

MELA *notes*

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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MELA NOTES

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Abazar Sepehri University of Texas--Austin	President
James W. Pollock Indiana University	Vice-President Program Chair
Dona Straley Ohio State University	Secretary-Treasurer
Basima Bezirgan University of Chicago	Editor

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FROM THE EDITOR

The American Library Association Annual Meeting will be held July 6-11, 1985 in Chicago.

Yet another opportunity to get together and discuss matters of concern:

Among the hundreds of meetings at ALA there are several of particular interest to us few MELA members among the 12,000 librarians. I hope many of us will be able to attend to discuss business and have a good time.

I welcome you all to Chicago.

Many thanks to Palmira Brummett for her assistance in typing and editing this issue of MELA.

Basima Bezirgan
Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In reference to my article "Book Publications on the Iran-Iraq War" (MELA NOTES 33, Fall, 1984), I have some new information on Persian language publications that was kindly forwarded to me by Paul Sprachman, Assistant Middle East Librarian, University of Chicago.

Contrary to my statement on the national bibliography of Iran (p. 5), three issues of the bibliography have been published since 1979 (nos. 47, 48, and 49). Two additional sources where new Persian language publications are listed are Nashr-i Danish and Payk-i Kitab.

Sincerely,

Tony Gardner

MEETING: SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

The flowering spring gardens of the Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art in Dublin provided a lovely background for the three-day meeting of Middle East librarians convened by the U.K. Middle East Libraries Committee, on which our own organization was modeled. MELCOM meets in Great Britain twice a year, but its members also gather each spring with their counterparts from the Continent and interested librarians from other areas. Dunning Wilson and Francine McNulty have each attended a regular meeting of MELCOM, and I was fortunate in being able to be present at this international conference, which drew almost thirty delegates from a dozen nations including some in the Middle East. Previous international meetings have been held in Aix-en-Provence, Berlin, Cambridge, Paris, Oxford, and Leiden; next year's will take place in Madrid. Although preservation was the overall theme of the conference, the papers ranged over other topics as well. English and French seem to be the working languages of these meetings, and most delegates managed to communicate in both.

At the inaugural session on Wednesday, April 17th, delegates were welcomed by MELCOM's President, Derick Hopwood of Oxford University, and Secretary, Paul Auchterlonie of the University of Exeter. The balance of the morning program consisted of presentations by the Irish delegates and a very interesting paper on the little known parallels and connections between the Irish and Egyptian nationalist movements. Wilfred Lockwood, Director and Librarian of the Chester Beatty Library, outlined the life of the American mining engineer whose early retirement and prosperity enabled him to devote almost half a century to building the great collections of art, manuscripts, and early printed books that now belong, through his bequest, to the Irish nation. The Islamic Collection of the Chester Beatty ranks among the finest anywhere, and its Curator, David James, gave a preview, illustrated with slides, of the most outstanding items, many of which had been put on display especially for the conference. Patricia Donlon, Reference Librarian and Curator of the Western Collection, spoke as well about some of the general characteristics of the Library's collections and about the need for further support. Following this introduction to the treasures of the host institution, Geoffrey Roper of Cambridge University read his previously mentioned paper on "Irish and Egyptian Nationalism in the

Imperial Era", providing a hitherto unexpected link between the area of our professional concern and the locale of the conference.

The focus of the afternoon sessions that day was on preservation. After Paul Auchterlonie summarized the conclusions of the recently published Ratcliffe Report on Preservation Policies and Conservation in British Libraries, a succession of speakers described relevant programs at their institutions. Yasin Safadi outlined "Conservation Policies for Oriental Material at the British Library Reference Division" while Gillian Grant detailed the "Conservation in Oxford" of photographic collections, and Radhia Tohidi of the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris spoke of its various microfilming and documentation programs.

On the second day of the conference delegates viewed two films about the formation and treasures of the Chester Beatty collections before exploring the galleries in person. David James gave a gallery talk highlighting some of the finest Islamic works on display and brought out a number of manuscripts of particular interest to some of the conference participants. Following an afternoon excursion to the Irish countryside, the delegates were invited to the Curator's home for an evening buffet, continuing, I was told, a tradition of local hospitality at these international conferences.

On the third and final day of the conference we heard presentations by Marie-Jose Bianquis of the University of Provence in Aix on "The Reorganization of Arab and Islamic Studies" at her institution, Yves Porter of the Sorbonne Institut d'Etudes Iraniennes on "Persian Lithographies", and Paul Auchterlonie on "The Distribution of Arabic Books in British Libraries". Two delegates from the Middle East also spoke. Izzat Awf Zahideh of the University of Jordan Library brought us up to date on "The Jordanian National Bibliography since 1980" while Norma Hazboun, a librarian at Bir-Zeit University shared with us some of "The Problems of Acquiring Arabic Publications in the Universities of the West Bank". I had been invited to survey "Recent Developments in Middle East Librarianship in North America", and Gerald Fitzmaurice of Datasolve came to describe the online database known as World Reporter although telecommunications difficulties prevented a demonstration. It is impossible to give further details of these presentations here, but several of the papers are likely to be published. I would be glad to share further information about the meeting with anyone who inquires.

A final banquet in the port of Dun Laoghaire concluded the Seventh International Middle East Libraries Conference, which ended with rousing good cheer in wine and song--another MELCOM tradition suitable for adoption by MELA.

Martha L.P. Dukas
Boston Public Library

ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS IN NORTH AMERICAN COLLECTIONS, PT. 4

Massachusetts Historical Society

1154 Boylston Street
Boston, MA

Contact person: John Cushing, Head Librarian

Date of inventory: May 9-10, 1984 and March 20, 1985

1. File of Charles Folsom / Charge d'affairs of the U.S. / Papers 1819-71 contain the following materials:


- a. Note of 12 lines in Turkish naskh on 17.5 x 27 cm., strong paper. Written about 1235 H/1819-20 A.D.
- b. 2 fols. of writing exercises in Arabic and Hebrew in a Western hand on 20.4 x 25.5 cm. thin, off white paper.
- c. Note dated 1235 H/1819-20 A.D. in round naskh. 6 lines to page on paper measuring 15.8 x 24 cm.; the written surface measures 11.5 x 15.5 cm.
- d. 2 fols. of writing exercises mostly in a Western hand; other data as under "b".
- e. Arabic exercises with French translation. Paper size 18.3 x 24.6 cm.; written surface of 18 x 24 cm. varies.
- f. 1 page of writing exercises in Arabic on paper 19.4 x 19.5 cm. with written surface measuring 8 x 16 cm.; 15 lines to page on poor quality but watermarked paper.
- g. Turkish firman or laissez passé to the Black Sea for four ships belonging to French merchants with Tughrā of Abd al-Majid dated Ramadān 1235 H/1820 A.D. Written in medium size, elegant diwānī on strong paper measuring ca. 55 x 57 cm.; the written surface measures 46 x 55 cm., including the tughrā.
- h. Turkish firman in medium calligraphic diwānī with tughrā of Abd al-Majid, dated Shawwāl 1235 H/1820 A.D. On verso in Roman script: B. Portella Dardaneller de 11 Septembre 1820. Strong paper measuring 54 x 57 cm.; the written surface 49.5 x 54 cm., including the tughrā.

2. File of Charles T. Jackson, American Scientist (1805-1880) contains the following Islamic item:

Imperial Turkish patent (berāt) for Charles Johnson (sic!) dated Rajab 1271 H/1855 A.D., written in an

elegant, rather large diwānī hand. Size of document 35.5 x 53 cm., 4 lines to the page. Tughrā of 'Abd al-Majid and ornamental lines below it are in gold color.

3. File of Thomas Jefferson, American President (1743-1826) Coolidge Collection (undated) contains the following:

- a. Thirteen lines of writing in a rather large, crude Western hand, possibly that of Thomas Jefferson as the initials at the end () may suggest.* Copied probably from a West African original. Parts of Koran 61:13 identifiable in lines 5-7, although not without a stretch of imagination.** Folio size 18.5 x 29.5 cm.; the written surface measures 14 x 20 cm. Paper is strong but yellowed.
- b. Letter of Muṣṭafā Pasha*** Sultan of Algiers concerning the transfer of Christians taken prisoner by Tripolitania. Stamp on top reads "fawwada umūruh ilā Abd al-Rahīm Muṣṭafā ibn Ibrāhīm sanat 1212" (i.e. 1797-8 A.D.). Letter mentions consul Wāyrim (William?). Written in large maghribī hand on folio 24 x 31.5 cm.; the written surface measures 13.2 x 20.5 cm. , 16 lines to page.

4. Box no. 20 "Miscellaneous (undated letters)" Folder: Arabic Cyngalese (!), & Mandingo Documents contains the following:

- a. Shaykh 'Umar al-Ḥajj, a native of Fūtah , West Africa. Tadhkirat al-mustarshidin. A religious poem copied 1288 H./1871 A.D. in West African maghribī script by Muḥammad Sanūsī, son of Shaykh Muḥammad Ajyā" (?), a Kūwāyī of Sierra Leone, of the town of F-l-t-r. Six unnumbered folios measure ab. 20.3 x 32 cm.; the written surface measures 13.5 x 26 cm. Text in two columns; 25 lines to page; catchwords. Gift of W.F. Nelson, Mayor of Monrovia, Jan. 5, 1874. Attached is

*Thomas Jefferson is not known to have had any knowledge of any Semitic language. In a letter to Joseph Delaplaine written at Monticello April 12, 1817 he claims to be able to read Greek, Latin, French, Italian, Spanish "and English, of course, with something of its radics, the Anglo-Saxon..."

**The identification of this passage I owe to Prof. Muḥammad Bakir Alwān, of Brookline.

***Cf. Zambaur, p. 83.

- translation of Edward Wilmot, Blyden/American Negro linguist clergyman, 1832/1912.
- b. Muḥammad ibn Sa^{cc}id. Religious poem in West African maghribī, copied on 2 fols. by ʿAbd al-Karīm in the 19th century. Overall size is 19 x 25 cm.; the written surface measures 13 x 19 cm., 12 lines to page; text in two columns. Gift of W.F. Nelson, Mayor of Monrovia, Jan. 5, 1874. Name of J.E. Blyden, Monrovia, Liberia also appears on cover.
 - c. Arabic letter written in rather large naskh signed by W. H. Mathew (?), / the Arabic has Henry William Wathen/R.S.N. written 23 Muḥarram 1241 H./Sept. 7, 1825 concerning the transfer of the sum of 160 riyals. The name of Sayyid Hamza appearing at the head may be the recipient of the document. Folio measuring 32 x 43.5 cm.; the written surface measures 16 x 36 cm. 13 lines. Paper is buff color strong and watermarked J. Whatman Balstone & Co., 1820.
5. File Endicott Autograph Collection Photocopies: "Pepper contract" from the office of Wakil Muḥammad Ṭāhir (or Zāhir) whose stamp appears in upper right side of document. Cursive, 19th century hand. (Xerox copy of document). In Malay.

Clark University Library
Special Collections
Worcester, MA 01610

Contact person: Dorothy Mosakowski

Date of inventory: April 25, 1984

1. Koran copied in small naskh by al-Qādir Muḥammad al-Lamī in 1285 H./1868-9 A.D. The unnumbered fols. measure 13 x 19.8 cm.; the written surface measuring 6.3 x 12.3 cm. is ruled with colored lines. 15 lines to page. Catchwords. lv-2r and colophon contain standard Koranic illuminations. Paper is rather thin and brown in color with some glazing. Maroon leather binding with flap is gilt stamped. Acquired in 1973 from Miss Ruth Grosvenor Woodis. (no call number).

2. al-Jazūli, Muḥammad ibn Sulaymān. Dalā'il al-khayrāt wa shawāriq al-anwār fī dhikr al-salāt 'alā al-nabiy al-mukhtār, 18th to 19th century copy in rather large naskh. The unnumbered fols. measure 9.1 x 15 cm.; the written surface measuring 5.3 x 10 cm. is ruled in blue, gold and orange and outer ruling. 11 lines to page, catchwords. The usual Koranic ornamentation on lv-2r in blue, gold, pink, green, etc. Paper is thin, brown and glazed. The leather binding has no flap and is found in green and gold brocade envelope. Acquired from Jonas G. Clark, the founder of the university. Published. (No call number).
3. Jāmī, 1414-1492. Kitāb hikāvat Yūsuf ve Zalikhā (Persian). Late 17th century to early 18th century copy in medium nasta'liq hand. The unnumbered folios measure 12.8 x 21.4 cm.; the written surface in two columns measuring 6.8 x 15.1 cm. is ruled in multicolored lines. 14 lines to the page. Small delicately decorated 'unwān, headings are in white on gilt background. The thin paper is off-white and somewhat glazed. Black leather with flap binding. Previous ownership Jonas Gilman Clark, the founder of the university. published. (no call number).

Middlebury College

Library - Special Collections
Middlebury, VT 05753

Contact person: Robert Buckeye

Inventory taken: Per letter May 7, 1984

Koran. Copied in small, caligraphic naskh by Sayyid Ismā'il 'Azmi, one of the pupils of al-Ḥamd al-Zarifi from the town of S(h)-m-n-w-i(') in 1281 H./1864 A.D. The 544 pages measure 10.5 x 17 cm.; the written surface measuring 6 x 10 cm. is ruled in gold, blue and red. Minutely ornamented first and last two pages with multicolored floral design. 15 lines to page. Paper is smooth. Bound in brown morocco, rebacked with calf.

Covers have gold tooled borders and rectangular ornament on front and back panel, resembling a fringed oriental rug. Gift of Mr. Harry H. Snyder, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Charleston Library Society

164 King Street
Charleston, S.C. 29401

Contact person: Patricia Glass Bennett, Assistant Librarian

Inventory taken: March 8, 1984 (per letter)

ʿAlī ibn Husayn al-Anṣārī / containing according to the identification of a visiting scholar / 1. The treasure of the faithful; 2. Great selections; 3. The essentials of medicine and the essential sciences. No other information was furnished except that the author lived about 1200 A.D. Item remains unidentified.

BOOK REVIEWS

Tabataba'i, Hossein Modarressi, An Introduction to Shi'ci Law, A Bibliographical Study. London: Ithaca Press, 1984. Pp 258.

Libraries and Western-language scholars of Islam, and especially 'Ithna'ashari Shi'ci thought should note this important contribution of H.M. Tabataba'i. The author holds degrees from both Oxford and Tehran University. He is professor of Islamic Law at the Islamic University in Qum, Iran, and, in alternate years, visiting professor at Princeton. He has authored and edited a number of studies, most in Persian, on a variety of topics, including the history of Qum itself. An Introduction is his second English-language work, the first being Kharaj in Islamic Law (London, 1983).

An Introduction comprises two sections. In the first the author offers an overview of 'Imami law and its sources, a discussion of its nature, and an outline of major jurisprudential issues. In the concluding chapter of this section he discusses the eight major developmental periods of 'Imami law, from the period of the presence of the 'A'imma within the community to the school of Murteda al-'Ansari (d. 1864) and its followers, including such contemporaries as Hossein 'ibn 'Ali al-Burujirdi (d. 1961) and 'Ayatallah Ruhallah al-Khumayni.

The second section contains a bibliography of legal writings, published or preserved in accessible collections, of major 'Imami clerics throughout 'Imami history. This section is subdivided into two parts, the first comprising lists of comprehensive legal works, including 'fatwa' collections, and the second comprising monographs. A bibliography follows of the names and major works of the 'Imami clerics cited in the work and references for the catalogues of the collections cited throughout. Indices of names and titles cited in the work conclude the book.

Several important points emerge immediately from close examination of Tabataba'i's efforts. Many of the several score 'Imami clerics and their works cited in both of Tabataba'i's works are largely unknown in the Western-language scholarly literature to date. In addition, a large number of works, most in Arabic, some in Persian, composed by clerics already well-known to scholars in the

field are seen not to have been subjected to any rigorous comparative examination to date. Finally, of the eight developmental periods of 'Imami law discussed by Tabataba'i in An Introduction, five predate the Safawid period (1499-1722), when the faith was established as Iran's state religion; the sixth comprises developments in the Safawid period itself. Arabic, not Persian, was the primary language of expression of 'Imami writers in these six periods.

These points do not bode ill for the work of many contemporary Orientalist scholars of 'Imami thought. These scholars, interested in Shi'i doctrine prior to the Safawid period, have focused on specific issues of doctrine, utilized the relevant primary-language source materials, and generally have avoided sweeping generalizations about the nature of the 'Imami Shi'i faith.

By contrast, the study of the faith from the Safawid period to the present has been the domain of scholars drawn largely from Iranian studies. These scholars have studied the development of modern 'Imami doctrine and practice in the same manner as they have studied modern Iranian history, primarily through Persian-language primary and secondary sources, as well as Western-language sources. Based on such research, many modernist scholars have not hesitated to broach some sweeping characterizations about the nature and development of the 'Imami faith.

If, however, the careers, the Arabic-language and some Persian-language contributions of so many 'Imami clerics have not been systematically and comparatively examined, then the study of the history of the faith is incomplete, and the conclusions and broad generalizations offered by many about the nature of that history clearly are premature.

Examination of the works dealing with women, for example, most written in Arabic, might inaugurate a discussion of women in 'Imami law more useful than some of the more clearly polemical contributions on the subject to date.

To date there has been no introductory study of the history of 'Imami law in English. Tabataba'i has not only suggested an outline for that history, but provided information on the figures and works to be examined before a definitive study of 'Imami doctrine might even be

contemplated. Librarians could assist Western-language scholars by acquiring the many published works cited in both of Tabataba'i's works.

Andrew Newman
University of California, Los Angeles

The Middle East Political Directory. Lawrence Ziring.
Santa Barbara, California, Oxford, England: ABC-CLIO
Information Services, 1984. 452 p. bibl. tables. index.

According to the author, "This book identifies the terms, events, characteristics, movements, and institutions that describe the Middle East in the last half of the twentieth century." "It can be used in the classroom as a primary or supplemental text." An important aspect of the book is the analytical or interpretative section following each entry called the significance. This section discusses the meaning of each entry from the author's viewpoint. It covers 23 countries.

This is one of the most controversial political dictionaries that I have ever come across in my twenty-five years of book reviewing practice. The author gives a special consideration to the Arab-Israeli conflict which made him devote a disproportionate segment of the dictionary to that single problem. This projects how important the Arab-Israeli conflict is to the author. Israel as a small and new state in the Middle East was given 51 entries while Egypt was given twenty-four entries and Iraq sixteen, Turkey thirteen, Saudi Arabia eighteen. The significance section expresses the personal opinion of the author which is not often based on an in depth objective knowledge of the two-sides of some Middle Eastern problems. Security of Israel is taken for granted as justification for the take over of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights and for the invasion of Lebanon.

The dictionary in some cases gives incomplete and even misleading information such as: "Sudan achieved its

independence from Egypt in 1956" (p. 155). He should have said from Egypt and England, because up to 1956 England more than Egypt had the upper hand in Sudan affairs. The contradiction between what Nasserism means on p. 149 and the interpretative significance of the same term on p. 150 is clear and puzzling. This occurs in other terms in the dictionary especially in the terms related to Arab politics.

The dictionary also contains some errors on facts such as. (p. 107) "Berber speakers number in excess of ten million and represent 50 percent of the population of North Africa,". They should be twenty-four million in order for them to represent 50 percent of North Africa. Table seven, p. 416, in this same book indicates that the nations of North Africa have a population of about 48 million. The Middle East and North Africa Directory 1983-84 gives the same information: the population of North Africa is 48,804,000.

Examples of errors in translation are numerous such as: Mahdi was translated "The Savior" (p. 103) - it is the Guided by God. Baraka is not "magical protection" (p. 104) it is God's blessing. Another term Fedayeen was translated "Muslim faithful" on p. 169 (spelt Fedadyeen), "guerilla" on p. 181 (spelt fedeyeen), and "warriors of Islam" on p. 220 (spelt fedeyeen). The exact meaning according to the Arabic dictionary and everyday usage in the Arab world is: those who volunteer to carry out dangerous actions in war or commandos. Majlis-e-Shura is Arabic and it means the consultative council (p. 61). A political science dictionary should be somewhat comprehensive when it comes to political parties and movements. Many Middle Eastern political parties and movements are not included in this dictionary. Some are labeled movements while they are parties and vice versa. The author mentioned few political parties other than the communist (parties) which are banned in all Arab countries but one. There is no mention of the political parties in Egypt after 1970.

The political geography and geopolitics does not include any entry about the Sudan, North Africa, Saudi Arabia or Syria. The ethnicity and political culture (section 3) defines ethnicity in a somewhat vague manner and I could not understand the relationship between the names of the ruling families such as Al Sand, Al bu Said, Al-Khalifa, and Al-Sabah and the ethnicity or political culture. Nor could I understand the non-existence of entries for scores of ethnic groups which have political weight in Middle Eastern countries such as the Copts of Egypt, Yazidis of Yemen, Chaldeans of Iraq, and the Jews of Morocco.

I would like to recommend the following to the publisher of the next edition of this book:

1. Have all the translations of the Arabic terms corrected if they are not correct.
2. Increase the entries for political parties, ethnic groups, and social movements.
3. Transliteration of foreign words should be standardized.
4. Impartiality and objectivity must be insured in a dictionary, especially when it is recommended as a secondary or primary source for American students.

Ragai N. Makar
University of Utah

Iran Media Index. Compiled by Hamid Naficy. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1984. 264 p.

Iran Media Index is a valuable tool for locating sources of information that normally do not appear in standard area studies guides and bibliographies. It "brings together in one volume a comprehensive, annotated index of all nonfiction films, film-strips, and television news and public affairs programs produced by major English-speaking countries..."(xi).*** While this applies to nearly all the entries in the Index, the compiler has also included films that were made in Iran by Iranian filmmakers. Ebrahim Golestan's Ganjīnah-ī javāhirāt-ī saltanātī ("The crown jewels;" p. 71; no. 296), for example, is a Persian documentary essay on what was once the backing of all of Iran's currency.

The Index classifies entries in two ways: by subject and by form. Subject headings are "Agrarian Reform", "Education", "The Qajar Era", "Leisure and Sports",

****The Index is part of an ambitious archival undertaking, "the first phase in a four-phase project, culminating in the creation of Iran Media Archives, which would house the films, filmstrips, and television programs [listed]" (xxii).

"Politics--Security, Torture", etc.; form headings include "United States Information Agency Newsreels" and "Television News". The latter headings represent a subgroup of some 3720 items that are listed chronologically. One wishes that they were also arranged by subject. Since the only index to the Iran Media Index lists film titles alphabetically, accessing this material by subject or by news personality featured in a particular broadcast is very difficult.

Naficy concludes his introduction with the hope "that the Index will be a resource for the study of Iranian culture and politics through audiovisual materials..." (xxii). While most of the films and tapes in the Index fulfill this function, the large net cast by the compiler has snared some dubious entries. Users will wonder what the following, to cite one example, has to do with Iranian culture and politics:

- 0185 [Inertial Guidance System]
 How-to training tape designed for Iranian
 Airforce technicians on how to maintain and
 repair the inertial guidance system built
 [sic] by Litton for Northrop F E 5 fighter
 planes purchased by Iran. (p.12)

The compiler also cites "studies that have shown that audiovisual materials are helpful in lending meaning and depth to abstract concepts and faraway places, by providing viewers with realistic sounds and images of other cultures" (xxi). The Index seems to digress from its cross-cultural mission and veer toward the sensational in an entry that appears under the subject heading "Islamic Republic of Iran--US Hostages in Iran (general)":

- 1086 [Soldier Girls]
 Critically acclaimed film, follows a platoon
 of 50 young women recruits in Charlie Co. at
 Fort Gordon Ga. as they undergo 14 wks. of basic
 combat training. Filmed during the hstg. crisis.
 One scene shows women running and chanting: "I
 want to go to Iran, I want to kill an Iranian,
 pillage, plunder, burn, rape." (p.58)

One of the chief strengths of the Index is that it provides a coherent organizational framework for material that, until recently, has suffered general bibliographic

neglect.***** It brings the dense mass of US television programming on Iran that grew appreciably after the Islamic Revolution and spectacularly after the hostage taking under videographic control. The compiler and his colleagues have done a thorough job in combing the video archives of the three major networks and of National Public Television for their "Iran" tapes. Iran Media Index also provides a wealth of material documenting western (principally US) attitudes toward Iran. Naficy divides the ways in which the camera has caught and interpreted the country into three periods:

- I. Exotic Undeveloped Iran (1900-1941):
Newsreels; ethnographic films; Anglo-Persian Oil Co. documentaries.
- II. Strategic Modern Iran (1942-1979):
Television discovers Iran; positive images of Iran's modernization.
- III. Islamic Republic and US Hostages (1978-1983):
Although the shortest span, more than three-fifths of the entries fall into this period.

This outline and the examples culled by the compilers provide the student of western attitudes toward the Middle East with a well-mapped area of research.

Misprints. Although the Index has retained "misspellings and grammatical errors found in original film titles" (xxiii), the following slips, which appear to be those of the proofreader, might be corrected in future editions of the work:

- p.7; no. 0091 "Shaqyeq-e Suzan"
- p.12; no. 0185 "build"
- p.30; no. 0541 "eneters"
- p.32; no. 0594 "Tati" must be "Tafti" (see p.114; no. 2181)
- p.36; no. 0668 "Aabadan"
- p.43; no. 0809 "espcially"
- p.78; no. 1492 "trerrorists"
- p.79; no. 1498 "mutialted"

*****A general survey of films dealing with the Middle East, Marsha McClintock's The Middle East and North Africa on Film: An Annotated Filmography (New York: Garland, 1982) was reviewed by Hamid Naficy in MELA Notes 28 (Winter, 1983) 34-37.

p.82; no. 1574 "includdng"
p.92; no. 1760 "documnetaries"
p.110; no. 2096 "Exmaminations"
p.172; 12/29 "Rafsanajni"

Paul Sprachman
University of Chicago

NEWS RELEASESThe Institute for International Information Programs

The Institute for International Information Programs (IIIP) has been established to encourage and foster the participation of U.S. organizations in international information programs and projects and to monitor international research in information science and technology.

Two immediate objectives of the Institute which are currently in the process of being initiated are (1) to establish a Secretariat and coordinate a network for international information issues via a newsletter, and (2) to secure funding from private and public sources to support the program.

Long term objectives include:

- Arranging for U.S. representation in international information organizations.
- Participating in development programs.
- Providing an information link for members of the U.S. community involved in various international meetings.
- Advising the U.S. information community on matters with special emphasis on international matters.
- Informing the U.S. Congress, government agencies, and private corporations on pertinent international information issues.

The IIIP may be expected to serve as one of the vehicles through which to plan and arrange the types of efforts formerly supported through the General Information Programme of UNESCO now that the U.S. has withdrawn from membership in that organization.

The Director of the IIIP is Inez L. Sperr, Executive Director, Migration Information and Abstracts Service. The members of the Board of Directors are Melvin S. Day, Vice President, Research Publications; Donald King, President, King Research, Inc.; and Claude E. Walston, Dean, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland. M. Lynne Neufeld, Executive Director of the National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services, is Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. Paul Wasserman, Professor, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland, is

the Project Director. The Board of Directors will be the initiating body for the business of the Institute.

The Institute is to be housed at the College of Library and Information Services of the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. A newsletter will be begun later this year to disseminate information on U.S. international activities. A clearinghouse for information will also be established at CLIS.

For additional information about the IIIP, please contact Dr. Inez Sperr, Executive Director, Migration Information and Abstracts Service, 294 Bunker Hill Rd. Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962 (914/359-8634), or Dr. Paul Wasserman, College of Library and Information Services, 4105 Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 (301/454-6070).

Middle East Scholars Affirm Academic Freedom

At its recent annual meeting, the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) passed a resolution deploring certain activities of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) which MESA believes could inhibit academic freedom. AIPAC was criticized for collecting "unbalanced information on students, faculty, and other parties..." through the use of surveys, while the New England Regional office of ADL was criticized for circulating on college campuses a confidential booklet "listing factually inaccurate and unsubstantiated assertions that defame specific students, teachers, and researchers as 'pro-Arab propagandists.'"

The resolution was approved by voice-vote and without dissent by more than 600 members attending the business meeting at the MESA Annual conference held 28 November-1 December 1984 at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel in San Francisco. MESA is the leading American association of scholars and professionals concerned with the study of the Middle East, with over 1400 members worldwide. University of Arizona Professor Michael E. Bonine is Executive Secretary of MESA, whose headquarters are located at the University of Arizona campus. Bonine emphasizes that the association is nonpolitical and nonpartisan, and takes no stand related to the political issues and conflicts of the Middle East. The association does, however, speak out on issues and matters which may infringe upon academic freedom.

Impetus for the resolution came from complaints by members who appear in the ADL booklet, or whose universities and programs have been listed by AIPAC. The AIPAC surveys resulted in a 196 page book, the AIPAC College Guide: Exposing the Anti-Israel Campaign on Campus by Jonathan Kessler and Jeff Schwaber, which profiles 100 colleges and universities, identifying 'pro-Arab' speakers and other allegedly anti-Israel activities. The New England Regional Office of the ADL was criticized for circulating a booklet listing profiles of national organizations and individuals as well as some specifically in Northern California. The introduction to the booklet said that "many of these propagandists use their anti-Zionism as merely a guise for their deeply felt anti-Semitism." In a recent New York Times article (January 30, 1985), the ADL's national director of campus affairs in New York, Jeffrey Ross, admitted that the document was written by "an over zealous student volunteer" who is no longer with the league and that this "unfortunate incident" would not be repeated.

Bonine stressed that the resolution was not to single out the ADL or AIPAC, but that "our concern is with academic freedom. All our members--including Israelis and Arabs--want to call attention to the potential harm which can result from lists and surveys of individuals which are 'based on the circumstantial evidence of religion, race, ethnicity, association, participation in public events, or affiliation with organizations.'"

Michael E. Bonine
Executive Secretary, MESA

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTSMiddle East Microform Project:

Summer Meeting. As we agreed in our meeting of 8 January, I have planned a meeting for July in Chicago. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday the 7th of July from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This will fill a time slot between the Executive Committee meeting of the Asian and African Section, ACRL, and the LC, Overseas Operations meeting. To the best of my knowledge this will not conflict with any other meeting which might be of interest to our members or friends. All of you are welcome to attend. The place will be announced at a later date.

John A. Elits, Chair

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American Islamic College
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Phone: 312/281-4700

OBITUARIESJesse Duggan

I hope you will mention the sad news of the passing of Jesse Duggan, University Librarian at the American University in Cairo. He was a relatively young man who died on March 29, 1985 after a short struggle with lung cancer. For 12 years, he headed the Library at AUC -- always smiling and hospitable, always pushing many projects simultaneously. It was a happy experience to be in his company. I have fond memories of time spent with him, as I am sure other MELA members do also, chatting about libraries, books and the Cairo life. The new library building at AUC is certainly a tribute to his leadership and perseverance.

(Submitted by Dunning Wilson)

Seid Karic

Seid Karic, Associate Librarian in the Cataloging Department, IUB, died Wednesday, March 13, at the Bloomington Hospital following a brief illness. Seid, who cataloged a wide variety of Slavic, Turkic, and miscellaneous languages, was born September 1, 1916, in Gornja Tuzla, Bosnia. In 1963 he received a Master of Arts degree from IU and accepted a position as cataloger at the University. In recent years he was enrolled in the PH.D. program of the Uralic and Altaic Studies Department, and having completed all course work, was in the process of writing his dissertation in the field of Turkic Studies.

He is survived by his wife, Hayra; a son, Ismet; and a daughter, Esma. In Seid's memory, his co-workers have established a memorial fund at the Bloomington National Bank for the college education of his children. Seid's career and personal academic achievement were dedicated to the betterment of education. It is to honor his memory and commitment that the memorial fund is established to help Seid's children achieve these same goals.

Contributions should be sent in care of Sylvia Burbach, Cataloging, Main Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. Checks should be made payable to Hayra Karic (Memorial Fund).

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 pages.

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—Dr Michael C. Hudson
Professor of International Relations and
Director of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
Georgetown University

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Address inquiries to: Pam Brummett - Middle East Section Room 560
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MELA Notes

c/o Basima Bezirgan
University of Chicago Library
Middle East Section Room 560
1100 E. 57th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

John A. Eilts
3579 Burbank Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105