

# MELA *notes*

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## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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MELA NOTES

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

The two articles in this issue, while a bit longer than usual, are of such merit that the length restrictions were relaxed a bit. I hope that others who collect Persian materials within the scope of Sepehri's bibliography will contribute their findings in the future and that Straley or others will take her findings regarding the "real life" of a Middle East Studies librarian one, if not several, steps further. Please continue to send in your articles, research, thoughts, inspirations, activities, gifts or exchanges, and electronic addresses -- MELA notes will be all the more interesting to read when it appears in your mailbox!

Due to technical difficulties, the Roster of Members will appear in the Winter 1989 issue.

#### Contributions

Due to space limitations, articles should be not longer than 7 double-spaced pages, although longer works will be considered. Book reviews of reference works should be no longer than 500-700 words. All contributions should be complete and ready for publication in a standard format, with footnotes clearly indicated. Contributions 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, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the UCLA Faculty Center, California Room (not at the MESA conference hotel, which is the Beverly Hilton Hotel). MELA members and program participants will be the luncheon guests of the University of California, in the Sequoia Room of the Faculty Center.

**Tentative schedule:**

- 8:30 am Opening: Welcome and announcements
- 8:40 am S. Moosavi: Islamic and Middle East-related manuscripts at the University of Texas at Austin
- 9:00 am A. Gardner: Bibliography on the Iran-Iraq War
- 9:20 am E. Zak: Romanization of Central Asian Arabic script title pages in the Soviet Minorities Collection of Columbia University
- 9:40 am D. Straley and A. Zipin: Increasing productivity and public satisfaction with Middle East and Judaica library services through use of a PC
- 10:10 am P. Roberts: The lone bibliographer at her PC
- 10:40-11:00 am Break
- 11:00 am S. N. Manoogian: The LAPL fire and recovery efforts
- 11:30 am E. Metcalf and P. O'Brien: The Edwards Metcalf T.E Lawrence collection and book collecting: the collector's and the bibliographer's perspectives
- 12:30-2:00 pm LUNCH, SEQUOIA ROOM, UCLA FACULTY CENTER
- 2:00-5:00 pm Business meeting, California Room, UCLA Faculty Center
- About 7:00 pm No host dinner. Restaurant to be announced.

The 1989 annual meeting will be held in Toronto, Ontario, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

#### **MEMP FALL MEETINGS**

The Fall meetings of the MEMP Executive Committee and the MEMP Committee have been announced. Both groups will meet on Tuesday, 1 November 1988, in Room 20 of the North Campus Commons on the UCLA campus.

Executive Committee meets 10 a.m.-12 noon  
Full Committee meets 2 - 4 p.m.

The North Campus Commons is within easy walking distance of Westwood hotels, and it is a short bus ride from the Beverly Hilton area.

A detailed agenda will be sent by David Partington, MEMP Executive Committee chair.

For additional local information, call Dunning Wilson: 213-825-4923.

#### **MELCOM INTERNATIONAL**

Ed Jajko reports that the official name of MELA's sister organization in Great Britain, MELCOM, has been changed to MELCOM International, to emphasize the international character of its membership and interests. The next meeting will be in Durham, England, in July 1989. MELCOM seeks to expand its membership; for information, contact the MELCOM International president, Derek Hopwood:

Ed attended the 1988 meeting, held in Paris, France, and will discuss the conference during the MELA 1988 program.

**NEWS OF THE MEMBERS**

**Priscilla Roberts** reports that she has received a short-term research grant for 1988-89 from the American Institute of Maghrebi Studies to travel to Tangier to inventory the various collections of the Tangier American Legation Museum (TALM) and to organize them into a research library. The immediate goal of the Tangier American Legation Museum Society, the non-profit, Washington-based organization that runs the museum and library, is to make its holdings more accessible to researchers and scholars. Her research in Tangier will provide the input for a TALM database on Morocco in Western languages and, of more immediate use to researchers, computer-generated author, subject and title catalogs.

**ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES**

Name	Network	Address	ID
Cecile Panzer	BITNET	HUJIVMI	WSRCP

### CONTEMPORARY NON-SERIAL PERSIAN PUBLISHING IN EXILE

The present profile of Persian book publishing outside Iran needs to be analyzed in the context of changes that have occurred within the Iranian exile communities since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Before the Revolution, Iranians abroad could be divided into three general groups: political emigres who had left Iran after the 1953 coup d'etat, which overthrew Musaddiq and reinstated the Shah; students, of whose ranks the politically active were organized into the Confederation of Iranian Students Abroad, with many staying even after completing their studies; and businessmen and pensioners. The student group constituted the largest number of Iranians overseas, and was the body most interested in books. As a majority of these students came from fairly well-to-do families, they did not have much difficulty in obtaining Persian books from Iran. What was published outside Iran was mainly in the form of opposition literature consisting of political tracts and pamphlets. Translations of Moscow- or Peking-based political literature were published by several Iranian publishing outfits including Intisharat-1 Kargar, Intisharat-1 Babak, Intisharat-1 Jangal, and Intisharat-1 Hizb-1 Tudah-'1 Iran, and reproduced and distributed, again mainly by students, among the exiled communities. Several bibliographies compiled by Wolfgang Behn in Germany show the breadth and depth of these publications.<sup>1</sup> Scholarly or semi-scholarly books of this period are limited to the history of Iranian workers' movements and minority issues, with a few poetry collections and novels, usually in criticism or negation of the Pahlavi regime.

<sup>1</sup> Behn, Wolfgang H. The Iranian opposition in exile: an annotated bibliography of publications from 1341/1962 to 1357/1979 with selective locations. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1979. 249 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Islamic revolution or Revolutionary Islam in Iran: a selected and annotated bibliography of political publications from the overthrow of the Shah until his death. Berlin: Adiyok, 1980. 119 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Power and reaction in Iran: a supplement to the bibliographies "The Iranian opposition in exile" and "Islamic revolution or Revolutionary Islam in Iran with brief annotations. Berlin: Adiyok, 1981. 116 p.

\_\_\_\_\_ & W. M. Floor. Twenty years of Iranian power struggle : a bibliography of 951 political periodicals from 1341/1962 to 1360/1981 with selective locations. Berlin: Adiyok, 1982. 159 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Epilogue: Iranian post-Pahlavi publishing," in Bibliographical guide to Iran. Ed. L.P. Elwell-Sutton. Brighton: Harvester Press, 1983. Pp. 419-425.



The Islamic Revolution changed the composition of the Iranian emigre community in the following way. Immediately after the Revolution, a large number of Iranians who opposed the Shah's rule returned to their motherland, only to be replaced by an almost equal number of others who had ties with the Pahlavi regime and could not or did not want to live under the clerics. A number of students who were receiving scholarships in the Pahlavi period were cut loose and forced out from Europe and the United States in the wake of the Islamic government's stringent educational scholarship criteria and its ideological requirements. In returning home they were joined by other students who were merely excited by the initial spurt of relaxation and democratization that ensued the Shah's fall. Some of these returning students were replaced abroad by another group of students, worried about the future of their education in Iran, because of the internal chaos and uncertainty that persisted for quite some time. Outgoing also was a band of businessmen apprehensive about the Islamic government's economic pronouncements, which hinted at possible nationalization and socialism. More significantly, there was a gradual increase in the number of exiting Iranian intellectuals who became disillusioned with the Islamic regime once it began a policy of oppression and heavy-handedness from around the second half of 1981, the difference between this group and the initial wave of political non-student exiles being that the former aspired a return to constitutional monarchy and had a fairly good financial status, whereas the latter opposed a return to monarchy as well as the Islamic government's dictatorial rule, and was not so well-off financially. Many of the students and foreign graduates who had returned to Iran right after the Revolution have also managed since to sneak out in search of freedom and a better life for themselves and their families. Finally, the Iraq-Iranian conflict has caused a large number of young Iranians to seek refuge in foreign lands. In summary, the present Iranian exile community, numbering approximately one and one-half million, consists of a pro-Pahlavi middle or upper class column; a large number of intelligentsia with many Iranian writers, poets, educators, scholars, and artists among them; students; and businessmen and pensioners.<sup>2</sup>

As for the publishing scene outside Iran, the first two years after 1979 can be characterized as a period of writing and publishing by the officials and leaders of the Pahlavi regime who fled Iran after the Revolution. Their subjects centered around the economic, social and political conditions of Iraq under Pahlavi rule. The second period begins with the establishment of censorship in Iran in 1981 when the new wave of emigres left the country. As the Islamic regime became more entrenched and the hope of an early repatriation for writers, poets, artists and intellectuals diminished, the need for cultural activities and revival of traditional Iranian values

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<sup>2</sup> A more detailed description of the Iranian community in exile has been given by Taqi Amiri in: "Nashr-i kitab-i Farsi dar kharij az kishvar", Zaman-i naw, no. 11 (March 1986), p. 219-227.

was felt more and more among these individuals. Consequently, a number of titles in reprinted or original form appeared. The composition of the current non-serial exile publishing in Persian consists of political tracts and opposition literature, just as it did during the Pahlavi period, produced by the Confederation of Iranian Students Abroad, Charik'ha-yi Fida'i-i Khalq, Sazman-i Mujahidin-i Khalq-i Iran, Guruh-i Nihzat-i Azadi-i Iran, and the like; and books published by individuals from among the intelligentsia and by the Iranian cultural and research institutions abroad. Dominant subjects are still history, politics, sociology and economic conditions, although some works of poetry, fiction, art, cooking, and music have also been published. It is estimated that a total of 50-60 books having more than 50 pages and falling outside the category of student publications, may have been published outside Iran in each of the past five years.

The following is a bibliographic attempt to identify as many as possible of such non-serial Persian titles published outside Iran (especially in the U.S.A. and in Europe). Many of the publications have been acquired and added to the Middle East Collection at the University of Texas in Austin. Bibliographic information for others was taken from periodicals, book announcements and catalogs. The list excludes reproductions of Islamic publications that have been done by Iranian students or Islamic institutions on a large scale for distribution in the U.S.A. or Europe. Reprints are also excluded to the extent that they could be determined from the available information. Many titles lacked complete or even incomplete imprint information, making it difficult to establish whether they were published in Iran or outside. In such cases, inferences have been drawn from the title or the text to determine or guess the place of publication. The unknown dates have been recorded as the 1980's. The Library of Congress transliteration rules, currently used by research libraries, have been applied in transcribing the titles.

It should be pointed out that, due to the wide scattering of Iranian exile communities in foreign lands, this survey does not claim to be comprehensive. It is, rather, the modest beginning of a cooperative effort to enlist the contribution and assistance of Middle East bibliographers and librarians involved in Persian acquisition and cataloging, through the MELA notes, so we can, as closely as possible, keep track of Persian publishing in exile.

## PERSIAN MONOGRAPHS PUBLISHED OUTSIDE IRAN SINCE 1979

'Abbās'zādah, Ibrāhīm. Āzādaqān dar band: sayrī bar sharāyit-i ijtimā'ī-i zanān dar Amrikā-yi Lātīn va naqsh-i ānān dar mubārazāt-i ijtimā'ī. Anaheim, CA: Intishārāt-i Gulsurkhī, 1362 [1983] 230 p.

'Abd al-Rahmān. Hīch. Los Angeles: The Organization of Active Constitutionalist Iranians, [1982?]

\_\_\_\_\_. Islām va ḥuqūq-i bashar. Toronto: Sarbāzān-i Īrān, 1362 [1983] 86 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Qazāvat. Los Angeles: The Organization of Active Constitutionalist Iranians, [1982?] 235 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Saltānat va mas'ūliyat. Toronto: Sarbāzān-i Īrān, 1361 [1983] 84 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Saltānat-i mardumī bi-inzīmām-i qānūn-i asāsī va mutammim-ī ān. [Los Angeles: s.n.], 1359 [1980] 73 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Shāhān-i Pahlavī va mashrūṭiyat. Toronto: Sarbāzān-i Īrān, 1362 [1983] 80 p.

Afshār, Hangāmāh. Qiblahgāh. Anaheim, CA: Pupli Print, 1982.

\_\_\_\_\_. Taqdīm bih si sālagiyam: majmū'ah-i shi'r. Mission Viejo, CA: Shadow Copy and Printing, [198-] 110 p.

Āhanchiyān, Jalāl. Tarḥ-i suqūṭ-i yak pādishāh: khāṭirāt-i Jalāl Āhanchiyān. Mill Valley, CA: [s.n.], 1982. 559 p.

Ahmadī, Farīdūn. Iršīyah-'i mādar buzurg. Köln: [s.n., 1986?] 94 p.

Ahmadī, Ni'mat. Dargīrī. [S.l.]: Chāpkhānah-i Arzhang, 1359 [1980] 84 p.

Akhavān-i Tawhīdī, Ḥusayn. Dar pas-i pardah-i tazvīr. Paris: [s.n.], 1364 [1986] 351 p.

'Alā' al-Dīn. Hikāyat ast nah shikāyat: sih maqālah. [S.l.: s.n., 198-] 76 p.

A'lāmī, Shahnāz. 'Uqdahhā-yi zindigī. Bonn: Hafizverlag, 1362 [1983] 57 p.

'Alavī, Partaw. 'Aqāyid va afkār-i Khvājah: rahnamā-yi mushkilāt-i dīvān-i Hāfiẓ. Los Angeles: [s.n., 198-] 212 p.

Alburzi, Sh. Musāfir'namah. New York: Anjuman-i Muṭāli'āt-i Īrānī, 1362 [1983]

'Alīzādah, Parvānah. Khūb niḡāh kunīd rāstakī ast: guzārīsh-i zindān. Paris: Intishārāt-i Khāvarān, 1366 [1987] 68 p.

Amīn, S.H. Afkār-i falsafi-i Mullā Ṣadrā. London: [s.n.], 1987.

Amīnī, Majīd. Palangī kih shaghāl ghurrīd. Los Angeles: Intishārāt-i Mushāvīrāt-i Afsānah, 1983. 190 p.

Amīr Shāhī, Mahshīd. Dar Haẓr. London: Cushing-Mellog, 1987. 428 p.

Amnesty International. Īrān, naqz-i huqūq-i bashar: asnādī kih tavassuṭ-i Afv-i Bayn al-Milal barā-yi Dawlat-i Jumhūrī-i Islāmī-i Īrān irsāl shudah ast. London: [s.n.], 1987.

Anjuman-i Dānishjūyān-i Musalmān-i Dānishgāh-i Kār. Shinākht va barrasī-i shīvahhā va qānūnmandīhā-yi mubārīzah-i zidd-i ampīryālīstī bi-inzīmām-i siyāsāt-i jadīd-i ampīryālīzm. Long Beach, CA: Anjuman, 1359 [1980] 192 p.

'Anqā, Sādiq. Ghazaliyāt. San Rafael, CA: Intishārāt-i Maktab-i Uvaysī Shāh Maqṣūdī, 1984. 127 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Padīdahha-yi fikr. [S.l.]: Intishārāt-i Maktab-i Uvaysī Shāh Maqṣūdī, [198-?] 75 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Payām-i dil. San Rafael, CA: Intishārāt-i Maktab-i Uvaysī Shāh Maqṣūdī, [198-?]

Anvā'-i ghazāhā-yi Īrānī. London: Intishārāt-i Bārīsh, [198-?] 217 p.

Arānī, Taqī. 'Irfān va uṣūl-i maddī. [S.l.: s.n., 198-] 59 p.

Āryānā, Bahrām. Ā'In-i āzādigān. Paris: [s.n.], 1980.

Asadī'pūr, Bīzhan. Mu'arrifī'nāmāh: Bīzhan Asadī'pūr. Washington, D.C.: Kānūn-i Dūstdārān-i Farhang-i Īrān, 1366 [1987] 58 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Vaqāyi-'i rūzmarrah. New Orleans, LA: Kitāb-i Nimūnah, 1364 [1986] 60 p.

Ashraf, Princess of Iran. Chihrahā'i dar āyīnah: khāṭīrāt-i Ashraf Pahlavī. Paris: [s.n.], 1983. 279 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Taslīm'nāpazīr. Paris: [s.n.], 1362 [1983] 231 p.

Āshdiyānī, Jalāl al-Dīn. Mudīriyat nah ḥukūmat. Mission Viejo, CA: Shadow Copy and Printing, 1980. 2 v. in 1.

\_\_\_\_\_. Zartusht: Mazdyasnā va ḥukūmat. Irvine, CA: Intishārāt-i Īrān Zamīn, 1363 [1984] 446 p.

'Askarī, Mīrzā Āqā. Az sarzamīn-i talkh. [S.l.: s.n., 198-] 140 p.

Āzād, Āzadah. Pidarīyat-i ghāshib: mansha'-i sitamkashīdagī-i mushtarak va vīzhah-'i zanān. Montreal: [s.n., 198-]

'Azīzī, Raḥīm. Barrasīhā-yi tārikhī va maz'habī-i ā'īn-i Nawrūzī. West Germany: Navīd, [198-] 147 p.

Bāghat ābād Aḥmadābād. Los Angeles: The Organization of Active Constitutional Iranian, [1980]

Bahā Ullah, 1817-1892. Kitāb-i mustaṭāb-i Iqān / Mīrzā Husayn 'Alī Nūrī "Bahā' Allāh". [Los Angeles: s.n., 198-?] 138 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Payām-i sulḥ. Ettelbruck, Luxembourg: Intishārāt-i Payām-i Dūstī, Gurūh-i Mišāq, 1985. 168 p.

Baḡsī pīrāmūn-i vilāyat-i faqīh / zīr-i naẓar-i shūrā-yi nivfsandīgān. New York: Intishārāt-i Bunyād-i Mustaz'afān-i Irān, 1981. 104 p.

Bakhtiyār, Shāpūr. Sī va haft rūz pas az sī va haft sāl: chand guftgū ba Duktūr Shāpūr Bakhtiyār dar bārah-i dawrān-i zimāmdāriyash. Paris: Intishārāt-i Rādiyū Irān, 1361 [1982] 165 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Yakrangī. Paris: Edition Albin Michel, 1982. 304 p.

Balūch, Ākhirādād. Siyāsāt dar Balūchistān. [Karachi?: s.n.], 1361 [1982] 122 p.

Banī Šadr, Abū al-Ḥasan. Khiyānat bih umīd. [S.l.: s.n.], 1981. 505 p.

Baqāyī Kirmānī, Malakah. Shikastah bālān: majmū'ah'i kūtah dar bārah-i zan-i Irānī. Encino, CA: Shirkat-i Kitāb, 1984. 147 p.

Baqā'i Kirmānī, Muzaffar. Ānkih guft nah: vašīyatnāmah-i siyāsī. Franklin Lakes, NJ: Mansur Rafī'zādah, 1984. 100 p.

Bashīrī, Irāj. Lālah-i siyāh. Minneapolis: Sorayya Publishers, 1985. 109 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Persian for beginners = Fārsī barā-yi mubtadiyān. Minneapolis: Burgess, 1981. 3 v.

\_\_\_\_\_. Persian syntax = Dar naḥv-i zabān-i Fārsī. Minneapolis: Burgess, 1981. 202 p.

Bashīrī, Siyāvash. Āzar, Āzarbāyigān. Paris: Intishārāt-i Parang, 1361- [1982- ] v.

\_\_\_\_\_. Dīvār-i Allāh Akbar. Paris: Intishārāt-i Parang, 1361-  
[1982-] v.

\_\_\_\_\_. Khudā ḥāfiẓ, Ḥāfiẓ. London: Intishārāt-i Parang, 1984.  
144 p.

\_\_\_\_\_. Ṭufān dar 57. [London?]: Intishārāt-i Parang, 1360-  
[1981-] v.

Bathā'i, Muḥammad. Zartusht avvalīn Payāmbār-i Īrānī va rahbar-i  
jahān-i ma'nī. Falls Church, VA: Intishārāt-i Nūr, 1980- v.

Bātmānglij, Najmīeh. Kitāb-i āshpazī = Food for life. Washington,  
D.C.: Mage Publishers, 1986. 245 p.

Bātmānglich, Farīdūn. Inqilāb-i āb dar darmānhā-yi pizishkī: āb  
'āmilī barā-yi pīshgiri dar darmān-i bīmārīhā-yi dushvar-i imrūz.  
London: Shirkat-i Ruyam, 1365 [1986] 304 p.

Bukhtūrtāsh, Nuṣrat Allāh. Tārīkh-i parcham-i Īrān. Köln:  
Intishārāt-i Mihr, 1365 [1986] 314 p.

Chand maqālah dar bārah-i millī shudan-i naft ve hukūmat-i millī-  
i Duktur Muṣaddiq. [Paris]: Jāmi'ah-i Mutakhaṣṣiṣīn va Fārigh  
al-Taḥṣīlān-i Īrānī-i Muqīm-i Farānsah, [198-] 166 p.

Chārūymāqī, Muchul. Īrān Khanūm dar maḥkamah-i 'adl-i Ilāhī. Los  
Angeles: Shirkat-i Intishārāt-i Millī, 1980. 394 p.

Chihil sāl dar sangar-i mubārizah / Sāzmān-i Havādārān-i Ḥizb-i  
Tūdāh-i Īrān dar Ayālāt-i Muttaḥidah-i Amrīkā. [S.l.]: Sāzmān,  
[198-] 2 v.

Chirā mas'alah-i zanān muhimm ast? / nivishtah-i Zanān-i  
Āzādīkhvāh-i Īrān dar Birlan-i Gharbī. [West Germany?: s.n.], 1360  
[1982]

Chūbīnah, Bahrām. Tashayyu' va siyāsāt dar Īrān. Paris: Sāzmān-i  
Junbish-i Nāsyūnālistī-i Dānishgāhiyān va Dānishpizhūhān va  
Rawshanbīnān-i Īrān, 1361- [1982-] v.

\_\_\_\_\_. Tawti'ahgarān. Paris: Sāzmān-i Nāsyūnālistī-i  
Dānishgāhiyān va Dānishpizhūhān va Rawshanbīnān-i Īrān, [1982?]  
98 p.

Dar maktab-i Ākhund: iṭṭilā'ātī tāzah dar bārah-i shayyādān-i  
'ammāmahdār; bih inqimām-i matnhā-yi 'aksbardārī-i mahramānah-i  
Safārat-i Īrān dar Pāris. [S.l.]: Intishārāt-i Rastākḥīz, [198-]

Dar rāhrawhā-yi khūn: guzārishī zindah az zindānhā-yi siyāsī-i  
rizhīm-i Jumhūrī-i Islāmī. [Paris]: Jāmi'ah-i Dimūkrātīk-i  
Īrāniyān-i Muqīm-i Farānsah, 1364 [1986] 50 p.

Darakhshish, Muḥammad. Hashtād sāl bih sū-yī sarāb. [Los Angeles?]: Intishārāt-ī Jāmi'ah-ī Mu'allimān-ī Īrān, 1362 [1983] 201 p.

Dawlatābādī, Yahyá. Urdībihisht va ash'ār-ī chāp nashudah. [Los Angeles]: Shirkat-ī Kitāb, 1364 [1985] 346 p.

Diktātūrī-ī Mullāhā / Markaz-ī Islāmī-ī Hāmburg. Hamburg: Intishārāt-ī Maryam, [198-]

Dreyfuss, Robert. Girawgan-ī Khumaynī (Hostage to Khomeini). New York: New Benjamin Franklin House Publishing Company, 1982. 306 p.

Farhang Mīhr, Manūchīhr. Az dīn-ī Zartusht chih mīdānīd. [Los Angeles]: Intishārāt-ī Markaz-ī Zartushtiyān-ī Kālīfurniyā-yī Junūbī, 1360 [1981] 41 p.

Farhangī, R. Shūrāhā: Inqilāb dar Rūsīyah. [S.l.]: Intishārāt-ī Sāzmān-ī Kārgārān-ī Inqilābī-ī Īrān, 1366 [1387] 127 p.

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### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE MIDDLE EAST STUDIES LIBRARIAN

Wherever Middle East Studies librarians congregate, whenever they talk to one another, discussions invariably center around daily routines: what they do, how they do it, and how much time they spend on different tasks. Ask any Middle East Studies librarian how, as a group, they spend their time, and he or she, by drawing on his or her own experience and on conversations with colleagues, can speak at great length on the wide variety of activities performed and expected; of the difficulties in setting priorities which best serve their patrons, their library administrations, their staffs, and themselves; of the frustrations which they sometimes encounter when they do not live up to the expectations of one or more of these groups.

A search of Library literature for the past ten years reveals a surprising paucity of material on how librarians spend their time. Articles have been written on working conditions and quality of working life, on productivity measures, on time and cost analyses, and on job analyses, but basic data on what tasks are performed and how much time is spent on each task seems to be missing in the literature.

In order to provide Middle East Studies librarians with an analysis of the tasks they perform and the percentage of time they devote to each task, fifty-one librarians in the U.S. and Canada were asked to keep a log of their activities on March 9, 1988. By combining the results of individual "untypical" days (and many respondents remarked that this particular day was not typical), librarians can compare to a group average how each spends his or her work day, gain an insight into how personnel resources are being allocated in Middle East library collections, and have resource to an analysis based on facts to help strengthen their impressions of what they are doing.

Tables I and II give the figures upon which the results in the succeeding tables are based. It must be emphasized that no attempt was made to divide the responses into categories based on position title, duties performed, length of working day, or status of librarians as a group within each institution. In many other fields of area studies librarianship, there are well established staffing patterns which tend to divide positions into either public or technical service duties; as many Middle East Studies librarians are only too well aware, such patterns do not necessarily hold true in their collections.

**TABLE I.**

	Number	Percent
Questionnaires sent	51	100.00
Returned undelivered	2	3.92
Returned	22	43.14
Received forms from colleagues	2	3.92
Returned but unable to participate <sup>1</sup>	3	5.88
Returned questionnaires used in survey	19	37.25
FTE used in survey <sup>2</sup>	18	

<sup>1</sup>One librarian was out of town on personal business, one librarian has a split assignment, the day of the survey being devoted to duties other than those related to the Middle East Collection, one librarian was ill.

<sup>2</sup>Two librarians are assigned to the Middle East collection at their institutions half-time.

**TABLE II.**

Total combined hours of all respondents	157.70
Total combined adjusted hours of all respondents <sup>1</sup>	136.37
Average hours in work day per person (FTE adjusted)	8.76
Adjusted average hours in work day per person (FTE adjusted) <sup>2</sup>	7.58

<sup>1</sup>Total hours in work day minus hours for meal and refreshment breaks (see Table III).

<sup>2</sup>Average number of hours per FTE librarian without meal and refreshment breaks.

### The Categories of activities

Table III lists the number and percent of respondents and the hours and percent of total hours spent by the group on thirteen categories of tasks; Table IIIA shows the highest and lowest individual responses for each category. Table IV gives the total hours in these categories as a percent of the total adjusted hours (see Table II for explanation). In the following pages, these categories are defined and discussed, and major results are elaborated; two of the categories are broken down into sub-categories for further analysis. Tasks listed under each category are only those listed by respondents, not those which might be included in a general definition of each category.

**TABLE III. TOTAL COMBINED HOURS OF ALL RESPONDENTS, DIVIDED BY CATEGORY**

Category	No. of Respondents	Percent of Respondents	Hours	Percent of Total Hours	Avg. Hours Per Respondent
Cataloging	13	68.42	30.62	19.42	2.36
Collection development/ acquisitions	12	63.16	27.74	17.59	2.31
Meal and refreshment breaks	18	94.74	21.33	13.53	1.19
Miscellaneous	8	42.11	17.84	11.31	2.23
Research	5	26.32	14.17	8.99	2.83
Reference	11	57.89	11.00	6.98	1.00
Mail	11	57.89	9.00	5.71	.82
Library committee/meeting	8	42.11	8.08	5.12	1.01
Administrative duties	7	36.84	7.09	4.50	1.01
Teaching	2	10.53	3.33	2.11	1.67
Housekeeping	5	26.32	3.25	2.06	.65
Unspecified	4	21.05	2.58	1.64	.65
Faculty liaison	2	10.53	1.67	1.06	.84
<b>Total</b>			<b>157.70</b>	<b>100.02</b>	

**TABLE IIIA. HIGHEST AND LOWEST INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES BY CATEGORY (IN HOURS)**

Category	Highest individual response	Lowest individual response
Cataloging	6.63	.75
Collection development/ acquisitions	5.83	.17
Meal and refreshment breaks	2.50	.33
Miscellaneous	3.50	.25
Research	5.50	1.25
Reference	2.75	.08
Mail	1.67	.17
Library committee/meeting	1.50	.33
Administrative duties	2.00	.25
Teaching	2.50	.83
Housekeeping	1.00	.67
Unspecified	1.67	.08
Faculty liaison	1.50	.17

**TABLE IV.**

Category	Hours	Percent of Total Adjusted Hours
Cataloging	30.62	22.45
Collection development/acquisitions	27.74	20.34
Miscellaneous	17.84	13.08
Research	14.17	10.39
Reference	11.00	8.07
Mail	9.00	6.60
Library committee/meeting	8.08	5.92
Administrative duties	7.09	5.20
Teaching	3.33	2.44
Housekeeping	3.25	2.38
Unspecified	2.58	1.89
Faculty liaison	1.67	1.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>136.37</b>	<b>99.98</b>

Cataloging activities occupied the largest percentage of time. Sub-categories (see Table V) include production of cataloging records; revision of catalog records (including cards), and of records input into a database; searching for cataloging copy; filing or revision of filing in a card catalog; and other duties, such as training, writing documentation, selecting titles to be cataloged, and resolution of problems. Three-quarters of the total time spent on the cataloging process was devoted to producing or revising records. More respondents were involved in revising catalog records than in producing them, although four and one-half more hours were spent on the latter; over half of those involved in the cataloging process spend some portion of their time revising records.

**TABLE V. CATEGORY: CATALOGING**

Sub-category	No. of Respondents	Percent of Cataloging Respondents	Hours	Percent of Cataloging Hours
Cataloging records produced	6	46.15	13.61	44.35
Revision	7	53.85	9.13	29.82
Other	3	23.08	2.97	9.70
Searching for copy	3	23.08	2.75	8.98
Filing/revision	3	23.08	2.16	7.05
<b>Total</b>			<b>30.62</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE VI. CATALOGING STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>**

	No. of titles cataloged
Serials	2
Monographs	17
Monographs, in part <sup>2</sup>	4
Monographs, recataloged	1
<hr/>	
Total	24
<hr/>	
Hours spent on cataloging records produced	13.61
Titles/hour	1.76
Titles/hour (adjusted) <sup>3</sup>	1.40

<sup>1</sup> Presumed to be original cataloging, survey did not, unfortunately, ask respondents to distinguish between copy and original cataloging

<sup>2</sup> Part of the cataloging record was done by support staff, part by librarian

<sup>3</sup> Total titles less Monographs, in part, and Monographs, recataloged

Cataloging statistics are listed in Table VI. Titles per hour (adjusted) was felt to be a better indicator of a standard, as it is generally assumed that recataloging or completing catalog records takes less time than producing a completely new, original record.

Collection development/acquisitions are combined into one category, because respondents did not separate them in their logs but rather listed them as part of a single workflow. Respondents listed the following tasks in which they were involved; searching catalogs, verifying and selecting titles to be ordered, checking received orders, clearing invoices, and cancelling orders.

Miscellaneous tasks are further broken down in Table VII. This category may be the most striking of all due to the incredibly wide range of tasks listed. Although Middle East Studies librarians apparently do not sign checks or sweep the floors, there is very little else they cannot turn their hands to when necessary or desirable.

**TABLE VII. CATEGORY: MISCELLANEOUS**

Sub-Category	No. of Respondents	Percent of Miscellaneous Respondents	Hours	Percent of Miscellaneous Hour
Travel	2	25.00	3.92	21.97
Exhibit preparation	1	12.50	3.42	19.17
Problems, unspecified	2	25.00	3.00	16.82
Attended lecture	1	12.50	1.17	6.56
"Chatting"	3	37.50	1.00	5.61
Circulation desk duty	1	12.50	1.00	5.61
Barcoding	1	12.50	.83	4.65
Bibliographic instruction	1	12.50	.75	4.20
Gave tour	1	12.50	.50	2.80
Watched vendor video	1	12.50	.50	2.80
System problems	1	12.50	.50	2.80
Meeting with other librarian	1	12.50	.42	2.35
Grant proposal writing	1	12.50	.33	1.85
ILL verification	1	12.50	.25	1.40
Translation	1	12.50	.25	1.40
<hr/>				
Total			17.84	99.99

**Research** includes such activities as writing articles; compiling bibliographies; planning or preparing for a conference or seminar paper or panel; doing committee work for a professional organization.

**Reference** is defined as helping a patron, whether answering questions in person, by telephone or by mail, and includes time spent staffing a reference desk and tracking materials through the system at a patron's request. Although 58% of respondents were involved in some aspect of reference service, the time spent by them only accounts for 8% of the total adjusted hours. Reference statistics could not be compiled due to discrepancies in responses.

**Mail** refers primarily to dealing with items from "in" baskets, and which respondents did not specify as belonging to another category. Activities mentioned are reading and distributing print and electronic mail, reading campus or other newspapers, reading other publications produced by the individual's institution, dealing with memos, and returning phone calls of an unspecified nature.

**Library committee/meeting** includes attendance at, and preparation for, meetings of supervisors (e.g. department heads), of peer groups (e.g. area studies librarians, collection development bibliographers), and of standing library committees (e.g. research, online catalog).

**Administrative duties** specified by respondents were assigning duties, monitoring workflow, and writing reports.

**Teaching** is limited to preparing for and conducting regularly scheduled courses. Bibliographic instruction, which could have been listed in this category, is instead subsumed under Miscellaneous (see Table VII) due to the limited amount of time spent on it. Very few librarians have the opportunity to develop and teach courses for which they are totally responsible, and thus this category is singled out for a separate entry rather than included in Miscellaneous.

**Housekeeping** was undoubtedly the most entertaining category in terms of respondents' answers. While such humdrum activities as ordering supplies was mentioned, who cannot sympathize with those who, in desperation, wrote such phrases as "getting papers off my desk" or "clearing office for the day"? For all practical purposes, this category could probably be combined with Mail.

The Unspecified category includes time not otherwise accounted for, most probably due to errors in recording.

**Faculty liaison**, a surprisingly small category, includes only those activities in which a librarian met with a faculty member, or group of faculty members, to work in planning the direction of the collection or some part of it. Reference assistance to faculty members is listed under the category Reference.

**Evaluation and remarks**

Mark Twain once remarked, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damn lies, and statistics."<sup>1</sup> Indeed, one must be very careful in interpreting the numbers given in this article, for in the strictest sense they give information only about the activities of nineteen Middle East Studies librarians on one particular day. A much more comprehensive picture could be obtained only by a study which encompassed a much longer period of time and which weighted such factors as position descriptions, status of librarians within each institution, seasonal variations, number of staff assigned to the Middle East collection, definition of the Middle East collection in each institution, and a host of others. This survey was not conducted to provide definitive answers on the use of personnel, and the results obtained are undoubtedly different from those which might have been found five years ago or which might be collected five years hence, differences which are only natural as Middle East collections change in response to institutional and library-wide goals.

**TABLE VIII. "TYPICAL" DAY OF A MIDDLE EAST STUDIES LIBRARIAN**

Category	Hours
Cataloging	1.70
Collection development/acquisitions	1.54
Meal and refreshment breaks	1.19
Miscellaneous	.99
Research	.79
Reference	.61
Mail	.50
Library committee/meeting	.45
Administrative duties	.40
Teaching	.18
Housekeeping	.18
Unspecified	.14
Faculty liaison	.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.76</b>

<sup>1</sup> Mark Twain's autobiography. 2 vols. New York: Harper, 1924. Vol. 1, p. 246. Twain attributes this statement to Benjamin Disraeli.

Table VIII provides a listing of how a "typical" Middle East Studies librarian spends a "typical" day, based on the statistics presented in previous tables. What this table cannot represent is the incredible fragmentation of how this time is spent. What this table cannot represent is the incredible fragmentation of how this time is spent. A single block of more than one and one-half hours devoted to a single task was extremely rare, and most respondents reported their activities by using five minutes as the smallest unit of time. The overwhelming impression given by reading the daily logs is that of "stealing" fifteen or twenty minutes from one task to complete another. Most librarians are constantly interrupted at one activity to deal with a more immediate demand, whether answering a reference question, dealing with an urgent phone call, or leaving the building because of a fire alarm (the latter is included with System problems in Table VII).

Nearly 43% of the total adjusted hours were spent on cataloging and collection development/acquisition activities. This would seem to be a strong statement that the primary duty of a Middle East Studies librarian is to select and process titles for the collection, and that all other activities, including reference service and faculty liaison, take a back seat to the pressing need to build and make available our collections.

No matter what his or her official position title, nearly all respondents performed a wide range of duties, to the extent that most individuals would be hard to categorize as only public or technical services librarians; catalogers answered reference questions and bibliographers revised cataloging records. While this may argue an efficient use of resources, one would also like to know if this pattern is true of other librarians in each institution. Does the history/political science cataloger also answer reference questions? Does the English bibliographer revise cataloging records?

Do librarians in other fields of area studies show the same wide range of duties, and if so why? The most obvious answer, whether speaking of Middle East Studies librarians only or of area studies librarians in general, is that Middle East collections are not primarily in English or Western languages, but in languages which require special knowledge and expertise.

Can this mixing of duties be explained because Middle East collections are understaffed? If so, are they understaffed because institutions are not willing or able to commit the necessary resources? Is there a shortage of qualified personnel at specific or at all levels (librarians, staff and students), so that Middle East Studies librarians perform whatever duties are required, regardless of their nature or level?

Or is there something inherently different in Middle East Studies librarianship which can account for the wide range of activities of its practitioners? If so, what are these factors? Do they have



to do with the nature of publishing in the Middle East, either the development and directions of Middle East Studies as a field of knowledge, or can they be accounted for by the history and development of Middle East Studies librarianship in North America?

Questions such as these are clearly outside the scope of this survey. Perhaps the data provided here, in however poor and unscientific a method, can set us on the path to discovering whether such broadly phrased questions are valid and can be answered.

Dona Straley  
Ohio State University Library

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Name of Library Unit: Bibliographers Group  
Salary Range: \$25,380-52,488

Duties: The Jewish Studies Bibliographer selects current and retrospective materials, monitors approval plans, and reviews gift materials. The Bibliographer works closely with the Technical Services Department, providing advice on cataloging problems and setting priorities. The Bibliographer consults with the Library Preservation Officer to determine the appropriate treatment for library materials as needed. The Jewish Studies Bibliographer works with campus development officers and members of the community to develop support for the collection. The Bibliographer maintains close contact with faculty and students of Jewish studies programs at UCLA and may have the opportunity to participate in teaching, research, or other scholarly activities. Like all professional librarians at UCLA the Jewish Studies Bibliographer is expected to be active within the profession and to pursue independent scholarly interests.

Qualifications: Hebrew is required. A knowledge of Yiddish and one or more Western European languages is preferred. A sound training in rabbinic, medieval, and modern Hebrew literature and language is preferred. Demonstrated experience as a professional librarian, particularly in collection development and cataloging, is desirable. The ability to work effectively with faculty, students, and library staff is essential. Involvement in scholarly activities (research, publications, an/or teaching) is desirable.

Anyone wishing to be considered for this position should contact:

Dr. Rita A. Scherrei  
Director of Administrative Systems and Personnel  
Services  
University Research Library  
UCLA  
405 Hilgard Ave.  
Los Angeles CA 90024.

The application letter should include a complete statement of qualifications, a

full resume of education and relevant experience, and the names of at least three persons who are knowledgeable about the applicant's qualifications for this position. Candidates applying by October 31, 1988, will be given first consideration.