

# MELA *notes*

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## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Number 27

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## MELA Notes

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## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE EDITOR

I wish to express my gratitude to Mrs. Teresa Joseph, principal editor at UCLA Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, for her guidance and assistance in all phases of the preparation and production of these issues.

MELA's 10th annual conference will take place in early November at the University Hilton Hotel in Philadelphia. The program is as follows:

November 3, 1982, 1-4 P.M. (University Hilton)

Panel on history of Arabic script printing

Eric Ormsby, chair

Aimée Thoumy, "Arabic Printing: The Impact of the Introduction of Movable Type on 19th and early 20th Century Intellectual and Cultural Life."

Fawzi Abdulrazak, "An Introduction to the History of Printing in Morocco."

Miroslav Krek, "Some Observations Concerning the Use of Arabic Type in America and by Americans Abroad before 1850."

Sergei Shuiskii, "Arabic Printing in Central Asia."

November 4, 1982, 9-11 A.M. (Universtiy Hilton)

Business meeting of MELA

November 4, 1982, 1-4 P.M. (University Hilton)

Panels on technical services.

Marsha McClintock, chair

1. COMRAD and the future of automated acquisitions and shared cataloging.
2. Changes in name authority work.

Two outstanding candidates, George Atiyeh, head of the Near East Section at the Library of Congress, and Marsha McClintock, Islamics Bibliographer at Ohio State University Library, have accepted nominations for the position of Vice-president/president-elect for 1982/83.

BOOK PUBLISHING STATISTICS SHOW INCREASING  
AMERICAN CONCERN FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

American awareness of the Middle East and its problems is increasing. This greater awareness is caused by events of the Middle East impinging upon and affecting the daily lives of Americans.

It was probably the oil embargo of 1973/1974 that jolted the ordinary American into an awareness of the Middle East: the subsequent enormous increase in his cost of gasoline and heating oil and the knowledge that a handful of Middle Eastern oil producers could disrupt the industrial economies of the United States, Japan, and Western Europe brought the area into sharper focus for the average American. Of course, other issues and events aided this movement. Foremost was the initiative of President Sadat of Egypt and his very favorable image in America. The Lebanese civil war, shuttle diplomacy, the Camp David peace process, and the humiliation felt in the Iranian hostage crisis--all had their effect, especially through the impactful immediacy of television coverage.

Prior to World War II, American interest in the Middle East was exemplified by a concern for the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece, and by the support of missionary activity. Trade with the area never attained the importance of the China trade, and in the popular mind of nineteenth century America the Middle East was associated with "the shores of Tripoli" and the "Barbary pirates." Very few American orientalists pursued Arabic studies, and those that did at universities such as Harvard, Johns Hopkins and Yale were Hebraicists and Biblical scholars.

There was, to be sure, a romanticized image of the Middle East while translations of Sa'di, Hafiz, and especially Fitzgerald's *Ruba'iyat* of 'Umar Khayyam were in vogue in the late nineteenth century; but Americans were deeply ignorant of the many contributions of Arab and Islamic civilization to the advancement of human knowledge.

To most Americans, interest in the Middle East focused upon the Holy Land, and the reading public of America formed an eager audience for literally hundreds of travel accounts whose authors often combined a trip to classical Greece with a cruise up the Nile and a sojourn in Palestine, which was then under Ottoman rule.

The era of increasing concern for the Middle East and

for its present-day Arab, Turk and Iranian populations was ushered in by World War II. Quite apart from the North African military campaigns and President Roosevelt's dramatic meeting with King Ibn Sa'ud, it was the retreat of Great Britain from its role as the dominant European power in the area that led, for better or for worse, to America's involvement in the Middle East.

The experience of World War II brought home to government officials and to educators the dearth of American expertise in all non-Western areas of the globe. This new perception resulted in the creation of the concept of "area studies," an innovative approach to definable areas such as the Middle East. The aim of area studies was to combine language study with the modern social sciences in an interdisciplinary manner leading to a body of pragmatically useful knowledge for commerce, government, and education. This new concept found expression through the setting up of several centers of Middle Eastern studies at American universities during the 1960s.

The prosperity of the postwar decades enabled private foundations and the United States government to provide funds for area studies. Accordingly, thousands of students were enabled to take up exotic languages, including the major languages of the Middle East. In support of this sudden upsurge of interest in Arabic, legislation was passed permitting the Library of Congress to purchase multiple copies of books published in the Arab world and to distribute them to major American research libraries. This public law program, often referred to as "PL-480," has to date supplied about 24,000 monographs to each of more than two dozen libraries.

Along with the development of area studies, concerned social scientists created their own academic organization, the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), which held its first annual meeting in 1967, and whose active, personal, membership now stands at over 1200 representing twenty disciplines.

The postwar era, therefore, was one of American expansion, developing economy, and widening of educational horizons. In this environment, it would be natural for the publishing industry to expand. Publishing, in fact, provides one of the clearest indicators of a country's intellectual growth and direction; and it is rewarding to see how the American publishing industry has reacted to the factors mentioned above that led to increasing American awareness of the Middle East.

In the United States, with its free economic system, most books are published because publishers weigh potential readership and hope to make a profit from each title. Even university presses try to break even. Publishing output, therefore, indicates reader interest.

Having an uncontrolled press, however, means that no government body is busy keeping statistics on book production. Not even trade associations have kept the kind of figures necessary to show how many books have appeared over the years on Middle Eastern topics. Luckily, some commercial companies have kept publishing figures going back at least to 1880; and in serving the library and academic sectors of the market, they have compiled bibliographies and indexes that cover a major part of the commercial book production of America and of the English speaking world.

One interesting aspect of utilizing book publishing statistics arises from the fact that America belongs to the English language world, and published indexes often are based on the fact of language and not on imprint locale. Even when one weeds out the books published in Great Britain, or Canada, for example, there remains the truth that many American scholars publish their works abroad; conversely, the availability of foreign books in the American bookstores may act to reduce native American efforts to publish in certain special fields.

The statistics that follow should be viewed in the light of the overall picture of publishing during the past four decades.<sup>1</sup> In the thirty-seven years since 1945, our population has grown from 139.6 million people to over 230 million today. This present population is served by over 29,000 libraries (excluding school and small public libraries), of which about 4,800 are academic libraries. In 1950, book production amounted to 11,022 titles; in 1981, book production reached 42,000 titles. Production peaked in 1979 with 45,182 titles (this figure does not include all paperbounds). The decrease since 1979 is attributable to the general recession and to a decrease in aid to higher education.

Statistics for books do not include pamphlets which, since 1959, have been defined by UNESCO as publications containing fewer than 49 pages. Also, paperbound books have been difficult to count by those who keep track of publishing figures: each year, however, paperbounds are better controlled. Finally, it is important to note that the statistics presented below are trade figures--they exclude government publications.

Thanks to the firm of R. R. Bowker,<sup>2</sup> we can form a good picture of the publishing situation since 1876. During the seventy-five years between 1876 and 1949, some 891 titles appeared in America on Middle Eastern topics; but in only twenty-seven years from 1950 through 1977 a total of 1,904 titles dealing with Middle Eastern topics were issued in this country.<sup>3</sup> (See Appendix A).

One can also see evidence of the intellectual expansion that occurred during this 100-year period: the number of subject entries required to refer to books in our field of interest increased from 71 to 146.

Publishing statistics for recent years are available from two principal sources. The American Book Publishing Record yields the following figures (also see Appendix B):

1966 51 titles	1972 87 titles	1978 107 titles
1968 70 titles	1974 78 titles	1980 121 titles
1970 84 titles	1976 74 titles	1981 113 titles

Another major source of publishing information is the Cumulative Book Index which, unlike the American Book Publishing Record, includes all English language monographs regardless of provenience. In Table 1, however, only American imprints have been counted.

The grand total of 1,566 should not be taken as an exact figure, for there is a certain amount of overlap of subjects, such as between Sudan and Egypt. At best, one should regard Table 1 as a general reflection of the publishing situation. The figures do show a big expansion in the 1960s followed by a slowdown in the early 1970s, which is followed by a generally dramatic increase in the late 1970s that has carried over into the present decade.

It was said earlier that one of the difficulties of estimating the number of titles published per year on any subject is the uncertainty of the paperbound count. We can now draw upon information presented in Paperbound Books in Print: Spring 1982 to indicate at least what is currently available, if not what has been printed.<sup>4</sup> Out of the 205,228 titles, about 379 are for subjects of concern to us. After eliminating the non-American imprints and excluding titles on Israel, Zionism, antiquity, and language and literature, we arrive at the following count:



1954 = 1	1962 = 1	1969 = 3	1976 = 5
1956 = 1	1963 = 0	1970 = 7	1977 = 8
1957 = 0	1964 = 1	1971 = 4	1978 = 9
1958 = 2	1965 = 3	1972 = 3	1979 = 23
1959 = 1	1966 = 2	1973 = 9	1980 = 15
1960 = 1	1967 = 6	1974 = 6	1981 = 7
1961 = 3	1968 = 2	1975 = 3	1982 = 4

An additional indicator of American reading interests can be found in statistics for periodical publishing. For the decade 1890 through 1899, some 90 articles were listed in an index covering 41 American periodicals of general interest.<sup>5</sup> From this modest beginning, there is today a veritable avalanche of articles that reflect both the impact of recent events in the Middle East and the expansion of knowledge. From the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, we can extract the figures in Table 2.<sup>6</sup>

The figures do not tell the whole story, for the subject "Arab states" is counted here only as a subject in itself, not as a subdivision of other subjects. But the general trend of increasing awareness is clearly visible, especially under headings such as "Muslims," "Lebanon," and the "Israel-Arab Wars." And because the Readers' Guide . . . reflects the contents of a broad range of about 165 general-interest American serials, these are the articles that reach the largest American audience.

The statistics presented in this paper have revealed a remarkable increase in books and articles written by Americans about the Middle East. If one considers that during the thirty-seven years since World War II the United States increased in population by 154%, and that general book production rose by 281%, then the increases of over 1,000% for monographs and 1,519% for articles on the Middle East during this era point inescapably to the conclusion that American awareness of the Middle East and its problems is accelerating.

David H. Partington  
Cambridge, Mass.

#### Notes

1. The information in this paragraph is taken from The Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1982 and earlier years).

2. American Book Publishing Record Cumulative 1876-1949 (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1980). 15 vols.
3. American Book Publishing Record Cumulative 1950-1977 (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1978). 15 vols.
4. Paperbound Books in Print. Mar. 1971 (New York: R. R. Bowker). Semi-annual.
5. Nineteenth Century Readers Guide to Periodical Literature 1890-1899 (New York: H. W. Wilson, 1944). 2 vols.
6. Readers Guide to Periodical Literature (New York: R. R. Bowker). Annual. In the table, figures for 1974 and 1976 were derived from the Cumulative Index to Periodical Literature March 1973-February 1978. Princeton: National Library Service, 1979. 5 vols. This work indexes some 208 periodicals of diverse interest.

TABLE 1

SUBJECTS	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1965	1960	1955	1950	totals
Arab countries	15	16	13	15	9	6	10	9	5	4	3	4	-	-	-	109
Arabic language	-	1	4	1	5	1	6	-	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	31
Arabic literature	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	18
Arabs	1	7	1	3	7	4	2	-	2	2	5	4	2	-	1	41
Islam/Islamic	26	18	12	10	4	13	11	7	5	8	9	6	1	1	1	132
Israel-Arab Wars	11	6	2	4	10	8	4	4	6	6	6	1	-	1	-	69
Near East (anc.)	7	-	8	5	3	2	4	2	5	1	3	-	-	-	-	40
" (mod.)	26	21	19	21	18	14	16	8	23	17	18	8	7	4	-	220
Algeria	5	1	4	8	1	3	1	-	1	3	3	4	-	-	-	33
Egypt (anc.)	18	11	13	18	7	4	5	13	10	10	9	5	1	2	2	128
" (Arab)	18	9	10	8	6	7	10	4	8	6	9	6	4	3	3	111
Iraq	5	5	2	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	2	2	1	-	1	23
Jordan	5	1	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	18
Lebanon	10	2	3	4	4	3	1	2	1	-	1	5	1	-	1	38
Libya	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Morocco	4	-	1	2	2	1	-	-	6	8	2	6	-	1	-	33
Palestine (anc.)	13	5	35	9	4	2	7	2	8	4	6	2	3	-	-	100
" (Arab)	24	12	9	25	6	2	2	7	4	5	3	4	-	1	5	109
Persian Gulf	2	4	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	13
Saudi Arabia	5	2	2	6	3	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	25
Sudan	1	5	3	3	3	7	3	1	4	2	5	4	1	1	2	45
Tunisia	1	1	1	2	-	1	-	1	2	-	2	3	-	-	-	14
Iran	15	12	1	11	6	14	6	14	11	6	3	5	3	3	1	111
Turkey	3	5	6	5	3	8	4	16	7	13	12	8	3	2	1	96
totals:	221	146	154	166	107	103	95	95	118	101	106	81	30	23	20	1566

TABLE 2

SUBJECTS	'80/81	'78/79	'76	'74	'72/73	'69/70	'65/66	'59/60	'55	'50
Arab states	7	28	13	9	2	11	9	11	18	10
Arabs	1	3	10	5	1	3	1	3	3	3
Egypt	20	29	19	23	15	13	28	19	61	6
Iran	64	100	19	26	7	7	17	35	15	18
Iran-Iraq War	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran's seizure of hostages	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Islam	18	2	4	4	1	3	1	1	3	1
Israel-Arab Wars	194	167	8	32	24	56	1	1	-	-
Lebanon	16	25	90	4	1	9	4	10	2	1
Muslims	66	26	1	1	2	7	1	-	-	1
Turkey	27	10	7	22	5	11	13	40	21	19
totals:	955	390	171	126	58	120	75	120	123	59

Class number	1876-1949	1950-1977
275 (Christian Church in Asia)	10	6
290 (Other religions)	6	6
297 (Islam & derived religions)	89	333
915 (Asia, Orient, Far East)	463	599
916 (Africa)	180	192
922 (Muhammad)	11	10
950 (General history of Asia)	15	16
953 (Arabian Peninsula)	12	98
955 (Iran)	19	63
956 (Middle East)	86	581
	totals:	1904
	891	

Source: American Book Publishing Record Cumulative 1876-1949. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1980. 15 vols.;  
American Book Publishing Record Cumulative 1950-1977.  
 New York: R.R. Bowker, 1978. 15 vols.

Notes: In class 297, books on Bahaism and Zionism were excluded. In Class 915 one finds subject headings such as--Travel; Holy Land; Levant; Asia, Western. India and Central Asia were excluded, but Middle East, Persia, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Palestine/Holy Land were included.

Class No.	1981	1980	1978	1976	1974	1972	1970	1968	1966
297 (Islam)	34	34	20	18	19	13	8	9	8
915 (Asia, Orient)	6	3	19	5	26	35	23	16	20
916 (Africa)	4	7	3	3	9	8	10	5	7
950 (Asia)	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
953 (Arabia)	8	17	13	4	-	2	1	5	2
955 (Iran)	19	8	4	2	1	1	-	3	3
956 (Middle East)	33	41	36	35	11	19	25	24	9
961 (N. Africa)	-	1	2	-	3	2	1	-	-
962 (Egypt)	8	10	11	7	9	7	16	8	2
Totals:	113	121	107	74	78	87	84	70	51

Source: American Book Publishing Record. v.1- Feb.  
1960- New York: R.R. Bowker. Monthly.

Notes: From these figures, juvenalia, Zionism, and  
Bahaism are excluded.

## NEW LIBRARY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, CAIRO

The American University in Cairo has maintained a library since its founding in 1919. The first building designed specifically for library purposes was dedicated in February 1982. Financed by a \$3 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development, the building was designed by U. S. architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen, built by Egyptian companies, and outfitted with modern library furnishings from America.

This new facility will be a significant addition to the intellectual life of the American University in Cairo and will enhance AUC's capacity to serve the larger Egyptian community. It will house up to 400,000 volumes and will seat 500 library users at study tables, more than doubling the book capacity of the present library and quadrupling its study space. The new building will not only easily contain AUC's present collection of 180,000 volumes but also be able to absorb the rapidly increasing number of new acquisitions for a number of years to come.

When the architect designed the library in 1972, many aspects of the building were unique. Today--ten years later--the library is still advanced architecturally and technologically; many of its concepts have since been incorporated into new library technology in the United States. Constructed with a solid concrete exterior to block out street noises, the library has extensive internal glass areas creating wide vistas into the campus. It has a spacious, column-free interior which allows open access to the entire book collection and provides maximum flexibility of use. Its markedly textured walls and floors contrast with the crisp functional lines of the furniture and book stacks. A sophisticated system of air conditioning and central heating will control both the temperature and humidity, ensuring the best environment for both books and users.

The building is entered at the terrace level, where, to provide maximum efficiency, all essential services--circulation desk, card catalog, reserve books, reference department, and current periodicals--have been centralized. Open stacks, bound periodicals and study tables fill the second floor. The third floor, along with additional open stack/study areas and space for the University Archives, features a glass encased library-within-a-library which will house the special collections. Among the latter are several hundred rare books, including an original edition of the "Description de l'Egypte" and the recently donated libraries of two outstanding local Egyptologists, Dr. Labib

Habachi and Dr. Selim Hassan. (The library's renowned collections on Islamic art and architecture and on the eighteenth and nineteenth century Middle East will continue to be housed in the Creswell Library on the main campus.) Technical services, including acquisitions and cataloging, will occupy the ground floor.

In this impressive new setting, University Librarian Jess Duggan and a staff of fifteen librarians and thirty-five support personnel will provide enhanced service to AUC students and faculty, to a large number of graduate students from the National Universities, and to visiting scholars from elsewhere in the world.

Jess Duggan  
Library, American University in Cairo

#### ALA PHILADELPHIA, JULY 1982

The RTSD CCS Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials met July 12-13 under outgoing chair, Thomas Lee. Items of particular interest to MELA members included the report on the ongoing list of vernacular terms for uniform titles for constitutions of Asian and African countries. The term used by each country in the language of the country is required by chapter 25 of AACR 2, and is a change from the form title, "Constitution," under AACR. This list is expected to be completed by January, 1983, and will be published.

The Library of Congress representative, Frances Morton, reported that the Library expected to have Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish cataloged full time by its catalogers by the end of September 1982. The policy of coding certain headings as AACR 2 compatible will be dropped on September 1, 1982.

Frances Morton  
Library of Congress

#### FIRST CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC LIBRARIANS

The First Conference of Islamic Librarians and Information Scientists was held concurrently with the 11th Annual Conference of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS) and the 8th Annual Conference of the



Association of Muslim Scientists and Engineers (AMSE) at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, September 3-5, 1982. These Muslim professional conferences were sponsored by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) in Plainfield, Indiana, which embraces a number of associations and bodies including AMSS, AMSE, the North American Islamic Trust (NAIT), Islamic Book Service (IBS), American Trust Publication (ATP), Islamic Teaching Center (ITC), Islamic Medical Association (IMA), Muslim Communities Association (MCA), and the Muslim Students Association of the United States and Canada (MSA). Scholars, educators and professionals, both from the United States and abroad, presented papers and held panel discussions on various aspects of Islamic studies and Islamic world. The theme of the AMSS conference centered around Islamic political theory and current developments in the Islamic world, while that of AMSE dealt with such subjects as technology transfer, energy, economic planning, environment, and computer and information industries in the Muslim countries.

The program for the librarians and information scientists' conference was drawn up by Professor Nasser Sharify, Dean of School of Library and Information Sciences at the Pratt Institute. It was to "provide a forum for exchange of ideas and an opportunity to review the present state of the art of Islamic research activities and resources, discuss the inadequacies of dissemination of information to researchers, and suggest the ways and means to overcome the shortcomings in planning and developing library and information services in the Islamic world." A number of scholars, librarians and library educators from the United States and Islamic countries presented papers on topics relating to the conference which was conducted in several sessions.

Professor T. B. Irving, a scholar of Near Eastern studies, led the discussions by a state of the art in "Islamic research activities" around the world. Riaz Ahmad, Oriental Studies Librarian at the University of Arizona, surveyed Islamic research resources in the United States. A paper for Dr. George Attiyeh, Head, Near East Division at the Library of Congress, was read by Dr. Dorothy Stehle to outline resources on Islam in the Library of Congress. Dr. Anis Khurshid, Professor of Library Science at Karachi University, distributed a paper on the academic library resources in the Muslim world of Asia.

In the session given to bibliographic control Dr. Mumtaz A. Anwar, Director of Libraries, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, spoke about a universal

bibliographic system for Islamic literature. In support of his arguments for the establishment of a bibliographic control system in the Middle East, Abdus Sattar and Sajjad-ur Rahman, doctoral students in library science at the universities of Illinois and Indiana, delivered a paper on the insufficient coverage of Islamic literature in selected abstracting and indexing services.

Cooperation and access was the theme of another session in which four papers were discussed. Dr. Dorothy Stehle spoke about the ongoing project of the Near East National Union List (NENUL) at the Library of Congress. Dr. Oli Mohamed, Head, School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology, Selanger, Malaysia, surveyed resource sharing and library cooperation in the Muslim world. Abazar Sepehri, Middle East Librarian, University of Texas at Austin, spoke on cooperation in Islamic collection development and resource sharing in the U.S.A. Feroz Ahmad, Head, Library System Development, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, discussed the use of information technology and networking for facilitating cooperation and resource sharing among Islamic library collections in the United States and abroad.

Concepts and processes of national planning of library and information services and planning for educational programs in the Islamic world were the topics of discussion of a separate session at the end of which several resolutions were taken. An important resolution calls for the establishment of a congress of Muslim librarians and information scientists within the Islamic Society of North America so that it can form committees and task forces for drawing up plans of action in the areas where shortcomings were identified.

A panel discussion on the planning of the Central Islamic Library at the ISNA headquarters in Plainfield, Indiana, was the last session of the conference. The panel discussion was followed by an on-the-site visit by a selected number of librarians of the physical surroundings of the Society and the newly constructed building where the library is to be housed. A final meeting on the planning aspect of the library was held in Plainfield after the visit in which the top management of the ISNA participated and recorded the recommendations offered them.

Abazar Sepehri  
Middle East Collection  
University of Texas Libraries

## BOOK REVIEWS

Douglas A. Boyd, Broadcasting in the Arab World: A Survey of Radio and Television in the Middle East. International and Cooperative Broadcasting Series. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1982.

In a recent survey of radio and television in the Middle East Douglas A. Boyd covered this timely subject in a scientific, informative, and efficient manner. In four parts, seven chapters, and 306 pages, Boyd explores the history, development, trends, and constraints in the radio and television networks of eighteen Arab countries. He discusses these countries as broadcasters, international broadcasting to and within each country, cooperative broadcasting among each country, and the problems they are facing. Egypt and Saudi Arabia, owing to their importance, are covered in more detail than other Arab countries. As Boyd puts it, "Egypt is an Arab world leader in the development of broadcasting, and has influenced radio and television development in the region." Saudi Arabia's importance is due to oil economy and religious leadership. For each of the other countries, he studies radio and television broadcasting, services, facilities, foreign language and beamed services.

The author has taken note of the fact that, in the Arab countries, a clear distinction between domestic and international broadcasting is difficult to make. For example, Radio Cairo can be easily heard in Riyadh or Khartoum. He also notes that because the Arab culture is traditionally an oral culture, radio listening is still a major pastime.

In Chapter Seven, the author discusses the problems of Arab broadcasting. These problems are referred to in the study of individual Arab countries. Such problems are related to facilities, programming, broadcast rhetoric, and transmitter construction. In this concluding chapter, the author explores major problem areas under the headings of cooperation, training, financing, and technology. Some of the features common to radio and television broadcasting throughout the Arab world are:

- (1) The government owns the radio and television facilities and services.
- (2) Government censorship of programming and services.
- (3) Special radio and television programs that feature religious discussions and readings from the Qur'an

are daily features of all programming in all Arab countries.

The book is a field survey research based upon personal communications as well as upon printed source materials. It gives a brief but informative history of each radio and television network in each Arab country. It is excellent reading for anyone interested in communications, mass media, politics, and sociology of the Arab countries. The book also contains an extensive bibliography.

Ragai N. Makar  
Middle East Library  
University of Utah

Ibrahim V. Pourhadi, Iran and the United States, 1979-1981: Three Years of Confrontation; A Selected List of References. Mideast Directions. Washington, D.C.: Near East Section, African and Middle Eastern Division, the Library of Congress, 1982. 37 p.

After 1953, when Mossadeq was overthrown, it became evident that the United States had replaced Great Britain as the nation of primary importance in Iranian foreign policy. Until 1979 the relationship between the two countries deepened in political, military, economic, and cultural areas.

The confrontation between Iran and the United States began in 1979 when the 2500-year Iranian monarchy was replaced by the Islamic Republic. It increased in intensity when the American Embassy was seized by Iranian militants and its staff were taken hostage. The hostages were eventually released in January 1981.

It is this period of confrontation which the present bibliography surveys. The appearance of this bibliography is a welcome event for it is the first attempt at surveying the literature on this subject.

This is the first issue in the series Mideast Directions which will appear irregularly by the Near East Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress.

One of the objectives of the bibliography is "to indicate the wide range of opinion on the revolution and its consequences . . ." (p. 2). However, most of the periodical articles are from journals and newspapers published

in the West.

The work is organized into twelve broad subject headings:

Iranian revolution; causes; the fall of the Shah; Bakhtiar, Bazargan, Bani-Sadr and Raja'i governments, January 1979-August 1981; U.S. policy on Iran, postrevolution, 1979-81; the hostage crisis; diplomatic and legal attempts to free the hostages; U.S. economic sanction and trade embargo against Iran; Iranian assets and U.S. claims; military dimension; rescue mission; U.S.-Iran agreement on the hostage release; U.S. documents on the Iranian crisis, 1979-81.

Under each heading, the entries are arranged alphabetically by author or title.

This is a short bibliography consisting of 249 entries, the majority (196) of which are periodical articles. About half of these articles are from popular journals and newspapers. Most entries are annotated. Annotations are generally brief, but informative.

All citations are from English language sources with the exception of five monographs in Persian and one in German. The majority of the materials are accessible in most medium to large academic libraries.

No author and/or title indices accompany the bibliography which makes access to certain entries inconvenient. For example, Faces in a mirror, memoirs from exile by Ashraf Pahlavi, the late Shah's twin sister, is entered under Ashraf as her last name and Pahlavi as her first (i.e., Ashraf, Pahlavi; the established LC heading is Ashraf, Princess of Iran). An index with a cross-reference would have made this entry more easily retrievable.

Each citation is also accompanied by an LC call number when available. All entries are clear, legible and without error.

In general this is a very well-executed work. Its clarity of annotations and especially its timeliness make this bibliography a valuable reference for the period it covers. It is recommended for all libraries with an emphasis on Middle Eastern studies.

This bibliography is a part of a larger one which will appear later. It is obtainable without charge from

The Library of Congress, African and Middle Eastern Division, Near East Section, Washington, D.C.. 20540.

Darius Gitisetan  
California State University, Northridge  
Library

Gulnar Bosch, John Carswell, Guy Petherbridge, Islamic Bindings and Bookmaking. A catalogue of an exhibition (at) the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago, May 18-August 18, 1981. Chicago: Oriental Institute Museum, 1981, xii, 235 pages, 177 photographs, 9 color plates, 15 figures. \$40 hardcover, \$20 softcover.

The explosion of knowledge in the first few centuries of Islam, and its speedy and widespread transmission through the Islamic world had many causes and means. One that is often ignored is the ready availability of a relatively "new" writing material--paper. Since it was so much cheaper than parchment and papyrus, it made possible the multiplication of copies of books and their rapid transportation to even distant places. Books became probably the major influence in creating the cultural unity of the Islamic world. On these portable treasures great care was often lavished, first on the calligraphy, later on the illumination, binding and decoration. The study of books, or even their mere possession, brought prestige. Everyone who was anyone, or who had ambitions, would invest in books. A flourishing and multifaceted book trade developed and in some cases even became big business. A whole series of specialists was involved in various aspects of the making and marketing of books. Sometimes whole streets or even quarters of a town were given over to these activities.

Premodern descriptions of various practical aspects of the production of traditional Islamic books may be found in a small number of special treatises which have not yet been thoroughly exploited. As for modern scholarship, remarkably little work has been done on the methods, techniques and materials. This is all the more surprising, considering the vast number of copies of bound Islamic manuscripts of all ages and from every geographical region which are readily available for study in libraries all over the world. Until recently the most comprehensive treatment of Islamic bindings was Max Weisweiler's Der islamische Bucheinband des Mittelalters (1962). This fine piece of original research is rather limited in its coverage. After a valuable but too brief

introduction classifying bindings into design groups, he devoted a few lines to each of 386 bindings selected from half a dozen libraries. They range in age from the tenth to the sixteenth century, but the vast majority are thirteenth to fifteenth; 67 of them are illustrated by small photographs of pencil rubbings. Other aspects of book-making were practically ignored. While articles on individual MSS or groups have been written by some scholars, there is no comprehensive study of Islamic bookbindings covering a long period or large areas of the Islamic world. Most studies or illustrations concentrate on sumptuous bindings only, and totally neglect the majority of bindings, which even if ordinary, also deserve historical study. Standard reference works, including the new edition of the Encyclopaedia of Islam are laughably inadequate in their treatment of bookbinding and related matters.

The work under review, Islamic bindings and book-making, is not the answer to our prayers, but it marks a very real step forward. The title might lead one to expect a comprehensive study: in fact, almost all of the nearly 100 bindings described and illustrated are Egyptian or Syrian Mamluk, mainly fourteenth and fifteenth century. The few from Turkey and Persia do not really fit into the scheme. In reality, the subtitle more accurately describes the major component of the work: a catalogue of an exhibition of bindings assembled by Bernhard Moritz while Director of the Khedival Library in Cairo (1896-1911), and subsequently acquired by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Also included are some of the bindings from Moritz's collection which found their way to other collections: Chester Beatty in Dublin, the Islamic Museums in East and West Berlin, and in private ownership in Milan.

The two-thirds of this handsome volume which is catalogue (pp. 85-227) is the joint work of Gulnar Bosch and Guy Petherbridge. The former first examined the Chicago MSS in detail in her unpublished doctoral thesis (Chicago, 1952). She describes her British collaborator in the present work as a "book conservator and historian (who aided) with his total approach to the materials, tools and processes of the Islamic book" (p. 2). The cataloguing is exemplary: each binding is analyzed in some detail as to materials, design and technique. The photographs (a few in color) are generally excellent, some showing extra details enlarged. The inner sides of bindings, called doublures, are badly neglected in the scholarly literature, but in this book they receive careful description and illustration.

The catalogue is preceded by three introductory essays. John Carswell, Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, briefly describes Moritz's life and the origins of the collection (pp. ix-xii). This is followed by Gular Bosch's chapter, "Islamic bookmaking: the historical setting" (pp. 1-19), which contains information on references to bookmaking in Islamic works ranging from the tenth to the nineteenth centuries. The 14 pages of text are accompanied by no less than 207 notes. This chapter, which in style and method bears the marks of a typical Ph.D. thesis, would have read more smoothly if it had been rewritten. The final chapter, entitled "The materials, techniques and structures of Islamic bookmaking" (pp. 23-84) is a fruitful collaborative effort by Bosch and Petherbridge. Particularly valuable are its descriptions of the materials, physical processes and techniques which went into the preparation of traditional books. The illustrations include book production scenes from several manuscripts, as well as line drawings and photographs. The table of contents neglects to show by subheadings the many subjects discussed in this chapter. They fall into two groups, each further subdivided (my enumeration):

- A. Textbook materials: 1. Papyrus; 2. parchment; 3. paper; 4. paper dyeing; 5. paper sizing and burnishing; 6. decorated papers; 7. ruling.
- B. Bookbinding: 1. Tools; 2. sewing; 3. lining of spine and hinging; 4. adhesives; 5. trimming; 6. endbands; 7. the Islamic book cover; 8. boards; 9. coverings--leather: dyeing, preparation and covering; 10. other coverings; 11. doublures; 12. finishing: (a) covering (b) cover ornamentation (c) binding media for inks and paints (d) gold, silver, inks and paints.

This extraordinarily rich and varied chapter brings together much information not readily available elsewhere, and is extensively annotated (275 notes!). Observation and analysis of old books and citations from traditional Islamic descriptions are combined. The results may be applied to the study of bindings other than the Mamluk ones of this catalogue.

The three scholars responsible for this book have placed all users in their debt, and it would be churlish to criticize it unduly. However, a few comments should be made. There are an incredibly large number of minor errors, some due to careless proofreading, e.g., "perpetrate the stories of the desert or of passion" (p. 6) for



"perpetuate;" La hawlah wa lā quwwah illā billāh . . . is translated blasphemously as "There is neither strength nor power in God" (p. 223), omitting the essential word "except" after "power." Other mistakes indicate ignorance unexpected in a trained Islamicist. Leaving aside curious cases like the "book-handler" (p. 8), which must represent a mistranslation of the German word for bookseller (Buchhandler), there are ridiculous spelling errors in the Arabic script. Sometimes there are superfluous long vowels, e.g., kāmāl (with two alifs, p. 31), nāshā' (also two alifs, p. 50); or erroneous short vowels (jalūd for julūd, p. 25); the letter rā' is occasionally written instead of dāl (as p. 60, bottom); medial qāf is treated as a final letter and not linked to a following waw (p. 63), and so on. The Arabic script in the book has not been typeset, presumably for financial reasons. A decent calligraphic hand would have been a perfectly acceptable substitute. Instead we see a particularly poor example of the kind of writing usually called "orientalist," which mars the otherwise beautiful pages. Sometimes the Arabic script is in grammatical conflict with its accompanying transliteration, e.g., Arabic script li-naqsh, transliteration lil-naqsh (p. 44). Oddly enough the transliteration form is usually more likely to be correct than that in Arabic script! The transliteration is often strange, however. Why is the form "Raschīd" (p. 27, 28 twice, and *passim*) used, apparently intentionally, instead of the expected "Rashid"? Why is Carl Brockelmann's first name constantly abbreviated to G. (e.g., three times on p. 15: notes 30, 44, 45). Why are departures made erratically from the Library of Congress romanization (e.g., several names of the author of no. 89, p. 214)?

Among major desiderata for those working with Islamic MSS are really thorough paleographical studies, such as have been achieved for Greek and Latin paleography. The need is underscored by the dating cited for the illustration no. 95 (p. 222), a fragment tentatively assigned by a scholar consulted by the editors to "North Africa . . . perhaps . . . 9th century AH/16th century AD." The script shown is quite unlike Maghribī in shape, and never uses its characteristic fā' with sublinear dot and qāf with a single supralinear dot. It is clearly "Eastern" script, and several centuries older than estimated.

A word of caution must be expressed about the English translations given for quotations from books in Islamic languages. Rather than translate the passages afresh, the authors of this book have cited existing translations. That is perfectly reasonable when the translations are reliable, but some of the passages they quote, particularly

those translated from Turkish and Persian originals, seem to be rather inaccurate. For example, a check of the Ottoman Turkish text of the Menâkıb-ı hünerverân of Muştafâ <sup>ç</sup>ĀLĪ (cited p. 32) showed that one of the eleven categories of paper described by <sup>ç</sup>ĀLĪ (Istanbul edition, 1926) was omitted from its place in the sequence given by the original author. Some of the other categories are rendered in scarcely recognizable forms: "çAdishāhī (from Adisha)" represents çAdilshahī, and "Gami" (without macrons) represents Günī. Explanatory additions of the translator are not distinguished from the words of the original author, and the order of the text is jumbled; the words "He adds" introduce a section of text which actually precedes in the Turkish original.

In addition to the Menâkıb of <sup>ç</sup>ĀLĪ (not <sup>ç</sup>Alī as it is invariably misspelled, without the first macron), there are several other premodern Ottoman Turkish works describing various aspects of bookmaking that might have been cited, e.g., Gülzar-i sevâb by İbrâhîm Nefeszâde (d. 1650. Text ed. by Kılıslı Rifat [Bilge]. Istanbul 1939); and a later work, based largely on it, Tuhfe-i küttâb ve minhat üt-tullâb, composed by Ahmed b. Halil Kâdizâde (MS in Süleymaniye, Aşir Ef. 520/18).

The work under review is completed by a good General Bibliography. I mention below a few extra items, especially recent ones in Turkish, which tend to escape the attention of those not fluent in that language. A few months before the publication of this book, a valuable article by Engin Özdeniz on traditional Turkish bookbinding appeared in Sanat dünyası (Istanbul yıl 7, sayı 21, Ocak 1981, pp. 13-26) with beautiful color photographs of ten outstanding bindings, and other plates showing the tools and materials of the traditional binder, as well as an annotated diagram of the different parts of a binding. Various aspects of the book arts, including binding, are illustrated in color from time to time in the Istanbul bimonthly Türkiyemiz. One by Kemal Çiğ (sayı 9, şubat 1973 pp. 6-10) supplements his book Türk kitap kapları (1971, which is cited in the book under review). İsmet Binark's Eski kitapçılık sanatlarımız (Istanbul, 1975) contains illustrated short sections on various book arts, as does Muhiddin Serin's Hat sanatımız: tarihçesi, malzeme ve âletler, meşkler (Istanbul, 1982), but in the latter, binding is not discussed.

Reference might have been made to recent illustrated exhibition catalogues such as Turkish treasures from the collection of Edwin Binney, 3rd . . . by E. Binney, 3rd (Portland, Art Museum, 1979, pp. 160-169), the Arts of

Islam (London, Arts Council, 1976, pp. 309-372) which includes many previously unpublished bindings, and L'Islam dans les collections nationales (Paris, Éditions des musées nationaux, 1977). The absence of Ahmed Süheyl Ünver's name is surprising. One would have expected at least the mention of his article on Seljuk book arts, which includes many illustrations (Atatürk konferansları V, 1971-72. Ankara, Türk Tarih Kurumu, 1972, pp. 75-90 plus 30 plates).

Every academic library should have a copy of Islamic bindings and bookmaking, and it deserves consultation by anyone concerned with Islamic books. (In fact many scholars could buy their own paperback, a bargain at \$20.) There is a wealth of little known but important information in it, yet much of that will certainly be ignored or missed by people who could benefit, because there are no indexes. Perhaps the publisher should share the blame for not insisting that a work of this sort must be thoroughly indexed. This amazing oversight could be alleviated by the publication, even at this late stage, of an index booklet.

Despite my critical comments, the three authors of Islamic bindings and bookmaking are to be warmly congratulated on a trailblazing work. Many will hope that other scholars will now feel encouraged to produce comparable studies of the bindings and bookmaking of other geographical regions and chronological periods.

Eleazar Birnbaum  
University of Toronto

#### JOURNAL REVIEWS

Alif. Journal of Comparative Poetics, issue 1 (Spring, 1981): Philosophy and Stylistics. [Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, The American University in Cairo, POB 2511, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.] 55 pp. English text; 42 pp. Arabic text. \$5.00 per issue.

The impressive first issue of this new journal announces as its ambitious goal "to initiate a comparative dialogue between Arab readers and writers and their counterparts in the West." This is a laudable, if quixotic, aim: Western readers and writers, at least in this reviewer's experience, continue to display an inveterate and well-nigh obdurate indifference to Arabic literature

of the classical and modern periods. This unfortunate situation shows no sign of changing for the better. Nevertheless, Alif is a firm step in the right direction. If future issues prove as interesting and as thoughtful as the first, then perhaps some such "dialogue" may at last begin to emerge.

To this end, Alif presents articles in both Arabic and English. Moreover, each article is prefaced with an abstract in the other language, and the editorial introduction appears in both Arabic and English. The level of production is high; there are fewer typographical errors in the English section than might be expected. The journal is attractively designed and handsomely printed.

The first issue contains four articles in English and three in Arabic. The English articles range from the stimulating, if densely written, essay by David Konstan entitled "Style, Meaning and Ideology" (pp. 7-20) to an extremely useful discussion by Husain Haddawy of Ibn Sīnā's conception of literary style ("Avicenna on Style," pp. 21-37), to Steffen Stelzer's learned discussion of Hegelian aesthetics ("A Last Attempt to Grasp Poetry," pp. 38-48). Finally, as if to provide relief from the abstract nature of these essays, there is a lively interview with the prolific and influential writer Jabra Ibrahim Jabra; the interview first appeared in Arabic in the December 4, 1978, issue of al-Jāmi'ah. Jabra's interview is extremely interesting, but one wonders whether he has always been well served by his translators. Did Jabra really state, for example, in such grandiose terms, that "my lust for creation is characterized by a greed which, though rightful, almost tortures me" (p. 51)? One suspects here a certain ineptness in conveying the tone of the original interview to Western readers. In any case, the interview makes fascinating reading.

The articles in Arabic include two translations: Tzvetan Todorov's "The Evolution of Literary Theory" ("Ṭaṭawwur al-naẓariyah al-adabīyah," pp. 7-17) and a brief but impressive section from La scienza nova of the great Italian philosopher Giambattista Vico (1668-1774) on "the logic of poetry" ("Mantiq al-shi'r," pp. 35-42).

Lastly, there is a useful essay by Ahmed Ghonaim entitled "The 'Rules' and the 'Craft' of Arabic Grammar: Arabic Authenticity and the Influence of Aristotelian Logic" ("Qawā'id al-naḥw al-ʿarabī wa-sinā'atuh bayn al-asālah al-ʿarabīyah wa-ta'thīr al-mantiq al-aristīfī," pp. 18-34). This article contains much interesting information on the early Arab grammarians, but the author's tone is perhaps unnecessarily defensive: few today would seriously deny

the indigenous "authenticity" of the native Arab grammarians' theory and practice.

In closing, it should be noted that the contents of the first issue of Alif seem rather unfairly weighted in favor of Western authors and Western literary and philosophical viewpoints. The editors of Alif have a unique opportunity and an impressive forum to correct this historic imbalance. It would be interesting, for example, to see approaches to Western literature and thought from an "Eastern" viewpoint. The comparative approach, especially if it is to stimulate "dialogue," should allow what is unique and inimitable in each tradition to shine forth. All in all, the editors and the contributors to Alif have made an important contribution to this goal and are to be congratulated.

Eric Ormsby  
Princeton University Library

American-Arab Affairs, issue 1 (Summer, 1982). Published quarterly by the American-Arab Affairs Council. Washington D.C. Editor: Erik R. Peterson. Annual subscription rate in the United States and Canada; \$16.00 (overseas subscription add \$7.50 for postage); single issue \$5.00. 204 pp.

The council's aim in this journal is to further "an understanding of current diplomatic, political, social and economic developments that affect U.S.-Arab relations" (inside cover). The journal comes to life at a time when the Middle East is in the midst of great turmoil, and the question of peace and the future of the Palestinians are key issues to all concerned. This is clear in the editor's opening note: "The inaugural issue of American-Arab Affairs goes to print after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, carried out in accordance with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, and during the June 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In light of these dramatic events, the issue presents a range of views on the current prospects for peace."

The journal is divided into three sections containing articles, book reviews, and documents, and ends with a lengthy selected bibliography. This issue includes sixteen scholarly articles written by such well-known scholars and diplomats as Hisham Sharabi, Thomas R. Stauffer, El Hassan Bin Talal, Robert G. Hazo, Lord Caradon, Hermann F. Eilts, Emile A. Nakhleh and many other competent and qualified specialists. At the head of each article there is a brief note concerning its contents and author.

The book review section of this issue deals with ten recent publications on the politics of the Middle East. This section is most helpful to all Middle East librarians and bibliographers since the choice of the books is excellent as are the reviews.

The ten documents in the final section of American-Arab Affairs, issue number one, focus on Arab-Israeli foreign relations and include U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 Concerning Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in the Middle East, November 22, 1967, U.N. Security Council Resolutions concerning the October War 1973, as well as more recent documents such as the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, 1979, and the May 26, 1982 address by then Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

American-Arab Affairs is a much-needed addition to the study of the Middle East and of great value to all researchers and research libraries.

Basima Qattan Bezirgan  
Middle East Cataloger  
The University of Chicago Libraries

The Arab Gulf Journal. Vol. 1., No. 1- . London, England: MD Research and Services Ltd. Oct., 1981-Biannual. ISSN 0261-5150. £ 24 Sterling/\$50 post-free annual subscription; £ 12 Sterling/\$25 per copy plus postage. 94 Roebuck House, Stag Place, London, SW1E 5AA.

The announcement of this periodical states that it "publishes articles relating to different sectors of Gulf economies. . . . It also has a selective review section on books, articles and documentation. The readership profile includes planners, policymakers, academics, entrepreneurs, financial advisors, businessmen and others interested in Arab Gulf studies." Not only does the journal focus on contemporary economic issues, it does so from a British/Arab perspective. The three British members of the five member Board of Advisory Editors have all contributed to this first number: Howard Bowen-Jones (Professor of Geography, University of Durham), "The Third Saudi Arabian Five-Year Plan," pp. 55-69; Derek Hopwood (St. Antony's College, Oxford), book review of Social Life Under the Abbasids, by Muhammad Manazir Ahsan, pp. 116-117; and Keith S. McLachlan (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), "Gulf Perspective--a comment on current articles," pp. 95-99, plus a review of three books dealing with OPEC, pp. 112-113. Jawad M. Hashim (President, Arab Monetary

Fund) is also one of the advisory editors and has contributed an article adapted from his address to the 59th annual meeting of the Bankers' Association for Foreign Trade, 31 May-4 June, 1981, Boca-Raton, U.S.A. entitled "Oil, Foreign Exchange and Financial Discipline," pp. 4-11. Ali M. Jaidah is the fifth member of the Board of Advisory Editors.

There are twelve features included in the first number: several, such as Mr. Hashim's article, are adaptations of papers already presented elsewhere; one is an interview given to the journal by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan concerning the objectives, activities and organization of the "Arab Thought Forum" founded in Aqaba in March, 1981 (pp. 1-3); several are essays by prominent economic or political figures, such as that by Edward Henderson (retired British Ambassador to Qatar, now Director, council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding) entitled "Development in the Arab Gulf," pp. 35-44; one represents the results of a scientific sample survey conducted by two University of Qatar social scientists, Levon Melikian and Juhaina Al-Easa, concerning "The Motivation for Work among Qatari and Bahraini University Students," pp. 81-94; and three are bibliographically oriented. Of these three, the "Documentation Survey" on pages 100-107 by C. H. Bleaney (Senior Documentation Assistant at the Centre for Middle-Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Durham) will be perhaps the most helpful to librarians: "This survey comprises a summary of selected nonbook materials concerning the Arab Gulf which have recently become available" (p. 100). It contains mostly government publications arranged by the country of interest regardless of issuing agency, plus the inevitable "General" category. All countries are well represented. The documents are almost all in English and/or Arabic and have been given a one sentence annotation.

The narrative review of current articles by McLachlan is meant to be a "continuing review (which) will be sustained in The Arab Gulf Journal to assist readers to find their way through the best of the material available" (p. 99). It notes that journals "concerned with affairs in the area continue to reflect the division between those who cater for the business community in the industrialized states and those with academic pretensions" (p. 95). McLachlan concentrates on the former. Thus the review would seem to provide a bibliographic alerting and summarizing function for busy executives, but it does not provide any systematic or comprehensive bibliography suitable for research for acquisition purposes.

Likewise, the exclusive focus of the book review section on a few, recent British publications appears aimed at the casual reader. The review by Hopwood of Social Life Under the Abbasids seems strangely out of place here among the other, development-oriented publications.

A quite adequate subject index of the journal's contents appears on pages 119-122.

In summary, The Arab Gulf Journal is a kind of Reader's Digest for the busy, English speaking administrator, businessman or economist whose specialized interest in the Gulf is not adequately served by existing, more broadly conceived periodicals such as the Middle East Journal and the Middle East Economic Digest. Not a necessary purchase for every library.

Mark Tyler Day,  
Main Library  
Indiana University

Revue CELFAN Review, issue 1.

A new journal has entered the ever-swelling tide that threatens to swamp the serials departments of research libraries. The Revue CELFAN Review, published by the Center for the Study of Francophone Literature of North Africa, embarks from the docs of the Department of French and Italian at Temple University (Philadelphia, Pa. 19122) thrice a year for a fee of \$7.50. At the editorial tiller is the sure hand of Eric Sellin, whose sailing orders call for essays of under 1,000 words each on Maghrebian authors and on "North Africa's role in the work of authors from France." No bilge water in this man's craft: the fifteen or so essays in the first two packets (48 pages total) blend fact and literary analysis by writers who know how to reef their sails in the winds of criticism, relying on sparse prose. The ship's manifest so far shows E. Robles, Anne Lippert, Hedi Bouraoui, Jean Dejeux, I. C. Tcheho, T. Dhofar, M. O'nan, Hedi Abdeljaouad, K. Harrow, L. Tremaine, R. Marsh.

In addition to essays, the Revue CELFAN Review's galley proves adept at serving up comptes-rendus, by which book selectors may chart a sure course on the broad reaches of Francophonía.

The second number sets sail for Mouloud Feraoun; future issues will tack towards Mohammed Dib and Mammeri,



Roblès and Algérie. Scholars of North African culture will be eager to see these little ships come in with their tidy holds of French/English cargo.

David H. Partington  
Harvard College Library

### Mideast File

Mideast File, co-published by the Shiloah Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and Learned Information of New Jersey is a recent addition to the intellectual contents of periodicals published in the Middle East. Other relatively new bibliographies and indexes in this category include al-Fihrist (Beirut), Dalil al-Dawriyat al-Libiyah wa-Muhtawayatuhá (Tripoli); Medab,\* an on-line index of Arabic and English publications prepared by the Middle East Research Center, Dubai and produced by New York Times Information Service and Current Contents (Tel Aviv, Shiloah Center.) The Mideast File is distinctive among these in that it covers material published in the vernacular languages of the Middle East (Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish and Persian) as well as western language (English, French, German) works published in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The editor in chief of Mideast File, Haim Shaked, is well known to students of the modern Middle East for his writing on modern Arab history and politics and for his editing Middle East Contemporary Survey, an irregularly published reference volume on current affairs.

### Scope

Mideast File is a quarterly, computer-produced index whose scope is "the modern Middle East, that is the area between Iran and Libya, Turkey and Sudan. Thematically, its coverage emphasizes history, demography, politics, government, regional and international relations, economics, finances, oil, law, science, technology, arms and armaments, education and religion." Subscribers have the choice of the quarterly printed issues (at \$450.00 per year), a microfiche edition (\$450.00 per year) or the machine-readable tape, which includes "a further 3-4,000 items [annually ?] of topical or ephemeral interest" as well as additional search fields to identify all names

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This reviewer has not used Medab, but based on promotional literature it seems to have a business-economic orientation.

in the text and extra indexing terms to enhance access to subjects and to alternate spellings of Arabic names. (The price of the on-line file was not given in the promotional literature at my disposal.)

In scope and arrangement Mideast File is, potentially, a useful complement to Middle East: Abstracts and Index (MEAI) published by Northumberland Press. While the latter aims to provide comprehensive coverage of foreign language (i.e., Western European) titles. It is worth noting, however, that a subscription to MEAI (\$150.00 per year) costs one third of that to Mideast File, and the former provides better subject access to the materials it covers. (More on this below.) One decided advantage of Mideast File is its currency. Unlike MEAI, which is nearly two years out-of-date, the March 1982 issue of Mideast File carries journal citations through November 1981.

### Arrangement

Mideast File is arranged by country, with eight additional sections on special themes or subjects. Some of these divisions are confusing. It is not always clear by what criteria the editors have classified citations under sections entitled "The Middle East," "The Arab World" and "Inter-Regional Relations." For example, an article on technology transfer "with emphasis on the Arab world" appears in "The Middle East" section (Item 15) while a report on "the problem of illiteracy in the world in general and the Arab States in particular" (Item 83) is, as one would expect in "The Arab World" section. It is even more difficult to understand why Malcolm Kerr's article (Item 78) "Rich and Poor in the New Arab Order," "a study of political and economic relations between rich and poor Arab States" is classified under "The Arab world" while an article on Arabsat (Arab Satellite Communications Organization) is classed in "Inter-Regional Relations" (Item 213). The editors might consider dropping one of these categories (MEAI, also arranged by country, has thematic sections entitled "General" and "The Arab world" which correspond to the three categories of Mideast File, with no apparent sacrifice of access or clarity) or, at the very least, clarifying the distinctions among categories in the introduction.

A second feature of the arrangement of citations which should be reconsidered is the reverse chronological order of citations. Such an arrangement may be useful in the sciences but seems much less so for citations in the social sciences and humanities. If Mideast File

were considerably larger, or published much less frequently, one might see the utility of a reverse chronological arrangement. As it is however, such an arrangement may be little more than a nuisance, particularly since it results in unordered clusters of entries when two or more citations bear the same date.

Author and key word (out-of-context) subject indexes follow the bibliography. According to the introduction, non-Roman script names in the author index, like those in the citations, are transliterated according to Library of Congress rules. This standard has not been applied uniformly, however. Arab authors writing in English are cited in their English form, while the same author writing in Arabic is cited in his/her transliterated form. Thus the author Marwān Buhayrī appears as "Buheiry, Marwan R." in reference to his book in English (Item 127) but in the transliterated form in reference to his article in Arabic (Item 103). Just as there are no links between alternate spellings of non-Western author's names, so too is there no attempt to connect alternate forms of western author's names, hence "Balta, P" and "Balta, Paul" and "Jansen, G. H." and "Jansen, Godfrey." This policy has the dubious virtue of consistency with other features of the index, but makes it difficult to find all the citations for one author.

The subject index is a rotating key word out-of-context index. It suffers from some serious shortcomings. First, there are no links (see or see also references) among subjects. Readers who look under "Television" are not directed to see the proper heading "Radio and television." Similarly, there should be a see reference from "Terrorism" to "Politics and terrorism" and from "Occupied territories" to "Israel administered areas" and from "Children: Education" to "Education and children." It is not clear why some terms are independently entered while others are part of an inverted heading. For example, "Egypt: Political exiles" (where each term rotates into entry position) but "Egypt, political figures," where the qualifier does not become an entry term. Similarly, works on minorities in Israel are entered under "Israel, minorities" or "Minorities: Israel minorities" but not "Israel: Minorities."

A casual review of the subject index for comprehensiveness revealed a few omissions. Under "Women" an article on Palestinian women in the West Bank, Israel and Gaza Strip by Rosemary Sayigh (Item 957) is not listed. An article on solar energy and technology in the UAE (Item 1460) is classed in the index under "Solar Technology" but not also under "Energy (excluding oil)." "Palestinian workers in the Occupied Territories" (Item

955) is not cited under "Labour" or "Labour force," nor is "The emergence of the Arab Labour movement in Palestine" (Item 888). Curiously, the latter is in the index under "Arab labour" while other articles dealing with Arab labour are simply entered under "Labour." It appears therefore, that the editors have not taken proper care to insure consistency, comprehensiveness and ease of use in their subject index. For one using a bibliography classified by country for interdisciplinary research, such shortcomings in the subject index are serious because they slow searching time and can even obstruct access to all the relevant material on a particular topic. The editors would thus do well to expand their thesaurus, to eliminate arbitrary distinctions between related terms, and to take greater pains to enter all relevant citations under a particular heading.

#### Types of material

In the users guide to Mideast File, four categories of materials are listed as "types of material cited": documents, articles, research reports and papers, and books and book reviews. Articles are taken from "periodical academic literature" and "other serial publications . . . whenever they are considered to make an important contribution." Abstracts are provided to all citations except those to books and book reviews. Unfortunately the first issue lacked a list of journals cited. According to the promotional literature, Mideast File covers "over fifty" journals published in the Middle East "in addition to some four hundred others published in English, French and German." If this is the number of journals regularly scanned, it is quite small compared to MEAI, which regularly scans over 1500 journals. The publishers offer to send a full list of key sources regularly scanned for the Mideast File, but this is not an adequate substitute for a list of journals cited in each issue. Such a list would be most useful for evaluating the quality of the publications chosen for scanning as well as for showing the percentage of titles in any one language. For example, among the fifty-odd Middle Eastern titles, are there roughly equal numbers in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish, or are certain languages predominant? A perusal of the text suggest that Arabic and English titles are predominant. This is particularly striking in the sections on Turkey and Iran, where the only vernacular language citations are to BBC and FBIC broadcasts, save a few Persian titles by the Joint Publication Research Service. Thus, the editors seem to have done original bibliographic work for Arabic, Hebrew and European languages only.

Misc. Problems, Criticisms

There is some evidence that the editors ignored or forgot their own time specifications when determining which titles to include. While the user's guide specifies the modern Middle East as the focus of Mideast File, citations to works on premodern history were noted. (Even the broadest definition of "Modern" would be strained to include Daniel Pipes's Slave Soldiers and Islam (#414) or Islam and the Medieval West, ed. by Khalid Semaan (#423). Similarly, while the user's guide states that "books are included . . . up to one year after their publication," (which presumably means that only 1981 and 1982 imprints would be found in the March '82 issue) there were a number of titles from 1977-1979, and even one from 1975 (# 812). Either the editors should redefine their criteria for inclusion, or follow those they have indicated more carefully.

A casual proofreading of the author index revealed a great number of typographical errors: Al-thmān for al-'Uthmān; Blake, F. H. for Blake, G. H., Van- Dam, M. for Dam, N. Van, and so on. A most unfortunate feature of the computer program used to produce Mideast File is its inability to collate identical citations whose annotations vary. Thus, for example, Albert Hourani's three appearances in the author index all refer to his The Emergence of the Modern Middle East, which appears in the main text three times consecutively (Items 49-51), each time with a citation to a different book review. This mistake occurs in about half of the sections of Mideast File where books are listed and is responsible for adding about a dozen repeat entries. In a few cases, the editors failed to verify citations, resulting in bibliographically inaccurate entries or extraneous citations. For example, Walter Weiker's book The Modernization of Turkey is entered twice (1437, 1441). The first citation is correct but incomplete (lacks ISBN) and the second contains three errors (title and pagination wrong, author's name misspelled).

One helpful feature of Mideast File are notices of book reviews appended to the citation for books. The review notices, like entries for the books themselves, are not annotated. Nor are the authors of reviews listed in the author index. This is unfortunate, because it is probably something that could be accomplished with little extra effort or expense, while enhancing the usefulness of the author index. The editors fail to explain just how exhaustively and where they have searched for their book review citations; such information is essential.

One final problem: non-Western titles are listed in

their English translated version only. While the editors were perhaps hoping to reduce the amount of transliterated text, the omission of the original title constitutes a serious loss of bibliographic information. Just as The Middle East Journal periodical index enters the title in the original language, with an English translation in brackets, so too might the editors of Mideast File consider some way of including both the original and the translated forms in the same citation.

### Conclusion

The Mideast File has the potential to be an extremely useful bibliographic tool, especially for those who need information on The Middle East from sources in vernacular languages, who do not know those languages. The annotations are generally well written and sufficiently in-depth to provide a good indication of the content and perspective of the items cited. Yet this is not an inexpensive source. At \$450.00 for an annual subscription, librarians will want to know that the Mideast File covers material in a highly useful manner. Based on the first issue, it is not clear that Mideast File satisfies this criterion. A survey of citations reveals that a number of journals indexed here are indexed elsewhere, particularly in MEAI, and the Middle East Journal. Only a listing of journals cited will enable a testing of this somewhat impressionistic survey, however. The editors would provide a most useful service, from both a marketing and a bibliographic perspective, if they provided such a list, as well as an indication of how many serials are scanned regularly. A greater emphasis on periodicals in the vernacular languages of the Middle East, particularly Perisan and Turkish, is also highly desirable, and would render Mideast File more unique. The editors might therefore consider dropping some of the western language titles indexed elsewhere and strengthening their coverage of Middle Eastern publications. More and better indexing and abstracting services are needed in Middle Eastern Studies. The makers of Mideast File are therefore to be commended for their efforts. It is hoped that the problems discussed in this review can be worked out in future issues, and that the editors will strengthen those aspects of Mideast File which will render it more distinctive and useful.

Francine McNulty  
Middle Eastern Department  
Harvard College Library

Mundus Arabicus: an annual devoted to Arabic literature.  
Volume 1, 1981. Cambridge, Mass., Dar Mahjar, 1981.  
\$30.

The editors of this publication plan to organize each annual volume around a single theme or topic and to solicit contributions in both English and Arabic. They hope thereby to achieve a coherence other journals lack and to provide a forum in which scholars using one language or the other can address a common topic. They have chosen as their first subject, Mahjar writers, i.e., Arab writers in the Americas, and have produced a volume which comprises eight articles, five in English and three in Arabic, by a number of well known librarians and scholars. The English section consists of two translations of short literary works, two articles, and one bibliography; the Arabic section consists of two articles and one bibliography.

Despite the larger number of articles in the English section two-thirds of the volume is in Arabic, and indeed, slightly more than half of the entire work (141 pages out of a total of 274) consists of an extensive bibliography of critical works in Arabic on Mahjar literature compiled by Fawzi 'Abd al-Razzaq. There is a corresponding, but smaller, bibliography in the English section compiled by Francine McNulty entitled, "Mahjar literature; an annotated bibliography of literary criticism and biography in Western languages." These two bibliographies are the most valuable contributions in the volume and will be of substantial aid to students and scholars seeking guidance in the field, but their presence in this publication raises two issues of especial interest to librarians. The first is that of accessibility. How is the student of Mahjar literature to learn of the existence of these valuable aids? Too many important bibliographical works lie buried in unindexed journals where potential users cannot find them. Could not these two bibliographies have been combined in a single volume and published as a monograph (or at least as a bibliographical supplement to the journal) which would be cataloged separately with proper subject headings? Their size and definitive nature make them natural candidates for such treatment.

The second issue is the number of likely subscribers to Mundus Arabicus. As the editors suggest in their foreword to this first volume there is indeed a need for a journal which devotes itself to the study and presentation of Arabic literature in a civilized manner. The presence of two translations in the English section attests to their conviction that Arabic literary works need

to be made known to the English reader as well as studied by the specialist, and it is in the interests of all of us that this practice be encouraged. But at a time when college librarians and collection development officers look critically at all requests for new serials subscriptions and may well reject one that aims at too narrow an audience, a volume dominated by a single massive contribution in Arabic may not make the cut. Institutions with Arabic language programs will want this work. But how many others will?

Of the remaining six contributions five deal with a single Mahjar author, and the sixth concerns the Arabic translations of Umar Khayyam's quatrains by two Mahjar poets. In a volume devoted to a single theme or topic concerning Arabic literature one would have liked to see a lead article treating the subject more broadly. The article might introduce Mahjar literature to the English reading person, pointing out its place in modern Arabic literature as a whole; or it might take up a broad theme such as the "sea change" (or lack thereof) Arab writers underwent when they reached the New World. Such an article could place the topic in a larger context, point out its value for comparative purposes, and attract a greater readership.

The present volume is well produced on quality paper. The Arabic printing is small, but clear. If the editors can select themes of equal interest for future volumes and can keep the needs of a broad academic and scholarly readership in mind, Mundus Arabicus should become an important and lasting journal in the field.

J. Dennis Hyde  
University of Pennsylvania Library

Rahāvard. Beverly Hills, CA.: The Society of the Friends of the Persian Culture, 1982-

The beginning of the Iranian Revolution in 1979 was, quantitatively speaking, a period of intensive periodical publishing. Since the Revolution took hold, there has been a gradual deterioration in the Iranian publishing situation, in general, and the Iranian periodical publishing, in particular. Such prestigious Persian periodicals as Sukhan, Hunar va mardum, Barrasīhā-yi tarīkhī, Nāmah-i Anjuman-i Aṣār-i Millī and the others have discontinued and been replaced by religio-political and polemical publications of various ideological groups within the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among the hardest hit have been the literary periodicals which were often the forums



for literary exchanges as well as expressions of social and cultural conditions in the country.

Iranians who exiled themselves voluntarily or who were forced to take residences in West Europe and North America are deeply feeling the literary and cultural voids created by the Iranian revolutionary process and have attempted to fill in the gap by publishing themselves without being influenced by the pro-or anti-Khmanyni groups. Ārā', Irān-i imrūz, Irān-i azād, Irān pust, Iran tribyūn, Iran ripurt, Iran niyūz, Irān va jahān, Pardīs, Payām-i āzādī, Payām-i Irān, Payvand, Rāh-i zindagī and Millat-i bidār all claim to be aiming at the immigrant Iranians, without any ties with supporters or opposers of the Iranian Regime. However, a review of many of these publications reveals that they are not free from political prejudices; and the language they have been using has sometimes been obscene and even vulgar.

Rahavārd, a new Persian periodical started under the editorship of Hasan Shabbāz in April 1982 by the Society of the Friends of the Persian Culture introduces itself as being the publication of a society which could preserve the Iranian culture by bringing together the patriotic Iranians, by establishing a library of Persian language and literature and by mounting exhibitions on Iranian art and civilization. It invites Iranian scholars to contribute articles and comments, assuring them of complete neutrality from any and all ideological, political and religious leanings.

The first issue is in 122 pages consisting of 33 contributions. Contents are predominantly literature and art interspersed with biographical and bibliographical notes on Iranian and American men and women of letters as well as well-known scientific and historical figures of the world. There are two scientific articles and one book review. An obituary section on Iranian scholars and scientists and world's renowned Orientalists is the concluding part.

Rahavārd is a welcome addition to the list of periodicals published outside Iran. Its physical features are attractive because of good illustrations, fine printing and high quality paper befitting Beverly Hills where it is printed. It would perhaps be better if it concentrated more on the Persian philology, literature and art rather than including scientific and foreign materials. Also, some kind of a narrower subject arrangement might make its contents more focused and sequential than they appear in this issue. All in all, a timely and well-balanced Persian periodical for the two million or more Iranian immigrants

and foreign students and scholars yearning to maintain their ties with the Iranian literary developments and cultural heritage.

Abazar Sepehri  
Middle East Collection  
University of Texas Libraries

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

KAY RITCHIE, formerly Near East cataloger at the University of Arizona, is now assistant editor of the Near East Union List, Library of Congress. DONA STRALEY, formerly Near East cataloger at Ohio State University, is now Near East cataloger at the University of Arizona. FRANCINE MCNULTY has resigned her position as Near East cataloger in the Middle East Department of Harvard College Library in order to attend law school at Georgetown University. RIAZ AHMAD has departed from the Oriental Collection of the University of Arizona Library in order to become head of the al-Jawf Regional Library in Sakaka, Saudi Arabia. SARAH ÖZTURK is now cataloging Ottoman and modern Turkish materials at the Library of Congress. FAWZI ABDULRAZAK recently returned from a trip to South America on behalf of Harvard College Library and Dar Mahjar. In Argentina, he received a collection (504 volumes) of rare mahjar publications which were presented as a gift to Harvard's Middle East collection by Ilyas Konsul. DARRIN DARIUSH GITSETAN has joined the catalog department of the California State University Library in Northridge, California. He has received a research grant from the university to compile a bibliography concerning politics and government in Iran during the Pahlavi dynasty. JIM "Index Islamicus" PEARSON continues to enjoy a surprisingly active retirement of bibliographic projects and travel. During January and February 1982, he worked in Cairo on a supplement to Creswell's Bibliography of the architecture, arts, and crafts of Islam which will be published within the next two years. As collection development advisor, he traveled in the spring to United Arab Emirates University in al-Ain. His current projects include a revision of Wainwright and Matthews' Guide to western manuscripts and documents in the British Isles relating to South and South East Asia to be out in 1983 and a collaboration with WOLFGANG BEHN on Index Islamicus: books, 1976-1980.

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- A-Dup 465 Bâtinî, Muhammad Rıza. Ghahâr Guftâr Dar Zabân. 1976.
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- A-Dup 468 Yurdatap, Selâmi Münir. Büyük: Resimli Âşık Garip Hikâyesi. 1966.
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