



MELA NOTES

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Middle East
LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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MELA Notes

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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MELA Notes is being published now three times a year, in February, May and October. It is distributed to members of the Association and to non-member subscribers. Membership dues of \$5.00 bring Notes and other mailings. Subscriptions are \$5.00 per calendar year, or \$1.50 per issue for most back numbers. Address dues, requests for membership information or subscriptions to Marsha McClintock, Secretary-Treasurer MELA, Ohio State University Main Library, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

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MASSAGING THE NOTES

The first issue of MELA NOTES rolled off Jim Pollock's typewriter in Fall 1973. It opens: "The Middle East Librarians Association begins to publish MELA Notes as part of its reason for being. If this publication will continue to be read it is because we now encourage you to recall us to our purposes by your contributions and notices, and because you heartily do so." For fifteen issues, the Notes enjoyed the old fashioned prose that launched the enterprise. Indeed, I hear echoes of Burton's translation of the Arabian Nights in the editorial comments of the Notes' first five years. Could it be that the child Pollock spent some evenings of the week drinking the wine of Shahrazad's stories?

The format was as plain as the prose was literary. 8½ x 11, easy to file. Starting with issue 16, the prose, like the times, grew leaner. The 8½ x 11 frame persisted. It seemed appropriate to the task of communicating among the membership and others interested in the nitty gritty of Middle East librarianship. But a vein of opinion to "upgrade" the Notes always existed and in November, 1980 surged to vote out the old and bring in a new format -- smaller, double pages, encovered.

What the new magazine format will do to the content of the Notes is uncertain. The new Notes stands up better. It is easier to take to the beach or camping. It is easier to read in the bathtub. Its cover suggests prosperity, and the stapled fold suggests weightier pages. The retooled Notes is assuredly modern in that it reflects a particularly contemporary awareness that form and content are intimates. Thanks to Marshall McLuhan (and Woody Allen), we are keenly aware that the medium massages us. Burton's and Passolini's Arabian Nights could be verbatim and still tell very different stories. The Qur'an as recited and read to oneself communicate different substance. To upgrade the Notes, we change the form with confidence the content will follow.

Now that the trim format has relegated the floppy newsletter to the archives, how will the Notes' nufūdh change? Will we take the Notes to a solitary lunch? Will the Notes travel to more places? Will we turn our thoughts into print more regularly, more thoughtfully? Will we, like Shahrazad, continue to celebrate as well as record, to entertain as well as relate?

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ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C., NOVEMBER 6, 1980

About 70 persons, including a contingent of guests from the Libraries-Archives Committee of the Association for African Studies and a coterie of hosts from the Library of Congress, gathered in the Whittall Pavilion for MELA's annual meeting. The day fell into three parts: morning program, lunch in LC's new cafeteria, and afternoon business meeting.

Michael Albin, Field Director of the LC office in Cairo, opened the morning section. His entire report follows the annual meeting minutes (see p. 6).

Joseph Howard, Chief of LC's Processing Department, discussed a number of developments at LC. 1. The Automated Process Information File (APIF) tracks pieces from the initial order or receipt up to cataloging. APIF items are shelved by accession number and accessed by author, title, and series. Items are input in romanized form. At present, APIF is on-line and restricted to LC use, but soon goes on sale to other institutions. 2. Minimal level cataloging (MLC) gives automated brief cataloging to lowest priority titles. MLC drops notes and tracings. Unlike APIF, MLC is not upgraded. Howard emphasized that MLC provides spare cataloging for material that previously would not have been cataloged at all. George Atiyeh assured us that MLC will be applied only to materials of little or no research value. 3. LC is exploring the possibility of incorporating into a new model NUC vernacular script information for Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Hebrew, and Yiddish (this group's acronym: JACKPHY). The basic register would accept mixed script records for these languages. Access points would be romanized and listed in automated indexes. The register would simply grow (without cumulation) and the indexes would be maintained by computer. This register-index format is a feasible alternative to choosing between full romanization or exclusion of mixed records in a computerized NUC. Howard hopes that LC can commence production of this retooled NUC in two years. 4. Finally, Howard described a cooperative authority file project with the University of Michigan and John Eilts. If Michigan cannot find an LC form, it establishes one and sends it to LC. This is then searched against LC authority files. If LC finds no conflict, it accepts the record and adds it to their own authority file.

George Hobart of LC's Print and Photograph Division spoke on that unit's holdings pertaining to the Middle East. Hobart did a

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show-and-tell of photographs by Francis Firth, photographs from the Abdul Hamid II albums, and samples from the Matson collection. The latter is now in print as The Middle East in Pictures, a four volume set of positive prints taken from the original glass plate negatives.

Fawzi Abdulrazak, Middle East bibliographer at Harvard, spoke on the Moroccan cooperative acquisitions project that sent him to Morocco in April 1980. Acting on the well-known impossibility of acquiring Moroccan materials through a dealer or even by exchange, Harvard, Michigan, Ohio State, Texas, and Utah chipped in \$1500 each. Buying only 1977 imprints, Abudulrazak acquired about 250 titles for each institution. Included in his selection were what Harvard calls "potential sources," works by new, untested authors who are representative of their time and whose fruits may nourish future scholars. The project's ad hoc agent recommended that such a buying trip take place every three years.

Donald Wisdom, Acting Chief of Preservation at LC, stood in for Muhammad Alwan, who was slated to speak on collecting out-of-print materials but had to cancel. Wisdom described a massive program to produce a microfiche edition of UN documents. A survey of research libraries showed that over 100 institutions are interested in subscribing to a comprehensive edition. This project will begin November 1981. The fiche edition will come out concurrently with the paper edition. There is also the possibility that the project will be extended retrospectively and that the UN will package documents according to region and subject. Wisdom suggested that MELA formally urge the Director of the UN Library to undertake this last ramification of the microfiche project.

After lunch, we held our business meeting. Warren Tsuneishi from Library of Congress spoke on the Commission on International Studies and the National Council on International Studies, which are conducting a survey of university international studies needs. New Title VI funding showed increased area studies center funding and, indirectly, that of libraries. The National Conference on Libraries in International Studies has asked Library of Congress to consult with specialized library groups to compile an agenda for a proposed conference including sections on international studies libraries for late 1982 or 1983. Possible topics include: bibliographic control; automated systems, including on-line non-roman scripts; national and/or regional collection development systems; preservation; and scholarly access to unacquired materials. He requested comments and suggestions from the MELA membership.

Please send your suggestions to: Fawzi Abdulrazak, Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138 for inclusion in next year's business meeting discussion of this topic.

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David Partington announced the MELA Occasional Papers Series. No. 1 will be the collected papers delivered at the 1971 annual MELA meeting held in Utah. Further notification will be published in MELA Notes when the Papers are available for sale.

Old Business--A new format for MELA Notes was approved. First issue of 1981 will reflect the change in size and physical appearance.

New Business--a. A motion was raised that there be a publications committee to oversee MELA Notes, Occasional Papers, and other publications of MELA. The motion passed. The Committee of Editorial Responsibility for Occasional Papers of MELA was formed to solicit and select manuscripts for publication and to oversee MELA's publishing activities. Volunteers for members were: Chris Filstrup, chair.; David Partington; Mark Day; Amnon Zipin.

b. A motion was raised that there be a Cataloging Committee to provide input in the area of cataloging and technical services to assist our ALA liaison. An amendment to the motion was made that the committee should be a technical processing committee to represent MELA in all technical processing issues, not only cataloging. The motion as amended was passed. The Technical Processing Committee volunteers were: Abazar Sepehri; John Eilts; Nassif Youssif; Marsha McClintock; and Frances Morton, MELA's ALA liaison.

c. The point was raised that full MELA membership should not exclude part-time professional librarians working with Middle East and North African materials. At the present time, only full time professionals are voting members. A mail ballot and printed discussion will be sent to all voting members by the secretary in 1981 to vote on this amendment to the MELA By-laws.

Election of new officers: Fawzi Abdulrazak was elected Vice-President; former Vice-President Basima Bezirgan assumed the presidency; former president David Partington assumed his place on the Executive Board as an ex-officio member.

Chris Filstrup, Editor of MELA, reported that the Notes was still one issue behind schedule. Texans and others not receiving their copies should contact the editor, not the secretary. The editor's request to have the Notes indexed in Library Literature was turned down. The reason given was that Library Literature was accepting only journals with wide appeal and longish articles as additions to its list. The last six issues of the Notes have

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averaged 23 pages in length and cost about \$250 each to produce and mail. Since the secretary purged the membership list of delinquent dues payers, we distribute about 190 copies, including 54 separately paid subscriptions. Over the last two years, eight people have written one article or review for the Notes; two have written two pieces; and three have written three pieces.

The business meeting concluded with a report by Frances Morton, MELA's liaison with ALA, and a report by our Secretary-Treasurer, Marsha McClintock. MELA's low budget modus operandi has filled its coffers with \$1962, enough to sustain additional publishing activity.

LC's MIDDLE EAST COOPERATIVE ACQUISITIONS PROGRAM: A PROGRESS REPORT
by Michael W. Albin, Field Director, LC, Cairo

The PL-480 money is gone. No longer are we seated at an all-you-can-eat smorgasbord gorging ourselves on books and serials from Egypt and other Arab countries. From now on we will be on a diet, hoping to avoid the ultimate reduction of our fare to bread and water. David Partington in a recent article points out that the "...root of our present problem (both in organization and collection-building) [is] the enormous increase in publication, especially from the so-called developing countries of the Middle East. While our nineteenth-century forebearers were largely content with a shelf of grammars and a few manuscripts, the needs of our present-day inter-disciplinary programs require (or so one assumes) a significant portion of the publishing output of each Middle Eastern country." These requirements and assumptions will not change in the foreseeable future, but we will all have money to spend to fill them. The Cairo Office has been preparing for the loss of access to PL-480 money since early 1978. As far as participants are concerned, the new program using their own funds under a cooperative acquisitions arrangement went into effect on April first.

Some participants are concerned that they will receive and be charged for works of marginal value in the categories they have designated. We have considered various ways to eliminate unwanted material, among them accepting profiles based on Dewey Decimal Classification or on the LC classification, or restricting

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material to certain forms of publishing such as government documents. For one reason or another, we find these suggestions to be unworkable at the present time. So we will, for the coming year or two, retain our ten broad subject and geographic categories. If you have ingenious schemes for refining our profiles, please don't hesitate to let us hear about them. In the meantime, we intend to be chary of literary works of minor importance, repetitious university textbooks, editions only slightly revised and expensive works.

Another question I have already encountered concerns the quantity of material being supplied by the Cairo Office. Naturally, under the new program we are working with restricted profiles and reduced numbers of serial subscriptions. Participants will not be receiving packages so frequently or in such numbers as in the past. The first shipments of books and serials acquired under the new arrangement were put in the mail to you in August. You should start receiving them soon.

This delay in ordering and processing, that is the interval from April until August, is explained by the accounting procedures we have set up in Cairo to accomodate the new program. We do not post charges against participant accounts until books are delivered from the bindery and checked for missing pages and other flaws. The first shipments were therefore delayed.

This same accounting procedure also explains the large carryover in participant accounts into the new fiscal year. The pace of billing is picking up as material acquired under the new program works its way into the routine of the Office in a steady stream. We must also keep in mind in regard to billing that the overall cost of the program is based on estimated publication costs in 1978. I can give you no guarantee that these figures are not too high or too low for the materials we acquire in 1981. If the contribution from your library appears to be too low, we will send you a notice to this effect in time for you to increase your deposit at LC or to reduce your subscriptions and collection profile.

Participants will have noticed that billings were sent out to libraries on September 18. Many libraries have already responded and we thank you for this cooperation. It may also be of some interest to you to know that no one has dropped out of the program. In fact, we have added two new participants: the Law Library at New York University and the American University in Cairo.

As to availability of publications in Cairo, you will probably have noted from monitoring the Accessions List that the volume of publishing in our region has not diminished. The boycott of Egypt

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by other Arab countries has, to some extent, been circumvented by dealer and staff travel. This year books were acquired for LC and participants from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan. Until the boycott is relaxed we can rely on acquisitions trips to maintain our current level of receipts from outside Egypt. The boycott has had a more serious impact on non-Egyptian serial and newspaper subscriptions. Our main subscription agent has been effectively cut off from its sources in most Arab countries. Therefore, I advise you to place subscriptions through sources outside Egypt whenever possible. We will keep you posted on changes in the availability of serials.

Further Notes on Administration & Acquisition

1. In order to cut down operating expenses in Cairo, printing and distribution of the Accession List has been moved to the Karachi Office, which has ample PL-480 money for the task. As was probably to be expected, there was some slippage in meeting printing and mailing schedules. We are working on this problem. If you have claims for missing issues or have subscription or address changes, you should send them to the Karachi Office. If you have complaints or comments on editorial matters, you should send them to Cairo.
2. I will be returning to Cairo in April 1981. In the meantime, your general correspondence should continue to be addressed to the Cairo Office. It will be handled by the acting head of the office, Dr. Doug Nicol.
3. You can expect to receive a quarterly financial report on the status of your accounts in the new fiscal year in early January. This report will cover the period October-December.
4. Regarding the processing of books, we will continue to use the Arabic script in our preliminary cataloging. What effect the use of romanization in the Library's Automated Process Information File and minimal level cataloging will have on Cairo operations is not clear. As regards cataloging, the catalogers in Cairo have been given training in AACR 2 and will have begun applying the new rules by this time. Works cataloged according to AACR 2 will be signaled on the preliminary cards by a note in the lower right hand corner.
5. In the matter of sample serials and ballots, you should be aware that these will be sent to you for selection only if you

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have elected to receive monographs from the corresponding country or area. For example, if your monographic interest is limited to Egypt, the Office will send you sample serials and ballots for titles of interest only from there. Should you, however, note titles of interest in the Annual List of Serials and wish to subscribe to them through the Office, please inform us and we will place subscriptions.

In order to accommodate our suppliers of non-Egyptian periodicals and newspapers we have been required to hold libraries to an "open season" on additions and cancellations of subscriptions. The cut off dates for these transactions are May 1 and December 1. We also ask you to adhere to the 45 day deadline for responding to ballots. The new "open season" system makes it virtually certain that we will not be able to respond to late ballots.

6. Regarding monographs, you will continue to receive all continuations of sets and series from the geographic regions for which you voted. It is not possible for the Office to know which series and sets from other areas you wish to receive from us. If you want certain continuations that would ordinarily be out-of-scope, please let us know so that we may supply them.

7. Under the new program, we will only acquire books published in the current year and the two preceding years. Because of the limitations of staff and the bibliographic difficulties of the region, the Office cannot accept orders for out-of-print publications. However, we will try to replace books lost or damaged in shipment--at the participant's expense.

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ON WORKING LEAVE, 1980 by James W. Pollock

Five long whistles : pause ; three short whistles : quiet ; BOOM!! -- At ease. And more limestone bedrock was dynamited loose, ready for the excavation of a building site. This was the daily external interest across the street from our Indiana University Library for many weeks and a half in 1979 and '80. No one of us librarians looking out had tried to fit dance steps to the rhythm of whistles and booms. Really, no one of us would have thought of it. But in retrospect, it was a nice, interesting noise, meaning prosperous growth in peacetime construction. Our Hoosier Uplands are lifted by a great limestone fold, putting building materials in easy reach, if not right where a foundation must be excavated.

This ruminative bookhandler's slow-fantastic gavotte dialed up to a foxy trot when approval of a sabbatical leave and university travel grant were spread upon the slide-out desk shelf that serves as available work space. The leave came after an invitation (No, not from my employer) to travel to Beirut, and there to study how to improve bibliographic access and to better conserve the fine older portion of the library collection in the Near East School of Theology. The N.E.S.T. is a sister school to the American University of Beirut, both founded and fostered by the same enthusiastic Nineteenth Century Protestant Community in Beirut. It is the school for training of leaders in religion, while AUB looks after a range of secular emphases.

Arriving June 6 after a good week in England, and departing November 22 for a short reunion with friends in Cairo, Tanta and Mansura, my wife Rachel and I spent the five and half months in Beirut enjoying the friends we made and working together in a modern library with a fascinating array of books and manuscripts. Work Day 1 was on the 7th, a Saturday and could only be a half-day. We had arrived at the season of school commencements, and so we attended one that afternoon, up above Tall al-Za'tar, the Hill of Thyme. Civil wars are the saddest wars, and their spilled blood is of the reddest.

Sunday services next day were our introduction to a still enthusiastic community of families and a savory launch back into Arabic speech and hearing. Back home in a waterfront third-floor apartment with our hosts we gazed out over a beautiful sea, the

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north-swinging coast visible hazily over to the right. Looking left we saw the U.S. Embassy a block and a half away, and the garden slope of the AUB campus behind it. The Corniche, or Seaside Boulevard was being extended from the Embassy across our line of sight on to the right; slowly, that is. 'Til now, the Boulevard's 4-lane traffic steadily sweeps itself into two noisily assertive lanes on the street below, "Anchorage Spring Drive", we would translate its name. It meandered eastwards toward a curtain of buildings that prevented a view of the harbor and the destroyed central business section. Only one fishermen's inlet coming up to this Drive was preserved in the Corniche extension plan. A short alley back from our left hand was a busy little harbor for human community--six floors up in all directions.

From the waterfront to the workroom was a fifteen-minute hike up hill: up Rue George Post (stop to pick up the newly fallen frangipani blossom) to the corner of Van Dyck, up seventy-nine steps that cut across the switchback, around and up John Kennedy to Bliss that fronts the top level line of the AUB campus on the north edge of Ras Beirut. West on Bliss to Jeanne d'Arc to get Khayat's morning al-Nahar, Time or Monday Morning, Beirut's only English news. (The Middle East from London is an excellent bracer we needed too.) Sloping up south again on Jeanne d'Arc two blocks, east a few steps and there on the right (south) side we found our goal, the N.E.S.T. and its library.

June through November that walk warmed us to our task, and gradually improved our circulation. Broken-field walking takes one zigging around cars parked many which ways on the sidewalks, develops wall-eyed sight watching what you walk on and what rushes by your arm or by your lady, raucously "klaxing" for more space. Crossing a street in the local traffic took some kind of resolve, knowing that insurance was not valid in a zone of war declared or undeclared. Those Mercedes horn blasts beside the elbow gave us an earful of someone's daily practice for sounding the last trump!

In the loaned office-workroom conditions were AC cool and ideal. Handling the fine relics we envied the bookworms that had access to this collection until recent years. Antiquarian research and manuscript penetration do engross and hold one's mind fast in the slow route from Basmala to Hamdala to Amma ba'd and eventually to "so I named it..." That route must be in CB contact range always with the other trail of dropped names mostly true and bona fide. By "dropping" is meant the loss of a full Library of Congress identity string with cross-references. We have more respect now

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for the Kunyah and Khitab portions of names. There's really only one of Abū 'Alī, or Abū Ḥamid, or 'Aḍud al-Dīn, Badr al-Dīn or Sa'd al-Dīn, and everyone knows there are just two Jalāl al-Dīn's (straights, not Sufis, that is).

The rhetoric of humility that opens and closes a work may be socially revealing, but it can be overdone, as when X author says in so many words that he is unworthy of mention, and in pure fatigue at last forgets to name himself anywhere. And some humble routines suspiciously read like a stout Now-fellow speaking out of yesteryear's slim fashions.

Besides single texts, there are the well-known layer books with commentaries, supercommentaries (or glosses) and super-glosses. In this division the original author of a title, who has hopefully gone on to his reward, can be seen in history's shaky rear-view mirror kneeling and bowing before his readers and analysts. All hands are laid upon his person, many in hearty and admiring approval, but some working to de-hair his head or de-thread his coat.

For the business of reading other people's handwriting, practice first in your own language. Doctor's prescriptions, junior high-school compositions, long car-repair invoices, letters from relatives or administrative memos are samples to start on. Then press the Arabic button. When your mind is clearly refocussed find the Basmala and read it all, a prominent line to begin, then the Hamdala. Soon you are in the groove of the scribe's pen, and words tumbling forwards to the left lead you on to comprehend the author's thought. Some handwriting is so slanted and narrow (one of the styles, surely) that eye-pupils in ellipse-shape, like those of cats and foxes, might be more useful to a reader.

These Non-scientific Marginalia aside, cataloging of 380+ Arabic manuscripts (bound in 250+ volumes) was completed on 70 draft pages, with title index and shelflist on 3 x 5 inch cards. A review of names is on and we have hopes to match some photocopies' anonymous first lines with a chance catalog entry back home here. A final attempt will be made at perfect typing printer's copy of the catalog with title and author indexes (then dispatch of the whole to Lebanon with some courier)--this is a sharp-elbowed priority in my scramble for time. The N.E.S.T. Theological Review will bring it out.

Conservation efforts in rare book collections rely mostly on protective acid-free boxes or envelopes. We have been attempting to get an order of supplies sent out to protect each of the

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manuscripts immediately, and rare books on a later order. My wife, Rachel, in addition to typing the index cards, washing the Rare Book Room shelves, tying up loose books and manuscripts with ribbon, took over the measuring and counting aspects of the cataloging and conservation work, so the entire project was moved far ahead of a one-person effort.

There was plenty to do on the research project, beginning with a close reading and correction of the Rare Book Room shelf-list; but our team did not miss a coffee or tea-break while we were there. Sight-seeing was not at all emphasized, nor did we locate many of the bookstores. Sundays we met people, in and out of the city. As to other libraries, I can briefly mention the American University: its Near East collection is understandably excellent, with depth and a long history of development. European books are a problem more in cost than in availability, I believe. They need more acquisitions even in Arabic to deepen their research capacity. Good news told to me by Dr. Yusuf Khouri, Director of Libraries, is that their collection of twelve hundred Arabic manuscripts is nearly all cataloged, with maybe a hundred to go before publication. That collection is the larger complement of the Near East School of Theology collection from the 19th century. Research in Christian Arabic bibliography will be a permanent project now for us. The Beirut introduction was a look into just one of the 19th century cyclotrons spinning off intellectual stimuli that spread through Arabic thought.

A beautiful city has been cleaved through the head in much cold blood, and now is growled over by proxy armies with weapons from Near East and Middle East, South, West and Far West. To prominent outsiders Lebanon is expendable, it has seemed. We felt the strong bond with the U.S. At the same time I suspect our Lebanese friends, and dear they are, may feel a degree of embarrassment for us inclined Americans, with our own local political problem, a tangle marked "do not touch." Now the flavored sound from an oriental scene has added to it incessant bruiting car horns, sometimes bedeviled and silenced at night by guns, an external interest outside library and apartment. These are sounds of someone's impatience, symptoms of a deeper anger we share, in which no rhythm can be read. But each day did start well, and until now the people's life still calls for many services, and to its own it does provide.

This is our impression, and sure it is.

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BOOK REVIEW by David Partington

United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia.
Bibliography of Population Literature in the Arab World:
Part I, Non-Arabic Literature. Beirut, ECWA, 1980. xi, 274 pp.

While orientalists may properly remain ignorant of the present condition of humanity in the areas whose history and civilization they illuminate, most social scientists must, like carpetbaggers, come to grips with the natives. The compilers of the present bibliography can truthfully claim that it is the "first comprehensive compilation of its kind relating to this important region." It should ease access to the wealth of population-related studies that appeared 1960-1978 in English and French.

The 2200 entries are contained in six chapters: (1) Size, Growth and Structure; (2) Morbidity and Mortality; (3) Reproduction and Family Formation; (4) Distribution and Internal Migration; (5) International Migration; (6) Multi-Variable. Arrangement within each chapter is alphabetical by author, which makes it a little difficult to locate items by locale. A comprehensive author index caps the work. The still-to-be published Part II will reveal what Arabic writers have contributed to this area of research. One expects it to be a bibliography of wide usefulness.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Amnon Zipin has published Fihrist al-Adab al-'Ibri al-Hadīth al-Mutarjam ilá al-'Arabiyah: 1948-1979 (Tall Abib: Ma'had Tarjumat al-Adab al-'Ibri, 1980). English title page: Bibliography of modern Hebrew literature in Arabic translation, 1948-1979.

Dunning Wilson spent spring 1980 in Cairo compiling a guide to personal papers of Americans who had careers in Egypt.

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David Partington has published "Middle Eastern Library Collections in the United States: The Influence of Library Organization and the Area Studies Center" in Middle East Studies and Libraries: A Felicitation Volume for Professor J.D. Pearson (London; Mansell, 1980). Partington is also indexing the English translation of Louis Massignon's La Passion de Husayn Ibn Mansūr Hallāj. The four volume translation will be published in the Bollingen Series by Princeton University Press. Herbert Mason, Boston University, made the translation.

COLLATION

The following newspaper item comes to us via Michael Albin. The article was translated by Philip Nagao, Asian Division, LC.

Asahi Shimbun, October 27, 1980 (Evening edition)

NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY (NDL) AND TOYO BUNKO ACQUIRE LARGE QUANTITY OF IRANIAN MATERIALS INCLUDING NEWSPAPERS AND HANDBILLS CIRCULATED DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

It has been an old story that Japan has been lagging behind in Middle East studies but the National Diet Library and Toyo Bunko succeeded in shipping back to Japan via air route huge quantity of works pertaining to Iran just before the outbreak of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. Notwithstanding the record-breaking total cost of Yen 55 million approx. \$240,000.00, unprecedented in Japanese library spending for mass purchases, the salient feature of the acquisition is the large collection of fresh materials including newspapers, handbills, and underground publications which were circulated during the height of the revolutionary period. Since only a handful of NDL personnel is competent to handle the Persian language, the staff is busily engaged in daily study of Persian for bibliographic work.

A research staff member of Toyo Bunko, Hirotohi Shimo, played the leading role in the massive purchase.

The documents which were stored at Shimo's apartment near the

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U.S. Embassy were examined individually with the assistance of Kyoto University students doing research in Iran. After the documents had passed censorship by Iranian officials of the revolutionary militia at the airport, they were in turn shipped to Japan via air. The 500 thousand Yen that was initially brought in was immediately expended, and it was necessary to request for a 5 million Yen supplementary fund which too rapidly hit rock bottom.

On the other hand, the NDL was only too glad to jump at the timely offer of Shimo when he intimated, "Why not include the NDL....." As it turned out, the materials which were brought back to Japan as NDL's apportionment in the latter part of May of this year totaled approximately 2 tons, including the back issues of the Iranian daily, Ittila'at, reportedly at a cost of 35 million Yen.

Three job openings:

University of California, Los Angeles. Near East cataloger. Professional background of competence, knowledge, and experience, normally includes MLS. Sound command of Arabic and Hebrew; reading knowledge of Turkish and/or Persian desirable. Salary: \$16,392 - 28,908. Write to:

Alvis H. Price
Acting Assistant University Librarian (Personnel)
UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Harvard College Library. Cataloger, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. Graduate degree in Islamic art, facility to use reference works in Turkish and Arabic and reading knowledge of German and Russian. Salary: \$13,700 minimum. Send resumé to:

Cynthia Carlin, Personnel Associate
Harvard College Library
Widener Library
Cambridge, MA 02138

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Princeton University. Near East cataloger. MA in Near Eastern studies or MLS. Reading knowledge of Arabic and one other Middle Eastern language, preferably Turkish. Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. Send resumé and names of three references to:

Cataloguer Search Committee
c/o Maria Gopel
Personnel Librarian
Princeton University Library
Princeton, NJ 08544