

# MELA *notes*

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## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 44

SPRING, 1988

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR.....	2
1988 MELA ANNUAL CONFERENCE.....	3
1988 MEMP COMMITTEE MEETING.....	3
THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION Amnon Zipin.....	4
KABI:KAJ TO BOOK POUCHES James Pollock.....	8
ARABIC SCRIPT MANUSCRIPTS IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS, PT. 10 Miroslav Krek.....	11
NEWS OF THE MEMBERS.....	16
THE ISLAMIC STUDIES LIBRARY AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY Adam Gacek.....	17
MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM PROJECT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES.....	19
MIDDLE EASTERN ACTIVITY AT ALA.....	24
BOOK REVIEW <u>Iran almanac and book of facts</u> reviewed by Abazar Sepehri.....	25
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES AT HARVARD.....	26
HARVARD ARABIC SCRIPT USERS GROUP.....	26
JOB OPENING SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY, SULTANATE OF OMAN.....	27

MELA NOTES

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Have you recently visited any Middle East library collections outside North America, had any visitors in the field of Middle Eastern bibliography or librarianship, started/completed any interesting projects in your collection, or had any thoughts (gripes?) about the field that you would like to share with colleagues? A brief note, article or any communication about these (or other topics) that you would like to submit to MELA notes is always welcome (and saves the editor from begging you individually)! Please be sure to let me know about upcoming events, people who have done something interesting in our field, and other thoughts you may have on the subject.

**Contributions**

Generally, articles should be limited to 7 double-spaced pages; longer articles can be considered. Book reviews should be no longer than 500-700 words. All submissions should be complete and ready for publication in a standard format, with footnotes clearly indicated. Submissions in WordPerfect can be sent on a 5-1/4" floppy diskette.

MELA notes is issued three times a year (Winter, Spring, and Fall). 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 members can be informed in a timely fashion.

#### 1988 MELA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1988 annual MELA conference will be held in Los Angeles, California, on 2 November 1988, at the Beverly Hills Hotel, site of the following MESA conference. As usual, papers will be presented in the morning and the business meeting, including election of officers, will be held in the afternoon.

Final meeting information will be published in the Fall issue of MELA notes. For further details, contact the Program Chair Ed Jajko, Hoover Institution Library, Stanford CA 94305, phone 415-723-2050.

#### MEMP COMMITTEE MEETING

The annual meeting of the MEMP membership will take place on 1 November 1988, in the afternoon. The MEMP Executive Committee will meet that morning.

Further information will be sent to member institutions, or contact Executive Committee chair David Partington, Middle Eastern Dept., Harvard College Library, Harvard University, Cambridge MA 02138, phone 617-495-4310.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION\*

Modern Hebrew literature in English translation: papers, selected syllabi and bibliographies, edited by Leon I. Yudkin<sup>1</sup>, was published this year. This book is both a testimony to the importance of bibliographic control over translations of modern Hebrew literature and to the sad situation of teaching Hebrew literature in the college curriculum.

The importance of creating and maintaining bibliographic control over translations is evident. If one creates syllabi, talks about methodology, and discusses ways of teaching the literature in English translation, one naturally needs an easy access to the body of translated literature which one plans to teach. Therefore, besides the importance that bibliographers see in bibliographic control for the sake of arrangement of knowledge in a methodical, acceptable form, students and teachers of Hebrew literature in the U. S. have a practical need for such bibliography.

With the objective of "translating the best of Hebrew literature in all its forms into foreign languages and engaging in the publication of translated works and their distribution among Jewish and non-Jewish readers, as a contribution to Israeli and Zionist education among world Jewry on the one hand, and the fostering of cultural ties with the world at large, on the other",<sup>2</sup> the Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature was established in 1962. Since the Institute's main goal is the dissemination of Hebrew literature, by making it available in translation, the Institute has recognized the need for bibliographic control of the available translations. No doubt, the Institute is the one single force that has sustained these efforts for over a decade now.

The Institute, however, was not the first to try to create this bibliographic control. The first substantial effort was carried out by Professor Yohai Goell of Jerusalem who was asked to perform this task by the editor of the English language publications of the Youth Department of the World Zionist Organization; the organization also published Goell's work. I believe it is valid to assume that it is the impetus that led to the establishment of the Institute, to make modern Hebrew literature available to people who are interested in it but, due to insufficient knowledge of the language, are unable to read it in the original Hebrew.

Almost twenty years have passed between publication of Goell's Bibliography of modern Hebrew literature and Yudkin's Modern Hebrew literature in English translation. These twenty years

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\* This paper was originally presented at the 1987 MELA annual conference, 13 November 1987.

witnessed continued intense translation activities and a parallel effort to provide bibliographic control over those translations. Translations of Hebrew literature were made into at least 32 languages and were published in many different countries. One finds translated Hebrew literature in pro-Zionist publications like Moment and in anti-Zionist publications like Shu'ün Filastīniyah or al-Karmel.

I would like to share with you some of the efforts, the people, and the numbers involved in the creation and maintenance of this bibliographic control and to speculate somewhat on the answer to the questions who translated what, why and for whom, especially as it relates to translations into Arabic.

In the introduction to his bibliography of 1968<sup>3</sup>, Goell mentions that it includes 7500 translations into English. In 1975, Goell published a supplement volume<sup>4</sup> that included translations into languages other than English. This volume added an additional 696 translations to the count.

In 1977, the Institute took over a rather active role in assuring the creation of comprehensive bibliographic control of translated Hebrew literature. The Institute hired Professor Isaac Goldberg, formerly of the Library of Congress and Bar Ilan University, to direct the compilation and research of bibliographic citations of modern Hebrew literature, with a commitment to publish twice yearly up-dates of the bibliography. I have joined with Isaac Goldberg, and, between 1978 and 1985, we have published seven volumes bringing the total number of translations to nearly 20,000.<sup>5</sup>

In the late seventies, the Institute started supporting translations into Arabic. As with English before, no sooner had the translations started than it became evident that bibliographic control is needed, be it to avoid duplication, answer readers' queries, or plan for future translations. At the Institute's request<sup>6</sup>, I compiled the largest bibliography of Hebrew literature translated into Arabic over the period 1948-1979.<sup>7</sup> The Fihrist brought together 1088 citations of translated works or critical studies thereof.

During 1985, while on a professional improvement leave from Ohio State University, I had the opportunity to up-date the Fihrist by covering translations that have appeared between 1980-1985. This added an additional 500 citations of translations into Arabic.

In 1986, the Institute acquired an IBM computer which, among other tasks, is being used now as the database for the bibliography of Modern Hebrew literature. Special software was developed to respond to bibliographic needs. All new citations are being added to the database. The Institute plans to continue annual cumulations of the bibliography and to add to the database all previous citations included in the published bibliographies. Use of the computer allows a rapid selected use and manipulation

of the data as needed to respond to requests and queries from readers, authors, and translators.

While compiling and researching the Arabic translations, I tried to see if one can make draw any conclusions about those translations that will be of a general nature, or that will somehow reflect Israeli-Arab relations, both within Israel and in the Middle East. While preparing the first Fihrist (covering the years 1948-1979), it became evident that most of the translations during the 1950's and 1960's were politically or pragmatically motivated. Many of the translations were of authors who were identified with the Left or what was called the progressive peace-seeking elements in Israeli society. Those translations were usually published in newspapers such as al-Ittihad or al-Mirṣad, and the translators were mostly Jews from Arab countries or, to a lesser extent, Arab citizens of Israel. Many of the translations included in this group are works that never have been translated into other languages, which only reinforces the conclusion that the translation was politically motivated.

On the other hand, many translations of major national authors were prepared by Arabic-speaking Jews and published in the Union's subsidized Arabic daily newspaper al-Yawm and its predecessor, Ḥaḡiqat al-amr. From the tenor of those translations it seems that their purpose was dual: 1) to create for the Arab citizens of the country an access to the literature of the majority, and 2) to provide new immigrants from Arabic-speaking countries a way to read the literature of their new homeland. In addition to this, the requirements of the Israeli educational system<sup>8</sup>, created a practical need to translate some of the literature into Arabic. There is a very evident correlation between Arabic translations during the 1950's and 1960's and the required readings by the Ministry of Education.

This situation changed completely in the 1970's. As most Israeli Arabs became truly bi-lingual and most immigrants have acquired sufficient command of the language not to need translations, the pragmatic needs for translations into Arabic ceased to exist. In spite of this, the number of translations into Arabic have not been reduced, but rather increased. While political motivations are still behind some of the translations, a growing number of translations into Arabic is motivated by literary and commercial reasons. During the seventies and the eighties many of the works that are translated into Arabic are the same works that are being translated into English, French, and German. Another change is the identity of the translators. While in the first period (1948-1967), most of the translators were Arabic-speaking Jews, during the second period the majority of translators are Israeli Arabs who, in most cases, are also graduates of Israeli universities. The most important translators in that group are Muḥammad Ḥamzah Ghanāyim, Anton Shammas, Maḥmūd ʿAbbāsī and Naʿīm ʿAraidi.

The second period also saw translations into Arabic that were



done outside Israel. In 1968, Salim 'Abd al-Mun'im published his Namādhij min al-adab al-Isrā'īlī<sup>9</sup>, and in the pages of Shu'ūn Filastīniyah and al-Karmel, we find numerous translations and critical articles by Reshad al-Shami, Jiryis Sabri, Fawzi Asmar, and others.

I believe that the translations of the second period are also aimed at a different reading public. This time it is not only Israeli Arabs and Arabic-speaking Jews for whom these translations are made but also readers outside Israel who have interest in this literature but, like their counterparts in this country, cannot read it in the original and therefore are in need of a translation.

Amnon Zipin  
Ohio State University

1. New York : M. Wiener Pub., 1987.
2. Cohen, Nilli. "The Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature", Jewish book annual, v. 41 (1983), pp. 149-155.
3. Goell, Yohai. Bibliography of modern Hebrew literature in English translation. Jerusalem ; London ; New York : Israel University Press, 1968.
4. Goell, Yohai. Bibliography of modern Hebrew literature in translation. Tel Aviv : Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature, 1975.
5. Bibliography of modern Hebrew literature in translation. Tel Aviv : Institute for Translation of Hebrew Literature, 1972-1976. To be issued in two parts, the first listing English translations, the second listing translations in all other languages. Continues Bibliography of modern Hebrew literature in translation by Goell.
6. With the support of the Ohio State University Libraries, the Graduate School and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.
7. Zipin, Amnon. Fihrist al-adab al-'Ibrī al-hadīth al-mutarjam ila al-'Arabīyah : 1948-1979. Tel Aviv : Ma'had Tarjamat al-Adab al-'Ibrī, 1980.
8. That, in addition to Arabic literature, Arab students will study Hebrew literature, in order to matriculate from high school.
9. al-Qahirah : Dar al-Mawqif al-'Arabi, 1968. The works included in this volume were translated into Arabic from an English translation.

KABI:KAJ TO BOOK POUCHES: LIBRARY PRESERVATION MAGIC AND  
TECHNIQUE IN SYRIA OF THE 1880'S AND THE 1980'S WEST

Arabic bibliophiles eventually cross paths with Kabi:kaj, that slowly vibrating power or being whose name they may find inscribed at the opening or closing of handwritten or printed books. Adam Gacek has printed a fine etymological study of the name and its use in Arabic manuscripts<sup>1</sup>, in which he quotes Steingass's three-fold explanation of it. In his article, illustrated examples are drawn from Leiden University Library's manuscripts. On the cover of Brill's publication Arabic studies in the Netherlands, I noticed the reproduction of another Leiden MS example (Jawhari's dictionary) that reads like the muttered battle cry of a worried philologist, "lil-ar.dah, Kabi:kaj!" -- "To the worms, Kabi:kaj!"

At Indiana University Library, we met this word in handling a 1964 purchase of 19th century books from Syria. They were said to be from a judge's library, and a great many of them bear two and three generations of owners' names in the Sukkari family. Curiosity too long was lulled by Wehr's identification of the Kabi:kaj name as that of the *Ranunculus Asiaticus* plant, which I took to be some sort of preservative agent. Preservation had been anxiously pushing its way to the fore of national library priorities. So, to prepare a contribution on our 1983 MELA theme of book preservation I thought again of this collection moving along in slow 2nd and 3rd cataloging priority. Belatedly I searched our stacks to photocopy examples of Kabi:kaj, and located seven volumes with three variants of an invocation for book preservation, all written by the same hand. More striking than these few magic formulae were the book pouches that I remembered had encased a large quantity of the individual volumes. These had been mostly in very poor condition, made of leather or paper-board and cloth. All pouches had been removed to facilitate inventory and cataloging; but years later we were dismayed to understand that we had thereby lowered the books' intrinsic value. Samples of the best preserved of the red leather pouches, some tooled, with their inner book-ejection straps and identification labels, have been kept in our Middle East Librarian's office.

Gacek's study emphasizes the etymology of the botanical option in Steingass' listing. My ongoing research has involved a bit of philosophy: if Kabi:kaj was a pest-repellent plant with an odor, it paralleled usages such as the burning of citronella candles outdoors in the evening to ward off mosquitoes. Our University's Biology Librarian told me that the poison in *Ranunculus Asiaticus* is "proto-anemonin". To me, however, the insect repelling feature is still vague, if there is one for that plant. Closer to the point, Webster, the leading "dictionnaire", informs me that moth balls were formerly made of camphor. A letter to the Christian Science Monitor<sup>2</sup> said: "...Eucalyptus buds on every bookshelf and in our basement works well in Southern California

[to eliminate silverfish]". A UPI notice from Atlanta (1984) headlined, "Orange peel oil bane of insects" reported "The oil in an orange peel may turn out to be an environmentally safe weapon against an array of harmful insects ... limonene is the ingredient in the citrus oil that kills certain insects ... and is found not only in oranges but in other citrus fruits as well." A capstone to this line of inquiry was place when I heard fellow Indiana librarian Patricia Reisenman describe her impressions on a 1985 tour of academic libraries in China. There in that land of ancient civilization, in the stacks of one of their academic libraries, stood a sentinel of preservation, a two-inch cube of gleaming camphor! Ah, so. Insects are kept at bay, but books must not touch such plant guards.

Now the species of Kabi:kaj, to paraphrase Steingass, may be some pest-repelling plant odor, or an angelic (?) controller of snakes and such, or yet a beady-eyed, antenna-waving potentate of cockroaches. For sure, the generic nature of its use is a blurry hope that writing the name, with or without specific direction will magically preserve the physical book.

The third explanation -- Kabi:kaj is king of cockroaches and will control predators -- seems to fit the context of usage best of the three. Our examples of the invocation, translated, include:

- O Kabi:kaj, save the paper!
- O Kabi:kaj, save this book from the worms!
- O Kabi:kaj, do not eat the paper!

Further to philosophize, are there parallels in book curatorship between the speeding present and the sleeping past? How about the following observations? As it did in Syria of the 1880's, so it is true in the 1980's West, book protection begins with concerned and responsible people, who are motivated partly by a lingering degree of ancient religio-cultural respect, being "People of the Book", and in large part by the logic of necessity to guard civilization's effort against predator elements, chemicals, insects, thieves, and careless handling. Then and now, book protection requires care in granting access rights, security based on close knowledge and observation of users. In this aspect, private libraries go to great efforts, while public libraries rely on electronic means nowadays.

As to superstition vis-a-vis practical science in book protection, we have seen old Syria's continuum from the invocation of Kabi:kaj to generous use of well made book pouches. In the West, superstition in this regard may also run rampant under the carpets and loose floor tiles. A few of its species are:

- 1) the honor system is an adequate protection for books;
- 2) open stack are the mark of democracy and right thinking and thereby we acknowledge the universal will to learn;
- 3) books can always be replaced if destroyed or missing;
- 4) underlining, shading and marginal notes are the spoor of budding or already great scholars;

5) speed in library processing, moving and shelving time closely rivals ideas in scholarly importance. They say that abnormality is a mere pushing of normality beyond its generally understood but often unmarked limits. All of these abnormal-sounding modern superstitions are frowned upon, and are dealt with as librarians can.

Finally, modern applied science in libraries is a matter of pride to us. Some of the measures in place now are the following:

- 1) humidity, temperature and light controls;
- 2) regular cleaning of books, shelves, and floor areas;
- 3) insect and rodent-free library environment;
- 4) more careful handling and shelving;
- 5) use of boxes and envelopes of acid-free paper for physical protection of fragile and rare materials from shelfwear, overexposure to light, and structural weaknesses;
- 6) further halting acidification by interleaving with acid-free tissues;
- 7) use of archival repair tape for torn pages;
- 8) rebinding without destruction of signatures;
- 9) leather care.

There is no magic in careful attention to the technique of book protection. And whenever you see the latter, you know it to be the work of a very up-to-date bibliophile.

James W. Pollock  
Indiana University (retired)

1. in Manuscripts of the Middle East I (1986), p. [49]-53.
2. 10/21/83, p.24.

## ARABIC SCRIPT MANUSCRIPTS IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS, PT. 10

University of California, Berkeley  
University Library  
Berkeley, California 94720

Contact person: (Dr.) Bonnie Hardwick, Head, Manuscripts  
Division.

Part One; survey completed from xeroxed pages, October, 1987

1. Niẓāmī Ganjavī, d. 600/1203. Iqbāl-nāmah.

Copied in rather large nastālīq in 1915 V.S. (Vikrama Samvat era)/1857 A.D. The overall measurements are 13.5 x 23 cm.; the written surface arranged in two columns 8 x 18 cm.; 14 lines to page; catchwords. Red is used in headings. Off-white, laid paper is glazed and somewhat wormed. Water stained. The leather binding is blind stamped. Contents correspond to Babaev edition but has 13 couplets more than that edition. Purchased in 1965. Call no.: Ms PK17/no.28 (87/48 Z).

2. Niẓāmī Ganjavī, d. 600/1203. Iqbāl-nāmah.

Copied in fine, small nastālīq of the 16/17th cent. A.D. The overall measurements are 12.5 x 19 cm.; the written surface arranged in two columns 7 x 13 cm. is double ruled in gold and blue; 14 lines to page; catchwords. Multicolored 'unwān, "gold clouds" between lines fols. 1v-2r and certain other page(s?). Red used in headings. The dark, laid paper is glazed. Some worming, not affecting the text. Edges worn and stained. Leather binding. Reference as above. Purchased 1965. Call no.: 4Ms PK6401 ZZ10 (87/80).

3. Nakhshabī, Diyā' al-Dīn, d. 751/1350. Tūṭīnāmah.

Copied in rather small nastālīq of the 19th cent. A.D. Inc.: هدى مناجات برازق النعاش في عيشه كه. The overall measurements are 15.5 x 23 cm.; the written surface 9 x 16 cm. is double ruled in various colors; 16 lines to page; catchwords. Simple 'unwān and 19 miniatures. Paper is laid, off-white and glazed. The sewn binding is blind tooled; some tears, binding coming apart. Starts similar to Ind. Office #751 and Berlin (Pertsch) 1027. Call no.: 4Ms PK6401 ZZ1 (87/70 Z).

4. Fayḍī (or Fayyāḍī), Abū al-Fayḍ, d. 1004/1595. Nal ve/ Daman.

Copied in medium sized nastālīq, probably in the 19th cent. A.D. Persian mathnavī dealing with the romance Nal Damayanti, an epic from the Mahabharata. Incomplete at end. The 139 fols.

measure 13 x 21 cm.; the written surface arranged in two columns measures 8 x 15.5 cm.; 13 lines to page; catchwords. Paper is gray and laid. Some worming affecting the text; mold, water stains. The leather binding is blind stamped and tooled. Sewn binding undone on top of spine. Starts as Bombay University (Sarfarāz), p. 278. Call. no.: 4Ms PK6401 ZZ12/no. 27 (87/71 Z).

5. al-Jāmī, d. 898/1492. Yūsuf ve Zulaykhā.

Copied in fine, small nasta'liq of the 16th/17th cent. A.D. The overall measurements are 14.25 x 21.75 cm.; the written surface, arranged in two columns measuring 6.5 x 13.5 cm., is ruled in several colors; 12 lines to page; catchwords. Multicolored, fine illuminations on fols. 1v-2r after which the text starts with the ascension of the Prophet Muhammad to heaven ( در صراج ). Headings are in white on gold background. Name of the copyist at the end cannot be quite discerned from the xerox. Shāh Muḥammad seems firm (perhaps identical with copyist found in Asiatic Soc. of Bengal /Ivanow/ 1024 #260 ?). Paper is yellow-orange to lavender color. Water stains. The leather binding is gilt stamped and tooled with hand painted florals. Front cover is loose. Ref. NUC, v. 277, p. 79b. Ms. starts as Rosenzweig edition, Vienna, 1824. Call no.: 4Ms PK6401 ZZ64 6.17 (87/56 Z).

6. al-Jāmī, d. 898/1492. Yūsuf ve Zulaykhā.

Copied in medium size tāliq in 1268 A.H./1851 A.D. The 178 fols. (or pages ?) measure 12.25 x 21 cm.; the written surface, arranged in two columns measuring 7 x 14.25, is ruled; 15 lines to page; catchwords. Some marginalia, mostly on variant readings. Floral "unwān. Paper is grayish creme, laid and glazed. Some worming not affecting the text; water stains and mold. The leather binding is blind tooled and stamped. For reference see preceding entry. Purchased in 1965. Call no.: 4Ms PK6401 ZZ6 (87/68 Z).

7. Sa<sup>c</sup>dī. Gulistān.

Copied in medium size tāliq of the 18th cent. A.D. by Muḥammad 'Uthmān Gujarātī (?) for Maharaja Zambīr Singh Bahādur. The 113 fols. (or pages ?) measure 22 x 34.5 cm.; the written surface measures 12 x 23.5 cm.; 19 lines to page; catchwords. Off-white, laid paper is somewhat foxed. The leather binding is gilt tooled. Incipit. varies slightly from that usually encountered. Reference VOHD XIV/1 #195, #261. Purchased in 1965. Call no.: 4Ms PH6401 ZZ7/no.32 (87/59 Z).

8. Nizāmī Ganjavī, d. 600/1203. Makhzan al-agrār.

Copied in rather large nasta'liq, probably in the beginning of the 19th cent. A.D. Acephalous, incipit with couplet 24. The overall measurements are 16.5 x 27.25 cm.; the written surface

arranged in two columns measures 9.5 x 19.5 cm.; 13 lines to page; catchwords. Some red used in headings. The grayish white laid paper is glazed. Has few more lines at end as has Alizade's Baku ed. of 1960. Variants, especially as to verse sequence. Call no.: Ms PK9/no. 21 (87/39 Z).

9. Niẓāmī Ganjavī, d. 600/1203. Makhsan al-asrār. Copied in medium size, rather cursive tālīq in 1199 H./1785 A.D. The overall measurements are 12 x 20.5 cm.; the written surface arranged in two columns measures 7 x 17.5 cm.; 15 lines to page varies; catchwords. The gray laid paper is glazed. Some worming, tearing, water stains and pages sealed together, affecting the text. The leather binding is blind stamped. Starts as Vatican (Rossi) p. 119 except that the two verses of the first couplet are inverted. There are other variations noticeable in the text. Purchased in 1965. Call no.: 4Ms PK6401 ZZ16/no. 18 (87/74 Z).

10. Harkarana, Multānī, also known as Herkern, ibn Mathurādā Kanbū of Multān. /Inshā'/.

Samples of letterwriting copied in medium size tālīq of the 18/19th cent. A.D. The overall measurements are 11.5 x 18.5 cm.; the written surface measuring 7.5 x 14 cm. is ruled; 11 lines to page; catchwords. Rather unusual floral unwan. The dark gray paper is laid. The last fol. is not originally part of the ms. It is lighter in color, the written surface is smaller and there are only 10 lines to the page. Worming, tearing and staining partially affecting the text. Leather binding. Reference LC 56-49645 for published text and translation. Purchased in 1965. Call no.: Ms PK13/#30 (87/64 Z).

11. Tawakkul Beg, fl. 1063/1652. /Muntakhab-i Shāhnāmah/, also known as Takīkh-i Shamshīr Khānī. Abbreviated version of Firdawsi's Shāhnāmah copied in medium size tālīq in 1728 A.D. The 290 folios measure 15.5 x 25 cm.; the written surface 9 x 18.5 cm. is ruled; 15 lines to page; catchwords. Some marginalia in English. Paper is laid and gray in color; marbled end papers. Water staining. Green, black and pink marbled paper over boards with gilt tooling or stamping on leather spine. Reference: BM (Rieu) II, p. 539; Univ of Cambridge (Browne, 1986), p. 292; Bombay University (Sarfaraz, 1935), p. 267. Call no.: (87/57 Z).

12. Żuhūrī, Nūr al-Dīn Muḥammad Ṭāhīr, d. 1024/1615. Sāqīnāmah. Copied in large, cursive nasta'līq in 1937 V.S./1880 A.D. The overall measurements are 19.5 x 31 cm.; the written surface arranged in three, almost undistinguishable columns, measures 13 x 24.5 cm.; 15 lines to page. Few marginalia. The paper is grayish creme and laid. Moisture stains and deterioration at the edges affecting the text. Loose leather binding with flap. Reference: Rypka, History of Iranian literature (1968), pp. 724f.

Purchased in 1969. Call no.: MsfPK9 (87/62 Z).

13. /Bayāz/

Album of poetry containing selections of tarji band verses from Saḍī and others, compiled for Tutah Rām in 1918 V.S./1860 A.D. Copied in medium size tālīq. The 108 fols. measuring 12.5 x 9 cm. have written surface arranged in two columns measuring 7.5 x 5.5 cm., which is ruled 4 lines to page; catchwords. Paper is creme color and laid. Some worming not affecting the text; water staining. Leather binding. Call no.: 7 (87/46 Z).

14. /No title. Modern Arabic reader/

Written probably for children in large, vowelised naskh betraying East Asian characteristics. 20th century copy. Overall measurements are 19 x 26 cm.; the written surface measures 14 x 20 cm.; 10 lines to page, all in blue lettering. Machine made paper of creme color seems to be glazed. Pages are stapled together. Chinese provenance, it was acquired as gift from the Department of Near Eastern Languages in 1966. Call no.: (87/82 Z).

15. al-Ṭāʿī, Muḥammad, compiler. Tuḥfat al-adīb wa-nasīb al-gharīb.

Quotations from such poets as Ibn Nubātah (fl. 755-62/1354-61; cf. GAL II 10), Saḍī al-Dīn al-Ḥillī (d. ca. 750/1349, cf. GAL II 159) and others, ending in same letters. Incipit:

... اما بعد وقد جمعت هذا الكتاب لنفسي وجمعته انيسي وانيسي  
Copied in small naskh hand by ʿImrān, the scribe in 1071 H./1660-1/A.D. Overall size is 15 x 20 cm.; the written surface arranged in two columns measures 12 x 18 cm., varies. Text is ruled in red. 21 lines to page, varies; catchwords. Paper is yellowish and laid. Some water staining. Red, white and blue marble paper over boards with leather spine binding. Call no.: (87/58 Z).

16. /Bayāz/

Collection of Persian poetry taken from the davāvīn of such poets as were Kamāl-e Khujandī (d. ca. 803/1400-1), Amīr Khusraw Dihlavi (d. 725/1324), Saḍī, Nazīrī (d. 1021/1612), and others. Copied in hanging style medium size tālīq. Acephalous and large lacunae at the end. Overall measurements 13.5 x 23 cm.; the written surface arranged in two columns is ruled. 8 lines to page. Some worming, creasing and molding. Paper is tan colored. Leather binding is blind stamped. Call no.: Ms PK11/#7 (87/49 Z).



17. Sirr-i akbar.

Translation of the Veda from the Sanskrit by Dara Shikoh. Copied in small cursive hand by Dhanna (?) Kaul in 1989 V.S./1931 A.D. Apparently also contains مقاله باب لال the discussion between Dara Shikoh and Lal Dayāl. Over all sized: 20 x 28.5 cm.; the written surface measuring 12 x 21.5 cm.; 22 lines to page; catchwords. Red overlinings. Paper is of yellowish color. Some worming not affecting the text. Green covers. Reference: Dara Shikoh, Tr. Sirr-i akbar. Ed. by Tara Chand and Reza Jalali Naini. Teheran, 1957. P. 103. Call no.: Ms PK6/#15 (87/38 Z).

Miroslav Krek  
ULASMAI

## NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

George Atiyeh was recently profiled in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin (9 May 1988, p. 195, 198). His latest book, Arab civilization: challenges and responses, which he edited with Ibrahim M. Oweiss, is to be published by State University of New York Press in June.

John Emerson (Harvard College Library) visited Kurdish specialist booksellers in England, France, and Sweden during an acquisitions trip in May and June. His efforts resulted in valuable increments to Harvard's important-but-largely-uncataloged Kurdish collection.

Ed Jajko (Hoover Institution) has just returned from a buying trip to England and France. He also attended the spring meeting of MELCOM, now MELCOM International, which he will report on at the November MELA meeting.

### THE ISLAMIC STUDIES LIBRARY AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY

The Islamic Studies Library was founded, along with the Institute of Islamic Studies, by Prof. Wilfred Cantwell Smith in 1952. Since that time, the Institute and its library occupied several locations and, since 1983, has been located in the former Presbyterian College of Montreal, Morrice Hall. The Islamic Studies Library has grown from a modest departmental collection to a very respectable library of approximately 90,000 volumes covering the whole of Islamic civilization. This sizeable and rich collection, maintained as such, and yet part of the McGill University library system, is quite unique in Canada.

The library's collections can be divided into three major categories: printed, manuscript and audio-visual materials. All three categories consist of materials in European and Islamic languages. The main languages represented are English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, on the one hand, and Arabic, Persian, Turkish (Ottoman and modern), Urdu, on the other. A library collection is primarily a reflection of the teaching and research conducted at an institute or university; and such is the case with the Islamic Studies Library. The teaching of Quranic Exegesis, Tradition, Jurisprudence, Philosophy, Theology, Sufism, Shiite Thought, History and Modern Developments in the Muslim world, as well as instruction in the various Islamic languages, has shaped the nature of our collections.

The Islamic Studies Library caters, in the first place, to its post-graduate students and is very much a research collection, with its reference section at the center. Its book stock is classified according to two classification systems: a classification introduced by the founder, Prof. Smith, hence Smith Classification, and Library of Congress Classification. The latter was introduced in 1983 along with computerization. From that year onwards, the library's holdings have been available through an on-line catalog, called MUSE.

The Institute's library houses a collection of some 900 periodicals and serials. Many of the titles are complete sets, no longer published or rare. One should mention here especially such titles as: The Oriental Collections (published in London, 1797-1799), Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College Magazine (Aligarh), Ma'arifi (Azamgarh), Nugush (Lahore), al-Muslim (Cairo), al-Majallah al-Misriyah (Cairo), Maktab-i Tashayyuf (Qum), Ma'arifi-i Ja'fari (Qum), Kalem (Istanbul), and Ma'lumat (Istanbul). The library currently subscribes to 330 titles and is planning to increase substantially this number in order to enable the researcher to keep abreast of current developments in Islamic Studies.

There are in the collection many early printed books and lithographs, as well as 168 volumes of manuscripts. Among the early printed books there are sixteen items published by the

celebrated Turkish printer, Ibrahim Müteferrika in Constantinople in the early eighteenth century and described by W.J. Watson, the first librarian of the Institute, in Journal of the American Oriental Society<sup>1</sup>. There are also translations of the Quran by Du Ryer (Paris, 1649), Sale (London, 1734) and Fluegel (Leipzig, 1841); an elegantly printed Abu al-Fida's De vita et rebus gestis Mohammedis (Oxford, 1723); De Turcarum moribus epitome of B. Djordjevic (Lyon, 1578); Scientia metrica et rhythmica of Samuel Clericus (Oxford, 1661); Historia Christi Persice conscripta of Hieronymus Xavier (Leiden, 1639); the monumental Description de l'Egypte (2d ed.), in twenty-six main volumes, plus thirteen volumes of plates (Paris, 1821-30), and many more.

The manuscript collection, which consists of texts in Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Turkish, even though small in size, is rich in Shiite texts. There are 127 individual Arabic texts alone, with Jurisprudence, Philosophy and Theology accounting for over 50% of it. The oldest dated manuscript, which is a gloss on al-Aqā'id al-nasaffiyah by Ahmad al-Khayālī (d. 870 A.H./1465-6 A.D.) was transcribed in 899 A.H./1493-4 A.D., i.e. twenty-nine years after the author's death. Among other manuscripts there is a beautifully calligraphed collection of prayers, mostly by the famous Sufi master, Abd al-Qādir al-Jīlānī (d. 561 A.H./1167 A.D.), executed in Shābān 1094 A.H./1683 A.D., as well as a large leaf from a Kūfī Qurān, written on parchment supposedly for Fāṭimah, the Zirid Princess of Qayrawān, in 410 A.H./1020 A.D. This collection of manuscripts is not the only one at McGill. Three other collections of Islamic manuscripts exist in McLennan Library, Osler Library and Blacker-Wood Library and plans are under way for the publication of, in the first place, a union catalogue of Arabic manuscripts.

The Islamic Studies Library has been very fortunate to collect so much valuable material. It is thanks to charitable organizations such as the Rockefeller and Aga Khan Foundations that it is still possible to carry on building this collection for those who seek knowledge of Islam and its civilization.

Adam Gacek  
McGill University

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<sup>1</sup> Vol. 88, no. 3 (1968), pp. 435-441.

MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SPRING MEETING 1988  
MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: George Atiyeh (Library of Congress) (ex-officio), Ray Boylan (Center for Research Libraries) (ex-officio), Dennis Hyde (U. of Pennsylvania), Fawzi Khoury (for Janet Heineck, President, MELA) (ex-officio), David H. Partington (Harvard University), Dona Straley (Ohio State University), Todd Thompson (New York Public Library), Nassif Youssif (U. of Minnesota)  
GUEST: Esther Smith (Center for Research Libraries)

The Executive Committee of the Middle East Microform Project held its spring meeting on May 20, 1988, at the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, Illinois.

Partington asked the Executive Committee to confirm the election of himself as chair and of Straley as secretary in order to ensure that due process had been followed at the first meeting of the MEMP Committee in November 1987. The Executive Committee confirmed the elections.

To provide for staggered terms on the Executive Committee as mandated in the by-laws, Hyde, Ed Jajko (Hoover Institution), and Thompson will serve one-year terms.

The Nominating Committee to provide a slate of candidates for the upcoming election of members to the Executive Committee will consist of Partington and Dunning Wilson (UCLA).

Boylan distributed the MEMP financial statement (see attached) and explained the various items listed. CRL will charge MEMP a processing fee of \$7.50 per title. If a title is cataloged at CRL, MEMP will be charged the direct cost (on a per hour basis) of the cataloger's time only; as CRL does not have cataloging expertise in all Middle Eastern languages, some titles may have to be sent to an outside agency for cataloging, in which case the fee will vary. A member institution may agree to catalog one or more vernacular titles for free. "Revenues less expenses" list income for the current year only; "available funds" includes carryover from previous fiscal years.

Boylan answered questions about the financial statement. The Executive Committee agreed that the MEMP fiscal year would be July 1 to June 30, and that institutions which apply for membership from July 1 to December 30 will be assessed the membership fee for that fiscal year. Institutions applying between January 1 and June 30 will be admitted to membership the following fiscal year.

Partington raised the question of publicity for the project, especially with a view to soliciting new members. Boylan will write an article for Focus concerning the direction of the

project and listing current members. Partington will contact MESA to have notices printed in the MESA newsletter and MESA bulletin. Thompson will send a report of this meeting to Microform review. Notices will also be sent to publications of the Archives and Libraries Committee of the African Studies Association (Partington), CONSALD (Youssif), and to the Library of Congress information bulletin (Atiyeh). Partington will send personal letters to the library directors of institutions with Middle East Collections, which have not yet joined MEMP.

The Executive Committee agreed that the fall meeting of MEMP will be held in Los Angeles in November, the day before the annual meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association. [Editor's note: 1 November 1988] The Executive Committee will meet in the morning, and the MEMP Committee in the afternoon. Partington will contact the MESA Secretariat to schedule a meeting room.

Discussion was held concerning the composition of the committees of other microform projects and the need for MEMP to encourage institutional representatives to consult their teaching faculties on the work of MEMP and on ideas for acquisitions.

Thompson asked how the figure of \$600 listed in Appendix I of the By-laws had been determined. The Executive Committee agreed that this figure should stand, and that it should be reviewed at a later date to see how often this option is used by the members.

The question of further definition of the areas of geographic coverage was raised. Boylan suggested that the Executive Committee might wish to determine specific areas of focus, which could be reviewed periodically. Partington said he expected this question to be discussed at the MEMP Committee meeting in the fall.

Youssif pointed out that confusion caused by the terms "Executive Committee" and "MEMP Committee". These terms were adopted from the by-laws of other microform projects. The MEMP Committee consists of the representatives of the member institutions. Partington suggested that this question be raised at the annual MEMP Committee meeting.

Partington reported on responses he received in his letter to all MEMP Committee members concerning limitations on projects to be undertaken by MEMP. The three responses he received all urged that no rigid guidelines be adopted, but that any limitations should be imposed only on each individual project.

It was emphasized that members of the Executive Committee are not precluded in the by-laws from making suggestion for projects, but that such suggestions can and should come from all MEMP Committee members and not from members of the Executive Committee alone.

Partington urged that the Executive Committee begin immediately

to compile a list of what materials have already been microformed, whether by institutions or commercial vendors. A discussion ensued on the merits of compiling a list of finding aides (bibliographies, catalogs, institutional lists, etc.) as opposed to a union list of microform titles. The Executive Committee agreed that a list of finding aids would be most valuable, and Khoury volunteered to create a database of such aids. He asked that Executive Committee members send him citations for such aids and contact other institutions and ask them to do the same. The Executive Committee agreed that existing titles or collections in microform should be proposed for purchase by MEMP as well as materials which MEMP itself would undertake to microform.

The Executive Committee discussed a variety of topics for defining and/or limiting projects. Filming materials in the Middle East may very well present a number of problems due to lack of control of the process; it was suggested that MEMP should perhaps concentrate on buying copies of films done abroad, but not try to film abroad, a least not until a later time when MEMP is well established. Atiyeh reported that LC is working on a pilot project to film materials at the National Library of Egypt; if the pilot project is successful, a more ambitious program will be undertaken and LC will undoubtedly be interested in receiving suggestions for types and titles of material to be microfilmed from MEMP.

The Executive Committee agreed that it was important that MEMP undertake a project as soon as possible; there are commercial films of newspapers available from Saudi Arabia and Jordan. It was agreed that these titles would be an excellent way to proceed with the project. Atiyeh will forward the lists of these titles to Boylan, who explained the usual way in which voting on such lists is done: each member is asked to prioritize the titles, allotting each one a certain number of points; the points are then totalled by CRL, who acquires the titles in priority order up to a certain dollar limit decided on by the Executive Committee. Titles which are not acquired within one fiscal year can be reconsidered during the next fiscal year. The Executive Committee agreed that this was a most practical way to proceed, and authorized expenditure of up to \$5,000 for these newspaper titles.

Atiyeh reported on vertical files which are owned by LC but which have not been microformed or cataloged. He will make a list of these files, especially materials from Iran and Lebanon and these will be submitted to the MEMP membership as proposal for filming. Of particular interest are 13 communiqués issued by the Unified Command of the Palestinian intifadah, which will also be submitted to the membership as a proposal.

Other suggestions for projects included materials filmed by the American University of Beirut, the PLO Library now housed in Cyprus, mission papers, and papers of Arab Christian groups in

the U.S. These projects will continue to be discussed.

The Executive Committee agreed in principle that serials and newspapers will be given high priority, and that materials in Arabic, Persian and Turkish will be preferred to other languages.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona S. Straley

Attachments: Current list of MEMP members  
MEMP financial statement

#### MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM PROJECT

#### MEMBERSHIP LIST

June 1988

#### Institution

#### Representative

Brown University (1988 only)	Florence Doksansky
Columbia University	Frank Unlandherm
Georgetown University	Brenda E. Bickett
Harvard University	David Partington*
Hoover Institution	Edward A. Jajko*
Indiana University	Mark Day
Library of Congress	George Atiyeh*
New York Public Library	Todd Thompson*
Ohio State University	Dona Straley*
UCLA	D. S. Wilson
University of California- Berkeley	Hamid Mahamedi
University of Massachusetts- Amherst	
University of Minnesota	Nassif Youssif*
University of Pennsylvania	J. Dennis Hyde*
Princeton University	James Weinberger
University of Texas-Austin	Abazar Sepehri
University of Washington	Fawzi Khoury
Washington University- St. Louis	William Olbrich
Yale University	Michail Keller

\* Executive Committee



MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM PROJECT  
PROJECT FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
May 19, 1988

	Jan./Mar. Quarter (1)	Apr. YTD (2)
FUND BALANCE/JULY 1, 1987	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Membership Fees	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Income from sales	.00	.00 (4)
	-----	-----
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Cost of sales	\$.00	\$.00 (4)
Acquisitions	.00	.00
Business expenses	.00	.00
Publications	.00	.00
Travel	637.26	637.26
Personnel		
Processing Fees	.00	.00
Cataloging	.00	.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$637.26	\$637.26
REVENUES LESS EXPENSES	\$8,362.74	\$8,362.74
<b>COMMITMENTS (3)</b>		
Materials on order	\$.00	\$.00
Materials approved	.00	.00
Non-material expenses	.00	.00
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TOTAL COMMITMENTS	\$.00	\$.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$8,362.74	\$8,362.74

**NOTES:**

1. The FUND BALANCE, REVENUES, and EXPENSES shown under each complete quarter are taken from the Center's accounting records. Each column shows cumulative figures for the year.
2. The REVENUES and EXPENSES shown in the YTD (year to date) column combine the official Center accounting records and check vouchers issued up to the date of the statement. The column shows cumulative figures for the year.
3. The COMMITMENTS are taken from the records of the Acquisitions Department and the project coordinator are intended to reflect the projected costs of past decisions by the MEMP Committee and ongoing operations.
4. Income from sales and cost of sales reflect pass through funds, with a small profit expected. Income from sales may reflect pre-payments.

## MIDDLE EASTERN ACTIVITY AT ALA\*

Featured at the January 1988 meeting of the ALA RTSD/CCS Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials were reports on Library of Congress cataloging activities. Of interest to Middle East librarians are the following items reported on by Library of Congress staff.

"John Byrum reported on developments in the descriptive cataloging... Descriptive cataloging of Armenian titles is keeping current with receipts and cataloging of modern Turkish is running ahead of last year's output, although there has been no activity this year in relation to Ottoman Turkish. Production of Hebraica records is continuing to increase, although the implementation of new procedures and technology in this area - to take advantage of the RLG vernacular script capability - may slow the trend. Arabic and Persian descriptive output is well below normal, due to staffing shortages.

"Ben Tucker related information on behalf of the Office for Descriptive Cataloging Policy. First, he noted that on the subject of Kurdish romanization there are several detailed questions which must be answered as the table for conversion of this script is prepared; he asked the committee for names of experts who might be consulted. The committee agreed to his proposal to add two additional letters to the existing table for Uighur.

"Julianne Beall advised the group concerning a new number in Table 5 of the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme, for Palestinian Arabs; the committee approved implementation of this proposal."

A report on the 1987 MELA meeting was given.

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\* Excerpted from Library of Congress information bulletin, v.47, no.21 (23 May 1988), p. 210-211.

## BOOK REVIEW

Iran almanac and book of facts , 1987. 18th ed. Teheran : Echo of Iran, 1987. 475 pp.

After a decade of cessation, the 1987 edition of Iran almanac and book of facts, a ready reference work begun in 1961, has suddenly reappeared, in a different size and format. The director of the project admits at the outset that, due to difficulties in information gathering and availability of paper, this edition should not be compared with previous editions but that "fundamental topics" have been covered at a comparable level.

Although broad subject headings in this edition do not substantially vary from those listed in previous editions, differences in actual contents are significant. Changes in National and International Affairs, Defence, Education, Commerce, Social Affairs, Agriculture and the Press are more telling because the Islamic Revolution's policies on these issues were in some respects diametrically opposed to those held by previous regimes. The information and statistics provided are taken from the Iranian Statistical Center, the Central Bank and certain ministries and research institutions. A large portion of the volume is devoted to "Who's Who of Revolution", a biographical section on the leaders of the Revolution.

The editors have obviously realized the need to continue publishing a useful informational source that often ran a second printing. Hopefully, more attention will be paid to improve the quality from now on. The eighteenth edition must have been prepared with a great deal of haste as testified to by the quality of paper, production and the editing itself.

Abazar Sepehri  
University of Texas at Austin

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES AT HARVARD

Kevork Bardakjian returned to Harvard for several weeks in the spring to complete his work on preparing the Armenian catalog for publication. Bardakjian formerly was Lecturer in Armenian at Harvard and Armenian Bibliographer in the Harvard College Library's Middle Eastern Department, and is presently the first incumbent of the Marie Manougian Chair for Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan.

David H. Partington reports that the National Endowment for the Humanities rejected Harvard's proposal for an Arabic rare book cataloging project.

Frank Vogel, a Middle East legal specialist with lengthy experience in Saudi Arabia and now a member of the Harvard University Law School, has initiated a bibliographic project that will include not only the Law School's holdings on Islamic law but also materials held in Harvard College Library's Middle Eastern Department. The project is expected to last one year and will result in a published bibliography.

## HARVARD ARABIC SCRIPT USERS GROUP

As reported by Andras Riedlmayer at the 1987 MELA annual meeting, an Arabic script software users' group has been formed in the Boston area. Headquartered at Harvard University, the Group is "interested in learning about any and all Arabic-script software products." HASUG seeks to expand its mailing list "to include colleagues and friends all over the world who are using Arabic software for all purposes." Reviews are published in the Newsletter (HASUN) and the forthcoming Bulletin. In addition, bibliographic citations are being collected by Andras Riedlmayer; a bibliography will be published in the Bulletin. Lectures and demonstrations are announced in the publications. For information, contact:

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