

# MELA *notes*

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Number 38

Spring, 1986

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MELA NOTES

ISSN 0364-2410

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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Mela Notes is published three times a year, in winter, spring, and fall. It is distributed to members of the Association and to nonmember subscribers. Membership dues of \$10.00 bring Notes and other mailings. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per calendar year, or \$3.00 per issue for most back numbers. Address dues, requests for membership information, or subscriptions to Dona Straley, Secretary-Treasurer MELA, Main Library Rm. 308, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

The American Library Association annual meeting will be held June 28 - July 3, 1986 in New York. Of the many meetings and events that will take place at the meeting of the ALA there are a few that are of particular interest to us in area studies. To point out two: The Library of Congress Special Foreign Acquisitions Program (Sunday June 29, 8 P.M. - 10 P.M.); and The Association for College and Research Libraries Asian and African Section program, "Asian and African Collections in American Libraries: Meeting the Research Needs for Area Studies", (Monday June 30, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 A.M.). The latter program speakers include: Thomas H. Lee, Doris M. Hull, Karl Lo, Charles Bryant, Merry L. Burlingham, John A. Eilts, Warren Tsuneishi.

I look forward to seeing you in the Big Apple.

Thanks to Paul Sprachman for his generous help in proof reading this and previous issues, and to Palmira Brummett for typing and editing assistance.

Basima Bezirgan

MELA Notes Editor

BEYOND GROWTH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

It is rare to see a serious study of academic programs give proper place to the importance of library collections. Especially welcome therefore is Beyond Growth: the Next Stage in Language and Area Studies, a report issued in April 1984 by the Association of American Universities. Specialized area studies collections receive their due proportion of attention along with language teaching, development of general area competency, and research in this report commissioned and financed by the Department of Defense and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The report's main premise is unexceptionable, namely that the "period of expansion in programs of international and foreign area studies is over and that the main goal of policy should be to sustain the base and improve its quality in various ways..." The major strategic recommendations of the report will be controversial in light of the role envisioned for defense-related agencies, but that should not deter us from taking a serious look at the discussion of library issues.

The first thing the report recognizes is that there is no coordination of activity across what is called the academic/government divide, with the notable exception of the Library of Congress. Secondly, no one knows the extent of area-related collections in federal libraries or data bases. Unfortunately, the discussion of governmental information resources is superficial and does not give adequate weight to either the bibliographic contributions of LC (with the exception of the field office in New Delhi) or to the sad fact that it is the government itself for reasons of security which limits access to its information resources. No single agency or organization is capable of loosening these strictures so the report must content itself with a flaccid call for the appointment of a task force "to review the current status and the possibilities for future development of mutual support and interfacing between academic and government library and information storage systems." It is not clear how such a task force might come up with much more than is already contained in guides to area studies collections such as those published by the Smithsonian or the Middle East Institute.

The report, perhaps sensing that it will not get very far with "mission-oriented agencies", turns its attention to academic library collections, which it finds "operating

fairly smoothly for the universities and area studies groups," although "clear storm warnings emerged from our discussions with area-related librarians, general library administrators, and leaders in the library world at the national level."

The first problem noted by the report is the lack of accurate statistics on which to base an appraisal of collection growth over the past three decades. Only by guesswork can we reckon the increase in size of academic area studies libraries, personnel size and cost, and the intensity of collection use. The estimates used in the report tend to show that while area studies centers spend a sizeable portion of their own funds for library development, it is the universities themselves who carry most of the cost of the specialized collections. The ominous conclusion from the skeletal data at hand is "that if either the universities' commitment to sustain these collections or the Title VI support is withdrawn, it is our area-related library resources that will suffer."

The situation is especially critical in light of the discovery that library administrators are looking hungrily at the area collections as a source of savings in times of budget cutting. In an excellent summary the report phrases the difficulty as follows:

In a way, these specialized collections are in the same position as instruction in the uncommonly taught languages: they are important to the center's functioning, but marginal to the university's primary concerns; they are high-cost items, but they have relatively low utilization rates; while there is a fairly constant flow of some external monies to cover some of the costs of the collection, the vast majority of the expense is met from general university revenues. Hence, area-relevant library expenditures are natural and highly visible candidates for curtailment when institutional resources become constrained. Moreover, since they lie at the margin of the overall concerns of libraries and library associations, it is natural that some of the special problems of language and area-relevant collections are not fully met.

If the report makes a fresh contribution to the administration of specialized language collections it is the call for a national perspective on area studies. Seen from

this vantage the quotidian problems of collection development take on special importance. The report discusses several such problems and makes recommendations for countering them. In the matter of finding competent staff the report calls for amending Title VI to allow payment of library salaries. The report calls for innovative ways to eliminate cataloging backlogs. Suggestions include more liberal use by LC of outside cataloging; greater use of OCLC and RLIN; added staff in university libraries; exchange of cataloging by photocopy among specialist librarians; and the use of itinerant cataloging specialists. The report also considers the "imminent catastrophe" caused by changes in the funding of the LC office in India and suggests that area studies librarians make special efforts to pool their acquisitions resources to develop regional acquisitions/cataloging centers. One such center is proposed for Latin America, with recognition that the idea might be adapted to any area of the world.

The report calls for increased use of non-roman scripts by the national bibliographic utilities; for the use by American libraries of bibliographic services headquartered out of the country (the example of the Mideast Datafile comes immediately to mind); and for action to preserve deteriorating library materials. The report stresses that the national effort requires greater coordination among libraries: "The custodians of area-related collections must realize the impossibility of continuing with the current practice of building each collection as if it were the only such collection in the country." And it warns that evidence of progress on this front "should be a pre-condition to any substantial increase in support for these collections."

How is all of this to be accomplished? The report adds its support to the increasing calls for a fund for area studies along the lines of the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is not my intention in this short essay to comment on the report's specific suggestions in this regard. Suffice it to say that MELA should be examining its own field of specialization so that when and if a national body is established our organization will be poised to make its contribution to the enterprise. We might begin by taking seriously this latest review of our area studies infrastructure which, until now, has been greeted by a resounding silence, a silence induced no doubt by the mere presence of the name Defense Department. Whether we like it or not, Beyond Growth is too important to be left beyond the pale.

(The opinions expressed here are my own and do not represent those of any organization.)

Michael W. Albin

## IRAQI JEWS IN NORTH AMERICA - A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Iraqi Jews in North America are a minority within a minority within a minority. They constitute some 10-15 per cent of the Sephardic Jewish community of about 200,000 and this, in turn, forms 2 per cent of the North American Jewish community of about 5.5 million.

Until recently, the lack of English writings by Iraqi Jews has been matched by a lack of writings about them. Sephardic scholar, Hayyim Cohen wrote in 1966 "Although there is no lack of material, no research has so far been published on Iraqi Jewry in modern times". However, factual research is beginning to appear in a few Jewish journals, often by Ashkenazic scholars. Three Iraqi-born and educated scholars are also pre-eminent in this research: Heskell Haddad, Maurice Sawdayee, and Ezekial Musleah. The Iraqi-born Canadian writer, Naim Kattan, has also incorporated some of the community's experiences in his novels, written in French but many of which have been translated into English.

Over the past decade, Iraqi Jews have been the subject of much historical and political research in Israel. This bibliography will, however, be limited to works about the experience, past and present, of the Iraqi Jews of North America.

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Founded exactly 50 years ago, this Iraqi-Jewish organization  
is based in New York and has some 300 members. A project to  
build a synagogue and community centre is currently under way.  
A.A. Society newsletter and documents of incorporation are  
available for perusal only.

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and Resettlement of Iraqi Jews.  
This journal is listed in the Encyclopedia of Associations but no  
trace could be found either through libraries or through  
Irregular Serials.

57. Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada  
5151 Cote Ste Catherine Road, Montreal, Canada, H3W 1M6.  
Once again this organization publishes a newsletter and since  
there has been considerable work with Iraqi Jews coming to  
Canada, documentation of their resettlement could possibly be

found in its pages.

58. Sephardic Congregation Kahal Yosef.

This Los Angeles synagogue and community center maintains the euphonic pronunciation of Hebrew and ancient chants and cantillations of the Babylonian minhag. Its members are mostly of Iraqi origin, though many were born in India. Rabbi Elias Levy (see 41) was born in Baghdad and the center's 5000 volume library includes manuscripts on the Iraqi Jewish experience.

59. American Sephardic Federation

8 West 40th St., New York.

This organization organizes many meetings and other activities. Its publications were not available at the time of research and they could not be found in the Jewish Theological Seminary Library.

Diana Hanaor  
School of Library Studies  
Rutgers University

PUBLICATION BIAS: LOW-KEY CALL TO HARD-HAT ALERT

When I pick out a book for myself to keep, am I more apt than back at work perhaps, to look a purchase or gift book in its teeth and say in quiet, "Nope, you don't make it to my shelves?" Multiple senses guard my off-duty privacy and my sanity. Personal leisure in working years is not so ample for reading, reflection and maybe writing. I need a wall or at least a drape about my chair or desk to let my thoughts begin in unseen concept, until some form at last is shown to gently draw my world and give to you. Choosing books is my excitement, fitting in the double helix, to "repercuss", reverberate, and luminesce. My books, low priced or far out there, are for my feeling after permanence.

To profess this art and skill as work for which others pay, (oh, not so well, but they do) I may be pushed sometimes, yes driven to choose quite in the dark, and by someone's word of say so, soon. That's why we bookish people wish for light to watch the page for yellowness, stains that fife so clear how ill the paper is, or is the author's hand. My peers who review the books newly pressed or long since cracked, really do earn their heed by perceptive words of caveat, credit or reject.

What should a reading philosopher do, when some "bird" of publication pretending innocence aloft deposes refuse upon the book or desk or reader? Protest with vituperation? Invective, the age-old genre art of slighting words, the first "red-eye" rockets, to seek and prick and sting and hoil, is poetry of a sort, used oftentimes to joust as if in jest, the winner gruded one point. It seems to be a worldwide sport of a sort, practiced from each child's hood-days, to test with insults some adversary bad. The venom fits the artist's generation, and measure for measure adds full up. But a tongue is a rudder that steers, and it raises a wake that can swamp full boats. A pen too can sear the mind to change the pace of breath and blood for just so long.

Ah, yes! What of this is deadly foreplay, just before the war? Publication bias, an abstracting euphemism, stands complained of here. How now should this librarian get involved? Do I buy that stuff? Do I thank the giver for that gift? Shall I object to the offensive "bird" by the civil, normal communications route, requesting recall with full rectification? Those droppers of the lie are long on calculation, but short, or non-replying. But their goods have use, I see, for study of psychic weaponry. I'll let them pass. Their pages are turning yellow fast.

For you, in low-key, I call my alert, "Put on your hard-hats!" Complaint in hand I ask why The New Book of World Rankings marks down neighboring Islam's religion so freely among its ranked "facts on file"? N.B., E.G. (p. 51)... "Islam's appeal... its simple theology, almost entirely borrowed..." I say, No-o-o doubt! If that old publisher says so, indeed he she or it has gotten shaky. It seems today their mail's priority just slides aside and falls by chance in my round "file".

And from the Consulate Information Officer to California school librarians, gift copies of Know the Middle East come dropping in, a "comprehensive and non-biased information source", and "we hope it will be an asset to your reference section". Complaint in hand from perceptive readers in Berkeley, I ask if school librarians and others note a bias, and do they trace where bitter protests say the Consulate's Laffin book is filled with degrading racial stereotypes?

My lines of introduction here only sketch a rough and vulgar scene. The two sharp complaints are no more than two. But look again, the scene is live. I have no hope in reasoning with promoters of hate and pejorative publication. In contrast, librarians are a known and potent quantity. We can spell things out like "caveat" for ourselves. Let's be careful, we work in a hard-hat area!

James W. Pollack  
Indiana University Library



## ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS IN NORTH AMERICAN LIBRARIES PART 7

Dartmouth College Library  
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Contact Person: Philip N. Cronenwett, Curator of Manuscripts  
Date of Inventory: December 8, 1983 & March 8, 1984.

1. Koran. Copied in medium size naskh by Sayyid Nu'mān al-Arif known as Hilmi, a student of 'Uthmān known as Vehbi, dated 1211 or 1311 H./1796-7 or 1893-4 A.D. Overall measurements 11 x 17.5 cm.; the written surface 4.5 x 11.7 cm. is ruled with gold predominating. 15 lines to page; catchwords. The usual Koranic illumination is rather crude. Strong, white and watermarked paper. The leather binding is gilt stamped. Gift of Bella C. Landauer, Nov. 8, 1934. (Call no. Codex 001977).

2. Koran. Copied in small, calligraphic naskh by Sayyid Ṭāhir al-Vehbi, student of Muḥammad Ḥamdī (for latter cf. Musawwar 331) in 1290 H./1873-4 A.D. Overall measurements 10.5 x 16 cm.; the written surface 5.2 x 9.5 cm. is ruled with gold predominating. 15 lines to page; catchwords. Finely executed ornamentation of fols. 1v-2r and other Koranic illumination. Paper is brown and rather brittle, somewhat glazed. Quires separated from spine. Leather binding with flap is gilt stamped. Leather etui. Gift of Bella C. Landauer, Nov. 7, 1934. (Call no. Codex 001988).

3. Koran. Copied in medium size naskh by Nūh al-Vehbi, one of the followers of Ḥāfiẓ Yahya or Hilmi al-ma'rūf min ḥujrat al-baqā' (cf. supra no. 1) in 1286 H./1869-70 A.D. Overall measurements 10.5 x 17.0 cm.; the written surface 6 x 11.2 cm. is ruled in gold, etc. 15 lines to page; catchwords. Part of sūrah 1 is torn away. The usual Koranic illumination is rather crude. Paper is brownish. The leather binding with flap is stamped. Gift of Dana S. Lamb in 1921. (No. 20; no call number).

4. Koran. Copied in medium size naskh by Shaykh Muṣṭafā, colleague of the educator of the children of Ibrāhīm ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥājj, colleague of Ibn al-Ḥājj 'Abd al-Wahhāb, in 1253 H./1837-8 A.D.. The 185 fols. measure 15.5 x 22 cm.; the written surface measures 10.5 x 16.7 cm. 15 lines to page. Paper is brownish, rough, but watermarked with tre lune. Headings are red. Sūrah 1 is missing. The leather binding with flap is blind stamped. Acquired from the Department of Education and Culture, Tel Aviv Municipality, Israel. (Call no. codex 837940).

5. Koran. Copied in very small naskh in 19th century. After sūrah 1 the text starts with sūrah 2:42 (واركعوا مع الراكعين).

The overall measurement is 6.8 x 10.8 cm.; the written surface 4.3 x 8.2 cm. is ruled in gold, blue and red. 19 lines to page; catchwords. 1v richly illuminated. Paper is thin and off-white. Green cloth over cardboard binding with flap. Ms. is in green cloth container and embroidered carrying case. Gift of Henry Thrall, '06, Sept. 12, 1946. (Call no. Codex 1994).

6. Koran. Copied in medium size, calligraphic naskh, prepared perhaps by Aḥmad-zade Maḥmūd Ḥamdī whose name appears at end. (Perhaps identical or related to Maḥmūd Ḥamdī al-Nassākh, copied extensively; his mss. in Dār al-Kutub in Cairo are many). The overall measurements 12.7 x 20.5 cm.; the written surface 6.6 x 12.8 cm. is ruled. 15 lines to page; catchwords. Rather unusual illumination of v. 1v-2r. Paper is off-white and glazed. The leather binding with flap is gilt stamped. Gift of Bella C. Landauer, Nov. 4, 1934. (Call no. Codex 001987).

7. Koran. Copied in small naskh by Sayyid Hasan al-Ḥamdī, a student of Aḥmad al-Zarīfī, in 1271 H./1854-5 A.D. (Identical with Shaykh Hasan al-Ḥamdī who copied in naskh in 1224 H./1809 A.D. Cf. VOHD 13.4, p. 316). Overall measurements 11.5 x 18.5 cm.; the written surface 6.5 x 12.5 cm. is ruled with gold predominating. 15 lines to page; catchwords. Illuminated 1v-2r and other usual Koranic ornamentation. Paper is brownish and glazed. The rather modern leather binding with flap is blind stamped. Gift of Irmgard Kuntze. (Call no. Codex 001986).

8. Koran. Copied in rather small naskh in 1177 H./1763-4 A.D. The overall surface measurements are 10.5 x 16.5 cm.; the written surface 5.8 x 11 cm. is ruled mainly in gold. 15 lines to page; catchwords. The usual Koranic illumination is rather crude. Paper is of medium fine texture and off-white. The leather binding with flap is gilt stamped. Gift of B.C. Lan, 1928. (Call no. Codex 001975).

9. Koran. Copied by al-Ḥājj Muḥammad Yeni (?) Shehri, pupil of Aḥmad Shukrī (for whom cf. Musawwar, p. 358 bottom), dated 1267 H./1851 A.D. The overall measurements are 10.7 x 17 cm.; the written surface 5.5 x 10.5 cm. is ruled, with gold predominating. 15 lines to page; catchwords. The usual Koranic illumination is rather crude. Paper is yellowish. The red leather binding is blind stamped; the flap is torn from the binding. The covers seem not to be the original ones. (No. 22; no call number).

10. Koran. Suwar 1-4:147 copied in large calligraphic naskh by Ahmad al-Shukrī al-Miṣrī (for whom cf. Musawwar, p. 358 bottom), dated 1191 H./1777 A.D. Overall measurements 13.2 x 21.5 cm.; the written surface 7.8 x 13.4 cm. is ruled in gold, red, and blue. 11 lines to page; catchwords. Paper is rather thin, brownish and slightly glazed. The brown leather binding with flap is gilt stamped. Gift of Corinna Lidon Smith in memory of Joseph Lidon Smith. (Call no./Codex (?)/777940.1).

11. /Muraqqa' / Specimens of elegant writing by Shaykh Hamd Allāh (for whom cf. Musawwar, p. 346-9 et passim.) of the 16th century, displaying traditions in large thulth and smaller naskh ductus. 4 oblong leaves pasted into three cardboard fols. measuring 25.4 x 15 cm.; the written surface measures 18 x 7.5 cm. Richly ornamented with corner pieces in blue, gold and green. 4-5 lines to page. The brown leather binding is gilt stamped and tooled. (Call no. Codex 001462).

12. Al-Jazūlī, Abū 'Abd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Sulaymān ibn Abī Bakr, d. 1465. Dalā'il al-khayrāt... 19th century copy in medium size calligraphic naskh containing prayers and litanies in honor of prophet Muḥammad. The last two pages list those who gave permission for the work to be copied (i jāzah), the line ending with the author himself. The 114 fols. measure 9 x 15 cm.; the written surface 5.5 x 11 cm. is ruled, with gold predominating. 9 lines to page; catchwords. Fols. 16v-17r contain rather crude miniatures of Mekka and Madīnah; illuminated 'unwān. Paper is coarse, light brown and slightly glazed. Half leather binding. Gift of Bella C. Landauer, Nov. 8, 1934. Reference GAL II, 252. (Call no. Codex 001974).

13. Idem. 19th century copy in rather small, fine, calligraphic naskh. The last chapter was copied by Muḥammad al-Fā'iq (cf. Musawwar, p. 359). The overall measurements are 10 x 15.5 cm.; the written surface 5.3 x 9.2 cm. is ruled with gold predominating. 11 lines to page; catchwords. Marginalia. Small illuminated 'unwān. Fols. 13v-14r contain rather crude miniatures of Mecca and Medina. Paper is off-white, thin, and watermarked with "42" and ornament over a rhombic arrangement of grapes, different from those in Briquet v. 4 12991-1321a. Some marginalia notes and glosses. Bound in front are four fols. containing the asmā' Allāh al-husnā. The four fols. at end contain awrād hizb al-Nawawī. Gilt stamped leather binding with flap. (Call no. Codex 001976).

14. Idem. Copied in behari hand in 1267 H./1850-1 A.D. About 200 fols. measuring 10 x 15.5 cm. is red ruled. 10 or less lines to page; catchwords. Heavily illustrated with rather crude miniatures and illuminations of the names of Allāh and Muḥammad found throughout in red. Paper is strong, brownish and watermarked. The leather binding with flap is blind stamped. Gift of the Friends of the Library in memory of Aaron W. Davis '17, May 6, 1941. (Call no. Codex 001992).

15. Arabian Nights. The Story of the Slave Girl Tawaddud. Title on fly-leaf in hand different from the text which is written in large vocalized naskh of the 18th century. When compared with some of the editions of this story, the text does not agree with them. Incipit: **بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ** ، **وَهُوَ اسْتَعِينِ ، حَدَّثَنَا**  
**الرحمن بن هشام بن ابراهيم اليماني رحمه الله تعالى قال كان رجل من**  
**التجار بمدينة بغداد وكان زوا مال . . .**

The 37 fols. measure 14.5 x 20.2 cm.; the written surface measures 10.5 x 17.5 cm.; 15 lines to page; catchwords. Paper is strong, brownish and watermarked AM FIERA (?) and tre lune. Blind stamped old leather binding. Waqf. Gift of Corinna Lidon Smith. Call no. Codex 002003).

16. /Stations of the Life of Muḥammad/ Title in English of the ms. reads "Crises in the Life of Muḥammad". Written in an elegant rather large, vocalized naskh hand by 'Abd al-Raḥmān bi-madīnat Qarahiṣṣār. The ms. contains chapters dealing with the birth, ascent to heaven, etc. 23 fols. measuring 11 x 16.3 cm.; the written surface 6.5 x 11 cm. is gold ruled. 7 lines to page; catchwords. Paper is off-white and at least partially watermarked with standing lion in chalice ornamentation. Gift of Bella C. Landauer, Nov. 8, 1934. (Call no. Codex 001973).

17. /Devotional work/ Starting with Koran, sūrah 6 in calligraphic rather small naskh with interlinear Turkish translation and marginalia in minure ruq<sup>ca</sup>ah and naskh respectively, the latter quoting such experts in ʿilm al-hurūf and magic use of the holy names as were al-Dirīnī (GAL I 451F), al-Yāfi<sup>cc</sup>i (GAL II, 176f, etc.), al-Būnī (GAL I, 910), and al-Mursī (GAL S I, 922). The ms. ends abruptly with pious utterances asking for a long life and a good death, each starting with Allāhumma. Overall measurements are 10 x 16.5 cm.; the written surface measuring 4.4 x 8 cm. is red ruled. 9 lines to page; catchwords. Small unwān and magical drawings in the margins, especially in the beginning of the ms. Paper is medium strong and watermarked. Bound in gilt tooled, red morocco binding with flap. Gift of Bella C. Landauer, Nov. 8, 1934. (Call no. Codex 001991).

18. /Devotional work/ written in calligraphic, vocalized naskh, with marginalia in most minute naskh. Text has Turkish interlinear translation in minute riq<sup>cc</sup>ah. Overall measurements are 10 x 16.5 cm.; the written surface measuring 4.4 x 8 cm. is red ruled. 9 lines to page; small 'unwān. Some drawings in the margin of the text, especially in the beginning. Paper is medium strong, off-white and watermarked. Bound in gold tooled morocco. Gift of Bella C. Landauer, Nov. 8, 1934. (Call no. Codex 001991).

19. 'Abd al-Wahhāb Efendī. al-Wathīqah. Written in 1236 H./1820-1 A.D. by Ismā'il Rāshid from among the students of Alī al-Fahīm in rather large, calligraphic, vocalized naskh. the contents are mostly quotations from the Koran and the hadith. Incipit: **ما بعد فان للخط اشارات من كتاب الله تعالى  
عز وجل . . .**

Overall measurements 12 x 19.5 cm.; the written surface 6.7 x 13.7 cm. is ruled in red, gold and blue. 9 lines to page; catchwords. Small 'unwān. Paper medium strong, off-white is glazed. The leather binding is gilt stamped. (No call no.).

20. Hāfiz, 14th cent. Divān. 199 fols. measuring 12 x 18.8 cm.; the written surface 5 x 10 cm. is ruled. Text cut out from older ms. is spliced into pages. 10 lines to page; catchwords. Graceful 'unwān. paper medium strong, brown and somewhat glazed. The leather is gilt stamped with doublure in inside of cover. Published repeatedly. (Call no. 503/2).

21. Ḥamdī, d. 909 H./1504-5 A.D. Yūsuf ve Zulaykhā a free Turkish version of the work of al-Jāmī, based in turn on the theme of Joseph and his brothers as it appears in the Koran, sūrah 12. Written in fully vocalized, small, neat naskh. The overall measurements are 12.2 x 18 cm.; the written surface measures 7.4 x 11.3 cm. Floral design in 'aks. Text in two columns, 15 lines to page. Colophon is missing but date of composition is given at end as 897 H./1491-2 A.D. Thin, white, watermarked paper. The leather binding with flap is gilt stamped. Bought in Constantinople Feb. 22, 1827. Reference: Rieu, Turkish Manuscripts, pp. 167-170; Bibliotheque Nationale (Blochet), 359-62 et pass. (Call no. Codex 01993).

22. Ālāq Kirmānī. Tarjamah-i hilyat sharifah (?) Turkish. Possibly a translation of Burhān al-Dīn Ibrāhīm ibn Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm al-Ḥalabī's work on the physical appearance of Muḥammad (for which cf. GAL II 432). Incipit:

**حمد بی وثنای بی  
عد اول خالق علت کلمته حضرتلر نه درکه**

Overall measurements 10 x 14.8 cm.; the written surface measures 5 x 9.2 cm. and is ruled in gold. 11 lines to page; catchwords. Illuminated small <sup>ḥ</sup>unwān. Paper is strong, brownish and partially glazed. The red leather binding with flap is gilt stamped. (No. 19 no call no.).

23. Hikāyat-i Shāhzāde Bahrām ve Gulandām. The story of prince Bahrām and Gulandam written in prose and copied in rather large ta<sup>ḥ</sup>liq of the 18th or 19th century. Incipit:

The overall measurements of the ms. are 11.3 x 19.2 cm.; the written surface measuring 7.3 x 14.2 cm. is ruled. 9 lines to page; catchwords. Many, rather crude, miniatures and small unwān. Paper is strong and brownish in color. The leather binding is gilt stamped. Reference: India Office Library I (Ethe) 799:22 (no call no.) Unverified.

Miroslav Krek

## BOOK REVIEWS

Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Library of the Institute of Ismaili Studies by Adam Gacek. London: Islamic Publications Ltd., 1984. Vol. 1, xvii, 180 p.

This volume describes 167 Arabic manuscript works of Ismaili literature "as construed in its broadest sense." As almost all of the manuscripts in the catalogue are late (19th and 20th century) copies, many of them multiple copies, of mediæval texts that either have been thoroughly identified in other reference works or have been edited using earlier recensions, Gacek rightly concentrates on identifying the codicological and paleographical significance of the collection in his charge. Hence, in addition to author, title, incipit, and catalogue number indexes, the Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts also contains indexes of watermarks and blind stamps. There are also fine facsimiles of selected folios from the collection.

For bio-bibliographical and subject data on the manuscripts, Gacek refers readers most often to I.K. Poonawala's Biobibliography of Ismaili Literature (Malibu, CA, 1977). His use of Poonawala is curious at times. For example, when Poonawala (p. 83) writes that Abū Ya'qūb ibn Ahmad al-Sijistānī could have (emphasis added) died between 386/996 and 393/1002-3, Gacek (p. 32) splits the difference and states that the author died ca. 390/999. Although Poonawala's work rarely fails to provide the relevant citation from Majdū' (i.e., Fahrasat al-kutub wa-al-rasā'il li-al-Majdū' ed. 'Alī Naqī Munzawī. Tih-rān: Chāpkhānah-i Dānīshgāh-i Tih-rān, 1966), Gacek often redundantly offers the same citation in his entries; e.g., no. 17, p. 15. However, in his description of the Kitāb al-fatarāt wa-al-Qirānāt (no. 50, p. 42), where a Majdū' citation would have been helpful to users seeking a description of the contents of the work; Gacek merely cites Poonawala (p. 73-73), which lacks the appropriate reference to Majdū'. In his entry on Kitāb al-himmah fi ādāb atbā'-al-a'imma (no. 52, p. 44), Gacek misses an opportunity to update Poonawala. Volume 25 (p. 244) of Āqā Buzurg Tih-rānī's Dhari'ah, which was published a year after Poonawala's work in 1978, gives the necessary bio-bibliographical information on the work. A final omission: a reference to W. Ivanow's Guide to Ismaili Literature (London: Royal Asiatic Society, 1933) p. 40, or Poonawala p. 60, would have helped those who want more information about the item no. 80 (p. 72-72).

Despite its bio-bibliographical inadequacies, the Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts is a carefully constructed reference work which will give students of book manufacture under the Raj ample food for thought.

Paul Sprachman  
University of Chicago Library

Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Library of the Institute of Ismaili Studies

Volume Two by Adam Gacek. London: Islamic Publication Ltd., Vol. 2, xx, 254 p., 5 plts.

The Institute of Ismaili Studies in London, established in 1977, maintains a research library specializing in Ismaili and Shiite literature. It possesses a substantial number of Arabic, Persian, and Khojki manuscripts coming mostly from private Ismaili collections. While Volume One of A. Gacek's catalogue dealt with the Arabic manuscripts containing Ismaili works, the present volume describes the remainder of the Arabic manuscripts. The majority of them were copied in Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, and a few in India and Yemen. The dated copies range from the 8th/14th to the early 20th century. Subjects vary widely, but the bulk represents Twelver Shiite religious literature. There is a fair number of Shaykhī treatises by Aḥmad Aḥsā'ī, Kāzīm Rashtī, and Karīm Kirmānī. Most of the works are well-known and available in other libraries containing Shiite manuscript collections, but there are a few late unknown texts and curiosities, for instance a Yemenite treatise against smoking tobacco dated in 1231/1816 (nr. 143).

The catalogue offers, in addition to the incipit and identification of the text, author and scribe, expert information about measures, paper, watermarks, ink, paleography, and binding. Numerous facsimile samples of the handwriting and a few color plates of calligraphy are provided. The description of the contents of otherwise unknown texts could have been fuller.

Wilferd Madelung  
University of Oxford



Kuwait compiled by Frank A. Clements. Santa Barbara, CA.: Clio Press, 1985. ISBN: 0-903450-99-2.

Jordan compiled by Ian J. Seccombe. Santa Barbara, CA.: Clio Press, 1985. ISBN: 0-903450-92-5.

These two volumes are a part of the well established series of country bibliographies in the World Bibliographical Series. They are consistent with the format established for the series. Each one begins with a short background to the country and its history. The various chapters in the bibliography are not uniform throughout the series. Rather, they are suited to the individual author and the subject matter. These bibliographies cite works and articles in English only. This is in recognition, I am sure, of the need for this information by the non-specialist. With this in mind, the works are a success. They provide basic reference needed when one begins study in an unfamiliar topic. Both of these titles will be important for the public library, school library, as well as the college library. The specialist in the history and politics of the region would probably find little to make it worth the time to consult these volumes.

The annotations are particularly useful. This makes the bibliography particularly important for the novice trying to locate some specific information without wanting to conduct a major literature search. Both authors have obviously done more than to simply compile a list of books and articles from major sources. Both bibliographies include citations from obscure publications and journals that might have missed the notice of the casual researcher. They are highly recommended for any library needing to provide this entry level or basic information.

John A. Eilts  
The University of Michigan

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**To all Members and Friends of the Middle East Librarians Association:

Remembering the fact that MELA was formed primarily by librarian members of the Middle East Studies Association who continue to recognize that our librarianship is basic in itself to the study interests of MESA while being itself a distinct field needing development through organized effort, your representatives on the 1986 Executive Board agree that now is the time to affirm formally our appreciation for MESA itself and for its interest in MELA.

Here is one item: MESA provides meeting rooms to MELA annually at no cost to us. The cash value of that annual gift, as of 1985 prices, is \$100. 1986 will be MESA's 20th birthday, and it will be MELA's 15th birthday, our formation coming in 1972. While it may be true that MESA gets "a certain number of meeting rooms free according to the number of guestrooms occupied by MESA attendees", we in MELA nevertheless enjoy a cash subsidy to our annual gatherings. It has totalled a respectable amount.

And here is another: MESA had received a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. This is for raising funds for a permanent endowment very much needed to help keep MESA running smoothly. Last year's amount was raised from MESA members and institutions and friends. This year it is the high hurdle amount of \$95,000, to decrease in level the final two years of the campaign. At the Annual Meeting in New Orleans in 1985 many members of MESA spontaneously subscribed generous personal donations. Old and new members who have not done so are heartily invited to contribute to this special financial effort in 1986 to meet the Challenge Grant.

By unanimous judgement of your 1986 MELA Executive Board, and from a healthy balance in our treasury, Secretary-Treasurer Dona Straley is being authorized to send a donation from our Association to MESA for the 1986 NEH Challenge Grant of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS. Action will be taken at coming meetings of MELA on the amount of each future donation.

The basic interests of the Middle East Librarians Association are founded securely in the efforts of MESA to further the understanding of the present Middle East and of

our civilization's permanent past, and present, identity with the Middle East heritage. Can we agree on this standpoint? If so, my friends and fellow librarians in MELA, let me encourage you each one to consider and activate a personal membership for yourself in the Middle East Studies Association. I guarantee you, your professional interest in this identity will locate for you a niche that invites and prompt your reading and writing.

Membership in MESA starts with contacting the office addressed:

Middle East Studies Association  
Department of Oriental Studies  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
602-621-5850

Dues are fifty dollars a year. Publications received as part of your membership are the "International Journal of Middle East Studies", the "MESA Bulletin", and the "MESA Newsletter", and all mailings announcing Annual Meeting plans and election of officers.

Very cordially yours, James W. Pollack, MELA 1986 President  
Indiana University Library  
Bloomington, IN 47405

The International Association of Orientalist Librarians has issued the 1984 number of its Bulletin (no. 24-25). Contents include articles and reviews on the Middle East, outstanding among them Miroslav Krek's review of Johannes Pedersen's The Arabic Book. Subscription details are available from William S. Wong, Asian Library, 325 Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, 61801.

**MEMBER NEWS**

Patricia Myers-Hayer will be working as a Catalogue Librarian at the new Sultan Qabus University Library. Her husband Jeffrey, will be working as Serials Acquisitions Librarian. They will assume these posts on April 1, 1986 and will be taking an extended leave of absence from their jobs at the Library of Congress.

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