

# MELA Notes

Number 5

April, 1975

## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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Richard S. Cooper (U. C. Berkeley)	Vice-President & Program Chairman
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### IRS-GRAM DETERMINES MELA OK (NO STOP)

The Middle East Librarians Association has been determined by the U. S. Internal Revenue Service to be in the tax exempt category, as long as our purposes, character and operations continue as they are stated to be. These purposes were accepted as being expressed in bona fide educational and public service oriented activities. Although we will owe no taxes as an Association, perhaps the chief result of this judgment is that donations and grants to MELA are tax deductible. With this information, Officers Martha Dukas and John Eilts deserve the Association's hearty appreciation for their long and successful effort to interpret and communicate to government officials. Hopes are a bit sounder now for financial backing of future projects, and the jobs outlined at the 1974 MELA Program are--could be--good ones.

## ASSOCIATION CHRONICLE,

By Martha Dukas

Annual Meeting - 1974. MELA's third annual meeting was very well attended. On Wednesday, 6 November 1974, over fifty persons participated in a workshop on "Options in Cooperative Middle Eastern Librarianship" at the Harvard University Faculty Club. In the morning Vice-President Richard Cooper led a discussion of acquisitions and collection development, and Margaret Anderson chaired a panel on bibliographic control in the afternoon. The day also included a tour and reception at Widener Library, where special exhibits had been arranged by David Partington and Miroslav Krek, and a luncheon sponsored by the Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies. A complete transcript of the proceedings, compiled by Editor James W. Pollock, appeared in MELA NOTES, No. 4. The business session of the annual meeting followed on Thursday, 7 November 1974, at the Hotel Statler-Hilton in Boston. John Eilts and Richard Cooper were re-elected President and Vice-President respectively; Frank Unlandherm was appointed Chairman of a committee to revise the Bylaws; and the Members approved a proposal raising dues to U.S. \$5.00 per year. Minutes of the business session and a brief summary of the workshop held at Harvard were mailed to all Members on 15 November 1974.

Executive Board - 1974 & 1975. The Executive Board met twice in Boston during the MESA/MELA annual meetings to discuss MELA's difficulties with the Internal Revenue Service, make plans for the Ann Arbor workshop on cooperation, and appoint new committee members. Minutes of those two sessions were also mailed to the Members on 15 November 1974. The Board plans to meet again at Ann Arbor during the last week of May.

TAX STATUS: MELA's final appeal to the Internal Revenue Service for tax exempt status was successful. In a letter of determination dated 12 March 1975, the District Director listed the Federal taxes from which we are exempt and indicated that donors may deduct contributions to MELA. Thus, foundations may now award MELA grants directly without endangering their own tax exempt status.

ANN ARBOR WORKSHOP: President John Eilts and the Planning Committee have almost completed arrangements for the Workshop on Cooperation among Middle Eastern Libraries in North America to be held at the Campus Inn in Ann Arbor, Michigan, 27-31 May 1975. Twenty representatives from Middle Eastern libraries in the United States and Canada and three distinguished librarians from Europe and the Middle East will participate in the workshop, which is funded by a grant from the Joint Committee on the Near and Middle East of the AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES and the SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL. Task Forces have been appointed to generate data and proposals concerning acquisitions consortia, collections, serials, micro-filming projects, and cataloguing.

Treasury. The 1974 Annual Meeting was partially subsidized by the Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Harvard College Library. MELA's share of expenses amounted to \$ 168.95. Another major expense was the fourth issue of MELA NOTES containing the proceedings of the workshop held at Harvard. It cost \$ 131.00 to produce and mail, leaving a balance of \$ 192.56 in our bank account. Members who have not yet paid their 1975 dues of \$ 5.00 are urged to send a check or money order as soon as possible.

Membership. MELA now has 37 Professional and 63 Associate Members. Since the last issue of the NOTES, 13 have joined the Association while 3 have resigned and about 7 have been dropped for being more than 12 months in arrears of dues. Following is a list of new Members:

Ahmad, Riaz. John G. White Department, Cleveland Public Library,  
325 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. Tel.: 216-241-1020, ext. 280.

Alwan, Mohammed B. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University,  
1737 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. Tel.: 617-495-4750.

Bezirgan, Basima. Middle East Collection, Academic Center, Rm. 29,  
University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. Tel.: 512-454-1198.

Birnbaum, Eleazar. Department of Islamic Studies, University of Toronto,  
Toronto, M5S 1A1 (Canada) Tel.: 416-928-3306.

Cmero, Judith A. McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park,  
MD 20742. Tel.: 301-454-3020.

Jwaideh, Zuhair E. Near Eastern & African Law Division, Library of  
Congress, Washington DC 20540. Tel.: 202-426-5075.

Malarkey, Deirdre. University of Oregon Library, Eugene, OR 97403.  
Tel.: 503-686-3070.

Nabti, Michel. The Library, Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and  
Peace, Stanford, CA 94305. Tel.: 415-497-2050.

Pearson, J. D. School of Oriental and African Studies, University of  
London, Malet St., London WC1E 7HP (England) Tel.: (56)-59572.

Saperstein, Roberta S. 50 Follen Street - Apt. 311, Cambridge, MA 02138.  
Tel.: 617-547-3238.

Tilghman, Levon H. (III). University of South Florida Library,  
Tampa, FL 33620. Tel.: 813-974-2727.

Truman Research Institute Library, Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91-190,  
Israel.

Vitale, Lilian. Science and Agriculture Library, American University of  
Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

Of these new Members, R. Ahmad, Z. E. Jwaideh and J. D. Pearson are Professional Members. In addition, former Associates H. Granoff, J. Heineck, and L. Mitler have become Professional Members.

All Members are urged to keep their address and position information up-to-date with our Secretary. The roster will be published in full in the October number of MELA NOTES. Typing on this number will begin ca. Sept. 8.

Nominating Committee. An entirely new slate of Officers will be elected at the 1975 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. The only incumbent eligible for re-election is James W. Pollock, Editor. Members who wish to propose candidates or run themselves for election for the 1976 Executive Board should write to the President this spring, as the slate must be drawn up by September, in order to be published in the NOTES.

Other Committees. The Committees on Program (Richard Cooper), Publications (James Pollock) and Bylaws Revision (Frank Unlandherm) will have an opportunity to meet at Ann Arbor to prepare their reports. Since the 1975 Annual Meeting will be held with the MESA Annual Program as usual, this year the dates being 19-22 November, all committee reports should be in the hands of Members for consideration for at least the constitutional 30 days preceding 19 November 1975.

Annual Meeting - 1975. The following information was received concerning the 1975 Middle East Studies Association Program:

The Program Chairman for 1975 is Professor Herbert Bodman, History Department, University of North Carolina. Proposals for papers and panels should be sent to his attention c/o the MESA Secretariat (New York University, Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, Washington Square, New York, 10003). The meeting will be held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky on November 19-22, 1975. The Local Arrangements Chairman is Professor Adele K. Ferdows, Dept. of Political Science, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, 40208. The location of the 1976 meeting is still not definite.

#### ADDRESSES, ESSAYS, LECTURES

A Checklist of Turkish Manuscripts in the Houghton Library, Harvard University,  
Compiled by Mrs. Emel Tekin

- MS Turk 1     cIstanbul Gümrlüğü Emiri Mehmed Tahir'e Abdülmecid Han tarafından verilen ferman. MS. (unidentified hand); Istanbul, 1254 c1838. 2s. (2p.) Gift on 7 June 1839 of Captain Giuseppe Costa of Palermo.
- MS Turk 2     cMr. Brow'a Abdülmecid Han tarafından verilen seyahat müsaadesi. MS. (unidentified hand); Istanbul, 1266 c1849. 1s. (1p.) Gift on 28 October 1850 of John P. Brown of Constantinople.
- MS Turk 3     Şahidi, Ibrahim, 1470-1550. Kitab-i Şahidi cTuhfe. MS. (unidentified hand); cIstanbul? n.d. 20f. (40p.) Gift on 21 September 1914 of Oric Bates.
- MS Turk 4     Ahmed bin Süleyman, Kemal Paşazade, d. 1533. cTalim-i farisi?. MS. (unidentified hand); c.n.p., n.d. 110f. (220p.) Gift on 21 September 1914 of Oric Bates.
- MS Turk 5     Nabi, Yusuf, 1642-1712. Divan. MS. (Mehmet Rifat and Ibn Mustafa Cemil); cIstanbul?, 1162 c1748. 143f. (286p.) Gift on 21 September 1914 of Oric Bates.
- MS Turk 6     al-Busiri, Muhammad ibn Sa'id. Şerh-i kaside-i burde bi-t-Türki; translations by Mehmed bin Halil. MS. (Ibrahim ibn Hüseyin, Mehmed bin Ali, Ahmed bin Abdullah...et al); cIstanbul? n.d. 238f. (476p) Gift on 21 September 1914 of Oric Bates.
- MS Turk 7     cHenry Ware Wales'a Sultan Abdülmecid tarafından verilen seyahat müsaadesi. MS. (unidentified hand); Istanbul, 1259 c1843. 2s. (2p.)
- MS Turk 8     Tevarih-i al-i Osman. MS. (Seyfi Hüsnü); c.n.p., n.d. 61f. (122p.) Deposited by the United States Naval Academy on 5 January 1920.
- MS Turk 9     Jalal al-Din, Rumi, Maulana, 1207-1273. Mesnevi. MS. (unidentified hand); cIstanbul?, 1217 c1802 90f. (180p.) Volume 3 only. Deposited by the United States Naval Academy on 5 January 1920.
- MS Turk 10    Insa-ul-mergub-al-kab-i cendid. MS. (unidentified hand); cIstanbul?, 1215 c1800?. 91f. (182p.) Deposited by the United States Naval Academy on 5 January 1920.

- MS Turk 11 Akaid-i ilm. Usul-i din. MS. (Mehmed Saadettin);  
İstanbul? n.d., 118f. (236p.) Deposited by the United States  
Naval Academy on 5 January 1920.
- MS Turk 12 Hakanf, d. 1606. Nazm-i Hakanf. MS. (unidentified hand);  
İstanbul? n.d., 32f. (64p.) Deposited by the United States  
Naval Academy on 5 January 1920.
- MS Turk 13 Ruzname. MS. (Yunus bin Sakkaif); n.p. 841?:1437,  
21f. (42p.) Gift on 21 September 1914 of Oric Bates.
- pfMS Turk 14 Arazi talimnamesi. MS. (unidentified hand); Istanbul  
n.d. H.1800?, 1s. (1p.) Gift on 13 May 1938 of Gen. Joshua  
Laurence Chamberlain.
- MS Turk 15 Şahidi, Ibrahim, 1470-1550. Tuhfe. MS. (unidentified  
hand); İstanbul? n.d., 40f. (80p.) Gift on 30 March 1942  
of Mrs. Charles B. Perkins.
- MS Turk 16 İzmir Paşası Rafet Süleyman tarafından verilen izin kâgidi.  
MS. (Rafet Süleyman Paşa?); İzmir, 1271 1855, 1s. (2p.)  
Deposited in 1943 by the American Board of Commissioners for  
Foreign Missions.
- MS Turk 17 Ruzname. MS. (unidentified hand); n.p., n.d., Roll, 1s.  
(1p.) In silver filigree cylinder. Gift on 2 November 1962  
of the Carlebach Gallery.
- MS Turk 18 Niyazi, Mehmed Misri, d. 1693. Divan. MS. (unidentified  
hand); Bursa? n.d., 41f. (79p.) Formerly the property of  
Librairie H. Millan, Tripoli.
- MS Turk 19 Veysi, 1561-1627. Siyer-i Veysi. MS. (Ebubekir Sidki);  
İstanbul?, 1010 1601, 201-375f. (402-750p.)
- MS Turk 20 Nidai. Menafi'ül-nas. MS. (Ibrahim Münir); İstanbul?,  
1171 1757, 141f. (272p.)
- MS Turk 21 Şahidi, Ibrahim, 1470-1550. Tuhfe. MS. (unidentified hand);  
Muğla? n.d., 24f. (46p.)
- MS Turk 22 Top bölüğü talimi. MS. (unidentified hand); İstanbul, n.d.,  
120f. (191p.) With 47 pages of diagrams.
- fMS Turk 23 al Tabari, Muhammad ibn Jarir, 838-923. Tevarih-al-Taberi.  
MS. (unidentified hand); İstanbul?, 1149 1736, 287f. (574p.)  
2 volumes in 1.
- fMS Turk 24 Jalal al-Din, Rumi, Maulana, 1207-1273. Şerh-el-mesnevi  
commentary by Şem'i, MS. (Muhammed); İstanbul?, 1025 1616,  
327f. (654p.) Volume 2 only.
- MS Turk 25 Hakanf, d. 1606. Hilye-i Hakanf. MS. (unidentified hand);  
İstanbul?, 1007 1598, 26f. (50p.)
- MS Turk 26 Şerefeddin ibn-al Şeyh Mehmed Seyfullah. Izah-al-meram fi  
meziyyet al-keîâm yahut şerh-al-nokta ve-al kalem. MS. (un-  
identified hand); Edirne n.d., 38f. (64p.)
- MS Turk 27 Ibn Aynf. Mesnevi. MS. (unidentified hand); n.p.,  
948 1541, 38f. (76p.) Lacks beginning.
- MS Turk 28 Risale-i ahlak-i alaf. MS. (unidentified hand); n.p.,  
n.d., 278f. (558p.) 3 volumes in 1. Beginning of first and  
end of third volume are missing.
- fMS Turk 29 Risale-i ahlak?, MS. (unidentified hand); n.p., n.d.,  
233f. (466p.) Lacks beginning and end.
- MS Turk 30 Nabi, Yusuf, 1642-1712. Münşaat-i Nabi Efendi. MS. (un-  
identified hand); İstanbul?, 1176 1762, 148f. (296p.)

- MS Turk 31 Kara Çelebizade Abdülaziz, d. 1657. Zafername. MS. (Haci Süleyman); cIstanbul?; 1132 c1719; 30f. (59p.) Gift on 21 September 1914 of Oric Bates.
- MS Turk 32 Sürurî, Osman, d. 1813. Divan. Hezeliyat-i Sürurî. MS. (unidentified hand); cIstanbul? n.d.; 93f. (185p.)
- MS Turk 33 Fenni Hicabi, Behnevi. Takrir-i Isagoci. MS. (Ahmed Âmedi?); c.n.p.; 1207 c1792; 7f. (13p.)
- MS Turk 34 Kitab-i akaid-i Sinaniyye ala mezheb-i ehl-al-Sünnet al-mâruf be-al dürr-al-meknun. MS. (Ahmed Istanbuli); cIstanbul?; 1126 c1714; 25f. (50p.)
- MS Turk 35 cKisas-i Enbiya; MS. (unidentified hand); c.n.p., n.d.; 169f. (238p.) Lacks beginning and end.
- MS Turk 36 Dürer-al akaid. MS. (unidentified hand); c.n.p., n.d.; 69f. (138p.) End is missing.
- MS Turk 37 cUnidentified; 16f. (31p.) Lacks beginning.

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Arabic Book Problems: Publication, Distribution and Pirating; a Conference,  
Translated by Michael W. Albin

Translator's Preface. Apropos of the discussion stimulated by Professor Birnbaum at MELA 1974 concerning the Middle Eastern book trade, the accompanying article is submitted as evidence that we Middle East librarians are not alone in confronting problems in obtaining books from the area. Arab publishers and booksellers themselves are also victims of the poorly organized trade. The article translated here appeared in al-Thaqāfah al-'Arabīyah (Tripoli, Libya) in March 1974 (v.1, no.5, p.101-105). It is divided into two parts. First is a summary of a recent UNESCO conference on the Arabic book trade. The second part contains discussions held by al-Thaqāfah al-'Arabīyah with some leading figures in Lebanese publishing.

UNESCO recently sponsored a meeting of experts on the status of books in Arab countries. Participating were representatives from Arab countries speaking on various book-related issues such as the promotion of books in the area, from which branch a number of problems. Before beginning our interviews, then, it is necessary that the final report of the UNESCO meeting be dealt with in order to clarify the concepts which will lead to an improvement of the situation.

The conference defined general reading books as those aimed at the mature, educated reader. It also included books prepared for youngsters. According to available statistics, the number of literate adults in the Arab countries in 1970 was approximately 18 million. This figure has increased as a result of the attacks on adult illiteracy, and by the appearance of a new generation who will reach majority while still in school. The participants of the UNESCO conference considered that present production of general reading books is insufficient for immediate and future needs. There is also an imbalance between books published for general reading and as school texts, despite the efforts of several Arab governments in publishing books for young readers and for the purpose of continuing adult education.

It was also remarked that only some countries have internal legislation regarding the rights of authorship. It is necessary to extend this legislation throughout the region. In many cases we find existing laws (though ahead of their time) are in need of revision. The lack of legal protection for the rights of authorship discourages writers and forms a principal obstacle to cultural development in the area. It was also noted that at present it is difficult for an Arabic language writer to live off the proceeds of his literary output.

In a section entitled "Development of Book Distribution on a National Basis" the report made certain recommendations. Because of the importance of this subject and its relation to the interviews which follow we summarize the discussion: It is clear that distribution is a vital problem. Therefore it is recommended that a comprehensive network be set up to disseminate books effectively in Arab countries. There simply are not many large, modern and well-managed commercial bookstores even in major cities. In the few instances where they are found, they are confined to the center of town. Despite the existence of a deep-rooted tradition of bookselling in Arab countries, this tradition has not adapted to present circumstances. Current requirements call for modern bookstores staffed by trained employees. We must place emphasis on instruction in the bookseller's trade. This is a matter that both governments and publishers can take up. The experts also urged formation of a distribution network to reach people even in the remotest and poorest villages.

Special attention was given to the problem of developing documentation and library networks inside Arab countries and strengthening cooperation between them, the goal being to foster book distribution over the entire region. The experts emphasized the role which national libraries play as centers for these networks. The existence of a national library or another well-organized library in its place assures copyright on the basis of legal deposit and is essential for the promotion of books. The experts viewed planning for promotion of books as impossible unless a national bibliography is compiled. This is one of the principal tasks which national libraries must undertake.

Much discussion was devoted to the importance of public and school libraries as effective means of bringing books to readers. It is necessary that every city quarter and every remote rural community have at least one library with qualified staff and an adequate book budget. It is necessary to consider planning of public and school library networks as an inseparable part of national educational planning.

It was recognized that scientific, technical and other specialized materials require more adequate documentation services and special libraries. In order to meet the needs of education and research for economic, social and cultural development, the conference participants resolved that each Arab country incorporate documentation into its national library effort.

Circulation of books among the various countries of the Arab region excited lively discussion, disclosing that although the common language opens up opportunities for regional exchange, the book trade has not developed as rapidly as it should have. Cases were recalled in which a number of prominent Arab authors were forced to search for publishers outside their own countries. Thus at home their books were treated as imported material. Yet there is in the Arab world a remarkable desire for regional cooperation which might be extended to include development of books.

Organizations with effective power are needed for the manufacture and distribution of books on a regional basis.

Lack of statistics creates difficulties in estimating regional book distribution. All Arab countries must strive to develop information on this extremely important subject. Those present at the conference decided in this regard that publication of statistics gathered in a sound fashion is a vital need for effective book production and distribution.

The relationship between publishers and booksellers also received the attention of the experts. It was suggested that in order to build regional distribution, publishers exert greater efforts to distribute their books directly outside their own countries. Likewise, publishers should exchange their books among themselves in order to market them.

It was noted that since almost all books published in the Arab world are in the Arabic language it should follow that the book trade be regional in nature. However, production is centered in two or three places and interaction is relatively limited. From the standpoint of communications, surface routes in the region and the flow of traffic along them are not up to a desirable level of volume or regularity. Thus the use of air transport is steadily growing despite the high cost of air freight. Those present expressed their hope that the national airlines in the Arab countries would fix a special shipping rate for books.

A number of economic factors block the road to development of the Arab countries. Among these are import duties, control of foreign exchange, import quotas, the system of licenses and special taxes. In this regard it was noted that only four of the region's countries are among the 64 countries which adhere to the UNESCO agreement for importation of educational, scientific and cultural material. This agreement stipulates that books ordered for public libraries be exempt from customs duties and from restrictions on exchange of currencies.

The experts noted that the Arab Postal Union had resolved at its meeting in March 1971 that the Arab world was united for postal purposes, meaning that domestic charges would be applied to letters and parcels sent from one Arab country to another. It was viewed that this step would facilitate unification of the costs of sending books by post within the region but that the effects would remain limited as long as domestic rates were high. Therefore, the conference suggested that the postal services enter into discussions with a view to agreement on unified rates for sending books at a cost that Arab countries can afford.

The UNESCO experts suggested, therefore, lowering of duty and license charges, freeing of book transactions from currency restrictions, and adoption of other suggestions for regularizing the price of books in the area.

With all these UNESCO recommendations in mind, we went to a number of leading publishers in Lebanon and discovered that the UNESCO proposals remain merely ink on paper. Al-Thaqāfah al-'Arabiyah decided to hold a seminar to discuss the Arabic book crisis and the tragic story of book sales and distribution. Taking part in the discussions were Bahij Osman, President of the Federation of Lebanese Publishers, Hilda Hobeish of Dar al-Makshuf, Munir Baalbaky of Dar al-'Ilm lil-Malayin, Ahmad Sa'id Muhammadiyah from Dar al-'Awdah, and Charles Raad, former director of Dar al-Nahar lil-Nashr and now owner of al-Ahliyah lil-Nashr wa-al-Tawzi'.

The Seminar.

Question: What do you see as the solution to the distribution problem in the Arab world, especially in light of the fact that much of the production which is not from either Cairo or Beirut is almost always condemned to die because of lack of initiative?

B. Osman: Arabic books at the present time are not distributed in the Arab countries in a manner that we would understand from the meaning of the word 'distribution'. Nor are they distributed in a manner similar to newspapers and magazines. This is because of conditions placed on publishing houses by booksellers. The publishers do not send anything to booksellers except those items specifically ordered by them. This means that each book not ordered by a bookseller in an Arab country is condemned to death. The argument of the bookseller is that no one will buy the book after he has received it in stock. The reader, therefore, has to know the book or have heard about it before ordering. If there are no blurbs or announcements about it, there is no way to get the book to the bookstore, and afterwards to the reader. Some publishers may be able to get their books into bookstores in the Arab world, but many fine books are not published by the well-known houses, nor are they brought out in the two Arabic publishing capitals, Cairo and Beirut. These books are aborted before they see the light of day. We need to think about a large Arab distribution company. Contributing to its foundation would be the 'Arab UNESCO' i.e., Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), organization. Then we could hope that a book published in Baghdad would reach Tangier, and a book published in Algeria would reach Dubai and Aden.

H. Hobeish: The problem of publication and distribution is indeed very sad, exercising the printers and publishers in most Arab countries. We will not delve here into a deep examination of the causes for the problem, rather we will content ourselves with proposing some solutions:

1. Improvement of the means of transportation from the standpoint of delivering publications in a reasonable time and in good condition.
2. Guarantees for payment and exchange without change of price or embezzlement. This is what we do at Dar al-Makshuf with several book dealers in Arab and African countries. It forces us to limit marketing our publications to just those countries.
3. Educating dependable, active managers to supervise distribution and secure sales.
4. Relying for the sale of books in each Arab country on the reader's needs and desires, regardless of the risk of unprofitability.
5. Reciprocity of publishers in Arab countries in safeguarding the rights of their counterparts in other countries.
6. Encouragement by governments of the Arab book trade through financial help, exhibitions, licensing for export and import, stabilizing prices, lowering transport rates, etc.

As regards the marketability of books and other printed matter in Cairo and Beirut, I think the reasons lie in the high quality of printing, the elegance of the type and layout and the great variety of books. Time itself and long familiarity with publishing also have had their effects.

C. Raad: It is necessary to transform distribution in the Arab world from uncoordinated undertakings by some bookstores or individuals with their limited potential into a larger enterprise built on sound business principles. It appears to me that distribution of books is like the distri-

bution of any commodity in trade. We wish to assure that our books reach the largest number of readers possible. Make distribution a profitable endeavor. In other words, create companies specialized in book distribution in every Arab country, either as part of the private or public sector. I have undertaken an experiment of this kind in Lebanon and have had great success. Books have become like magazines or newspapers -- brought to every village and every library.

A. S. Muhammadiyah: Many bureaucrats still do not distinguish books from shoes, or a parcel of books from a bunch of radishes. They are all considered the same on the basis of the fact that they are commodities. The Sudan is an example: you can get an import license for 4 million pounds sterling worth of shoes, while you can import only 20,000 pounds worth of books.

The Arab world also lacks a democratic climate. Thus any book by any author which treats one or another of the problems of the Arab nations is subject to banning by some Arab countries. Reactionary thinking presents a serious obstacle. It tries to resist every stream of modern culture and thought, preventing it from reaching the mind of the Arab reader through books. As an example, I offer the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia into which country it is more difficult to bring books than refined opium.

In addition, there are officials in cultural organizations who look at books only from the sales aspect, the business side; they do not know anything about the intellectual content of the material. An example is Algeria where we could bring in our publications (they number 550 since the founding of Dar al-'Awdah six years ago) only after several months, employing every means and procedure to satisfy officials as to the value of the books and the need to have them available in a country like Algeria.

M. Baalbaky: The problem of distribution, in fact, grows out of the absence of companies able to disseminate books throughout the entire Arab nation. The best remedy for this in my view is cooperation by the large Arabic publishing houses in founding a distribution company with a large capital backing and open to any organization capable of joining. In this way it would become possible to extend the reach of Arabic books. It would also become possible to exchange our publications in more significant ways. Sales would not be limited to Egyptian or Lebanese books but would include all Arabic production, no matter which of our citizens brought it out. How many valuable books have remained in obscurity--on a nationwide basis--simply because they were published in Tunis, Iraq, Libya or elsewhere outside Egypt or Lebanon? This is exactly what you expressed so well in your question when you said that literary production outside Cairo and Beirut suffers condemnation by default.

These then, in brief, are my suggestions for solving the basic problem of which publishers, writers and readers pay the price today. I have presented these suggestions in a lecture at the Arabic Writers' Conference held several years ago in Damascus, but unfortunately none of them has been put into effect.

#### The Crisis of Hard Currency Exchange.

Question: The publishing movement is hampered by restrictions on exchange of hard currencies. How would you resolve this difficulty?

H. Hobeish: I will not answer this question because the issue is not one of my specialties. I am afraid that I am forming the opinion that actual practice is in conflict with current financial legislation, and that this is

probably the proximate cause of the problem.

A. S. Muhammadiyah: The financial condition of an Arab nation like Egypt, which has a population of 35 million, does not allow transfer of the cost of books which are shipped into the country. Thus some publishers like myself sending their books to Egypt sell them in local currency and suffer considerable loss on every unit. Egypt may be excused somewhat because of the difficult circumstances which she has endured due to the Arab struggle. But the essential question remains: Why do economic circumstances permit exchange of the price of magazines and newspapers (some of them cheap and vulgar) while not permitting exchange of money for books?

It goes back to unfathomable, irrelevant factors--the existence of financial and political regimes which act consciously or unconsciously against the circulation of books. Therefore, and this is extraordinary, the successful book is one printed in 3,000 copies for distribution in a nation whose population numbers 140 million, according to the latest figures. To mention the positive side we could refer to the regimes in the Libyan Arab Republic, Syria and Iraq. These countries have established cultural centers, creatively encourage their citizens to make frequent use of them, and support the Arabic book.

M. Baalbaky: The restrictions which impede the export of currencies in Arab countries are either partial or complete. Partial restrictions limit transfer of currency without prohibiting it completely. This practice is carried out by granting the distributor annual or monthly licenses in respect of a specified amount authorizing him, under special conditions, to take local currency out of the country. In several Arab countries you can sell your publications but you cannot remove the profits of your sales.

The result of both these situations is to discourage publication and distribution of books. I do not see any solution to this problem except raising the barriers to permit withdrawal of currency up to the percentage of the books sold (and we are speaking only of books). By defying local governments in exercising this freedom publishers or distributors face the strictest punishments.

C. Raad: As I see it the sole solution to the problem is for those countries with foreign exchange barriers to exempt literary and intellectual production from restrictions. Books must be considered cultural material for which the doors should be thrown wide open in the service of Arab culture and for the benefit of Arab citizens.

B. Osman: I do not have any solution but to weaken those barriers to the transfer of revenues from book sales. If we admit that books are like a vital food, then we have to treat them as we treat food. Wheat and rice are no different than books. Some countries are satisfied with UNESCO coupons or barter agreements. But these have not solved the problem and have not facilitated the dissemination of books from country to country. Therefore, I do not see any solution short of mitigating the restrictions on exchange.

#### Piracy of Books.

Question: What is your opinion of the problem of piracy from which the Arab publishing world suffers?

B. Osman: Piracy of books, or their theft and use for profit in the interest of a person or persons other than the owner is a statutory crime

from which the publishing trade suffers severely and whose evolution and progress it retards. It drives serious authors and publishers alike toward an attitude of indifference about the marketability of books. I do not exaggerate when I say that they are just as afraid of brisk sales as of no sales at all. If a book is popular it attracts the pirates.

Because of laxity in application of the laws, pirates are encouraged to continue and extend this illegal practice. The boldness of some of these thieves has grown to the point where they even record their names on the pirated books, or negotiate a settlement with the owner of the stolen book, after the book has been pirated, having presented him with a fait accompli.

We must realize that two things encourage the book pirate: the cost of books and their disappearance from the market. If the publisher can deal with these two issues he will have slammed the door in the face of most of the pirates. Still, the basic solution in my opinion is the firm application of the law so as not to allow even one of these thieves to survive.

H. Hobeish: I see the causes of piracy as the following:

1. Absence of professional conscience and consciousness in some authors and publishers.
2. Lax application of laws agreed upon internationally (the Geneva Convention) regarding protection of the rights of publishing, printing and translating.
3. Diffidence on the part of owners of publishing rights to demand legal redress.
4. It is impossible to curtail this crime without cooperation from governmental authorities. If the pirates felt the force of opposition, piracy would decrease a great deal or perhaps disappear altogether.

C. Raad: The problem is a large one, prevalent on a wide scale. Fortunately it has begun to disappear in recent days because responsible publishing houses have taken control of the market. Publishers have become more aware, and new and educated elements have entered the publishing field.

This improvement will continue, but there will be no final solution as long as there is no agreement among Arab countries protecting authors and publishers. I suggest that in this matter the Arab countries follow Lebanon and enter into agreements for worldwide rights. Failing that, they can conclude agreements among themselves through the Arab League.

Finally, protection for the author has been ignored because intellectual production is not properly valued. It is considered a commodity, not the property of its owner; that is, it is thought of as an effort in the public domain.

A. S. Muhammadiyah: At the start, publishing operations were borne on the shoulders of a group of tradesmen or booksellers most of whom were not cultured and had no intellectual aspirations or dreams of the role of the book in the service of culture. As was natural, many came out of that environment who did not respect or appreciate books or the intellectual effort put forth by authors. The operation of printing a book or pirating it was considered easy in a business context, with no ethical implications. Then came the second stage in the history of publishing in which a number of intellectual publishers entered the field. They entered in an artistic wave, with civilized dreams, and with a respect bordering on the religious for the value of books and the worth of the artists who work with them. This group of publishers was able to gain a foothold, take off in many directions, and think in terms of a renewal of production and style. The role of the new publishers (or those we might call the literary mule drivers) is limited by

its very nature. That is, there is no scope to undertake intellectual dialogue between educated and uneducated. The main concern of a number of new publishers is preserving what is left of their existence.

Under these circumstances a brutal act against both the cultured publisher and against the writer is the pirating of the books which the two of them have helped to bring to the Arab reader. The problem, then, is the struggle between the generation passing out and the generation taking its footing in the future.

This does not mean that all of the old publishers have mistreated books, or that they have used unethical practices. There is a group which has attained commanding stature in the service of Arabic books and Arab culture. Mentioning some of those in the first generation we count Adib Sadiq, the late Shaykh Fu'ad Habish and Munir Baalbaky.

As to treatment of the piracy problem we can say that it will be accomplished by means of cooperation with the government and through the Publishers' Federation, in the case of Lebanon. As regards the Arabs as a whole, it is required that Arab ministries of information and culture take the sternest measures against assaults on authors, editors and holders of publishing rights. It is simply impossible for the cultured publisher to stand up to gangs of pirates while cut off from governmental support.

The matter now differs to a large degree from what it used to be, because some Arab governments have begun to get tough with pirates. Observers note that pirates are devoured by debt, harassed by political and legal pursuit, and plagued by anxiety. I believe that utmost stringency at this stage will banish these people, casting them out of the world of publishing, which we consider among the most noble professions man can undertake.

M. Baalbaky: The problem of piracy is one of the most critical issues faced by the publishing world today. The field has recently been afflicted by these intruders. They lie in wait for books put out by publishing houses to have a certain success. Then they hurry to bring out ugly trade printings, forcing the original editions off the market, just as bad currency drives out good. Alternately they set about photographing the books by the offset process and bring them out in editions resembling the originals, bearing the names of the original authors, the original translators or the original publishers, and even the publication dates, attempting to hide the crime by making perfect copies. This is the same tack used by counterfeiters of stamps or money.

The solution to this problem is to pass special legislation defining clearly the meaning of piracy and considering piracy a crime deserving the strongest punishment. Not only should the pirate be placed under the law's purview, but also the printer and seller of the purloined book. Publishers' associations in Arab countries should expose all who have been seduced into theft of another's ideas or literary rights in this despicable manner and expel them from their membership (if indeed they are members). They should ostracize any bookseller who deals with these thieves and sells their printed materials.

Michael W. Albin is Head Librarian, Middle East Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

## Book Production in the Middle East,

By David Partington

The Committee on the Middle East of the ARL is concerned with various aspects of American library resources. In general we are trying to determine how well our research libraries are responding to the information needs of scholars. Our study on the PL-480 Arabic program has been completed and our recommendations for changes in the distribution of PL-480 shares have been accepted. This present essay may be regarded as a tentative effort to find out the quantity of publication in the Middle East and how much of it is collectable. This information should be useful not only to specialists but also to those interested in calculating the growth and costs of research collections. One can not, in an absolute sense, evaluate the collecting activity of libraries unless one knows how many books are being produced and how many are worthy of being collected.

In this essay the term Middle East is understood to mean all the Arabic speaking countries and also Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan. A decade ago, Mr. James Pearson, then librarian at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, made a serious attempt to estimate non-Western production. (1) Pearson, in brief, estimated that in the Middle East 8900 books and pamphlets were published, of which he would select about 2350, or 26 percent, at a cost of £ 1064.

World book production doubled between 1955 and 1975, and the Middle East took part in that growth. As literacy spreads and as the native economies develop we shall probably see the pace of publishing accelerate. UNESCO has endeavored for several years to compile and cumulate statistics on various aspects of book production. The information in the tables below was extracted from the UNESCO Statistical Yearbooks. Pamphlets as well as books are counted together.

## Table no. 1.

These figures are susceptible to doubt, and further study must be done in various sources to rectify them. The figures for Lebanon seem particularly low. For example, in 1970 out of a total of 594, 98 (or 1/6th) are in the category of history. According to information compiled at Harvard, some 238 distinct titles in history (liberally defined) were printed in Lebanon in 1973. (2) If the same ratio persists and 238 represents 1/6th of total production, then in actuality some 2038 books are produced in 1973 -- a figure I believe is more realistic than UNESCO's 594.

The UNESCO figures, even if accurate, are gross figures and for the purpose of estimating collectable items they must be reduced so as to exclude all or part of the following categories: 1) translations, for I assume here that only original language publications should be collected; 2) editions and reprints; and 3) non-collectable subjects.

In 1970 about 12 percent of Egyptian monographs were not in Arabic; 3 and 1/2 percent of Turkish books were not in Turkish; and 25 percent of Lebanese books were not in Arabic. In this essay I shall assume that 10 percent of Middle Eastern book production is in a non-native language and therefore is a non-collectable translation. (3)

## Table no. 2.

These selected and hopefully typical figures indicate that 87 percent of gross production is in 1st editions. Therefore 13 percent must be reprints and editions and thus, for the purposes of this essay, can be rejected from consideration. (4)

The UNESCO statistics are conveniently broken down into subject categories. I regard "non-collectable" subjects as: generalities, trade, transport, mathematics, natural sciences, medical sciences, industries, agriculture, domestic science, commercial techniques, games & sports.

## Table no. 3.

From this tabulation I conclude that about 30 percent of total Middle Eastern production is in subjects outside of a liberal collecting policy. By liberal collecting policy I mean most of the books in literature, linguistics, humanities, and the social science works applicable to the native countries.

To summarize: 10 percent of production is in Western languages; 13 percent is in editions; and 30 percent is in non-collectable subjects. Unfortunately we can not assume that these categories represent 53 percent of Middle Eastern book production, for there must be overlapping, although to what extent can not be determined from the UNESCO figures. An in depth study of national bibliographies from one or two of our countries would be of assistance here. It seems likely that much of the translations would go into practical, technical books or school texts that make up the 30 percent for non-germane subjects. I shall assume, nevertheless, that a full 53 percent of the total are non-collectable. Actual examination of the remainder would reveal much to be unworthy of inclusion in a collection, and it is here that the bibliographer's special judgment and taste come into play. While I would advocate the retention of virtually all belles-lettres, I could never suggest that all books in traditional collecting areas such as history, linguistics, and religion be retained. A very considerable portion will be found to be superficial. However, the same standards that are used to filter out books of low worth from Western language research collections should not be applied to our Middle Eastern collections. At this stage of the inquiry, I estimate that only about half of the 47 percent mentioned above is collectable. The result of this calculation is that 35 percent of gross output from the Middle East is deemed collectable.

Total book production from the Middle East in 1974 is about 14,000 volumes. Our 35 percent rate of acquisition will yield us 4,900. A projection of 5 percent growth per year will mean that some 7239 items can be added to our collections in 1980. However, one persistent factor in keeping our input down is the inefficiency of the native book trade, by and large. At best, I should expect that only 75 percent of collectable titles will actually reach our shores. We can think, then, in terms of 3700 today and 5430 in 1980.

It must be stated that the figures in the preceding paragraph differ from the Library of Congress estimates. Dr. Atiyeh has reached a "close estimate" of 16,000 titles for 1972, of which 6,800 or 42.5 percent are deemed collectable. Government publications are not included in the 6,800.

Serial publications, both newspapers and periodicals, must be considered.

## Table no. 4.

The value to scholarship of local newspaper subscriptions is not convincingly clear. Experience shows that they are read here mainly by students from the area, and only through the most cordial cooperation of American libraries could a significant number of the newspapers be collected. I generously assume that two papers from each country are desirable, with four additional titles each from Iran and Turkey, making a total of 38.

Magazines represent an important part of the cultural expression of the Middle East and deserve serious attention from collection builders.

## Table no. 5.

Of course, the total figure includes non-collectable subjects: 1265 non-collectable titles from Turkey; 189 from Lebanon; and 20 from Tunisia. Perhaps it is safe to assume that only one-third of the total output is in germane subjects; we reach, then, the figure of about 1083 titles for active consideration. Of this amount, I cautiously suggest that 500 titles be regarded as the maximum quantity worthy of inclusion in a research library. This is a crucial estimate and will be examined further by the ARL Middle East Committee. Dr. Atiyeh has estimated for L.C. that 700 serial titles should be acquired.

To summarize: a full-scale academic research collection will in 1975 acquire at least 3700 monograph volumes, subscribe to 38 newspapers and 500 serial titles. What will this cost? Recent experience (Winter of 1974) has shown that the average cost of hundreds of current trade monographs including postage, and overseas binding for about 80 percent of the volumes, is \$ 4.93 per Arabic volume, \$ 3.49 for Persian, and \$ 3.52 for Turkish. We will estimate Arabic serial subscriptions at \$ 20.00 per title and assume that Turkish and Persian are acquired at the same rate. Newspapers via surface mail we will figure also at \$ 20.00 per title.

Arabic books,	2,200 vols. at 4.93	. . .	10,846
Turkish " ,	800 " 3.52	. . .	2,810
Persian " ,	700 " 3.49	. . .	2,443
Newspapers	38 titles	. . . . .	760
Serials	500 "	. . . . .	10,000
TOTAL			\$ 26,859

Notes to this article. (1) "Current Publication for Non-Western Studies," Library Quarterly, vol. 35 (1965), pp. 373-382. This also appeared as an appendix to Area Studies and the Library, Chicago, Chicago University Press, 1966. (2) Cf. F. Abdulrazaq, Arabic historical writing, 1973. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard College Library, 1974. (3) This is not entirely valid. A statistically significant percentage of non-native-language publication from the Middle East is collectable. I have in mind especially the French publications from North Africa and Lebanon, the Armenian books from Lebanon, Kurdish from Iraq, and perhaps Coptic from Egypt. (4) In actual practice many of the editions and reprints would be acquired by a research library. A notable feature of Arabic and Persian publication is the issuing of medieval, classical texts. Most of these editions should be acquired.

TABLE No. 1

Middle East Book Production by Country -- UNESCO Statistics

	1950	1959	1960	1961	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Afghanistan					108	172					
Algeria					131	196	258	289 <sup>1</sup>			
Bahrain											
Egypt		2173	2260	2708	1849	1819		1695	1872	2142	
Iran		586		560	985		1231			1381	2190 <sup>2</sup>
Iraq		143				485		473	569	515 <sup>1</sup>	
Jordan						27 <sup>1</sup>	162	154	224	114 <sup>1</sup>	73
Kuwait					113	167	153	132	80	104	117
Lebanon	396	365			375	438	427	543	685	594	
Libya			5				86		290	249	
Morocco	76	139		161						122	
Pakistan											
Qatar								51 <sup>1</sup>		99	88
Saudi Arabia											
Sudan			94								
Syria					485	87 <sup>2</sup>					
Tunisia					200		250		134		
Turkey	2150		3447	4357	5442	8060	5688	5492	5669	5854	6540

<sup>1</sup> First editions.<sup>2</sup> No pamphlets included.

TABLE No. 2

	<u>First Editions:</u> (1970)	<u>Books</u>	<u>Pamphlets</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Iraq		345	133	478	515	92
Jordan		100	14	114	114	100
Lebanon		426	28	454	594	76
Qatar		77	3	80	99	80

TABLE No. 3

<u>Subject Categories:</u> (1970)	<u>Books</u>	<u>Pamphlets</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Reject</u>	<u>Pc. non-collectable</u>
Iran	1381		1381	443	32
Iraq	380	135	515	44	8
Jordan	100	14	114	41	36
Kuwait	60	44	104	57	55
Lebanon	553	41	594	35	6
Qatar	96	3	99	34	34
Turkey			5854	1868	31

TABLE No. 4

<u>Daily Newspapers:</u>	1960	1965	1969	1970	1971
Afghanistan	12	17		18	
Algeria	9	5		4	
Egypt			14		
Iran	26	18	26	33	29
Iraq			5	4	
Jordan	6	7		5	3
Kuwayt	1		5	5	6
Lebanon		37		52	
Libya	2	4	8	8	7
Morocco	12			14	13
Saudi Arabia	4	7	6	5	5
Sudan	7	9		22	
Syria				5	
Turkey	506	375	400	437	432
Yemen				6	3

TABLE No. 5

<u>Magazines:</u>	No. of titles	
Algeria (1968)	91	Iran (1972) 188
Egypt (1969)	176	Jordan (1971) 16
Sudan (1968)	55	Kuwayt (1971) 8
Tunisia (1969)	51	Lebanon (1970) 323
Afghanistan (1970)	24	Saudi Arabia (1971) 10
Bahrayn (1970)	15	Turkey (1971) 1944

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#### COLLATION FOR THE NOTES

International Congress of Orientalists, 28th, Canberra, 1971. Resolution on Arabic manuscripts: "...Be it resolved...that this Congress...recognize the need for early cataloguing of all Arabic manuscripts not yet adequately listed and described, and that it recognize further the fact that successful completion of this all-important task will be contingent on an international initiative to start work where it has not yet been begun, to consolidate ongoing efforts where needed by financial assistance, and to secure and maintain cooperation and co-ordination of cataloguing endeavours in progress or to be undertaken." Quoted in R. Sellheim's article in *ORIENTS* (v.23/24 (1974) p.306-311) "The Cataloguing of Arabic Manuscripts as a Literary Problem."

Lebanese Librarians Association. Our Lebanese colleagues have published their study of "Scientific and technological preparation for the field of libraries and documentation" (translated title). Charles Willard, Princeton Seminary Librarian, attended their January '74 conference and brought a copy.

American Council on Education. The Council's "Final Report of the Task Force on Library and Information Resources" emphasizes area studies needs. Distr.: Their Publication Office, One Dupont Circle NW, Wash., DC 20036.