

MELA *notes*

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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MELA NOTES
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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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From the Editor

Issue 34 comes to you from Chicago. The University of Chicago Library, Middle East Section is the new home for the Notes. This issue is also the first endeavor of a new editor. It is not easy to follow in the footsteps of my esteemed predecessor. My only hope is to continue the Notes according to the standards of quality set by Dunning Wilson.

I wish to thank the University of Chicago Library, Middle East Section for its assistance in providing the Notes with material and staff support. I also wish to thank Palmira Brummett and Warren Schultz for editorial and technical assistance in getting this first issue out.

Basima Bezirgan

Minutes: Middle East Librarians Association**Business Meeting, November 28, 1984**

By Dona Straley, Ohio State University.

The 1984 Business Meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association was held on 28 November 1984 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Marsha Hamilton (Ohio State), MELA President, presided.

Hamilton announced the various exhibits being held in conjunction with MESA.

George Atiyeh (Library of Congress) reported on his trip to the Middle East. Microfilming of Egyptian newspapers is taking place in India; they are also microfiching materials that are receiving minimal level cataloging (MILC). The Persian newspapers Kayhan, Ittala'at and Jumhuri-i Islami, as well as some Afghani newspapers and monographs, are also being filmed/fiched. The Cairo office is planning on adding Turkish publications to the PL-480 program; these works will be listed in the Middle East accessions list. The Library of Congress has already found a blanket order dealer and is retaining a university professor to supervise the dealer and to serve as a contact in Turkey. In Algeria, conditions have proven very difficult for sending materials abroad; it is hoped that an exchange program with the National Library can be worked out.

Atiyeh reported that funds for the Near East National Union List (NENUL) have run out. Some 26,000 records (covering materials cataloged in 1978) have been input and are being revised. Records for the letter A and for "Ibn" will be published in 2 or 3 volumes; it is hoped that the other volumes will be published later. Arabic and Persian records are distributed as part of NUC, but only in their romanized form. Atiyeh encouraged all libraries to send one copy of their catalog cards to the NUC.

Other information from LC included the announcement of the appointment of Chris Filstrup (NYPL) to the post of assistant chief, Overseas Operations. A post for a Turkish area specialist will be open in January. Recent publications include bibliographies on Arabs in the U.S. and on Ataturk; works in progress include the second supplement to George Selim's American Doctoral Dissertations on the Arab World, and a bibliography on Iran-U.S. relations. There will be a symposium on Arab science on March 14-15, 1985.

Patricia Myers-Hayer (Library of Congress) reported that there has been a 25% increase in descriptive cataloging at LC in the past year, from 80,000 to 100,000 titles, including

2,500 titles in Arabic. Myers-Hayer visited the Cairo office in August 1984 to look at problems with preliminary cataloging. Ottoman Turkish titles are now being cataloged; it is possible that two positions for Hebrew descriptive catalogers will be open in the near future.

Julian Witherell (Library of Congress) announced that the position of Head of the Hebraica section at the Library of Congress is open. LC has mounted a booth in the exhibit hall for the first time ever at a professional meeting of subject specialists.

Margaret Hoell (Arizona) announced an opening for a Middle East/South Asian cataloger at that university.

Martha Dukes (Boston Public) reported that the ALA/ACRL/Asian and African Section program in Chicago (July 1985) will concentrate on materials used by non-LC Washington agencies, including legislative, executive, international and arts.

Dona Straley (Ohio State) reported that ALA/RTSD/CCS/Committee on Cataloging:Asian and African Materials has been concentrating on formulating new language codes for submission to a NISO sub-committee. The Committee is also considering the LC subject headings for the Ottoman Empire, in order to make recommendations to LC. Anyone who is interested in commenting on this project should contact Straley.

Basima Bezirgan (Chicago) gave a brief report on her attendance at the annual meeting of the International Committee of the Library Association in Durham, England. The topic was the Arab Middle East in British Librarianship. (See MELA Notes 33, Fall, 1984, pp. 25-26.)

John Eilts (Michigan) discussed the status of the Arabic script union list. He presented a variety of options for publication. After discussion, a straw vote of the membership indicated that the first choice would be to continue publishing separate supplements as warranted. Eilts will look into estimates on the costs of publishing both the second and third supplements.

Karen Fong, from the Archives and Libraries Committee of the African Studies Association asked that MELA consider holding its program in 1985 in conjunction with their committee, as ASA and MESA are holding a joint conference. She asked that anyone with suggestions for program topics contact Julian Witherell at LC or Joe Lauer at UCLA.

Brenda Bickett (Georgetown) reported on the Middle East cooperative microfilming project. She discussed how other such projects are set up, administered, etc. A straw vote indicated that there is interest among the membership to form some kind of group. Everyone interested in such a project should meet in the lobby of the Sheraton at 8:30 a.m. on 19 November. (The outcome of this and a subsequent meeting are reported elsewhere in this issue.)

Dunning Wilson (UCLA) thanked everyone for their help during his tenure as editor of MELA Notes. No. 33 was hot off the presses and available for the meeting.

Dona Straley (Ohio State) gave the secretary-treasurer's report. A copy is appended at the end of these minutes.

Marsha Hamilton (Ohio State) summarized the president's business during the past year. The resolution on free distribution of materials which was passed at the 1983 annual meeting has been distributed. The MELA representative to ALA/RTSD/CCS/Committee on Cataloging:Description and Access has been dropped from that committee, as there is a Middle East representative on the Committee on Cataloging:Asian and African Materials. Hamilton announced the reorganization of COMRAD and the Technical Services Committee; as the work done by COMRAD is now an integral part, not a separate one, of technical services work, these two committees will be formed into a single Technical Services Committee. Bickett has agreed to serve a chair.

The problem of an overcrowded meeting day was discussed. It has become harder and harder to have both a program and a business meeting in a single day. Various suggestions were offered, including planning a two-day meeting. The incoming vice-president/program chair will take it into consideration.

The question of MELA's tax exempt status had been brought up. Hamilton assured the membership that MELA does indeed meet the criteria for tax exempt organizations. Elts reminded the membership that as a tax exempt organization, MELA can receive tax deductible gifts.

Old Business

Eelts announced that the questionnaire for the library directory in the MESA handbook has been sent out. It should be returned by February 14. If there is a substantial amount of information, MESA may be interested in publishing it as a separate directory.

Atiyeh reminded members to return their questionnaires from the Institut du Monde Arabe for the international directory they are compiling. If you have not received a questionnaire, you should contact them.

Elections

Jim Pollock (Indiana) was nominated for vice-president/president-elect. Eilts moved that he be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and approved.

Basima Bezirgan was nominated as editor of MELA Notes. The University of Chicago had offered to contribute student time as well as other support, excluding printing and postage costs, if Bezirgan was elected. (There followed a general discussion on how an editor should be chosen. Several members voiced fears that if one institution can afford to contribute this level of support, that MELA Notes would be centered there for many years to come. Other members felt that it would not be altogether bad for MELA Notes to become associated with a single institution. The costs of printing MELA Notes are a consideration in electing an editor, as MELA has limited financial resources; however, the merit of the candidate should also be considered.) Bezirgan's nomination was seconded, and she was elected by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Middle East Librarians Association
Treasurer's Report, 15 Nov. 1983--15 Nov. 1984

Income

Balance 15 Nov. 1983	\$	670.89	
Memberships and subscriptions		2248.79	
Advertising (MELA Notes)		525.00	
Gifts		200.00	
Membership mailing list rental		90.00	
MELA Notes back issues		33.00	
Occasional papers no. 1		14.00	
Interest		91.76	
Total Income		3873.44	\$ 3873.44

Expenditures

MELA Notes	\$	1261.47	
Postage		258.84	
MELA Reception (1983 annual meeting)		174.53	
Photocopying		76.52	
Clerical supplies		11.39	
Bank charges		11.00	
Total Expenditures		1793.75	\$ 1793.75
Balance			\$ 2079.69

Report of the First Meeting of the Middle East Cooperative Microform Project

By Patricia Myers-Hayer, Library of Congress.

Held January 8, 1985 at the McGee Library, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Committee members: John Eilts, chair (University of Michigan), Basima Bezirgan (University of Chicago), Brenda Bickett (Georgetown University), Meryle Gaston (New York University), Patricia Myers-Hayer (Library of Congress), Dona Straley (Ohio State University).

Visitors: Alice Kniskern (Library of Congress), Paul Maher (Library of Congress), David Partington (Harvard University), William Sittig (Library of Congress), Julian Witherell (Library of Congress).

The committee assembled to discuss the basic procedures of setting up a Middle East cooperative microform project. The agenda included the following issues: purpose, scope, name, funding, publicizing, and housing the project.

The purpose of the project will be to make materials available in microform which are difficult to obtain through the usual routes, are in need of preservation, and are beyond the acquisition capabilities of most individual institutions. Initially the project will focus on microforming printed materials.

The project's scope will include the Arab Middle East, Israel (for Israeli/Palestinian imprints), Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and some fringe areas not covered by existing programs.

The committee discussed names for the project at length, hoping to come up with something similar to other such projects (CAMP, LAMP, etc.) but was unable to reach a consensus. Thus, the project will be called the Middle East cooperative microform project unless something catchier can be found.

It was suggested that the CRL (Center for Research Libraries) would provide the ideal place to house the project. CRL has the dual advantage of being a neutral clearinghouse and of having adequate microform storage facilities. Its major drawback is the lack of language expertise necessary to handle Middle Eastern materials. Since accessibility is a major consideration, further research into

where to house the project will be required. B. Bickett volunteered to investigate alternative institutions for housing the project before the group reconvenes.

The committee also recommended that research be undertaken in order to identify current Middle Eastern microform projects underway. P. Myers-Hayer offered to look into commercial activities of this nature while B. Bezirgan will investigate work underway by academic libraries. A. Kniskern will provide information to the group on Middle East microform holdings at the Library of Congress.

Other considerations such as publicizing the project, technical details, and funding will be discussed at the next meeting. The committee will meet again at the American Library Association convention this summer in Chicago.

Papers Delivered at the Middle East Librarians Association Meeting: San Francisco, November, 1984

MIDDLE PERSON'S DESK

James W. Pollock
Indiana University

"Here comes our specialist on the Middle East now. You'll surely get the information you need!" What happens to you as librarian when you see, overhear and approach that situation? Do you change your gait or posture? How about your expression? Your librarian's MC (mental computer) is casting about for the right role-model to flash on the screen. This search is a reflex process, and also a necessary one. Experts about to be interviewed on television find themselves in the same position when their names and credentials are read out. A smile breaks out, or an eye flickers with aloof glassiness. Upon entering the situation your functioning role-model must be adjusted to the library patron's role-model-expectation of you. You may have to change the patron's expectation if too much of a free handout is demanded. Does this narrative so far ring a bell within your memory, or is it so much ding-dong talk with the wires disconnected at this end?

I hope you will agree with me on The Importance of a Role Model. "Role-model" is a more active phrase to use, I believe, than "image", or even "working Image". A librarian's mind is fully active when a reference question is input. The barest of stages for interaction begins with a one-on-one encounter. The associative context of every word the patron uses is rapidly filled in from your MC's random access memory. Some of that verbal furniture brought onto your one-on-one stage is necessarily censored, deleted or prioritized away from your immediate working space. In that working space, or frame of reference, you have your own informed mind and external tools of bibliography and reference, together with the patron's mental experience and working data.

I believe it is important to study and use role-model metaphors in our library work at this point. They clarify the librarian's own self understanding as being in a role to begin with. We are Middle Persons for public service, in the middle between and Eastern subject area of study and a Western civilization, or, between an Eastern citizen and a Western library format of knowledge. Whatever our library title may be, it is the public that looms large in our mind and before our desk. This public provides our patrons and our patronage.

The public service encounter between librarian and an anxious, bored or curious patron can be satisfactory and stimulating, or it can be depressing and even destructive. Some encounters begin more as a crashing collision than as a scholarly dialogue. Have you ever dealt with an anxious and angry professor or administrator or colleague who can talk faster than you can? Here we have use for metaphors such as heavy-duty shock absorbers, or, the European-type spring bumpers between railway cars and on the engine in the hitching and moving procedure. I think also of the crash tests of automobile bumpers at varying speeds demonstrating the virtue of low damage reports in television ads. After your anxious patron has delivered the message, do you look on yourself as the dummy in the seat--limp and speechless, or as the tester who says audibly: "All right, now let's try that again at half the speed," or words to that effect?

The use of role-models can highlight the librarian's viewpoint along with the whole context of information transfer. As a result, the information is effectively apprehended, and the encounter at your library's public service point may be an open-ended teaching-learning experience that promotes interest and understanding for both parties. Whatever role-model is nearest your consciousness then will generate an appropriate degree of satisfaction, whether or not your work becomes a statistic in the annual report.

When and how do we proceed in Building Efficient Role-Models? For this step I wish I could display for you a motion-picture from my random access memory entitled "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty". It starred Danny Kaye, and came out around 1950. Walter was a gifted day-dreamer with himself enacting dangerous and heroic roles, while in daily life he was an ungifted common man. My memory has lost part of the movie, and so I don't know whether it was his passage into age 50 that spurred Walter's imaginative powers or it was a constant genius with him.

On two earlier Middle East Librarians Association programs we have discussed role-model metaphors that have a suggestive usefulness for work in area studies librarianship. Yes indeed, we were fiftyish then, and the capacity to dream was growing into a near-vice. If it weren't for curious library patrons, administrators and colleagues it would truly be out of hand.

The area librarian may be a referee (or, umpire --depending on what season of the year it is) in making a balance with dynamic tension between the demands of the library community and the rightful needs of the library collection. You may need a helmet and body protection pads to

meet the well-nigh physical onslaughts of interest groups or jet-propelled egos presenting their demands. The referee should look down at the floor and mentally pace off yardage of penalty then look up to stare at the culprits, while genially speaking to them of the library's budgetary limitation and your careful distribution of funds among the vernacular studies. If the aggression continues, it would be salutary to introduce among your conversational gestures the signals for shoving and hacking, and don't forget the accusing index finger. Farewells after such conversations should be by upraising the left hand and extending the five fingers with an ambiguous smile. There are times when one's gait and posture must be that of the wary referee, on and off the field.

Now of course the truth is that by far most of the public service encounters that involve a balance between library community wants and the welfare of the collection are friendly encounters in which each side of the balance is benefitted. A patron is introduced with pleasure to a little-used part of the collection. The librarian gladly invests to obtain a useful new research tool announced by a friend or by printed information. Linguistic preferences aside, the librarian can share a basic human enthusiasm for a patron's interest in philology, history, religion, or any other discipline. Supporting such interest with a good collection is our profession.

The area librarian may be an electronically imprinted film --either tape or disk will do--that holds and presents the record of bibliographic history. By the nature of our profession we accumulate memories that list useful bibliographic tools. These have become old friends to us, but they are new discoveries to beginning researchers. We once had a bumptious young Near Eastern scholar who tended to shun librarians since he was a native speaker and therefore had already fenced in the ocean of knowledge. A serious term paper assignment, however, had penetrated to his "Empty Quarter", and so one day he came wondering where he should begin. The basic information sources were strange to him, so we told him to take paper and pencil and write down the titles, then get the call numbers and begin reading on his subject. As we called off the names of standard encyclopedias, dictionaries, indexes and bibliographies he suddenly dropped his jaw open and half-grinned in amazement and some shock. The road ahead was to be longer than he knew. No simple handy book on his topic existed!

Conversely, it is only by dint of long practice during waking hours that this librarian has been able to keep his jaw from dropping open in amazement on learning from young colleagues about the working potential of their computers.

They have tamed them and have used them to produce fine bibliographies now in print and serving research needs in many countries. We area librarians must become more aware of and able to access a variety of data bases for public service work as well as for personal research. The role-model for the electronically imprinted film is greatly amplified by patient study of new information-sharing methods and the instruments that make these links and print out what is needed.

The area librarian may be a curtain to expand and facilitate perception by researchers of their field of study. In this showing-and-telling procedure it helps if one is slightly adulterated with ham and is willing to let the drama unfold as your patron mentally beholds the multi-dimensional and sparkling research perspectives in this great trans-cultural subject field.

Perish the librarian who is unaware of natural beauty in patrons and the story of their origins! A young person with a name only slightly anglicized came for leads to write on the possible correlation between two ethnic facets of her heritage. Naturally the trained librarian first referred her to specialists in those fields! Then we inquired as to possible items or collections of literature from Araby that might exist in her nearby community of second and third generation immigrant families. This bibliographic appeal stirred some curiosity and interest in familiar scenes at home--so often thought of as commonplace and not of research value. Let us hope for other such encounters and some discoveries.

A Reflective Evaluation of Middle Person's Desk as a library public service point will be made by the Association of Research Libraries with unsleeping regularity. How many questions did you have? How many were really significant? Where were you when they were posed? Why? And so on. Middle Person's "desk" is really a mobile peripatetic seance, more like the small folding seat on a sportsman's cane, very pathetic as a writing surface or a phone-answering service. Our position as Middle Person can use many illuminating metaphors as role-models. Those herein discussed are suggestive only. Each area librarian's perception will discover others that are both useful and special.

The use of role-model metaphors in teaching and purposeful conversation and writing is a very old tradition among us People of the Book. There was old Shaykh Ayyūb whom you know as Job, in South Arabia, he who was "blameless and upright," who fell on evil days when he lost his fortune, his children, his health and everything good that he had, except his sometimes good wife. He had a theological problem and he didn't have the answer. He wished aloud that there might be

an arbiter, or umpire, between him and the Almighty (Job 9:33) to adjust and reconcile their different role-model expectations of each other. Here is the picture of the Middle Eastern muṣālih or wasīt who mediates the differences between two worthy persons who ought to be reconciled friends. Middle Person may be the academic Wasīt between civilizations.

In Surat al-Baqarah, Sura 2, verse 142, the followers of the Prophet Muhammad are given a divine role-model as their reason for being: "Kadhālika ja 'alnākum ummatan wasatan li-takūnū shuhadā' 'ala al-nās" (We have made you to be a mediating nation in order to be witnesses to mankind). I think that sometimes this central phrase is thought of and translated as Middle Nation, and the purpose of its role is omitted from the discussion. And in Old Testament literature the concept of the Chosen People is similar in having a divine purpose of service to the world. Similarly, to this day, the purpose is mostly deleted from common perception, thus leaving the role-model incomplete. Coming in the Old Testament tradition there was a famous person who used role-model metaphors in teaching and conversation. In a choice- and-decision situation he would say "I am this!" And in another situation he would say "I am this!" And each time he used a metaphor well understood by those listening in. These communications have been remembered both in method and in reference content.

The Middle Person's Desk will continue to exist in our research libraries in order to link Middle Eastern culture--as it really is--with Western culture at every communication level and mode that is open. Our aim in holding down Middle Person's Desk is to bring about in every encounter satisfaction for these two different parties or viewpoints in a mutual process of expanding and developing a sympathetic consciousness. The Desk serves any interested world citizen, be that one a student--enrolled or not, teaching faculty from the West or teaching faculty from the East, or yet even a research-minded librarian.

A COLLECTION AND ITS USERS:
THE MIDDLE EAST STUDIES LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Ragai Makar
University of Utah

Supported by the general service departments of the Marriott Library, e.g., General Reference, General Reserve, Microforms, Interlibrary Loan, audio-Visual and fine Arts, the Middle East Studies Library is in the best position to

support the graduate and undergraduate Middle East programs and research on the Middle East most efficiently.

Following is a description of the collection of the Middle East Studies Library.

I. The Book Collection

This collection covers almost all the humanities and social sciences related to the Middle East in Western languages: English, French and German, as well as in Middle Eastern languages: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish.

The reference book section of the Middle East studies Library contains approximately 1890 volumes of polyglot dictionaries, indexes, encyclopedias, annuals, directories, and bibliographies of the Middle East. There are also hundreds of multivolume reference sources which are still shelved with the general Middle East collection pending the availability of additional space to be added to the reference book section.

The Library published a catalog of its Arabic collection in 1968, followed by two supplements in 1971 and 1979. The third supplement is ready for publication. The Library has received requests for this catalog from many universities and learned societies both in the United States and foreign countries including Poland, Israel, Iraq, Hungary and the USSR.

The private library collections of the following internationally known orientologists and Middle Eastern scholars were purchased for or were donated to this library.

1. Professor Enno Littman, a renowned German orientalist.
2. Professor Etienne Combe, a Swiss orientalist and mentor of King Farouk of Egypt (1936-1952).
3. Professor Howard Reed, an American Turkologist.
4. Professor Martin Levey (1913-1971), a historian on Arab science.
5. Zaki Abu Shadi, a famed Egyptian writer and poet.
6. In addition to securing the above mentioned, Dr. Aziz Atiya has donated a large collection of papyri, manuscripts, and rare books as well as his private papers to the library.
7. Most recently, the Fayez Sayegh Foundation of New York has donated Sayegh's archives and library to the Middle East Studies Library at the University of Utah. A special room has been designated to house Sayegh's archives on Arab oil, Arab history and politics and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

II. The Periodicals Collection.

At present, the Library has 10,080 bound periodical volumes. Visiting scholars from various parts of the world, as well as our own faculty members, are very much impressed with the holdings of major periodicals both Western and Eastern. These sets are, for the most part, complete and date back to more than a hundred years. This collection of rare periodicals has given the library one of its distinctive features and has fulfilled a basic requirement for the pursuit of graduate study and research in Middle East studies. Of the archival and microfilm collections, Dr. Constantine K. Zurayk, Visiting Profesor from the American University in Beirut, said: "Special mention should also be made of the archival and microfilm material which any collection would be proud to possess."

III. The Special Collections.

The special collections of the Middle East studies Library include the following:

- A. 1,564 Arabic papyri, parchment, and rag-paper documents from the 8th to the 11th Centuries.
- B. Ancient Qura'anic material:
 1. Two papyrus leaves of six Qura'anic suras (chapters), 8th century, unique.
 2. Two rag-paper Kufi Qura'ans exhibiting the earliest style of Arabic vocalization, 9th century.
 3. Parchment Qura'anic leaf, Kufi script, 9th century.
 4. Complete manuscript Qura'ans, unique, six in number: One illuminated; another with commentary, gloss, and reading signs (rare); one with a Caspian binding; others finished at the Ka'aba in Mecca, signed and dated 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.
 5. Approximately 2,000 manuscript leaves of literary Arabic manuscripts from various sources, ranging from the period of the 11th century through the 16th.
 6. 240 uncatalogued Arabic manuscripts from the Middle East and North Africa.
- C. 360 microfilm reels of over 900 Arabic manuscripts on Islamic science, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine. (The late Professor Martin Levey's Collection).
- D. 1,000 catalogued rare books on Islamic studies and Middle East history and literature in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Ottoman, Turkish, and Western languages.
- E. 974 microfilm reels comprising several thousand Arabic and Syriac manuscripts from the monasteries and other cultural centers in Lebanon and Syria.
- F. 473 microfilm reels of a selected set of manuscripts in excess of 1,000 titles from the holdings of the Institute of arabic Manuscripts of the Arab League.
- G. More than 500 manuscripts from Mount Sinai Arabic, Coptic, and Greek collections.
- H. 2,000 uncatalogued rare books, mainly in Arabic and

Ottoman Turkish.

- I. The private papers of Dr. Aziz Atiya, the late Dr. Martin Levey and the late Dr. Fayeze Sayegh.

All of the above-mentioned special collections are original and primary sources for research in Middle Eastern history, politics, religion, languages and literatures. More recently, the library acquired several research collections on microfilm.

Examples of these collections are:

1. Confidential U.S. Diplomatic Post Records: the Middle East 1925-1941. (105 reels).
2. Special Studies on the Middle East 1970-80. (18 reels).
3. the British Documents on Foreign Affairs, Reports and Papers from Foreign Office Confidential Print: the Near and Middle East 1856-1914.
4. The Kaballah and Mysticism Collection from the Library of the Jewish Seminary of America. (65 reels).
5. Persian Serials on Microfilm from the University of Chicago Middle East Documentation Center.

The Library has doctoral research capabilities in Arabic language and literature, Islamic studies, Judaism, Persian and Turkish languages and literatures, Middle Eastern history, politics, economics, sociology and anthropology.

The collection is weak in Middle Eastern Art History, architecture and music. It is also weak in Ancient Middle Eastern history and there is a great need for indexes of periodical literature on the Middle East.

Acquisition Policy.

The collection of the Middle East Studies Library is compiled and developed by the faculty of Middle East studies, in collaboration with the Middle East Librarian. The Collection Development Policy outlines the guidelines governing this activity. It also reflects the subjects which both faculty and the librarian should consider in selecting titles of books, periodicals, microfilms or newspapers for acquisition. Comprehensiveness is the word that best describes our collection development.

Because of difficulty in procuring materials from Middle Eastern countries and in order to ensure the acquisition of books and other publications, our library is one of fifteen American academic libraries currently subscribing to the PL-480 program of the Library of Congress.

It should be noted here that, at the present time, there are at least 20,000 additional volumes on Middle East studies

housed in the general library collection of the Marriott Libraries. the acquisition of these volumes was requested by faculty members from several departments on campus who failed to specify the location where the books should be shelved.

The users of this collection include, the University of Utah faculty, staff and students, faculty and students of Westminster college and other Utah colleges, high school students, and community groups. During the last three years there has been an increase in the number of businessmen who use the library, especially after I established the University of Utah Translation Referral Services.

As a reference librarian in charge of this library I have to function on different levels. Firstly: I supervise the everyday operation of the library. Secondly: I answer the reference questions of the faculty, students, and the general public. Thirdly: I work on increasing the accessibility to the collection of my patrons by issuing subject bibliographies and local indexes of some special collections which have not been processed or catalogued.

In order for me to have more insight in the library and research needs of the faculty and graduate students I compiled a file which I call the Academic Profile File for all the Middle East faculty and graduate students. it consists of an academic profile form filled in by the individual faculty member or graduate student. This file helps me in developing the collection - one of my major responsibilities - and to advise each faculty member and graduate student of new publications related to his academic research interest. I use another locally made form for reference questions because I am not available to the patrons all the time. That reference question form is filled in by the patron who would return later for an answer.

The problems I might face with my patrons in our field of service are not unique.

1. Some undergraduate students do not have any background about the Middle East. When one tries to help one of these students with writing his/her paper he has to explain many things which are considered elementary information related to his or her subject. they often lack library skills.
2. Some patrons who are not affiliated with the university expect the librarian to give them as much time as they might need to conduct research in the Middle East Library. He/she often cannot afford that time.
3. The lack of knowledge of several languages sometimes prevent the reference librarian as well as the patrons from utilizing all the sources related to a certain subject. The patron sometimes requests English sources only while all the sources needed for his/her topic are available in a language which he/she does not know.

In order for me to reach out and publicize my collection I contribute on a regular basis to the Middle East Center Newsletter by writing Library news, book briefs or reviews. When I compile a subject bibliography for the same purpose I keep in mind that the subject of such a bibliography should be of interest to the largest number possible of faculty and students.

I have always responded to the reference questions which I received by mail. answering reference questions on the phone is an on-going daily business.

Although we are proud of our Middle East Studies Library and are working diligently to improve it, it is our belief that even with greater resources, we still will not be able to fulfill every aspect of research needs--nor can any other library make this claim.

MIDDLE EAST SECTION - UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARIES
COLLECTION, CATALOGING & PRESERVATION OF PERSIAN MATERIALS
OCTOBER, 1980-OCTOBER, 1984

Paul Sprachman
University of Chicago

In fiscal year 1980 the University of Chicago Library sought and won HEA Title II-C support for an intensified program of acquisitions to strengthen the Library's Persian collection through: the purchase of older Persian materials; the reproduction of documents and manuscripts held in major Persian collections of European and South Asian libraries; and the substantial acquisitions of Iranian publications from the last years of the Pahlavi regime and from the revolutionary period.

The program called for me, as Assistant Middle East Bibliographer and Persian language specialist, to make three buying and filming trips to the areas mentioned above.

The initial award was a one-year grant of \$175,000. The period of the grant was subsequently extended for an additional year, making it a two-year grant ending Sept. 20, 1982. During the first 18 months of the grant period I made three trips to Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia. The results of these efforts are impressive. The University has acquired an additional 3,750 printed books in Persian, (many of which are rarely found in Iran). I personally microfilmed some forty mss., 6,500 exposures in Turkey, Pakistan, and India (equipment included: two Olympus OM-1 cameras, 50mm

macro lens, 250 exposure film back, quadripod filming stand, battery charger, thirty 250-exposure film magazines, and an Olympus film winder). I also had microfilmed for the collection some 1,800 other manuscripts. The Library managed to acquire from diverse sources, materials from which nearly complete backfiles of twenty-one newspapers that came into existence in Iran during the revolution have been created. This material has been put on microfilm and continues to grow as new issues are acquired.

I also collected approximately 400 wall posters that contain various political slogans and depict events in recent Iranian history; over 800 pieces of political ephemera, including broadsides, pamphlets, mimeographed proclamations; some 260 audio cassettes that preserve political propaganda in various formats, e.g., speeches, sermons, lectures; 50 video cassettes on which are recorded documentaries and other programming from Iranian television; 10 feature length films made in Iran before and after the revolution; a collection of rare 19th century lithographs which consist primarily of literary and historical compendia; a significant collection of Iranian government documents relating to both the monarchy and the Islamic Republic.

In Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, India I proposed that the unpublished handlists of the Islamic manuscripts at the Reza Library be filmed, The Library of Congress Office in Delhi is aiding the University of Chicago Library in the filming of eight ledger books which contain descriptions of the Arabic, Persian, and Urdu manuscripts kept at the Reza Library.

Although much of the preliminary work on the identification of authors and titles of the manuscripts collected during the grant period was carried out by scholars over the years, it has never been done systematically. Sometimes differences in romanization and other idiosyncracies have led to false attribution or ghosts. In most catalogs, subject classification, if used at all, follows the traditional Islamic subject division: i.e., "Koran", "Koranic sciences", "Kalam", "belles-lettres", etc. Summaries usually consist of listing the original chapter headings or romanizing technical words and phrases. The use of an internationally accepted classification system, such as the one used by the Library of Congress, would serve to meet the refined access needs of scholars who work in related but linguistically remote fields. For these reasons, the University of Chicago Library sought another grant to aid in the identification and cataloging of selected manuscripts and printed material obtained during the first grant period.

In 1983 the University of Chicago Library received some \$90,000 to arrange and catalog three broad classes of material:

1. Monographs, serials, and political ephemera
2. Manuscripts on microfilm and microfiche
3. Non-print material (audio and video cassettes and cinematic film).

The most critical task implicit in the cataloging project was to weed the collection intelligently, to select those items that merit full cataloging and reporting. Certain criteria have evolved during the grant period. Aside from the obvious concerns about the cultural and political significance of an item, there were two other factors which distinguished one title from another: uniqueness and availability. In weeding the collection, we had to ask ourselves: Is the work the only or very nearly the only copy within reach of the interested community of students and scholars? Has the item been destroyed or rendered virtually inaccessible by events in Iran?

Certain indirect advantages of adding a considerable amount of rare and heretofore unreported and unprocessed Iranian material to the bibliographic record have emerged during the second grant period. The efforts of the two full-time catalogers hired to accomplish the task have not only enhanced our ability to do research about Iran in a wide range of academic disciplines, but it also enlarged and honed existing bibliographic tools. Local name and subject authority files have been expanded and refined in such a way as to facilitate future cataloging and classification of material. Expansion of the bibliographic record, as far as Persian and Iranian Studies are concerned, can now go more smoothly and on surer footing. Proper subject analysis of the material has provided a coherent framework for both future scholarship and bibliographic work.

Sources of Persian Monographs and Serials in the U.S.

Contrary to the expectations of many, book publishing in Iran has thrived and continues to thrive. Citing figures supplied by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance's General Directorate of Press and Publications (Idārah-'i Kull-i Maṭbū'āt va Nashriyāt-i Vizārat-i Irshād-i Islāmi), an article published in the news and general affairs monthly Surūsh of 3 Shahrivar 1363 (25 August, 1984) states that during the month of Khurdād, 1363 (May-June, 1984) alone, some 134 religious titles with total press runs of 30,000 copies were published. In language and literature the total was close to 100 titles. Novels, as a class, which in prerevolutionary Iran were considered blockbusters if published in runs of more than 5,000, are now commonly enjoying runs of 11,000 to 15,000 copies. This explosion in publishing, says Surūsh, is indicative of the profound cultural changes that have taken place in Iran since the

revolution. On the other hand, an article in the 19 June, 1984 issue of Kayhān in exile, citing conversations with writers and translators in Tehran, suggests that high book demand in Iran correlates with readers' need to escape the harsh realities of the revolution. Both articles, however, agree that the increase in publishing since the revolution has been dramatic and unexpected. The head of Iran University Press, Naṣr Allāh Pūrjavādi, writing in the Press' house organ Nashr-i dānish of Oct-Nov, 1984, also remarks on the unbelievably large--some as high as 60,000--press runs of certain titles.

How does one cope, keep up with, and select from this flood? Perhaps in response to the brisk book trade in Iran, several dealers with expertise in the field of Persian publishing and bibliography have opened up shop in various cities in the United States. They are:

1. Book World, Inc.; P.O. Box 34521; Bethesda, Maryland, 20817; 301 983 0186. "Supplier to academic Libraries".
2. Jahan Book Co.; 116 Greenbank Ave.; Piedmont, California 94611. Proprietor: Hasan Javadi.
3. Ketab Corp.; 16661 Ventura Blvd. Suite 111; Encino, Calif. 91436; 213 995 3822. Proprietor: Bijan Khalili.
4. Middle Eastern Book Service Inc.(MEBSI); P.O. Box 7823; Austin, Texas 78713. Proprietor: Ahmad Farokhpay. Accepts subscription orders to current serials and provides sample AACR2 catalog cards for monographs.
5. Persian Book Mart; P.O. Box 241574; Memphis, Tennessee 38124; 901 685 5979. Proprietor: Margaret Paydar. Deals in the areas of reference, literature, history, and political science, Islam in theory and practice.

Competition among these dealers already has seemed to have had a stabilizing effect on the prices of material. Their efforts have also insured that titles remain in relatively good supply for longer periods of time.

Article

THE THIRD ANNUAL ISTANBUL BOOK FAIR

Michael W. Albin
Library of Congress

The fair opened on November 2, 1984. I was able to get in before the populace on a special pass supplied by one of the booksellers I had met the day before. Champagne and raki flowed freely in the festive atmosphere of the exhibition hall at Taksim Square, the center of town. The fair was rather well publicized by the newspapers and newsmagazines. One of the major papers, Cumhuriyet, went so far as to issue an informative book supplement on each day of the fair, and two cultural monthlies Dusun and Hurriyet Gosteri devoted a great deal of space to books, authors and publishing.

Newspaper accounts of the fair claimed that eighty houses took part, but I counted only about 55 stands when I made the rounds on the second day of the exhibit.

In general, the fair focused on Turkish books, although a few importers were also present. It was clear that the emphasis was on popular taste. Modern Turkish literature was conspicuous, as were translations into Turkish of the works of world literary figures, classical and contemporary. Indeed, the translation movement is vital and lucrative. Some scholars with whom I talked warned however that translations are done hastily and with little attention to authenticity.

There seems to be no pirating of books in Turkey because copyright laws are strict and strictly enforced. I was told that translation rights are often negotiated at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Unfortunately there was little evidence of the work of Turkish scholars at the fair. The only scholarly press of rank was the Turk Tarih Kurumu (The Turkish Historical Society). The important publications of the Turkish Language Academy were not available, nor were university press publications. It was explained that university presses are barred from selling their publications off campus, and booksellers rarely gather university press titles for sale in their shops. No governmental agencies were to be seen at the fair, with the exception of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, which showed Muslim pamphlets and translations into modern Turkish of some of the Islamic classics.

The exhibition was limited to books. No musical recordings or videos were sold. There was, however, display of some well-designed posters.

A word about the Turkish book trade in general might be useful at this point. There is trouble on a number of fronts, according to people I met at the fair and an article which appeared in Milliyet on October 31. One complaint voiced again and again concerns the high cost of paper. Certainly, most Turkish books are printed on third quality paper that resembles newsprint. For libraries, the shelflife of these must be very short indeed. Moreover, distribution and postage costs increase inexorably. Prices are zooming and books, periodicals and even newspapers are losing readership fast. Within the past year or so two book clubs have opened offering discounts of up to 20 percent to member-subscribers. It is too early to tell if this idea can bring readers back or attract new ones. Nonetheless, statistics published in the book supplement of Cumhuriyet show that 7,180 titles were published last year, up nearly 1,000 titles from the year before. Not a bad increase, considering the economic environment.

In sum, the fair had all the glitter and crowds of a modern trade show. The stands were attractively designed and the publicity material was often professional and imaginative. Yet I missed somehow that spirit of clutter and leisurely browsing that you find at the traditional book markets of the Aksaray and the Sahafiar bazaar.

Book Reviews

Theses on Islam, the Middle East and North-West Africa 1880-1978 Accepted by Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Compiled by Peter Sluglett. London:Mansell, 1983. Pp. xii, 147.

Peter Sluglett's stated purpose in compiling this slim volume is to construct a narrowly construed index of theses on Islamic topics extracted from more general published indexes of theses. His hope is to create a more convenient bibliography for use by scholars of the Middle East and North Africa. For the most part, Sluglett succeeds in this intention with a minor lapse, to be discussed below.

The author has drawn most of his material from two principal sources: R.R. Bilboul and F.L. Kent (eds), Retrospective Index to Theses of Great Britain and Ireland, 1716-1950 for the period before 1950 and ASLIB, Index to Theses accepted for Higher Degrees by Universities of Great Britain and Ireland and the Council for National Academic Awards for the period from 1950. (Sluglett has supplemented the information drawn from these two sources with material from SCOLMA (Standing Conference on Library Materials in Africa), Theses on Africa Accepted by Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland 1920-1962 B.C. Bloomfield, Theses on Asia Accepted by Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland 1877-1964 (with supplements in the Bulletin of the Association of British Orientalists and J.H. St. J. McIlwaine, Theses on Africa 1963-1975 Accepted by Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The title of this work implies a stricter geographic limitation than is actually in evidence in the book. The term "Middle East" is broadly interpreted so that it accommodates theses on Afghanistan, Central Asia, Egypt and the Sudan. That the author has included a section entitled "Islam Outside the Middle East and North-West Africa" (which includes material on the Indian sub-Continent, the rest of Africa and South-East Asia) is clear indication that the author's purpose was to construct a bibliography of theses on Islamic topics, and therefore it might have been better to eliminate geographic designations from the title altogether.

This bibliography is organized according to a mix of geographic and subject approaches not unlike that to be found in Index Islamicus. It starts with sections on various geographically unspecific subjects such as "Islamic Studies" and "Christianity in the Middle East and North Africa (sic) since the 7th Century A.D." and then continues with strictly

geographical divisions alphabetically arranged. Under each country division are subject subdivisions such as "Agriculture", "Economics", "Education" and the like. These subject divisions are indicated in the table of contents which is supplemented by an index of authors and an index of broad topics which could not be included in the table of contents.

The individual entries are numbered and each consists of the author's surname and initials followed by a letter or letters in parentheses to indicate the author's university. The title of the thesis is given followed by the degree for which it was accepted and the year or academic year of its acceptance. After the mid-1970's microfilm copies or photocopies of many dissertations were placed in the British Library Lending Division. Such works are followed by a so-called D number, which is the number by which these theses may be ordered from the British Library. Some entries are followed by the word fiche to indicate that abstracts of these theses are available in the ASLIB microform publication Abstracts of Theses. (The Abstracts is meant to run parallel to ASLIB's Index to Theses and begins in 1980 with volume 28 of the latter.) Unfortunately, the author tells us only that the abstracts of such theses are to be found "on sets of microfiches available in the reference section of most large libraries" without telling us the title or publisher. It may be that in Great Britain these microfiche sets are well-known and available in most large libraries, but that is not yet the case in the United States.

After a long list of the abbreviations in his bibliography, Sluglett discusses the "Availability of Theses", a crucial question for the user of such a bibliography, and he graciously provides the reader with the address of the Lending Division of the British Library from which one may acquire copies of many dissertations. He is not so forthcoming concerning the rules of the individual universities regulating access to theses. For these he refers the reader to the pages of the ASLIB Index where these regulations are detailed in full. Admittedly, regulations vary widely from institution to institution and listing them requires in excess of two long pages, but it would have required little effort to reproduce them in this work. It is here that sluglett dilutes the effect of his consolidating work by forcing the scholar to refer to another source, should he decide to acquire a copy of one of the theses so nicely reproduced in one bibliography.

Aside from this single reservation, this reviewer recommends Peter Sluglett's bibliography wholeheartedly. Objections also may be raised to the printing format of the book. It has been produced by photo-offset from typewritten

copy and so has the uneven look of unjustified margins. Also, the index was typed with a bolder typeface than that used in the body of the work in order, one assumes, to produce some sense of distinction between the text and the index, but the effect is jarring and the typeface quite ugly and untidy looking. However, these are esthetic and not substantive defects which do not effect the usefulness of this new bibliographic tool. Scholars and especially graduate students will make frequent and profitable use of Sluglett's book which will become a standard title in Middle Eastern reference collections.

James Weinberger
Princeton University

al-Fihrist. Beirut: 1981-

Less well-known than The Quarterly Index Islamicus, al-Fihrist (the Index) is a relatively recent (1981) quarterly publication dedicated to taking the "pulse" (nabd) of modern intellectual productivity in the Arabic-speaking world by presenting an organized bibliography of articles drawn from current Arabic periodical literature. Intentionally avoiding weekly publications, al-Fihrist concentrates instead on a sample of periodicals which appear on a monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly basis. These periodicals contain a variety of interdisciplinary topics: political, historical, socio-economic as well as cultural, intellectual and literary. Main entries have been classified conveniently both by author and subject.

Though a useful reference tool, al-Fihrist is not unflawed; it has been criticized recently for a variety of technical offenses relating to problems of standardization, alphabetization, clarity in the presentation of proper names, etc. [For a recitation of these technical errors, see Ahmad Ṭālib, "al-Fihrist: murāja'ā naqdiya" (Ālam al-kutub v.4 no:3 (Oct., 1984), pp.351-66.). Perhaps more importantly for the average user, al-Fihrist, published in Beirut; reflects a substantial Levantine bias in its sample of periodic literature. Of the nearly seventy journals surveyed for review, almost half are Lebanese; taken together with publications from Syria, the regional share increases to nearly seventy percent of the total sample. Correspondingly, publications from other Arabic-speaking regions have received little attention. North Africa (including Egypt), for instance, makes up less than five percent of the surveyed

literature. A number of countries (Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Oman and the two Yemens) have been excluded altogether.

W.W. Clifford
University of Chicago

Meetings

The Seventh International Conference of Middle East Librarians will be held at the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin, April 17-19, 1985. The focus of this year's meeting will be on Preservation. Further information may be obtained from Paul Auchterlonie, MELCOM Secretary, The University Library, University of Exeter, Stocker Road, Exeter, EX 4 4PT, England.

News of Members

Mike Albin, field director of the Library of Congress Acquisitions Office in Cairo, has accepted an appointment as Head of the Order Department in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. After many years of outstanding service and success as field director within the Overseas Operations Division, Mike will be leaving this part of the Library in the next few months. A posting to recruit his successor will be forthcoming from the Library.

Bruce D. Craig, Bibliographer for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago will be in Turkey from March 22 until April 5. During this period he will be formalizing exchange arrangements with several Turkish scholarly associations and universities, purchasing materials on the Turkish out-of-print market, and arranging to copy materials for Chicago's Ottoman Microforms Project.

Job Offerings

From time to time Checchi and Co. recruits librarians to work in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint Economic Commission. These jobs are for an initial contract period of two years (with good possibility of renewal); benefits include salary plus 25 percent; free housing for employees and dependents; use of car, etc. Sometimes Arabic language skills are required; sometimes they are not. If you would like to be notified when a librarian opening for which you are qualified occurs, please send your resume to Liz Kramer, Checchi and Company, 1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20036. Please include a statement of your Arabic language skills. All applicants for jobs with the Joint Economic Commission must be U.S. citizens.

The following two jobs are currently open:

Senior Librarian/Data Management Specialist, National Center for Financial and Economic Information (NCFEI), U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint Economic Commission (JEC), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia -- 2 year position; GS-12 equivalent (i.e., base salary to \$39,519).

Technical Services Librarian, National Center for Financial and Economic Information (NCFEI), U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint Economic Commission (JEC), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia -- 2 year position; GS-11 equivalent (i.e., base salary to \$32,980).

The Library of Congress Overseas Division has announced a vacancy for the position of Field Director. Those interested in obtaining a copy of the vacancy posting should contact:
Personnel and Labor Relations Office
Recruitment and Placement Office
Library of Congress
Washington D.C. 20540

Contributors to MELA Notes

All contributions related to Middle East Librarianship are welcome. Because of space limitations we ask that articles be limited to a maximum of 7 double spaced pages. Book reviews should be no longer than 500-700 words, or 2-3 double spaced paged.

Mela Notes is issued three times per year (Winter, Spring, and Fall issues). Contributions should be received by January for the Winter issue, April for the Spring issue, and August for the Fall issue.

Please be sure to send all meeting notices well in advance so that MELA members can be informed in a timely fashion.



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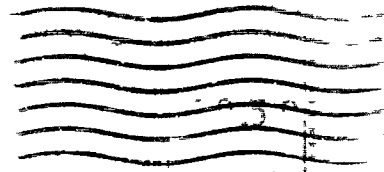
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