

MELA *notes*

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Number 25

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CONTENTS

From the Editor	2
Report of the 1981 Annual Business Meeting	3
The Library of Congress Response	5
State of Censorship in Iran	6
Draft: Protocol on the Formulation of Arabic Personal Name Headings	8
News of Members	10
Publications for Exchange	11
Duplicate Books for Sale	12
Job Offerings	13

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Fawzi Abdulrazak	Harvard	President
Eric Ormsby	Princeton	Vice-President/Program Chair
Frank Unlandherm	Columbia	Secretary-Treasurer
Dunning Wilson	UCLA	Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

Issue 25 is a first effort for a new editor. My hope is to continue to provide content that is diverse and beneficial. Comments, criticism, contributions are welcome at any time. It is an honor to be associated with a tradition so ably established by Jim Pollock and Chris Filstrup. I know now the diligence and hard work they contributed to produce these Notes. To encourage response, I want also to remind members of the Occasional Papers series. Number 1 in the series is available for \$7.00 (postpaid) from

Middle Eastern Department
Harvard College Library, Room R
Cambridge, MA 02138

Please order copies for yourself and your library; all proceeds go to MELA.

REPORT OF THE 1981 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, SEATTLE

President Basima Bezirgan opened with a statement calling for greater communication between members of MELA. She expressed a desire to see more information concerning the membership in the MELA Notes and asked all members to inform the editor of changes in job titles, births, deaths, publications and any information of general interest.

Elections followed with the new officers:

Eric Ormsby	Vice-President, President-Elect
Frank Unlandherm	Secretary/Treasurer
Dunning Wilson	Editor

Frances Morton, MELA's ALA representative, gave a report on the June meeting of ALA in San Francisco. Topics covered included discussion of computerization of Chinese and Japanese script materials, six new romanization tables, and the poll on microfilm reprint Frances sent out earlier this year. LC will follow AACR I and put the original publisher and date in the body of the card, leaving the reprint information in the notes area. This was discussed in the Description and Access Committee of ALA. Discussion followed and Frances asked that a copy of all letters, problems and consensus on this issue be sent to her to be put into the MELA Notes for better communication between catalogers.

Julian Witherall reported on the African Studies Association Archives--Libraries Committee which met at Indiana University, Bloomington on October 22. A full report should be found in the next Africana Libraries Newsletter (Africana Studies Library, 771 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215). Topics covered included work at LC to replace subject headings and subdivisions using terms such as "primitive" which are offensive to users; election of new officers to ASA; awarding of the biennial award for the best bibliography or reference tool published in the last two years; looking at access to African archives and research centers for American scholars; revision of the Handbook of African Studies, with a NEH grant; and the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP). Julian also spoke on the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies, and about the possibility for a conference on area studies under LC auspices to consider collection development and resource sharing.

Chris Filstrup gave the Editor's report. Marsha McClintock gave the Secretary-Treasurer's report. As

of November 1, MELA has 61 professional and 79 associate members with 55 of the 140 based outside the U.S. Current balance of funds is \$2,267.53. Dues are still \$5.00 per year. Next year MELA should receive the profits of the MELA Occasional Papers, series no. 1, as it begins to sell. Ballots for changes in the bylaws are being collected until January 1, 1982, when they will be counted and the new form of the bylaws, with whatever changes are voted, will be printed in the MELA Notes.

Elliott Zak volunteered to serve for one year as a duplicate for gift, sale, or exchange clearinghouse. Send all titles on cards or lists to Elliott Zak at Columbia University Libraries. He will organize these and the list will be published in MELA Notes. If there is enough response for this project, it will be continued. Chris Filstrup and John Eilts will work on updating the MELA survey of collections with the assistance of Janet Heineck, for inclusion in the next MELA directory. Richard Dewey reported that the Index Islamicus may cease owing to lack of funds. Nabil Handy asked if any institutions would be willing to offer a practicum, free to the institution, for library science students from Arab countries. If so, contact Nabil at the Graduate School of Librarianship, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 80210.

Report of the Workshop on Automation

The Telex company's new terminal, capable of displaying full diacritics, and Cyrillic and Hebrew scripts, has been tested at Ohio State University, University of Texas at Austin, University of Illinois, and Library of Congress. Time was devoted during the workshop to discussion of that terminal prototype and the following criteria for an Arabic script terminal were decided on:

1. Has to be compatible with cataloging requirements (i.e., contain / -- inverted comma and other characters needed to catalog Arabic script).
2. It should be able to display not only Arabic characters but Persian and Ottoman Turkish letters as well.
3. It should be compatible with CODAR international standards for Arabic script, so that data could be shared from overseas sources.
4. Must solve the problem of having roman and nonroman script on one line without having to type one set of characters using the backspace key or typing the words in reverse.
5. Must be compatible with OCLC, RLIN and other utilities which would eventually make it possible to

- share nonroman script information nationally.
6. Should be useful not only for cataloging, but for acquisitions and ILL systems in the major utilities.

If you are in favor of these points, discuss them with your libraries' administration or write a letter to the Telex company or to Joe Howard at the Library of Congress, indicating you are in favor of a system being developed with these general specifications for Arabic script.

Report of the Workshop on AACR II

The workshop consisted mainly of discussion of how various institutions were adopting and adapting AACR II in the Near East section. A few concrete points came up including: LC will soon change Muhammad, the prophet to Muhammad, d. 632, in the name authority file. In the subjects, Arabs in Spain will be changed to Muslims--Spain--(By Period)--History. If errors or duplicate entries are found in the name authority system of LC available through the major utilities, please report the error or duplication to the utility, not directly to the Library of Congress.

Marsha McClintock
Ohio State University
Main Library

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RESPONSE

One of our catalogers of Persian and Arabic materials, Frances Morton, brought back some of the questions that arose during the MELA workshop in Seattle. She suggested that the Library of Congress's answers to these questions might be of interest. I have transcribed the necessary information or explanations below:

1. When a "title romanized" note is needed (as in the case of having a uniform title on the record), the requisite note takes the same form it did before, but is no longer displayed in the lower right portion of the record. Instead it is placed among the other notes, in the position indicated by rule 1.7B4 of AACR 2.

2. For titles beginning "Kitab," we are using two title added entries, one beginning with "Kitab" as it appears in the "title romanized" note and one with it suppressed.

3. The Arabic "Diwan" and the Persian "Divan" were formerly used as collective uniform titles, but no longer under AACR 2, which allows only English words or phrases, e.g., "Poems." "Diwan" and "Divan" will appear as title added entries, according to AACR 2 21.30J.

4. The example "Taha Husayn" illustrating rule 22.22D on p. 383 of AACR 2 is incorrect. The corrected heading as used by the Library of Congress is "Husayn, Taha, 1889-1973."

5. The subject heading "Arabic fiction" (with indirect subdivision) has never appeared in Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) although it has been and remains a valid heading. The accidental omission of this term from LCSH will be corrected in a future supplement. The heading "Arabic prose literature" is now being subdivided.

6. The classification number for a general biography of the Prophet in Arabic is still BP75.2. The AACR 2 heading for him is "Muhammad, d. 632."

In addition, I recommend our automated name authority file and the Cataloging Service Bulletin. Both are important in general, and for specialists are frequently the means of knowing answers at the same time as the mainstream cataloging departments. For example, the question answered above about the "title romanized" note was answered in Cataloging Service Bulletin, no. 12 (Spring 1981), on p. 14; the question about Muhammad's heading, as well as those about lesser figures such as Taha Husayn mentioned above can be found in the cumulative microfiche representing our name authority file.

Ben R. Tucker
Library of Congress
Office for Descriptive Cataloging Policy

STATE OF CENSORSHIP IN IRAN

According to an Iran Times News Service report from Tehran published January 1, 1982 (p. 5), a Ministry of National Guidance official has announced that only eight out of the total number of periodicals and newspapers (nashriyāt) published in Iran enjoy official permits for publishing. Bīzhan Zanganah, the Ministry's Undersecretary for Propaganda and Research has declared in an interview that although no bills have yet been legislated relating to censorship and book publishing

permits, security officials are collecting certain books from bookstores. In his view only those periodicals and publications that are in the "line of revolution" and which are supporting the Islamic Republic and its programs should have the right to obtain permits. He has justified the supervision of domestic publications and their censorship by his department on the ground that the press is the main vehicle of propaganda.

The Times report adds that the opposition publications in Iran are now published secretly. But even some of the publications presently sponsored by various government departments and the Islamic Republic Party organizations are coming out without official permits.

Mr. Zanganah has said under the present circumstances it is not possible to establish the "Commission for the Investigation of Publishing Permits" as stated in the Constitution. A temporary commission consisting of three representatives from the Ministry of National Guidance, the Islamic Parliament and the Supreme Court of Justice is presently performing that role of investigation.

As for numbers, Mr. Zanganah has said a total of 240 bulletins (nashriyah), newspapers and periodicals were permitted to publish during the premiership of Muhammad 'Ali Raja'i, some of which never did publish while permits for some others were cancelled under review. Only eight titles have official publication permits from the Ministry, while others--even those that in his view are in the line of revolution--including the newspapers Kayhān and Iṭṭilā'āt and the periodicals Surūsh (formerly Tamasha) and Jihād will not be issued new permits.

The Undersecretary has given the following reasons for the scrutiny of publications: "[the scrutiny] is to ascertain which publications are in the line of Islamic Republic and which ones are trying to engage in an armed uprising against the regime with using the press law inserted in the Constitution as a cover." He has not elaborated on how the press can launch an armed uprising.

Mr. Zanganah has divided the books presently published in Iran into three categories: "Books which are obviously in the line of revolution; books which are obviously in a non-Islamic line such as pornographic and detective books; and those which need to be determined by an investigative body." He has placed the books collected by security officials from bookstores in the second category, saying: "Some of them are

explicitly teaching bomb making formulas to their readers." He has not specified the books confiscated nor has he given any reasons for their confiscation.

Abazar Sepehri
University of Texas--Austin
Middle East Collection

DRAFT: PROTOCOL ON THE FORMULATION OF
ARABIC PERSONAL NAME HEADINGS

Good name in man and woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls:
Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something,
nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave of
thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And Makes me poor indeed.

--Othello, Act II, scene iii

The following discussion is based on the experience in the cooperative name authority project and is meant to be applied to Arabic personal names only. Corporate names will follow rules of grammar more closely. When a personal name is part of a corporate name these principles should, of course, be relevant.

The basic principle is to represent a person with "the name by which he or she is commonly known" (AA2 22.1A). Determining this form is not often simple and straightforward. The art of printing in Arabic (and other languages using the Arabic script) allows considerable latitude in representing the Arabic letters. The adoption of the second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules has simplified our choices. At the same time it has limited us to the one source of information which is traditionally not accurate. Artistic license knows no bounds on the title pages of Arabic publications, for it is most common for the title page to be designed in the ages old tradition of the calligrapher.

Personal names should be treated first of all as names. The vast majority of Arabic names, it is true, do have their roots deep in the structure of the Arabic language as words. But to treat them foremost as words will often defile the sanctity of a person's name.

One of the basic tools of our trade is the

romanization table as published in Cataloging Service Bulletin 118. But this was intended primarily for dealing with textual matter (i.e., titles). It is true that names are given as examples. But this information given will not solve our major problem. Names are not just words with lexical meanings. Many are derived from geographical or genealogical (or supposed genealogical) roots. One cannot simply consult an Arabic dictionary to supply the missing vowels. Also to be considered is the sign of doubling (shaddah). It too is often omitted in printing.

The following are suggested steps for determining the form of entry for Arabic names (listed in the order of preference).

1. Copy the name as it appears on the Chief Source of Information (AA2 22.1B).
 - a. If vocalization (short vowels [ḥarakāt] and the sign of doubling [shaddah] and when appropriate the dots [nuḡaṭ]) is present, copy this also.
 - b. If vocalization is known because it is a common name, supply these marks (AA2 22.3C2).
2. For uncommon names:
 - a. If probable vocalization can be determined from an added title page not in Arabic, convert to the standard ALA/LC romanization.
 - b. Consult available reference sources (including, but not limited to those cited at footnote to AA2 22.22).
 - c. If the author has published in a western language (not in translation) use vocalization indicated and convert to standard romanization.
 - d. If the name can be determined to be derived from a geographic name romanize as such (use BGN form as indication of vocalization).
 - e. If the name can be determined as derived from words with lexical meanings use standard dictionaries (Wehr, Lane, etc.) to obtain vocalized form.
 - f. If all else fails establish the heading provisionally representing only letters which are written in their pure form all in capital roman letters as is the practice with ancient Semitic names. The character wāw (و) will be represented by W, the yā' (ي) as Y, and the alif (ا) as A. Give references from the most likely vocalizations.
3. For names derived from other languages (CSB 118)
 - a. If the author represents sounds not in the Arabic alphabet with modified letters (e.g. Persian

- ⸮ for P) use these in the romanization taken from the proper table).
- b. If the author uses the closest Arabic equivalent, use only the pure Arabic. (⸮ for P).
 4. If an author publishes in Arabic and a roman alphabet language and AA2 22.3B1 does not solve the conflict; if it can be determined that the author resides in an Arabic speaking country, use the systematically romanized Arabic form.

If the author resides in a country using a roman alphabet language use the form published on the chief source of information for the roman alphabet work(s).

If residence cannot be determined the RI AA2 22.3B1 applies.

5. Disregard a romanized form of name on a roman alphabet title page for an academic thesis or dissertation even if the entire work is in a roman alphabet, unless this is the only work available. Then establish the name provisionally. We should not, however, neglect to add a cross reference from the less likely alternative.

Readers are urged to make comments on this proposal.

John A. Eilts
University of Michigan Library
Near East Division

NEWS OF MEMBERS

SIMON SAMOEIL has joined the Near East staff of the Van Pelt Library at the University of Pennsylvania. Princeton's Firestone Library has appointed SERGEI SHUISKII to its Near East cataloging team. CHRIS FILSTRUP (NYPL) and his wife have coauthored Beadazzled: the story of beads (New York, F. Warne, 1981). See also his "The Oriental Division of the New York Public Library," in Unesco Journal of Information Science, Librarianship & Archives Administration, 3:#1 (1981). RAGAI MAKAR has taken up duties as head of the Middle East Collection in the Marriott Library, University of Utah.

PUBLICATIONS FOR EXCHANGE

The headquarters of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) has moved from Cairo to Tunis. Its publications are available on an exchange basis. For more information contact Dr. M. T. Khafaji, Director, Department of Documentation and Information, ALESCO, P.O. Box 1120, Tunis, Tunisia. Some recent publications of the Department are:

Nashrat al-Ihsa'at al-Tarbawiyah fi-al-Watan
al-'Arabi

The Arab Magazine for Information Science

Kashshaf Qararat al-Mudir al-'Amm

ALECSO. Dept. of Documentation and Information.
Newsletter

Taqwim al-Barnamaj al-Tarbawiyah fi-al-Watan
al-'Arabi

Arab Journal of Education

Arab Journal of Educational Research

Also available on exchange are the publications of the Yemeni Center for Research and Studies in Sanaa. The Center publishes scholarly monographs and serial titles which it uses to stimulate exchange arrangements with libraries outside the country. The Center's library is particularly interested in general reference works (dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographies, etc.), works on the Middle East and runs of journals devoted to Middle Eastern or Islamic topics. Correspondence from the United States should be sent to

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DUPLICATE BOOKS FOR SALE

UCLA: contact, Near East Bibliographer
D. S. Wilson
Research Library, UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024

For institutions, not available to individuals or
dealers. Postage shipment charges extra.

Afshar, Iraj. Fihrist-i maqalat-i Farsi. Teheran,
1970- vols. 1 & 2. \$20.00 (set) LC 72-
210205

'Ali ibn Muhammad ibn 'Abid Allah, 17th cent.
Sirat al-Hadi ila al-Haqq Yahya ibn al-Husayni.
Ed. by S. Zakkar. Beirut, 1972. LC 74-214967.
\$6.00

al-Arshi, Husayn ibn Ahmad. Kitab bulugh al-maram
fi sharh misk al-khitam. Ed. by A. M.
al-Kirmili. Cairo, 1939. LC 60-25488. \$10.00

al-Khazraji, 'Ali ibn al-Hasan, d. 1409. Pearl-
strings, history of the Resaliyy dynasty in
Yemen. Leyden, 1906-18. (E. J.W. Gibb memori-
al series, 3) Parts 4 and 5 only = Arabic text.
LC 10-21061. \$20.00 (set)

Safi Nizhad, Javad. Talibabad. Teheran, 1966.
\$9.00

al-Shamahi, 'Abd Allah ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab.
Al-Yaman, al-insan wa-al-hadarah. Cairo, 1972.
LC 73-960105. \$4.00

Sharaf al-Din, Ahmad Husayn. Lahajat al-Yaman,
qadiman wa-hadithan. Cairo, 1970. LC 79-961455.
\$4.00

Tarcici, Adnan, 1912- al-Yaman wa-hadarat
al-'Arab. Beirut, 196-? LC NE 64-3290. \$7.00.

Varjavand, Parviz (ed.) Bamadi, ta'ifah-i az
Bakhtiyari. Teheran, 1967. \$9.00

Varjavand, Parviz. Ravash-i bar rasi va shinakht-i
kulli-i ilat va 'ashayir. Teheran, 1965. LC 72-
277965. \$9.00

al-Wisi, Husayn ibn 'Ali. Al-Yaman al-kubra.
Cairo, 1962. LC NE 63-1623. \$4.00

JOB OFFERINGS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN. American University of Beirut in Lebanon invites applications and nominations for position available immediately for qualified candidate with at least ALA-accredited MLS with preference for candidates with additional MA or doctorate and several years' experience in academic research library and proven administrative ability. AUB library system has over 425,000 volumes and 3,225 current periodicals; staff of 13 professionals plus student assistants serve faculty of over 400 and student body of 5,000. Collections particularly strong in Middle East and Arab World studies with over 47,000 volumes and 300 periodicals in Arabic. Background knowledge of Middle East desirable. AUB is chartered by Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. English is language of instruction. Appropriate fringe benefits for expatriate staff include travel, children's education, retirement plan, hospitalization and medical care at reasonable cost, U.S. income tax saving. Salary range: \$25,000-\$30,000. Nominations and resumes should be sent to: Personnel Services, American University of Beirut, 380 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017. An equal-opportunity/affirmative-action employer.