

MELA Notes

Number 24

October, 1981

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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Fawzi Abdulrazak	(Harvard)	Vice President- Program Chairperson
Marsha McClintock	(Ohio State)	Secretary-Treasurer
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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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MELA NOTES 24, October, 1981

MASHRUTEH

This issue of the Notes includes a revision of the Association's bylaws. Our Secretary, Marsha McClintock, has put the proposed changes in a format that clearly identifies the revisions while leaving them in context. Changes are in italics with explanations and voting choices in footnotes. An editorial tour de force: bravo, Marsha. Even the anarchists among us should have no trouble digesting this constitutional fare. For the Editor's thoughts on the importance of voting and his stand on the critical item (3) of changing the characteristics of professional membership, you can reread Notes 21. p. 2-3. The Executive Board will entertain questions at the business meeting in Seattle. The revised bylaws are included in this Notes for everyone's examination. But only professional members, sixty-one of us, may vote. Tucked in each professional member's copy of the Notes is a separate ballot. Mark your votes and return this to the Secretary by the date stamped at the bottom. Keep in mind that a majority of the professional members must approve each change in the bylaws. Not to vote equals a nay vote.

Middle East Librarians Association
Annual Meeting
November 4-5, 1981
Seattle, Washington

Wednesday, November 4

1:30-5:00 pm: Park Hilton Hotel, Carlsbad Room

Program: Centralized Cataloging and
Acquisitions of Middle Eastern
Materials

Speakers: James Pollock - Indiana
Dunning Wilson - UCLA
Michael Albin (in
absentia) - LC
Eric Ormsby - Princeton

6:00-9:00 pm: Executive Board Meeting

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Thursday, November 5

9:00-11:30 am: Plymouth Congregational Church
Business meeting

11:45-1:45 pm: Lunch at Middle East restaurant. Pay your
own bill.

2:00-3:30 pm: Plymouth Congregational Church
COMRAD workshop

3:30-5:00 pm: Plymouth Congregational Church
AACR 2 workshop

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND NATURE

Section 1. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Middle East Librarians Association.
(No change)

Section 2. Nature

The Association shall be a private, non-profit, non-political organization of librarians and others interested in those aspects of librarianship which support the study of or dissemination of information about the Middle East.* ¹ The area signified shall be considered to include those countries from Morocco through Pakistan as well as other areas formerly included ² in the Arab, Ottoman or Mughal empires.

- *1 *Since some of our members study the Jahiliyya period, early Semitic languages, Armenian and Jewish culture in the Middle East, would you be in favor of dropping the phrase, "since the rise of Islam" to encompass our pre-Islamic studies, after the words Middle East.*
Yes, drop phrase *No, retain phrase*
- 2 *Since the Arab, Ottoman and Mughal empires are no longer intact, add the phrase "formerly included" to show we are not living in the too distant past.*
Yes, add "formerly included" *No, do not add phrase*

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of the Middle East Librarians Association to facilitate communication among Members through meetings and publications; to improve the quality of area librarianship through the development of standards for the profession and education of Middle East library specialists; to compile and disseminate information concerning Middle East libraries and collections and to represent the judgement of the Members in matters affecting them; to encourage cooperation among Members and Middle East libraries, especially in the acquisition of materials and the development of bibliographic control; to cooperate with other library and area organizations in projects of mutual concern and benefit; to promote research in and development of indexing and automated techniques as applied to Middle East materials. (No change)

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Categories of membership

Membership in the Middle East Librarians Association shall be of two categories: Professional and Associate.

A. Any person who is employed* ³ by an institution to service Middle East library materials in a professional capacity (selection, acquisition, cataloging, reference work, administration, and or preparation of research tools) shall be eligible for professional membership.

B. All other individuals or organizations and institutions shall be eligible for associate membership.

*3 Since many of our members service Middle East collections in a professional capacity only half-time with other duties in religious studies, administration, other area studies, etc., it is recommended to drop the phrase "full-time" to include these or retain these people (many of our most illustrious members) in the professional category.

Yes, drop "full-time"

No, retain "full-time"

4. Add the word "administration" to the duties considered of professional level, as many of our members, particularly from Library of Congress and the larger collections are involved very heavily in the administrative side of Middle East libraries.

Yes, add "administration" No, do not add

5 Make all other people and institutions automatically associates instead of spelling out in great detail all other particulars, such as whether the person is a student, or unemployed, or seeking employment. This is immaterial since all other candidates will automatically be associates if not professional members.

Yes, replace with short phrase shown in B above.

No, retain current phrasing which reads, "B. Those eligible for Associate membership shall include: 1. a person preparing for, unemployed or on leave for more than one year, or retired from a professional position dealing with Middle East library materials, 2. a person, institution, or organization interested in the purposes of this organization.

Section 2. Election to membership

Members shall be elected by approval of the Secretary-Treasurer in the interim between meetings, subject to ratification by vote of the Executive Board at the annual meeting.

6 Since no members have been approved by vote of either the Executive Board or the membership for at least four years, this will adjust the by-laws to current practise.

Yes, elect members as in Section 2 shown above

No, begin to enforce currently lapsed practise according to original by-laws of: "Members shall be elected by either of the following methods: A. approval of a majority of the Members present at any business session, B. approval of a majority of the Professional Members present at any business session.

Section 3. Privileges of Members

A. Both categories of Members may attend all meetings of the Association and participate in discussions and programs. All members may attend committee meetings not designated as closed. Only committee members may vote in committee deliberations.

B. Both categories of Members shall be eligible to serve on committees with the exception of committees designated as special by the Executive Board. Only Professional members may serve on these special committees.

C. Both categories of Members shall be entitled to receive all publications of the Association, including:

1. Minutes of meetings
2. Notice of Meetings
3. Agenda of Meetings
4. Roster of Members and Committee Members
5. By-laws and amendments
6. All official organs

D. Only Professional Members may serve as officers of the Association and vote in elections and meetings. Associate Members appointed to a committee may vote in the deliberations of that committee. *(No change)*

Section 4. Dues

Members may be required to pay such annual dues as voted by a majority of the Professional Members in person or by mail. *(No change)*

Section 5. Term of Membership

Membership shall be on a calendar year basis and continuous unless resigned by the Member or revoked in accordance with the provisions of Article III, section 6. *(No change)*

Section 6. Resignations or Removal of Members

A. Any member may resign at any time, forfeiting dues paid for the balance of the year.

- B. A membership held in either of the two categories may be revoked by:
1. A majority of the Professional members present at any business session, in which case dues would be returned
 2. The Secretary-Treasurer if the Member is more than twelve months in arrears of dues. *(No change)*

ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Officers

The Officers of the Association shall consist of the following:

- A. A President, whose duties shall include:
1. Chairing the meetings of the Association and the Executive Board
 2. Representing the Organization on appropriate occasions or in correspondence as necessary. *(No change)*
- B. Vice-President, whose duties shall include:
1. Chairing the meetings of the Association in the absence of the President
 2. Conducting the Program portion of the annual meeting
 3. Chairing the Program Committee
 4. Carrying out all and any other duties delegated⁷ by the President.

⁷ Drop the words "to him" after the word delegated to recognize the fact that the Vice-President may be a woman.

Yes, drop "by him" No, retain "by him"

C. Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties shall include:

1. Recording and submitting to all Members, by mail, the minutes of the annual meeting and any other meeting of the Membership or of the Executive Board
2. Notify all Members of the date, time, place and agenda for all meetings of the Association
3. Publishing the list of Members and the rosters of committees within the Association at least once a year
4. Carrying on the correspondence of the Association excepting that requiring the signature of the President
5. Collecting from each Member such dues as are voted by the Membership and notifying Members in arrears
6. Revoking the Membership of any Member more than twelve months in arrears of dues
7. Paying all invoices charged to the Association
8. Submitting annually an account of the finances of the Association, either at the annual meeting or by mail, to all members
9. Collecting revenues from non-member subscribers to publications of the Association

8 Add collecting revenues for subscriptions to MELA Notes, mailing lists, workshop proceedings, etc. to indicate this is a part of the secretary/treasurer's normal work load
Yes, add no. 9 No, assume 9 is implied

D. Editor, whose duties shall include:

1. Gathering and disseminating news of Members and news of interest to Members
2. Selecting articles of interest to Members submitted by Members or others
3. Publishing the aforementioned items and articles at least annually in the official organ.¹⁰

¹⁰ To drop the phrase "which shall be called _____" The original by-laws never stated the name. Either the name should be filled in on the by-laws, or the phrase indicating name should be dropped.
Yes, drop the phrase No, retain the phrase

4. Publishing and editing all other official publications of the Association, unless the President appoints an editor for selected publications of the Association.¹¹

¹¹ In the past, the President has edited or might wish to appoint in the future an editor for a specific project, such as an occasional papers series, or proceedings. This additional phrase would recognize that power for the President.
Yes, add the phrase No, do not add the phrase

5. Maintaining subscription files.¹²

¹² Drop the phrase "and collecting revenues from non-member subscribers to publications of the Association." This has been handled centrally by the Secretary-Treasurer, as the editor does not hold back-files of publications and does not have access to the Association books and financial records.
Yes, drop the phrase No, retain the phrase

Section 2. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor, and other Officers as may be added by the Membership. It shall meet prior to each business meeting of the Association to prepare the agenda and act on any necessary business, and at any other time at the call of the President or by a majority of Members of the Board. Such meetings may be in person or via correspondence. Three-fourths of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Board shall make appointments to all committees not otherwise provided for in these by-laws and appointing interim officers to fill vacancies, and make appointments to membership in both categories.

The immediate past President of the Association shall serve as an ex officio member of the Executive Board.¹³

- 13 The past president has useful experience in the administering of the Association and should be a member of the Executive Board for an extra year to share that experience.

Yes, add phrase

No, do not add phrase

Section 3. Election of Officers

Election to all Offices, other than that of the Presidency, to which the Vice President automatically succeeds, shall be held at the annual meeting. Officers shall be elected from among the Members in good standing by a majority of the Members present. The election shall be by secret ballot from a list of two or more candidates for each vacancy, provided by the Nominating Committee with provision for additional nominations from the Membership by mail or during the annual meeting. All ballots will be preserved for a period of sixty days to allow for a recount if called for. After this period, ballots will be destroyed.¹⁴

- 14 This is the proposed revision of the original committee assigned to revise the by-laws in 1977. It follows more closely the practice of the Association, and allows the Vice-President to follow the President automatically, which we currently follow.

Yes, approve the revision as listed above

No, retain original phrasing which reads, "Officers shall be elected from the Professional Members in good standing by a majority of the Professional Members present at the annual meeting. The election shall be by secret ballot from a list of two or more candidates for each vacancy provided by the Nominating Committee with the provision for additional nominations from the Membership. The votes shall be tallied by the President and verified by the Executive Board. After verification, the results will be made known to the Membership. All ballots will be preserved for a period of sixty days to allow for a recount if called for. After this period the ballots will be destroyed."

Section 4. Terms of Office

The term of office for the President and Vice President shall be one year, with the Vice President becoming President the following year.¹⁵ The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for a term of three years and may not succeed himself, or herself¹⁶ in that position. The Editor shall serve for a term of three years and may not serve in that position for more than two successive terms. Terms of office for other Officers shall be determined at the time of creation of their position.

15 *If the Vice-President succeeds the President automatically each year, then there is no question of any one President or Vice-President succeeding him or herself for two many years, and the Vice-President will already have some experience in functioning within the organization when assuming the Presidency.*
Yes, add phrase No, retain text reading

"No person shall serve in the position of President or Vice-President for more than two successive terms."

16 *Adding the phrase "or herself" recognizes the possibility that the Secretary-Treasurer might be of either sex.*

Yes, add phrase No, do not add phrase

Section 5. Compensation

Officers serving voluntarily shall not receive compensation for their services. They may request from the Secretary-Treasurer reimbursement of expenses for materials needed in connection with the performance of their duties. (No change)

Section 6. Resignation of Officers

Any Officer may resign at any time. The Executive Board may appoint any Member in good standing to serve the remaining portion of a vacant term. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President will assume the office of President immediately, and serve the unfilled portion of the vacated term as well as his or her¹⁷ own term the following year. The vacancy in the Vice President's position will be filled by the appointment of an interim Vice President who shall serve until a new Vice President is elected at the next meeting of the Association.¹⁸ This appointment will be made by the Executive Board.

17 *Add phrase "or her"*

Yes, add phrase No, do not add phrase

18 *Delete phrase "Time served will not count as one of the two successive terms permitted each President, if the Vice-President automatically succeeds the President. This brings this part of the document in order with the proposed changes seen in footnotes 14 and 15 above."*

Yes, drop phrase No, retain phrase

Section 7. Additional officers

The Members may elect such additional officers or appoint such agents or employees, and determine their term of office and compensation, if any, as they may deem advisable. (No change)

Section 8. Committees

Committees shall be established as needed.

A. Program Committee

The Program Committee shall be a permanent standing committee, composed of the Vice-President, as chair, and at least two Members appointed for a term of one year by the Executive Board. A Member may serve no more than two terms in succession on the Program Committee. The Committee shall be appointed at the annual meeting of the following year. (No change)

B. Nominating Committee

The Executive Board shall constitute the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present to the membership before the annual meeting a minimum of two candidates for each vacancy to be filled, either through the Association official organ or through an association mailing. 19

19 At the present time, the Nominating Committee usually presents a slate of candidates the day of the annual meeting. By requiring the Nominating Committee to notify through MELA Notes or a mailing the Membership of the slate, it is hoped nominations will be made before the last minute.

Yes, add text as written above

No, retain original reading "The Executive Board shall constitute the Nominating Committee. At least one month prior to an election, the Nominating Committee shall present to the Membership a minimum of two candidates for each vacancy to be filled."

C. Other Committees

The Executive Board in session or by correspondence or the Professional Members in any business session may constitute such other committees with such functions, powers, and duties as the constituting body shall provide. Each such committee shall enact rules and regulations for its government. The names of the members of each committee and their terms of office shall be made known to the Members of the Association at least annually by the Secretary-Treasurer. (No change)

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Frequency of Meetings

The Members shall meet at least once each year at such places and times as designated by the Executive Board. If possible, the annual meeting shall be concurrent with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc. which has extended its conference facilities to the organization gratis. (No change)

Section 2. Form of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall normally consist of two parts: a business session and a program.

A. Business Session. The business session shall be under the chairmanship of the President, or the Vice President in the absence of the former. One quarter of the Professional Members shall constitute a quorum. Associate members and other observers may attend this session but may not vote in the business session.

20 To shorten the present phrasing to follow current practise.
Yes, shorten phrase, as seating has never been restricted easily
No, retain original which reads "Associate members and other observers may attend this session but must be seated in a section separate from the Professional members so that the President may know those who are eligible to vote."

B. Program. The program shall be under the chairmanship of the Vice President, or any member of the Program Committee in the absence of the former. The program shall be open to all interested persons (No change)

C. Discussion groups. Discussion groups may be scheduled at the time of the annual meeting whenever a topic meriting discussion by the members is proposed by the Executive Board or by petition to the Executive Board by five or more members. Discussion groups will normally be confined to topics concerning the practical aspects of Middle East librarianship. Such discussion groups will be open to all interested parties, Members and non-Members, unless designated otherwise. (No change)

Section 3. Additional Meetings

If necessary, additional meetings may be held on dates and at places determined by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings

Notices of all meetings shall be mailed to all Members at least thirty days prior to meetings. (No change)

ARTICLE VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The conduct of all meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Section 1. Proposal of Amendments

Amendments of these by-laws may be proposed by:

- A. The Executive Board in session or by correspondence
- B. Petition signed by one-fifth of all the members, without regard to category of membership (No change)

Section 2. Discussion of Amendments

Discussion of amendments shall be placed on the agenda and discussed at the first annual meeting following their proposal, provided the Members have received copies of the proposed amendments at least thirty days prior to the meeting (No change)

Section 3. Adoption of Amendments

After discussion, all proposed amendments must be submitted to the Professional Members for approval. They shall be considered adopted if a simple majority of the total Professional Membership approves:

- A. in person at the annual meeting
- B. on a ballot, submitting by mail by the Secretary-Treasurer, who shall allow sixty days for returns. (No change)

Section 4. Effective Date of Amendments

Amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise provided for at the time of voting.

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MESA-1981

The Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association for 1981 will take place at the Seattle Park Hilton from Thursday, November 4 (beginning at 2:30 pm) to Saturday, November 6 (ending at 5 pm). Associated organizations will also be meeting November 3 and 4.

The program includes panels, current issue presentations, workshops, films, art exhibitions, a concert, a boat trip, and a salmon bake.

Local arrangements for the meeting are being made by Professor Jere L. Bacharach, History Department, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 (206/543-5790). The pre-registration fee is \$22 (\$12.50 for students); checks should be made payable to University of Washington and should be mailed to Professor William L. Cleveland, Chairman, 1981 MESA Program, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6.

Incidentally, the headquarters of the Middle Eastern Studies Association has moved from New York University to the University of Arizona. The New York office closes on June 12th, and after June 1st the new address will be: Middle Eastern Studies Association, Dept. of Oriental Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

BOOK REVIEW by Basima Bezirgan

Samira Rafidi Meghdessian

The Status of the Arab Woman: A Select Bibliography.
Compiled by Samira Rafidi Meghdessian, under the auspices of the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Beirut University College, Lebanon. London: Mansell, 1980. 176 p. 14 pounds sterling.

With the rising interest in women's studies in general, and studies on the Arab woman in particular, we find numerous works have been written in all aspects of the field during the later part of this century. To keep the records of the flow

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of this material, bibliographies are always a welcome addition in the field for the researcher, the scholar and the librarian.

This useful selective bibliography, according to the author, "aims to provide a list of research material on the economic, legal, religious and social status of the Arab woman in the twentieth century." The bibliography lists 1616 entries and covers all Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The material listed includes books, journal articles, conference proceedings, papers (published and unpublished), master's theses, doctoral dissertations, and bibliographies. The emphasis is on material published after 1950, although we find some pre-1950 literature is also included. Basically the book covers material in the English and French languages, though some entries are in German, Italian, and Spanish.

The bibliography is divided into six general subject topics, such as: "Women in Islam," "Women in the Arab World--General Works," "Women in North Africa--General Works," and a chapter on nineteen individual Arab countries. A useful aspect of this bibliography is its inclusion of a chronological list of conferences and seminars on the Arab Woman from 1954 to 1979.

The majority of the material listed consists of journal articles and unpublished papers. The author states in the introduction that "specific attention has been given to the inclusion of works on subjects which have been avoided until very recently in traditional societies, such as female circumcision."

Yet, more careful attention to the citation of the names of authors would have been appreciated. In some cases where it was possible to list the full name of an author, we find only initials given instead of the first names. Also in some cases, the authors of a paper were listed as editors. At least one rather serious error arose because the author had not verified the items carefully before including them. As a result, item no. 447 on page 60, which is attributed to the reviewer in conjunction with Elizabeth Warnock Farnea, does not exist.

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Unfortunately the author neglected to mention or include in the list of bibliographies and reference works that she consulted, one rather important work in the field by Michelle Raccani The Modern Arab Woman: A Bibliography. Metuchen, N.J & London: The Scarecrow Press, 1978. This work would have added more value to Meghdessian's work since it is a rather more comprehensive bibliography that lists almost 3,000 entries.

On the whole the bibliography is well arranged and indexed by author and subject. The subject index is very useful for it is broken down into subdivisions which makes it helpful for the user.

One final note, the price of the book is rather high compared to other bibliographies in the same field which are available.

A REMAINDER

Occasional Papers no. 1, MELA's very own publication, is available for \$7.00 postpaid from:

Middle Eastern Dept.
Room R
Harvard College Library
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Order several copies: all proceeds go to MELA.

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COLLATION

The Peace Information Exchange Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association was formed in 1978. The task force's main objective is to provide a focus for librarians who are working with materials on peace. The task force also promotes the education of librarians and library users in the area of peace.

- Four major areas of involvement have been chosen:
- 1) The identification of peace collections and the encouragement of their use,
 - 2) The development of bibliographies of materials on peace for different user groups,
 - 3) The compilation of a directory of peace libraries, groups issuing peace literature and materials and peace groups working in education, politics and research on conflict management,
 - 4) A clearing house for educational materials on peace.

Currently the Task Force on Peace Information Exchange is developing a directory of library peace collections and peace organizations. The task force would appreciate persons having such information or interest in working with it on projects to contact the chairperson listed below:

Elizabeth Morrisett
1325 West Quartz, no. 204
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 792-7750

Dean Kieth Wright has announced the establishment of a new program at the University of Maryland oriented particularly to the needs of students drawn from foreign countries. In response to its earlier experience and as an outgrowth of the commitment of the faculty to international development needs in information science and librarianship, the College of Library and Information Services has begun a program which will concentrate upon assisting in the preparation of students drawn from diverse cultures for careers in information science and librarianship. This key new program element is intended to equip its graduates, including those who come to pursue M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs,

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as well as those who complete special non-degree instruction, to function effectively as agents of change in their own cultures, bringing to bear insights, concepts and methodology of modern information science and librarianship.

For a copy of the brochure, International Program of the University of Maryland, College of Library and Information Services, application materials, or other inquiries, address:

Dr. Paul Wassermann
Professor in Charge of the International Program
College of Library and Information Services
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742 USA

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Rudolf Mach, Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University and former Curator of Arabic Manuscripts in Firestone Library, died suddenly at his home on July 8th, 1981.

R. Mach was not a member of MELA; R. Mach was not a joiner. But he was the most superbly accomplished of Middle Eastern librarians in the Western world, and it is fitting for us who have labored in Mach's shadow to pause, reflect upon his career, and draw inspiration for the work ahead.

The results of his tenure as Curator at Princeton (1955-1977) will stand as an enduring monument in the annals of Near Eastern collection building. No other individual achieved so much in this century through personal acquisition trips, systematic selection based on thorough subject knowledge, and direct involvement in the cataloging process. He, with a few loyal helpers, collected, preserved, and made available for all time an unequalled collection of primary sources on the civilization of Islam.

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Mach came to this country as a sponsored refugee and worked for a time at the Hartford Seminary (where he had to teach Turkish, one of the few languages he had never studied), and moved to Princeton in 1955. His academic preparation for librarianship was and remains unmatched: Ph.D. from Basle and competence in languages beyond enumeration. He had a profound knowledge of Arabic, Hebrew, Syriac, Latin and Persian. Grammar and kalam were probably his dearest subjects within Arabic studies. Princeton saw to it that he took a degree in library science from Berkeley in 1955.

In his lifetime, R.Mach became a legend at Princeton. Admired for the depth of his knowledge, feared for his unhesitating honesty, avoided for his cutting sarcasm, Mach was an original, a unique phenomenon in the midst of a country-club campus of gentlemen-scholars and dilettanti. Mach demanded honesty, in himself from the habit of soul-searching that must have begun in a W.W. II labor camp, and in those who dared call themselves scholars. Mach shattered intellectual sham in others by sledghammer blows of fact based on readings in the original sources and stored in his memory of near-photographic recall.

Mach was fortunate in his early years at Princeton to work under William Dix, probably the last of America's great humanist, scholar-librarians. Dix recognized genius, and let R. Mach "do his own thing." So, too, with the late Morroe Berger, then program chairman who, although a sociologist, recognized that a university's reputation in the humanities is based on the foundation of a great library. After Dix died, Princeton hired a library-school type administrator management specialist-- and the joy of being a working librarian fled. R. Mach quit.

Mach had once attempted to involve himself in the greater world of librarianship (macro librarianship) and even served on ARL committees to improve resources (precursors of Farmington and PL-480). Alas, he soon learned that the committee route was "all chiefs and no indians." Henceforth he dedicated himself to the Princeton collection, understanding with a clarity of vision that is still valid that the best way to improve the nation's resources is to acquire as much as possible on your own and to catalog as quickly as possible.

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Mach's insistence that Arabic grammar (and other subjects, of course) was worthy of study in and for itself stood as an astonishing, anachronistic buttress, a medieval mind-set, unsubmerged in the frothy surge of "relevance" dictated programs. He insisted that topics of Islamic civilization be studied (so far as possible) in the same manner that the medieval Arabs pursued them: original text, commentaries, and glosses. He himself at one stage immersed himself in the madrasahs of Teheran to be steeped in the attitudes as well as the knowledge of scholasticism.

Few earned R. Mach's respect: P.K. Hitti for dedication; Guillaume for humanity; Fritz Meier, his professor; Goldziher, Wüstenfeld, Brockelmann and many other stars in the European firmament of oriental studies, and Ahlwardt, especially Ahlwardt. Ahlwardt's Verzeichniss, Mach used to say, would be his favorite desert-isle reading. Munajjid, Afshar, Rashshad 'Abd al-Muttalib were among native scholars whom he admired. Among Americans, Wolfson of Harvard.

Mach's published work is not bibliographically extensive. Besides his dissertation Der Zaddik in Talmud und Midrasch (1957) there is an edition with Latin translation of the Syriac text of Themistius' Peri aretes (1974) and a small number of reviews and articles. For Middle Eastern librarians, however, Mach will always be remembered for his Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts (Yahuda Section) in the Garrett Collection (1977). This work, as Goitein attested, is superb. How little else, in this day, is truly authoritative?

So Mach is gone. Mach the unique. That bear-like, Johnsonian figure, fancier of cats, and gourmet, who assisted humble students and rebuffed pompous professors. If life in the twentieth century has meaning, Mach sought it in the constant search for truth in his area of study and expressed it in uncompromising honesty in his work. Mach's contribution is superb.

-- D.H. Partington

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LIST - 1981

PROFESSIONAL

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Harvard College Library
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(617) 495-2437

Muhammad Abdur RASHEED
P.O. Box 2921
Library, Kuwait Fund
for Economic Development
Kuwait

Midhat ABRAHAM
FININFO Project
USREP/JECOR
APO New York, NY 09038

Riaz AHMAD
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Tuscon, Arizona 85719

Gia AIVAZIAN
Research Library
Univ. of California-L.A.
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Suzan AKKAN
Turkish Cataloger
Princeton University
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