

# MELA Notes

Number 2

April, 1974

## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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Publications Committee, 1974  
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## Introducing Cooperation

The speaking of that noun to a friendly company of like-minded librarians has caused many a ripple of ambivalent coughs, and no little spilled tea! Cooperation comes among us as a pressing need, yet bristling with problems as a hungry porcupine. Often a gregarious noun, it misses few if any local, special or national library conferences. But when not about, sometimes it may be viewed in dour splendor in the office marked "Cave," solemnly pondering the alternative.

In 1973 MELA President Bruce Craig reported general membership concern with cooperation in our Middle East librarianship, and he recommended that serious attention be given to this "noun." The need for communication with our library community was also pointed up in the President's report, and this was further developed in the 1973 Program.

In 1974 cooperation and communication deserve not only attention, but also some adjustment and continuing interaction. You may be surprised to note the strength of consensus here. Underworked librarians there are none, and overworked collections, these are few. Like all treasuries, our assets must first be protected from damage or loss. Then, without too much turn-around time for technical processing, they must be put to work in the community. The payoff in "interest" generated must be enough to make cooperation a long-term happy thought to librarians of strong and weak collections equally. Our colleagues in modern British and German academic libraries have found ways to do so. The "noun" is in our midst as a pressing need.

J.W.P.

#### ASSOCIATION CHRONICLE - 1973-74

By Martha Dukas

Annual Meeting - 1973. Thirty-one members attended MELA's second annual meeting on Thursday, 8 November 1973, at the Marc Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. President Bruce Craig chaired the Business Meeting, at which John Eilts and Richard Cooper were elected President and Vice President, respectively, and dues of U.S. \$ 4.00 were approved for 1974. Prior to the Business Meeting, Vice President George Atiyeh chaired a panel discussion on "The Role of the Middle East Library in the Area Studies Program." Minutes of the Business Meeting and a summary of the Program were mailed to all members on 20 November.

Executive Boards - 1973 & 1974. The 1973 and 1974 Executive Boards each met once in Milwaukee, and Minutes of these sessions were also sent to members on 20 November. The 1973 Board authorized the Secretary-Treasurer to establish a bank account in Cambridge to hold MELA's anticipated treasury. The 1974 Board decided to invite Aida Abboud and Jalal Zuwiyya to join the Publications Committee and Margaret Anderson, Bruce Craig, and Frank Unlandherm to serve on the 1974 Program Committee.

Treasury. On 7 December 1973 an account in MELA's name was opened at the Cambridge Savings Bank. To date dues totalling \$ 144.00 have been deposited, thus enabling the Association to reimburse the Sesquipedalian Press and our Editor for expenses incurred in printing the first issue of MELA Notes and the Association's stationery, a total of \$ 76.61. Our current balance is \$ 67.27, including interest. A substantial number of members have not yet paid their dues for 1974. They are urged to send in a check or money order as soon as possible.

Program Committee. The Announcement of the 1974 Program is presented herein by Richard Cooper.

Publications Committee. The Editor and colleagues on the committees of 1973 and 1974 have been gratified by the cordial reception given MELA Notes 1.

As Number 2 is sent to the University of Michigan's Library Printing Department, with it go our thanks again for their comradely assistance. Association members and readers, please let us know informally and in formal essays about topics and lines of thought that your notes bring to mind. The more input, the more purposefully these fragile Notes travel.

A "Directory of Library Collections on the Middle East" has been published in the current issue of the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin (vol. 8, no. 1 (Feb. 1974) 22-44). This Directory has been a joint MESA-MELA publications project in which many members actively compiled statistics. As a first (ever?) concentrated listing it gives us a mere sketch of the scene, but it can be used to estimate comparative places as well. All collections are being developed steadily. Information could not be completed regarding some basic Middle East studies resource centers. An update on Michigan's holdings and the report of a new statistical control effort is in the Library Look-ins section of this number of MELA Notes. As for MELA's Publications Committee, we will have to look on the task of describing these Middle East library collections as a serially continued "documentary" account. -Ed.-

**Membership.** Twenty persons and institutions have joined MELA in the last six months. Our 36 Professional and 39 Associate Members now represent 55 institutions in 9 countries. Following is a list of new members and notice of changes in address and membership category.

New members:

- Mary H. F. Arnett (A) Bibliographer for History & Political Science, Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh, Oakland Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 Tel. 412-624-4423.
- Brenda Bickett (A) 536 South Forest, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
- Bobst Library (A) New York University, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012 Tel. 212-598-3750. Representative: Fathi Daif.
- Hooshang Ebrami (P) Director, Mulla Sadra Library, College of Arts & Sciences, Pahlevi University, Shiraz (Iran)
- Sandra L. Gallup (A) Cataloger of Religious Studies Materials, Rockefeller Library, Brown University, Box A, Providence, RI 02906 Tel. 401-863-2135
- Janet P. Heineck (A) 1152 Baldwin St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Tel. 313-663-4923
- Sandra T. Higel (A) Librarian, U.S.A.F. Base Library FL4684, Box 84-Postal Station A, Goose Bay, Labrador (Canada) Mailing Address: 95th Strategic Wing (SAC), APO New York 09677
- Edward A. Jajko (P) Near East Bibliographer-Cataloger, Yale University Library, SML 111, New Haven, CT 06520 Tel. 203-436-4608.
- Seid Karic (A) Head Slavic Catalog Librarian, Indiana University Library, Bloomington, IN 47401 Tel. 812-337-7511.
- Catherina D. J. Kingma (A) Engineering and Architecture Librarian, American University of Beirut, Beirut (Lebanon) Tel. 340740, ext. 2630.
- Miroslav Krek (A) Head, Acquisitions Department, Brandeis University Library, Waltham, MA 02154 Tel. 617-647-2522.
- Horace Kurdy (P) Middle Eastern Librarian, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1 (Canada) Tel. 416-928-8806.
- Caroline S. Morris (A) Librarian, Pennsylvania Hospital Medical Library, 8th & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107 Tel. 215-829-3998.

Perpustakaan - Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia National University of  
Malaysia Library, (A) Peti Surat 1124, Jalan Pantai Baru, Kuala Lumpur  
22-12 (Malaysia) Representative: Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin.

Jean C. Pelletiere (A) 3030 Smyth Road, Berkeley, CA 94720  
Tel. 415-843-9588.

Abazar Sepehri (P) Librarian, Dropsie University Library, Broad & York  
Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19132 Tel. 215-BA9-0110.

Ahmad Sharkas (A) 18 Amory Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Robert L. Singerman (P) Judaica Librarian, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Insti-  
tute of Religion, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220  
Tel. 513-221-1875.

Carol A. Strauss (A) General Reference Room, McKeldin Library, University  
of Maryland, College Park, MC 20742.

Nassif Youssif (P) Head of the Middle East Library, Wilson Library,  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 Tel. 612-373-7804.

Changes of address and/or membership category:

Michael W. Albin (P)

Margaret Anderson (A) Tel. 416-928-7095.

Hollis B. Granoff (A)

Patricia P. Kinchlow (A) 1105 Griffin Street, New Albany, IN 47150.

Joel A. Hettger Navy Department Library, Bldg. 220, Room 220, Washington,  
DC 20374.

News of the Members. Joel A. HETTGER has left his post as Acquisitions  
Librarian in the U.S. Department of Labor Library to become Chief of Techni-  
cal Processing at the Navy Department Library in Washington, DC.

Nassif YOUSSEF succeeded Bruce CRAIG as Head of the University of Minnesota's  
Middle East Library when the latter took up his new position at the University  
of Chicago. David H. PARTINGTON, Middle East Librarian in the Harvard College  
Library, attended the librarians' panels at the annual meeting of the Associ-  
ation for Asian Studies, held in Boston, April 1 - 5. Derek HOPWOOD, Secre-  
tary of MELCOM, has visited a number of Middle Eastern collections and MELA  
members in the U.S. this Spring. He is teaching two courses in Middle Eastern  
history this semester as a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsyl-  
vania while on leave from his position of Middle Eastern Bibliographer in  
St. Antony's College, Oxford University.

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

By John Eilts and Richard Cooper

President's Message. This year has been an important and optimistic  
one for MELA. We have received international publicity in the library  
world. We are also receiving recognition and encouragement from outside the  
library world.

The most notable encouragement has been from the Social Science Research  
Council. They have asked us to submit a proposal for a workshop on coopera-  
tion in Middle East librarianship. The areas defined in our preliminary  
proposal were: 1) Bibliographic control -- cooperative cataloging;  
2) Publication of National Union Catalog; 3) Cooperative microfilming  
projects; 4) Computer usages, bibliographies and networks.

Our Vice President has also been concentrating on these problems and others and has planned an all-day conference concerning these matters. He will be giving you more information on this.

The coming year looks like an important one for our Association. I believe that the membership of MELA is ready and willing to contribute the time and energy necessary to make all cooperative projects work.

John Eilts

1974 MELA Program. Your Program Committee, consisting of Margaret Anderson, Bruce Craig, Frank Unlandherm and the undersigned, has decided to replace the traditional panel during the MESA meetings with an all-day workshop to be held at Harvard's Lamont Library on 6 November 1974, the day before the MESA meetings begin in Boston.

The theme of the workshop will be "Options in cooperative Middle East librarianship" with the morning session devoted to exploring areas of cooperation in acquisition and collection development. Margaret Anderson will direct the afternoon session, concerned with bibliographic control.

Frank M. McGowan of the PL 480 Program will be joining us for a discussion. Martha Dukas will give us a report on the Harvard serials project. Other topics that have been proposed for discussion are: shared cataloging; who collects what in the face of restricted budgets; shared microfilming projects, e.g., newspapers; centralized bibliographic control in the expectation of computerized access.

The Program Committee solicits your suggestions, and especially invites the presentation of papers or reports germane to the theme of cooperation. We ask that in the intervening time, each librarian evaluate the resources and needs of his/her institution. Even if we all come prepared to make specific commitments, one day will not be enough time to set up any kind of mechanism. Our aim will be to form into one-year study committees, and prepare a program for adoption at the 1975 Louisville meetings.

Thanks to the efforts of David Partington, the Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies will provide a luncheon for us at the Faculty Club. Rooms will be available at the Faculty Club, but for those wishing to stay close to MESA activities in Boston, Harvard Square is 15 minutes by subway from the Statler Hilton.

Please communicate your suggestions, offers or questions to the undersigned, Collection Development Office, The General Library, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94705. Inquiries specifically about the afternoon session may be sent directly to Prof. Margaret Anderson, Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A1 (Canada).

Richard S. Cooper

## ADDRESSES, ESSAYS, LECTURES

Center Program Research and the Middle East Librarian,

by Kenneth Allan Luther

This is not to be a systematic attempt to deal with all aspects of the Center's relationship with its bibliographers. Rather, what I have to say consists of some observations concerning the conditions which affect that relationship and some suggestions for what I believe would be a better and more fruitful relationship. What I have to say is the result of the modest experience I have had with bibliographical work in the form of attempts to inaugurate an automated bibliography and some service in the administrative end of a center's work.

For my own purposes, in the role of a scholar working in a center program, I have my own way of visualizing what the ideal bibliographical and collection resources would be like in the ideal center. In such a place bibliographical resources are up-to-date and exhaustive--in an automated system which allows instant search and retrieval, as well as display facilities which allow rapid bibliographical "browsing." The collection itself is so complete that it allows a wide range of research and research planning to be done locally, leaving travel to the Near East to a relatively advanced stage of the research project--or making such travel largely unnecessary for the formation of the data base. Foreign travel would be much more for increasing language competence and for fruitful discussion of the heart of problems with researchers in the Near East. Imagine how much more effectively we could use our time if we could tell quickly what was being done on any topic and where. One could plan dissertation research, individual faculty research and broader project research much more effectively, for at present, in spite of the bibliographical aids currently available, it is very difficult to have a really definitive view of what is being done all over the world at the moment. And this makes it difficult to decide what really needs to be done or how to go about it.

To return to the collection itself, imagine what it would be like to actually have a wide enough range of materials, from facsimiles of MSS to a whole range of the publications of Near Eastern governments, with all the relevant secondary literature in between, to allow enough local, preliminary research so as to be able to form truly sound judgments about the value and feasibility of a project as well as the time required to complete it. In some cases U.S. center collections allow such research on some topics. In many cases they do not. Everyone is aware of projects which had to be sharply modified or even scrapped after arrival in what people like to call "the field," a term which still connotes the business of going out to the area to scour up a set of data which will then be worked over back home in carrel or study. In fact, the countries which make up our "field" are developing sophisticated centers for research into their own problems which call for a careful bibliographical accounting of their work rather than counting their productions as part of some "data base." The ideal center collection would immediately enable the researcher to familiarize himself with all the work going on in the Near East itself and form the basis for his half of a dialogue with interested colleagues in the Near East.

The ideal center, as I have already indicated, does not exist. Even the best collections fall short of such goals in terms of bibliographic resources and materials. There are many examples of time wasted as a result, trips to

the Near East made for the wrong purpose or used up before really good results can be obtained--research projects written and accepted without a thorough grounding in what is already in progress elsewhere.

Of course, centers have bibliographical sections which wrestle with the problem. There are some acquisition funds and personnel, but in many cases neither the limited acquisition funds nor the personnel are being used to the best advantage. It seems to me that the librarians are in many cases unable to develop good working relationships with the researchers. They are usually "over in the library" and often saddled with a host of routine chores such as cataloging, entangled in the coils of the general library bureaucracy, and responsible for all sorts of subsidiary functions. They usually lack sufficient time or assistance to deal successfully on all fronts with the extremely complex Middle Eastern bibliographical situation with its many languages, multitude of separate document-producing governments and legion of large and small printing houses. Again, ideally the Near East librarian should be working closely with faculty and graduate students shaping an acquisitions policy which best serves the needs of the research interests of the local Middle East research community. But he often cannot devote much time to such work. His staff is usually small, and both staff and acquisitions budgets are largely the result of expedient choices on the part of library administrations rather than the outcome of rational research and acquisitions planning. There is often little relationship between the demands of the real research frontiers in Middle Eastern studies and what library budgets are able to offer.

And it looks as if things are going to get worse. University general fund budgets in general do not seem to be able to keep pace with rising costs, and the library budget has been especially hard hit by the spiral. Added to this is the fact that prospects for special outside support from the federal government and the foundations are uncertain. There is a reluctance to continue categorical funding. Instead there is a tendency to offer the opportunity to compete for funds for various sorts of special projects which are less likely to provide general support for the library effort. Even if the present shaky level of federal support were to continue, it is doubtful that it would be sufficient to provide every center adequate library support for the careful, systematic research that the field demands. Things thus stand a good chance of remaining more or less hit or miss unless some way is found to make the whole job of bibliography and materials acquisition much more efficient, in such a way that Near East librarians become true partners in the research venture rather than library functionaries.

It might help to rationalize part of the work of the Near Eastern librarian on a national basis, centralizing some functions and redefining the task of the center library personnel. The important questions are, of course, what functions, where, and how can it be paid for.

Certainly centralized, continually updated bibliography, handled by people who specialize entirely in this task is possible. In my opinion it should be automated so as to allow electronic consultation by any center in the country. Whether there should be concomitantly a conventional card catalog is something that experience might indicate. It seems to me that the technical means exist for maintaining the whole national catalog electronically (with print-outs and machine-printed cards as insurance against loss), and they are not only in existence but have been perfected.

Accompanying a centralized bibliography should be a centralized cataloging unit, perhaps an extension of the Library of Congress, to assign

classification numbers to all entries in the bibliography. Any local center librarian would then only have to decide that an item should be included in the local collection. The book would arrive classified and ready to be put on the shelves.

How far beyond these functions a centralized unit should go in the business of centralizing ordering and purchasing is difficult to say, but, here again, there ought to be considerable gains in economy and efficiency of the centralized unit functioning as a central purchasing agent. Its bargaining position vis-a-vis booksellers and various sorts of serial-producing units would be much better than that of any single center unit.

With such functions largely centralized there would emerge two sorts of Near East librarians, those who elected to pursue a specialized career in the central unit and those who continued to serve as Near East librarians or bibliographers with the various centers. One envisions the latter spending much less time with routine library chores and much more time consulting and planning with the center researchers for the development of the local collection as well as the most economic ways to exploit other collections which the librarian's particular center had decided it did not need to duplicate. He would also have to become something of a specialist in the use of the electronic bibliographical aids, developing into a consultant who can serve local needs more efficiently by his ability to enter into a dialogue with the centralized bibliographic system. He should be able to help significantly in costing the materials aspect of any new planned research effort, from the price of books and document series, to the estimated cost of consulting or duplicating material in the Near East. In other words, if we have exhaustive knowledge of what is available, where it is, how much it would cost if it is for sale, and how to duplicate it if it is not. More intelligent decisions can be made, and the Near East bibliographer should (at the same time) have a more creative kind of job.

There are obvious questions about the location of such a unit, who is to be in charge of it and how much it would cost. It seems to me that it ought to be under Middle East Studies Association control, wherever it is located. Some parts of the operation might be most appropriately handled by the Library of Congress, but MESA control would be the clearest indication to everyone that its job would be to serve all possible clients interested in Middle Eastern studies. It would give the same signal to possible funding organizations that any support given to such a unit would give the widest possible assistance to the community of Middle Eastern scholars as a whole. It would seem reasonable that it should be located next to one of the major collections in a university which has the necessary automation equipment. Financial support should come through a combination of federal support, foundation grants and subscriber fees. The fees might vary according to the type of service required by centers and programs of varying size with different types of need. The larger centers, for example, would probably want to have the possibility of on-line connections once the bibliography is fully deployed. Smaller or more specialized units might find their needs satisfied with periodic print-outs of various sorts. Fully developed, the catalog could be the source for all kinds of special bibliographies for elementary and secondary programs, extension services, etc. Storage of data for outreach and the preparation of such special bibliographies could be another function of this central unit.

One might go on and on with such fantasies, but to summarize, one has to admit both that many Middle Eastern librarians are not allowed by the present



nature of their jobs to contribute all that they can to the development of center research projects and that the financial prospects for better support of the present fragmented set-up are not at all good. To try and get around this situation, it seems worthwhile to me to seriously consider turning some work over to a centralized system which would reduce or hold down costs and increase faculty and librarian efficiency, allowing the librarians to turn to a more creative and challenging kind of librarianship.

Kenneth Allan Luther is Director of the Center for Near Eastern and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. This paper and the one following were read at the 1973 MELA Program at Milwaukee. Two other presentations were reported in summary form to members by the Secretary.

At the close of Professor Luther's talk, a demonstration print-out of citations from the Iranian Titles Search Program was obtained on a portable terminal via telephone link with Michigan's Computing Center. The machine selected 19 titles keyed by the words "dissertation" or "bibliography" of 603 titles scanned. The first six citations (abbreviated here) were:

Clinton, J W et al. On the feasibility of an automated bibliography of Iranian studies (Bbl)

Destree, A L'ouverture de la Perse a l'influence europeenne sous les rois safavides... (Bbl)

Abaev, V I et al. Profilo grammaticale de osseto letterario moderno (Bbl)

Rehder, R McC Hafiz: an introduction (Princeton, 1970) (Diss)

Poppe, N Jr A critical survey of studies of Turkic loan words in Russian (Indiana, 1968) (Diss)

Yamauchi, E M Mandaean incantation texts (Brandeis, 1964) (Diss)

The Role of the Middle East Library/Librarian in the University  
Area Studies Program, by James W. Pollock

When a farmer enters his henhouse to survey fowl play and retrieve a quota of produce he runs into a mild flap! When this provincial entered the study to write the forthcoming essay, a mild flap arose over the exact form of the title, especially for me over the words library or librarian in the title. Since the official publications of MESA and MELA differed in the announcement, I concluded that it was merely a case of parallax perception, that shifted what I saw from side to side depending on which eye was winking. This deep thought bubbling up dislodged others which also rose to remind me that I was always going to proclaim to someone that a library without a curator-librarian was an impossible situation! And never more so than in area studies. Therefore, both words, library and librarian, are right and necessary in the title of this paper.

I would like to begin by quoting from MELA Notes 1 what Librarians George Atiyeh and David Partington have written: "It is hoped that this (general rather than specialized panel topic) will help clarify for us the directions toward which we could direct our path." "I hope that through MELA a sense of community will develop among us, and that a clearer idea of our proper role in the advancement of knowledge will be achieved." (No. 1, p. 9, 11) Let us consider what may be our common roles--for us librarians and our "bookish" friends.

I The Library Community comes in for professional service in area studies.

The library community wants stimulus and satisfaction when it meets the Area Studies Librarian. This is the person who can make the collection called a library into something responsive and thought provoking. Every book lover is a potential librarian and scholar. But academics full of cynicism and hostility, whether they pose as librarians or as professors, are repulsive to the inquiring and knowing mind. In this paper the "successful public relations" goal, that every profession has, will decide which sides of the square tiles of my argument are kept uppermost as they are fitted into the flooring of our librarians' shop-talk. This metaphor is intended to alert us to the task of competent handling of the very stick-y situations that underlie every squarely stated proposition.

A Energy, money and time are well spent to provide needed area study materials. Who will deny this? University budget officers, of course; and they can prevent further spending, and in some of our cases they will. It is impossible to me as an area librarian to understand a total lack of interest or investment in any part of the universe of knowledge and inquiry. The normal way should be to use energy, money and time generously to serve the library community. I will not do this without limit, however, and not all the written and printed treasures of the world can be obtained, cataloged or circulated by my library. Yet bona fide effort in measurable quantity is the first element of our proper role in the advancement of knowledge. In a large library this often means plenty of industrious legwork. Many reference tools are owned in just one copy due to money and space limitations. They must be centrally located and available always. Even if it takes a five minute walk, an acquisitions librarian, a cataloger, or a reference person must not be afraid of going "beyond the blue horizon"--of their own office to clarify or verify a bit of knowledge.

We are fortunate these days because of the advances of library and information science. We have marvelous bibliographic tools. It is becoming clear that the non-thinking computer will do much to speed our advance. How to use it is a large question being studied everywhere. Certainly it will be easier to hunt and find information, and to correlate sets of facts. The effort that goes into good cataloging will not be lost, but it need not be multiplied many times over for the same title. The computer may speed, yet the programming time must be counted in. They say that often travel time by air between distant cities is less than ground travel time from airport to hotel or home. Will our new machines remind us of this? It is my conviction that a good librarian's mind is more flexible and portable, and a much more precious computer than any that will be on the market. Where that excellent service is available, a well selected smaller collection will satisfy information and study needs better than a huge but poorly attended agglomeration.

B Reasonable uses of the library's research assets are made easy by the best librarians. And, everyone's access rights are protected without timidity. This aggressive "friendliness," or "teeth-baring," whatever your last experience may want to call it, is motivated by various jets of flame, mostly externally applied energy!

The library community is proud of its open stacks and generous loan terms, for instance. Since the community owns the library, political pressure requires it to be open to all. I agree there is value in having research treasures easily available. Indeed, in the financial world, more and more

banks are moving in the direction of rapid and easy access to money-money-money, on your credit card. It has been a tiresome argument of mine that libraries could learn more from banks about how to promote access to books, and also to increase respectful care for and use of these tangible assets of culture. Not all libraries have this open tradition, and I do not think the question should be automatically settled in its favor.

Protection of valuable materials and of equal access rights to users of the library calls for patient firmness and the best type of modern electronic aids. We are not surprised to learn that the high cost of such hardware is soon paid for by a drop in book losses. One suspects that most patrons rely on library security for their own protection. Financial, legal and political pressures force libraries to think hard of better ways to combine access and security. A percent of loss is taken for granted, and book replacement costs have their place in the budget.

For the area collections, microfilming and xeroxing are easier ways of replacing a missing item than is a search for another original copy. Microfilming is useful in saving space, and in increasing security of the titles held. In our observation, most of the entire library community will courteously observe the ground rules for harmonious neighborly living. One learns to recognize the difference between a developed and an undeveloped mentality of concern for improving the quality of the intellectual and personal environment of scholarly enterprise. The librarian rejoices in the company of a real bibliophile researcher. Sadly, one must also discern a lesser interest that may carry away the situation, in more ways than one.

These two foregoing considerations are basic good householding attitudes, namely, the effort to provide and vigilance to protect. These must be included in the librarian's role in area studies service as elsewhere. The university program cannot do without these two factors.

C Parallaxic perception of controversial issues is possible if there is intellectual freedom. In library school we learned that a librarian's duty is to provide study materials on both sides of controversial issues so that library users would be able to understand a problem more clearly. Efforts to fulfill this duty have run into opposition on different occasions.

Some nights ago, on October 27th (1973) TV reporter Harry Reasoner was telling of his visit to the war fronts of the Middle East. He said that in 1967 he made a similar trip, and then gave a series of lectures around the U.S. In one meeting the host rabbi asked him what his views were on the Middle East, before inviting questions from the audience. The rabbi reacted with a shock and exclaimed "What!" when Mr. Reasoner replied that as usual he found there were two sides to the question. This is what is meant by parallaxic perception. Where there is intellectual freedom, every library patron will have the opportunity and the privilege of looking at situations from different viewpoints. Things no longer are flat and one-sided. They gain third and fourth dimensions, and make people think more fruitfully.

The Israel-Palestine discussion and controversy is generating so much library material one is open to charges of bias no matter what is selected. It is a useful project, I think, to collect the publications of groups who have been working for several years to influence U.S. public opinion on the topic. Not much, for instance, is known about the work and views of anti-Zionist Jews in the U.S. and in Israel. Various Christian groups in Europe and North America declare their concern for the Middle East and take different positions. It is certainly not fomenting controversy to collect and preserve these records. They will help some to look backwards, and the more courageous students will use them to look forward.

Man was born to perceive a three-dimensional natural environment. Mental activity and the written records of it awake a knowledge of other dimensions--time and interacting relationships. Therefore, I say that the librarian's role in the difficult arena of area studies is to provide opportunities for and to promote such wakefulness and fuller mental activity. Careful book reviews tell the story, and how curious it is, that even in university offices, not to mention business, government and the press, crudely Cyclopean arguments, explanations and theories are constructed and printed and sold to those who buy.

D "Untranslatable" material or situations may be transparently "explained" or "re-created." The area studies librarian has a pleasantly glamorous role to play as well as the bruising job of refereeing between the community and the collection. When the inscrutable East comes up with an unreadable play, or ploy as the case may be, panic-panels are leaned on in several library departments: "Calling area studies, calling area studies!" Plumber's kit and plumber's helper in dusty hands the area studies librarian looks into the puzzle. It may be a circulation record done in the vernacular, or a garbled citation--known in computerese as "gar-bage," or an antique French mode of romanization that awfully stills the library apparatus. If you have not heard of the "Rarb" section of Morocco (spelled RARB), try changing the spelling to GHARB. The job may require handling ambiguities by methods analogous to electron microscopy in order to picture and identify the puzzle. We are all intrigued by the difficulties and mysteries of translation work. And we are all aware that alphabets and languages are codes that transparently communicate to some and opaquely frustrate mental effort for others. This code function gives a form and period of security for cultures or writers that do not favor universal communication. The work of cross-cultural study then comes up with locally acceptable synonyms for translation such as "interpretation," "explanation," and "re-creation." History's fast-rolling fog of oblivion pursues and overtakes writers in dialect and slang. Important forms of abbreviation long forgotten require a lot of "re-creation." We may set out to read the unreadable and "unscrew the inscrutable" (as an unread cleric has been quoted) for a patron or library colleague, but there are times when the friendly area studies librarian has no more to give than friendship, if the problem of meaning that is stumbled upon is farther out than scholarship has yet reached. So much for the claims of the library community upon the area studies library/librarian.

## II The Library Collection truly reflects an area--overseas.

As suggested earlier, the area studies librarian can be roughly described as a referee between claims of the library community and orderly growth of the library collection. That is, the specific roles needing action can be grouped under such a title, "Referee." The library community must be served, and the library collection must be developed; and a balance of interests must be kept.

A The general guidelines of collection development followed by research libraries are used by the area studies library. They insure that this division of a total research collection will prove as relatively satisfying to its special users as any other division will do for its own. They serve as reminders to the area librarian in performing his work, and in explaining to members of the library community what the policy and the priorities of the collection development effort are. A brief review of these is useful I believe.

1) The university curriculum emphasis gets systematic coverage. Several research libraries collecting books to support similar study programs will doubtless end the year reporting hundreds of the same titles to the National Union Catalog. But the coverage will not be duplicated entirely, because courses are described and taught differently, and because scholars are not duplicates of each other. A wise university administration provides library money along with instructional commitments. When it does not, the courses or department set up will not flourish unless another section of the curriculum is cannibalized. Year-to-year healthy growth of an area department or program calls for good communication and relations with the area studies library. The librarian is ready to do a good job of support, and may already have obtained the needed materials.

2) Individual research strengths are kept up as well as possible. Reliable scholars who devote their careers to an institution deserve a librarian's best energies to provide their study needs. These special interest collections that grow up around individual research programs, and are intelligently continued by wise selection, someday will be proudly listed in a library directory. At first glance they may seem to be a private luxury at the library's expense. Perhaps some of them are that. But in the main we librarians have reason to be grateful for the nuclei of contagious enthusiasm we know among our teaching counterparts. These friendships and the proper nurture of the collections make librarianship a pleasure as well as an arena of satisfying work.

3) Non-emphasized subjects need basic and representative coverage. A librarian is sometimes tempted to believe that the university's curriculum was drawn up by an erudite gerrymander. And sometimes the adjective cannot be applied. This part of collection building may also be compared to the work assigned to student painters when the primary artist was done. (It was in the Middle Ages, I believe.) Vacant portions of the canvas might be filled in with clouds, trees, a castle or whatever landscape the master ordered. In the Middle East no traveler should go too far from a water supply. And in collection building no large gaps should be allowed to spread out in subject coverage, lest a scholar perish in search of information that is not there.

B Middle East specifics must now concern us as we wind up this monologue on the role of the area studies library/librarian in the university program. A group of proposals will be laid down here into our floorwork, and I shall stand on them.

1) Linguistic populations suggest a proportionate collection growth. I would leave it as a suggestion, and let population pressure do the rest. The linguistic populations of the Middle East as of about 1970 are these: 118 million Arabic speaking, 3 million Hebrew, 44 million Persian, and 36 million Turkish. These totals were gathered from the 1971-72 volume of The Middle East and North Africa. I once stated this proportionate picture as a policy guideline in a writeup in our Indiana University Library Newsletter (Jan., 1970). The idea was greeted as slightly ridiculous by a teaching colleague in our Near East Area Program. He commented to the effect that such a policy implied that maybe we should all learn Chinese! The sequel was all bad news. A year and a half later (July, 1971) this librarian discovered that Indiana had already demoted Near East Studies from area program to language department status. A new East Asian Institute and area program had been formed, and our book fund had donated \$2000 to begin an account for them. When it comes to population pressure in library situations, we of the Middle East are a poor match for the East and South

Asians, as David Partington has related concerning ALA (MELA Notes 1, p. 10).

The scholarly book production of the Middle East is not exactly proportionate to the millions of people, but it remains suggestive of what the library collection should reflect. We must build our libraries in terms of what we need to know about the real world out there. It is exactly here that a well-meaning perhaps, but myopic library community may try to retire or disengage the referee librarian's hand from achieving a good collection true to the area it represents. Parallax perception in this and every situation brings confusion and distress until a healthy resolution of clear vision comes through to the united effort of the mind.

2) Matrix cultures are recognized as dynamic influences. The definition of its historical scope that the Middle East Studies Association has taken (and MELA likewise) tends to suggest a clean breakaway surface line where the matrix cultures meet the molten ingot. We know that Latin, Hebrew, Berber, Coptic, Nubian, Sabeian, Syriac, Persian and Indic cultures, and more than these, intermingled and often struggled with the citizens of Submission ("Islam" and its empire) who spoke Arabic. In the 1972 MESA Conference a most interesting paper was read on the social conditions of the Christian communities of Iraq in the first decades and centuries of Islam (Michael Morony: "Religious communities in Umayyad Iraq."). "Tell us, what are your sources?" was one of the first marveling questions. The reader replied, "The Syriac sources." I was glad that I had been surreptitiously buying a few Syriac titles--to give a certain "exotic" tinge to our workaday Arabic, Hebrew and Persian! Serious consideration needs to be given to buying as much as we can find of research materials from these matrix-womb cultures. Cataloging should not be a problem, as they usually have European title pages. Hebrew is not a matrix culture exactly, rather a cognate one, an age-long sibling rivalry! Librarians have something to think about in the ancient term--"People of the Book"--that links Middle Eastern and our Western civilizations.

3) The dialogue within indigenous scholarship needs tracing as best we know how. The word "tracing" is an important signal word in the cataloger's vocabulary, as well as its ordinary meaning of "to follow the record of something." To the cataloger of course, it means that a card is put into the library catalog showing the name of a secondary contributor to a work, or one of the subjects. That name or subject is "traced" at the bottom of the main-entry card as a record of what cards in the complete set are filed for any particular book. (Thanks for reminding me of this "in-house" depth to the word are due Mary H. Stanger, Indiana's Catalog Librarian.) We at Indiana have been working away at the task of cataloging a collection of classical Arabic texts and commentaries with titles that are delightfully frank pedigrees. Texts and explanations and commentaries, then glosses and superglosses (like so many coats of paint!) follow down the title page sometimes in ornamental prose, and sometimes in an editor's weary abbreviation. The human factor in scholarship to some is more exciting in the long run than topics. Others react to ideas with their emotional charges as if they are reacting to a call to battle or to love. We People of the Book--that is, we librarians--consider what is written and bound up in books as all-important. But if no one opens and reads we feel that valuable effort has been lost. The reply in dialogue is what the writer really wants and seeks. This effort to think back and forth between persons, and between periods of time, and between cultures, is a "wild experience," in the sense of being greatly exhilarating. This enthusiastic discourse, sometimes bitter, sometimes jovial, is present in the best journals and books. We area studies people of the library are anxious

to "show and tell" the university populace that it is in the collection, and more of it is on the way. Let us stop now on this proposition: the proper role of an area studies library/librarian is to reveal the locus of enthusiastic and purposeful dialogue so that the university program stops, reads, and takes its place in that discourse.

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The Islamic Union Catalogue in Germany,

by Wolfgang Behn

After the war German Islamicists were faced with continuing a tradition which had suffered considerably from the cultural Weltanschauung of the Nazi period and the consequences of the war. In recognition of the disappearance of several excellent research collections on account of war-time destruction, the German Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and other foundations made resources available to accelerate the re-building of Oriental library collections.

The Islamic collections were thus systematically built up since the early sixties by means of a methodical selection policy with outside grants. This applies particularly to the Staatsbibliothek Marburg/Berlin and the libraries of the Universities of Munich and Tübingen which were designated resource centres (Sondersammelgebietsbibliotheken) for Oriental material. The library of the University of Tübingen more than any other collected a considerable quantity of current and antiquarian material in the field of Islamic studies so that it must now be considered the best collection in the country.

But since not all libraries could afford to collect on the same scale as the resource centres, inter-library loan became increasingly important. Of course, this presupposes an efficient union catalogue. Germany, however, has no national union catalogue; the seven regional union catalogues (1) have to fulfill this function. Unfortunately, because of the difficulties of handling and incorporating Islamic material in the union catalogues, this literature has never been recorded centrally. Thus, it became advisable to establish a separate catalogue solely for material published in the Arabic script and for Turkish publications. (2) At the moment the following institutions regularly report their acquisitions to the Islamic Union Catalogue (Zentralkatalog für Orientalia „ZKO“) which is maintained by the Orientabteilung of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin: Deutsche Staatsbibliothek (East) Berlin; Seminar für Orientalistik, Ruhr-Universität Bochum; Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt; Seminar für Sprachen und Kulturen Nordafrikas Giessen; Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen; Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg; Universitätsbibliothek Mainz; Staatsbibliothek München; Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen.

The formal origin of the Islamic Union Catalogue dates back to the 24th International Congress of Orientalists held in 1957 in Munich, when at a meeting of German Orientalist librarians the dissatisfaction with the existing regional union catalogues became apparent. In order to get at the root of the problem, Islamic librarians also worked out cataloguing rules for Islamica which were ultimately published by Ewald Wagner in 1961. (3)

These rules were intended to ensure uniform cataloguing; since however the rules were not adopted unanimously but only by the majority of the committee members, the application was left to the discretion of individual librarians. Thus even with Wagner's rules there is still no uniformity in Islamic cataloguing. This means that uniform headings have to be typed on practically every card before it can be filed.

The problem of recording the holdings of different institutions is further aggravated by the use of various transliteration schemes. The major problem being the letter ya' which is transliterated "j" by some, and "y" by others. However, the Deutsche Normenausschuss (German Committee for Standardization) is currently attempting to tackle this problem in cooperation with the German-language countries in a meeting to be held in Basel at the end of 1973. But it is doubtful that such an organization shall solve the problem of the Ottoman Turkish transliteration. At the moment it would seem that a German version of Eleazar Birnbaum's scheme (4) shall be followed, if not by the library of the Prussian Culture Foundation, at least by the Islamic Union Catalogue.

The character of the Islamic Union Catalogue has changed since its inception. In view of a future printing of the Catalogue, (5) the guide-card system had to be abandoned. As an innovation all references are listed on authority cards which precede the entries (similar to the practice of the Catalog of the Oriental Institute Library, University of Chicago). This has the advantage that all references, which were previously not recorded anywhere, can now be traced. In addition, the bibliographic source used to establish the main entry is recorded on the front of the authority card in an abbreviated form.

Not only has the form changed, but also the quantity of the references has been increased, although only for publications in the Arabic alphabet. Thus, modern Turkish writers are treated like their western counterparts who usually have no reference from the full form of the name. As a rule at least one reference from the complete name (excluding, however, the kuryah) has been provided for all the others, but in many instances many more have been supplied, depending on the complexity of the name.

The Catalogue contains currently some 20,000 main entries (6) of publications in Islamic languages or of publications in western languages with an Islamic subtitle. Some 4,000 acquisitions are annually reported to the Catalogue by the German libraries. As a rule, secondary literature is not recorded. The Catalogue is arranged alphabetically by author. A complementary catalogue, arranged alphabetically by title, is maintained by the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek (East) Berlin.

The present function of the Islamic Union Catalogue is as follows: If a request for an Islamic publication cannot be filled by the user's library, it is first referred to the designated resource centre (Sondersammelgebietsbibliothek). Thus, for example, requests for Islamica go for a first check to the University of Tübingen Library. Only if the title is not in their collection either, is the request referred to the union catalogue in Berlin. This cumbersome procedure is necessary because the Islamic Union Catalogue contains only works acquired after the establishment of the Catalogue in 1957. But any request directed at Berlin is automatically checked against the extensive holdings of the Library of the Prussian Culture Foundation (Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz), including the Oriental reading room collection, both of which, however, are strong only in older publications. After 1930 acquisitions diminished at an ever accelerating pace.



Material published before the inception of the Islamic Union Catalogue, if not located through the catalogue or the resource centre, still has to follow the time-consuming routine of checking the holdings of every potential collection.

Notes to this article. (1) ZK „Zentralkatalog, Baden-Württemberg, Bayerischer ZK, Hessischer ZK, Niedersächsischer ZK, Norddeutscher ZK, ZK Nordrhein-Westfalen, Berliner Gesamtkatalog.

(2) Although it might ultimately be desirable to record also holdings in the Turkic languages, this problem is less acute so long as most of the holdings in this field are concentrated in one library.

(3) E. Wagner. Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung von Druckschriften in den islamischen Sprachen. Wiesbaden: 1961.

(4) E. Birnbaum. "The transliteration of Ottoman Turkish for library and general purposes," in JAOS, 87 (1967) p. 122-156.

(5) Denkschrift zur Lage der Orientalistik. Ed. under the auspices of the Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft ... von Adam Falkenstein. Wiesbaden: 1960, p. 52.

(6) Estimate based partly on E. Wagner, "Zentralkatalog der Orientalia," in Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie, vol. 17, no. 1 (1970), p. 18-25.

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Some Observations on the Position of the Librarian in the Scholarly Establishment of Cairo During the Later Middle Ages; Data Yielded by Contemporary Biographical Sources,  
by Carl Petry

During a study of the 'Ulamā' of Cairo in the Ninth Hijri/Fifteenth Christian Century based on a computerized survey of two major biographical dictionaries, (1) I encountered 38 cases of individuals who had served as a librarian (khāzin al-kutub) at some time in their careers. To my knowledge very little is known about this office in any traditional Islamic context and even less about the social background of individuals who held it. Subsequent examination of the careers of these individuals revealed some striking personalities and political success stories rarely associated with persons engaged in the profession today.

The librarian, literally a "treasurer of books," did not appear frequently in the biographical sources examined and the nature of his duties do not suggest that the occupation was widespread. (2) Among the galaxy of religio-academic institutions functioning in Cairo during the fifteenth century, librarians were associated primarily with large collegiate mosques or madrasas, which enjoyed a substantial waqf endowment. These institutions were able to establish and maintain large book collections. Their founders often specifically designated in the waqf writ a portion of the funds they provided for purchasing a library.

The inordinate importance attached to encyclopedic absorption of a fixed literary and ideological corpus in Islamic education during the later Middle Ages rendered crucial the maintenance of this corpus. Since all textual materials had to be duplicated by hand, they were in limited supply

and very expensive. Relatively few scholars could afford to purchase many books for themselves and a private library represented a noteworthy capital asset. Indeed, if a scholar was obliged to sell even part of his library due to financial straits, this was viewed as a personal tragedy for him and a sign of his professional degradation. Therefore, since few individuals could themselves acquire the textual materials indispensable to their function, the responsibility for doing so fell to the religio-academic institutions and to the elites which endowed them.

The prestige factor involved in the maintenance of a library among these institutions was considerable. The Mamluks who were moved to provide them with vast sums of money and munificent endowments were eager to assemble book collections, even though few Mamluks could understand their contents. The limited supply of books becomes apparent after references in al-Maqrīzī (3) to controversies over the occasionally underhanded methods the Mamluks employed to acquire entire libraries immediately. They were willing to buy off a whole faculty in order to transfer a book collection to their own pet project, even if it were already supported by a waqf and dedicated to a specific madrasa.

The librarian's formal title denoted his primary function. He shared his modern counterpart's responsibility for guiding readers to the titles contained in the collection. But far more important was his role as guardian of the collection. The library was a treasure and he was its keeper. The librarian sought to enlarge the collection and to protect it from abuse or theft. He was fully aware of the value of books and regarded the collection under his care as a priceless capital asset. Librarians were often granted their position if they contributed their own books to a library or if they provided the nucleus of a new one. The position would seem to have been relatively respected and even prestigious, especially if an individual received an appointment to a major institution.

As a group, the librarians were represented in a wide range of occupations during their careers (See list of occupations following the article). They appeared in all six professional categories (4) in which the entire 'ulama' class of Cairo held positions throughout the century. This range of occupations suggests the various social backgrounds of these individuals, backgrounds which were exceedingly diverse. Viewed as a group, however, the majority of the librarians were professionally associated with religio-academic institutions throughout their careers. Several had held bureaucratic positions, usually prior to their appointments as caretakers of a book collection. Very few were engaged in the military-executive category of occupations, staffed primarily by Mamluks and their clients. However, we shall see that two individuals were descendants of Mamluks, an unusual social phenomenon. Few librarians had ever supported themselves in a skilled trade or by commerce. The legal and religious functionary categories were more substantially represented. Several librarians had received judgeships and simultaneously held posts as imāms or khaṭībs in large public-service mosques (as distinguished from the more specialized madrasas, which catered to the scholarly elites). The largest representation of positions appeared, predictably, in the scholarly-educational category. Several librarians had been teachers at either the elementary or the advanced level. However, they tended to differ from the true professorial class since a lesser percentage of them were involved in the judiciary.

Although the librarians as a group tended to be associated directly with religio-academic institutions throughout their careers, several of the individuals described in the biographical sources had risen to positions of considerable administrative and political influence. Several were eminent scholars. The famous exegete and legist, Ibn Ḥajar al-'Asqalānī, 1372-1449, (5) is widely known as perhaps the most prominent thinker in Cairo during the first half of the fifteenth century. Less widely known is the post he held as librarian in the wealthy Maḥmūdīya Madrassa located to the south of the Zuwayla Gate. (6)

One of the most powerful civilian politicians of the entire Mamluk period elected to terminate an extremely eventful, even tumultuous, career with a librarian's post. Nāṣir al-Dīn Muḥammad Ibn al-Bārizī, 1368-1420, (7) was born in Ḥamā to a prominent judicial family. He had already risen to the Shāfi'ī chief justiceship of Aleppo when he attracted the attention of the Mamluk viceroy, al-Mu'ayyad Shaykh. Nāṣir al-Dīn entered this powerful amīr's service and ultimately became his trusted associate. When al-Mu'ayyad Shaykh attained the sultanate, he appointed Ibn al-Bārizī his confidential secretary (kātib al-sirr), officially in charge of the documents bureau and unofficially intelligence chief of the Mamluk state. When al-Mu'ayyad Shaykh constructed his college mosque just north of the Zuwayla Gate, he appointed his confidential secretary its first librarian. Ibn al-Bārizī himself contributed 500 volumes to found the collection over which he was to preside, at a cost of 1000 dīnārs. (8) The case of Ibn al-Bārizī suggests that the position of a librarian, even if honorary, was a highly respectable way to retire from active political life.

The careers of several other librarians who were also successful financial controllers (nāzīrs -- extremely lucrative offices, often tainted with corruption and embezzlement), physicians, professors, imāms and khaṭībs could be outlined in detail to further substantiate the level of prominence accruing to certain individuals who held the office during this period. But more intriguing is the appearance of two individuals descended from members of the dominant Mamluk military elite. Nāṣir al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Qurqamās al-Aqtamurī, 1399-1478, (9) and Zayn al-Dīn Khidr ibn Shumāf al-Nūrūzī al-Khāṣṣakī al-Zāhirī, 1431-1490, (10) were both sons of Mamluk troopers. The fathers apparently never received or managed to retain any lucrative fiefs or posts they could leave to their sons, since both individuals were professionally active and received compensation only from positions associated with the civilian literary elite. Zayn al-Dīn al-Nūrūzī supported himself as a manuscript copyist (nāsikh) prior to his appointment as librarian in the prestigious Ṣarghatmashīya Madrasa (11) a major center for Hanafī scholars hailing from Syria and Anatolia. Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Aqtamurī seems to have risen from more humble circumstances, unusual for anyone with Mamluk connections and prerogatives. He worked as a weaver (habbak) in his youth prior to manuscript copying. He subsequently served as a shaykh and librarian in the mausoleum madrasa of Sultan Khushqadam. Al-Sakhāwī did not dwell on how al-Aqtamurī developed a personal friendship with the sultan but he definitely owed his posts to the relationship he managed to establish with the ruler. Both individuals received a moderate exposure to the traditional Islamic sciences during their youth, apparently as provided by their parents. The significant facts here are their identification with the civilian literary elite, probably due more to necessity than personal preference, and their positions as librarians.

The appearance of these two individuals in an occupation totally removed from the functions and prerogatives accruing to the Mamluk elite suggest that by no means all persons deriving from this elite were thereby separated from the activities of the 'ulama' class in Cairo.

In general, the pattern of occupations reported for the librarians appears to have delineated two differing statuses of tenure. Individuals of no outstanding personal qualities, social background or political acumen tended to rise up to a librarianship and to live from the modest compensation offered by such a post. They tended to remain in this position, which constituted their primary occupation, throughout the remainder of their careers. On the other hand, individuals who had risen to the zenith of society and whose impact on the literary elite was considerable usually accepted a librarianship as an honorarium, often during the final years of their careers. They usually possessed the means to contribute substantially to the library under their supervision.

Data available for the librarians concerning the sites of their professional activity in Cairo cannot be considered a true pattern. Rather, it may identify institutions which possessed libraries during the fifteenth century. Since the compilers of the biographical sources were not primarily concerned about the fortunes of persons engaged in this activity, they did not include everyone who held a librarianship in their works. Therefore, we cannot claim that the institutions noted represented the total number of collections. For example, the major collection housed in the Manṣūrīya Madrasa (the tomb of Sultan Qalā'ūn) (12) was not associated with any person who held the post in the biographical sources. Also, the larger groupings of references did not adhere to the order of rank and quality established in pattern surveys of other professional activities. For example, the khānqāhs and madrasas located in the vicinity of the Festival Gate Square (Bāb al-'Id) revealed a cluster of references but no concentration. In the madrasas along the Bayn al-Qaṣrayn, which constituted the major center of higher legal studies in the Mamluk state, only the Zāhirīya Madrasa was represented. Most of the institutions in these collegiate groups possessed famous libraries. Yet the evidence did not indicate the libraries they definitely possessed. Of the institutions located in the old Fātimid city, only the Ashrafiya Madrasa, founded by Sultan Barsbay, exhibited a concentration. There were no references whatsoever to al-Azhar.

Among the institutions of secondary rank, the Bāsiṭīya Madrasa exhibited the only other significant concentration of positions in the northeast. In the southeast among the amirate madrasas (institutions founded primarily by Mamluk amīrs), Maḥmūdiya stood out with the only concentration. Shaykhūniya, Sarghatmashīya and three other institutions were represented. In summary, the data available did establish the old Fātimid city in the northeast part of Cairo as the primary repository of book collections, since the majority of references to positions were located there. All the institutions which were designated enjoyed sufficient support from endowment to have maintained collections. Most of them were mentioned by al-Maqrīzī as repositories of collections. (13) Further generalizations are not in order since several prominent libraries were not designated.

To conclude this brief inquiry, I wish to stress the existence of the librarian's position in a pre-modern society which possessed highly literate classes. Scholarship and higher education in the central Muslim world during the later Middle Ages was predicated on the availability of manuscript source materials. Given their value and scarcity, collections of these materials

were monopolized in elitist religio-academic institutions. Their care and supervision were entrusted, indeed awarded, to persons who had either risen to modest status in the social hierarchy of the literary elite or who had attained wide renown in that hierarchy and were seeking a respectable means of retirement.

Notes to this article. (1) al-Sakhawi, al-Daw' al-lāmi' fi a'yān al-qarn al-tāsi' (Cairo, 1934); Ibn Taghribirdī, al-Manhal al-sāfi wa-al-mustawfi ba'da al-wāfi, First volume (220 biographies) in print (Cairo, 1956); remainder of the work in MS (Dar al-Kutub, Tārīkh: 1113).

(2) There were only 38 cases of librarians reported, out of some 4631 biographies surveyed and more than 1050 specific occupations.

(3) al-Maqrīzī, al-Muwā'iz wa-al-i'tibār fi dhikr al-khitāt wa-al-āthār (Bulaq, Cairo, 1853), vol. 2; for example, the case of Jamāliya Madrasa, pp. 401-403.

(4) The six professional categories were: I--Executive military, II--Bureaucratic (financial-secretarial), III--Legal, IV--Artisan-Commercial, V--Scholarly-Educational, VI--Religious functionary.

(5) al-Sakhāwī, Daw', vol. 2, p. 36, no. 104; Ibn Taghribirdī, Manhal, vol. 1 of MS, f. 102b.

(6) al-Maqrīzī, Khitāt, vol. 2, p. 395; 'Alī Mubārak, al-Khitāt al-Tawfiqiyyah al-jadīdah li-Misr al-Qāhira (Cairo, 1888), vol. 2, p. 34, vol. 5, p. 109, vol. 6, p. 14; K. A. C. Creswell, Map of Cairo showing Muhammedan monuments (Cairo, 1941), sec. 6-G, no. 118; idem., "A brief chronology of the Muhammedan monuments of Cairo," BIFAO, vol. 15 (1918), p. 117.

(7) al-Sakhāwī, Daw', vol. 9, p. 137, no. 350; Ibn Taghribirdī, Manhal, vol. 3, f. 255b.

(8) al-Maqrīzī, Khitāt, vol. 2, p. 120-121.

(9) al-Sakhāwī, Daw', vol. 8, p. 292, no. 812.

(10) Ibid., vol. 3, p. 178, no. 696.

(11) al-Maqrīzī, Khitāt, vol. 2, p. 403; 'Alī Mubārak, vol. 5, p. 38, vol. 6, p. 9; Creswell, Map, sec. 8-E, no. 218; idem., "Chronology", pp. 32-33.

(12) al-Maqrīzī, Khitāt, vol. 2, p. 379, 406.

(13) Ibid., pp. 362-405; section on madrasas.

Varieties of former or secondary occupations from which Fifteenth Century Cairo librarians were drawn.

Category I: Executive military. Total 2.

Murattib-Jawāfi (official in the bureau of minority tax receipts) 1 ;  
Khāṣṣakī (Mamluk amīr) 1 .

Category II: Bureaucratic (financial-secretarial) Total 19.

Shāhid (notary) 4 ; Kātib (secretary) 1 ; Kātib sirr (secretary of the chancellery) 2 ; Mubāshir (steward) 1 ; Mubāshir dīwān (steward in the financial bureau) 1 ; Mutakallim (spokesman, agent) 1 ; Muwaqqi' (clerk) 1 ; Muwaqqi' dīwān-inshā' (clerk in the documents bureau) 1 ; Muwaqqi' dīwān-wazīr (clerk in the Vizier's bureau) 1 ; Nā'ib-nāzir (assistant controller) 2 ; Nāzir (financial controller) 2 ; Nāzir-jaysh (controller of the army) 1 ; Nāzir-awqāf (controller of pious trust foundations) 1 .

Category III: Legal. Total 31.

'Aqd (Legal contract maker) 1 ; Shaykh 10 ; Faqīh (Legist, jurisprudent) 2 ; Muftī (Jurisconsult) 1 ; Muftī Dār al-'Adl (Jurisconsult in the Palace of Justice) 1 ; Nā'ib-Hukm (Deputy judge) 1 ; Nā'ib-Qādi (Deputy judge) 9 ; Qādi (Judge) 4 ; Qādi Shāfi'ī (Shāfi'ī chief justice) 2 .

## Category IV: Artisan-Commercial. Total 7.

Tabīb (Physician) 1 ; Ḥabbāk (Weaver) 1 ; Nāsikh (Copyist) 4 ;  
 Khādīm (Servant) 1 .

## Category V: Scholarly-Educational. Total 53.

Shatranjī (Chess master) 1 ; Shā'ir (Poet) 1 ; Shaykh-Taṣawwuf (Shaykh of  
 mystic principles) 1 ; Ismā' (Professor, witness of formal textual recita-  
 tion) 1 ; Mu'allim-Kitābah (Teacher of writing) 1 ; Mu'id (Repetitor) 2 ;  
 Mu'id-Hanafī (Repetitor of the Ḥanafī Madhhab) 2 ; Mu'id-Ḥadīth (Repetitor  
 of Prophetic Traditions) 1 ; Mudarris (Professor) 16 ; Mudarris-Shāfi'ī  
 (Professor of the Shāfi'ī Madhhab) 2 ; Mudarris-Iqrā' (Professor of recita-  
 tion) 1 ; Mudarris-Fiqh (Professor of jurisprudence) 1 ; Mudarris-Ḥadīth  
 (Professor of Prophetic Traditions) 3 ; Mudarris-Ḥanafī (Professor of the  
 Ḥanafī Madhhab) 1 ; Mudarris-Taṣawwuf (Professor of mystic principles) 2 ;  
 Mudarris-Tafsīr (Professor of Koranic exegesis) 3 ; Muḥaddith (Transmitter  
 of Prophetic Traditions) 1 ; Muqrī-Atfāl (Elementary Koran teacher) 1 ;  
 Muqrī-Aytām (Koran teacher in an orphanage school) 1 ; Muqrī-Ḥadīth (Reader  
 of Prophetic Traditions) 2 ; Muqrī-Kutub (Reader of scriptural books) 1 ;  
 Mu'addib-Atfāl (Elementary teacher in a Koran school) 2 ; Nā'ib-Mudarris-  
 Ḥadīth (Assistant instructor of Prophetic Traditions) 1 ; Nahwī (Grammarians)  
 1 ; Mutasaddir (Professor, instructor) 3 ; Mutasaddir-Qirā'āt (Professor  
 of Koranic readings) 1 .

## Category VI: Religious functionary. Total 23.

Imām (Prayer leader) 9 ; Muqrī (Koran reader) 1 ; Muqrī-Jawq (Reader in  
 a scriptural choir) 1 ; Miqatī (Time keeper) 1 ; Mu'aqqit (Time keeper) 1 ;  
 Khaṭīb (Preacher of the Friday sermon) 10 .

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## COLLATION FROM OTHER LIBRARY AREAS TOUCHING MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS:

Seminar on the Acquisition of Publications from the Third World, Brighton,  
 17th - 20th September, 1973, Notes by Wolfgang Behn

On behalf of the Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche, the  
 University of Sussex at Brighton organized this Seminar which was attended  
 by some 35 scholars and librarians from eleven European countries as well as  
 from Australia and the United States. The participants represented all areas  
 of the third world, i.e., the Near and the Far East, Africa and Latin America.

The well organized meeting--most of the papers totalling some 350 pages  
 had been sent to the participants beforehand--discussed the problems of  
 acquisition and bibliographical control of material from the third world.  
 It was agreed that the collection of such material must proceed from coopera-  
 tion with libraries, bibliographical centres and the book trade in the  
 countries of the third world. The main part of the discussion centred around  
 the difficulty of obtaining book material through commercial channels, and  
 around the possible termination of the PL 480 Program. Although there was  
 general agreement that the Ligue (LIBER) should try to set up its own book  
 procurement centres, it was hoped that arrangements could be worked out with the  
 Library of Congress with a view to sharing the costs of field offices. But  
 opinion on the usefulness of such procurement centres was not unanimous since  
 some participants favoured purchasing trips.

There was general agreement that, since libraries are no longer able to collect everything, better coordination and cooperation are required to assure that at least one copy of each publication of research value is available in one European library prepared to lend it to others. In this context also the possibility of trans-Atlantic cooperation was briefly touched upon.

From now on, libraries are less likely to expand at the previous rate, and therefore resource centres as they exist in Germany and other countries should be extended to all European countries. In these circumstances inter-library loan is bound to be of ever increasing importance. Indeed, if it were possible to borrow books over boundaries within a few days, it would be of less importance where a book was located as long as at least one copy was in a European library.

The participants of the Seminar agreed that a working party with clearly defined functions should be set up by LIBER with a view to acting upon the recommendations which were passed unanimously. However, no meaningful decisions can be taken until coordination on the national level has been completed.

American Library Association - 1973 and January, 1974, Notes by John Eilts

In June of 1973 the Asian and African Section of ACRL met at the Las Vegas Convention Center for a program on "Serials and other materials in Non-Western languages." The program was jointly sponsored with the Serials Section of RTSD.

The panel was composed of Henry Scholberg of the Ames Collection of the University of Minnesota, discussing the usefulness of PL 480 programs; Joseph Howard, Chief, Serials Division, Library of Congress, discussing serials at LC; and Lion-The Kho, Southeast Asian Division of Yale University Library, with an excellent discussion of the problems of cataloging non-western language serials.

The discussion by Henry Scholberg considered the need for selectivity in the PL 480 programs.

This view was vehemently opposed by Maureen Patterson of the University of Chicago who insisted that a number of libraries must collect comprehensively. She felt that one or two libraries with comprehensive collections would not be enough to meet the national demands and inter-library borrowing would put a heavy demand on their resources.

At the mid-winter meeting of ALA held in January, 1974, at the Palmer House in Chicago, there was a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Asian and African Section of ACRL. The Executive Committee voted to encourage participation in AAS by members of the various area specialist librarian groups. The Secretary was directed to send letters to each of the area librarians' organizations inviting them to send representatives to all of the meetings. The purpose of having representatives from each of the specialist organizations is to coordinate the work of similar organizations and to make them all more effective.

As MELA President, I have received the letter and would like to ask for volunteers for the position of official representative of MELA to AAS-ACRL. This would require that the person be able to attend both the mid-winter and summer conferences of ALA. (Summer of '74 will be in New York, mid-winter '75 will be in Chicago, and Summer of '75 will be in San Francisco.) Anyone wishing to volunteer for the position of official delegate to AAS-ACRL should write to either Martha Dukas or myself.

The Summer convention will be held in New York this coming July 7-12. The Asian and African Section will have an executive meeting on Monday, 8 July at 8 A.M. The program meeting will be Wednesday, 10 July, 8:30 to 10:30 P.M. The theme of the program is "Library Support of Non-Western Studies." The intent is to give some introduction to guidelines for libraries supporting teaching and research in non-western area studies.

International Congress of Orientalists and International Association of Orientalist Librarians, Paris, 1973.

The LC Information Bulletin (v. 32, no. 34, Aug. 24, 1973) has a full report on the Paris meetings (as well as on the Association of Jewish Libraries 1973 convention in Los Angeles). A number of papers touched on Middle East interests, and we hope the information and ideas given can be published.

The IAOL Newsletter (5, Sept. 1973) published the report by Mme. C. Rageau on the results of her questionnaire answered by MELA members and others. A translation in English with additions will later be available. It is on acquisition and cataloging problems relating to Asian languages.

#### LIBRARY TOURS, LOOK-INS AND NOTICES

The Near Eastern Division of the University of Michigan Libraries, under the sponsorship of the Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, has developed a computer program to maintain accurate cataloging statistics for the Division. An additional feature of the program will allow a subject analysis of the collections based on the two letters of the LC classification.

Statistics are recorded by each person in the Division as each individual task is completed. The cataloger makes a pencil mark on an optically read computer card for each type of information.

Information now coded includes: language; relation of book to collections (i.e., new title, edition); type of card used to catalog (i.e., LC or original); source of publication (i.e., PL 480); LC classification (2 letters only).

In preparation for the implementation of this project, historical statistics were compiled. Following are some that might be of interest. From July, 1961, through December, 1973, Michigan has done 83 percent original cataloging in Arabic, 79 percent in Persian and 84 percent in Turkish.

Also of note and not previously available is the size of the vernacular collections. Michigan has 28,000 volumes in Arabic, 9,000 in Hebrew, 6,000 in Persian and 6,000 in Turkish. Total of the vernacular collections (including minor languages such as Armenian and Pushto) is 50,000 volumes.

An update on statistics for McGill University's Institute of Islamic Studies Library shows 9,000 volumes in Turkish, 9,000 in Urdu and a few hundreds each in Armenian and Hebrew. Currently received vernacular serials are 230, manuscripts 160, maps 200, and tapes/discs 402.

Middle East collections still to be counted include Dropsie University, the Library of Congress, Princeton University, University of Southern California, and the University of Texas (Islamic languages collection).