer's misunderstanding of the concept of the surname, or shuhrah, as it is used in cataloging and indexing. The author is at pains to explain his selection of filing element. I have loosely translated his remarks.

We have said that scientific indexes have recognized rules used by all. If these are not followed, the work is subject to chaos and failure. The basic rule in indexing is the use of the shuhrah [roughly translated: surname], that is the family name. This principle is used by all great indexers in the East and West. The shuhrah is the main entry. It is followed by the complete or partial personal name. Whenever a person is better known by another name, a kunyah or laqab, for instance, then this name takes precedence by becoming the new shuhrah and the family name takes a subordinate position.

We used for the Author and Translator Index, the main index to this work, the shuhrah, or family name, as the basic name. For Arab countries that do not use the family name as shuhrah, we have selected a shuhrah whenever possible. In innumerable instances--Egypt for example--it is impossible to find a shuhrah, a substitute, or any prominent element in the name. These are names like Aḥmad Muḥammad Maḥmūd Ibrāhīm

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or Muḥammad Aḥmad Maḥmūd ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz.
Following the practice of others, we
have entered these names as they appear
in the original work.

These principles are everywhere ignored in the Index to Authors and Translators, as if the compiler were deliberately trying to befuddle the reader.* There is no uniformity in the selection of the entry element. Yūsuf Idrīs is entered under Yūsuf, Suhayl Idrīs under Idrīs. Tawfīq al-Ḥakīm is indexed under Tawfīq, while Asʿad and Ḥusayn al-Ḥakīm are under their "shuhrah."

It is cause for dissappointment among students of Arabic literature and bibliographers that this work was so hastily prepared for press. A revised and corrected edition from a more painstaking publishing house would be welcome.

*I will not comment on the abominable filing in the index except to give an example and to quote Alfred William Pollard: "If we may take anything at all for granted on the part of our readers, we may assume knowledge of the alphabet." The example is chosen at random from the index:

حبش، فهيم
الحيبي، محمد
حبش، يوسف
حيبي، الخوري ميشال
حبشه، هدي
حببيقة، الخوري أسقف بطرس
...
...
حقن محمود غالي
الحجار، جرجي

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

Nancy Pressman has left NYU to be head of the Near East cataloging team at Princeton University.

Patricia Myers-Hayer is now an Arabic cataloger at LC.

Francine McNulty is spending the year on a Fulbright at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Simon Samoeil is Arabic cataloger at the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran.

Amnon Zipin is hard at work on a "Bibliography of Hebrew literature in Arabic Translation."

COLLATION

Two job openings:

University of Chicago. Librarian, Arabic cataloger and bibliographic assistant. MA or equivalent knowledge of Middle Eastern culture; MLS desirable. Fluent Arabic; knowledge of Persian, modern Turkish, or Ottoman Turkish helpful. Salary dependent on qualifications. Send resume listing names, addresses and telephone numbers to:

Jane E. Marshall
Personnel Officer
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

New York University. Cataloger for Near East languages material (Arabic, Hebrew, Persian). MLS; reading knowledge of Near Eastern languages; familiarity with automated cataloging system such as OCLC or RLIN. Minimum salary: \$15,000. Send resume and letter of application with three references to:

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C. Thomas Pfingsten
Associate Dean of Libraries
New York University
70 Washington Square South
New York, NY 10012

The International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association was established in 1949 to further international understanding and develop the interests of librarians in the field of international library relations. As ALA's only membership organization devoted solely to international interests, IRRT sponsors informative programs about various aspects of international library work during ALA annual conferences. Professional news and reports of area chairpersons representing the major regions of the world are regularly published in Leads, IRRT's newsletter. Membership in IRRT is open to all ALA members for only five dollars a year, which includes a subscription to Leads. Interested persons who are not members of ALA may subscribe to Leads for ten dollars a year. For further information, write Dorothy Pollet, IRRT Membership Chair, Educational Liason Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.