

# MELA Notes

Number 8

May, 1976

## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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IN THIS NUMBER:	Page
Editorial: Alphabets and the Odds	1
Association Chronicle, by Janet Heineck	2
Addresses, Essays, Lectures:	
Deirdre Malarkey, Amman, Jordan: a Bibliography to 1974	4
Abazar Sepehri, Translator, The Book Situation in Iran, by K. Tabandah. From <i>Kitāb-i Inrūz</i> , Winter 1974-75, p. 59-60	8
Richard Cooper, A Survey of Turkish Acquisitions	9
Martin Davis, The Library/Scholar Interface in Middle East Bibliography	11
John Eilts, <u>Middle East Datafile</u> : an evaluation	12
Serials Classified Section (To be in the Fall no.)	13
Collation for the NOTES:	
Invitation to authors	13
Position openings	13
Library Literature to Cairo	14
ARL Voting on NPAC Center	14
New Imperial Calendar for Iran	14
Arab League Librarians Hold Symposium on Computer Use	14
Teheran Seminar on University Library Problems	15
Oxford Bibliographical Conference on Middle East	15
NYPL Trains 'Scope on "Ships of the Desert"	16

### Alphabets and the Odds

Many a child's poorer grades in the "lower form" were in old time English calligraphy. The Palmer Method called for a natural ball on the forearm's underside by which to produce lovely lines rolled and push-pulled. Too much bone, skin and hair with added bracelets and buttons made individual differences surface richly. The celestial script, exhaustively traced, in due time went vaporous and windblown.

As this Western century's moon wanes on, a jazzling intelligence rolls through the stilly humming halls where books and people dialogue. Now here, the computing brain blinks Yes or No in magically infinite variation, bringing in new orders of things to the library. No one's error of language or silence is forgotten when posed in audience at the "terminal." But this odd thing goes a long way to serve you correctly, if emotive bursts and artistic flairs are tabled for the nonce.

So now is debated the alphabet. What impulse shall we send the brain? And to whom will it speak? Will not computing makers decide this thing? And for money will they not decide aright? Dispute the roman's empirically coherent word if you like. Its trained phalanxes move to comprehend the planet, touching to turn with grave respect the lines of other speech. The dialogue proceeds -- what now is your alpha-bet?

#### ASSOCIATION CHRONICLE

by Janet Heineck

Executive Board. The Executive Board has been working in a number of areas recently. On the agenda for its interim meeting on July 19, 1976, at the ALA convention in Chicago are discussions of current MELA finances, the status and needs of MELA NOTES, preliminary nominations for officers to be elected, an agenda for the business meeting in Los Angeles, a report from the Program Chairman on preparations for our panel on the Islamic book at the MESA convention, plans for a MELA membership drive, and the MESA/MELA Library survey questionnaire format.

At the request of the President, the Secretary-Treasurer drafted a letter containing a description of MELA's activities and an invitation to join the membership/subscription roll. The President has asked the Executive Board to assemble a list of prospective recipients of the letter. Suggestions from any member for this list as well as the list of preliminary officer nominations for 1977 are most welcome.

In a general letter dated February 13, 1976, the President appealed to the MELA membership to send suggestions regarding the contributions both the Library of Congress and MELA can make toward better handling of Middle Eastern library materials to John Y. Cole, Chairman of LC's Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning. The Secretary-Treasurer recently received an acknowledgement of her letter from Dr. Cole.

The Secretary-Treasurer attended and represented MELA at the opening sessions of the April 1976 meeting in Chicago of the ALA/RTSD AACR Catalog Code Revision Committee.

Treasury. MELA's current savings account balance is \$486.75. The major recent expenditures have been \$161.38 to cover the final printing bill for the Ann Arbor Workshop proceedings, and \$24.00 for printing MELA NOTES 7. Many members have not yet paid 1976 dues. If you are among them, please remember to do so.

Membership. MELA currently numbers 49 professional and 85 associate members who represent 71 institutions in about 12 countries. One NOTES subscription has been cancelled, and three members have resigned. The following are new members whose listings are appearing in the NOTES for the first time: Abdi, Forouz (A) 238 Cherry Valley Drive, Apt. J17, Inkster MI 48141. Tel.: 313-562-9237.

- Abraham Lincoln Resource Center (A) American Embassy (USIS) P.O. Box 2000, APO New York 09205.
- El-Dabbas, Mohammad S. (A) 309 Jefferson, Clarion PA 16214.
- Gardner, Joseph (A) 221 Third Avenue, Venice, CA 90291.  
Tel.: 213-885-2265.
- McWilliams, Linda K. (A) 728 South Royal Street, Alexandria VA 22314  
Tel.: 202-426-5437.
- Martinez, Mehry (P) Director, Ladjevardi Foundation Library, Iran  
Center for Management Studies, P.O. Box 11-1573, Tehran, Iran.  
Tel.: 685001, ext. 69.
- Martinez, Pat (P) Head, Technical Services Department, Central  
Library and Documentation Center, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran.  
Tel.: 6112842.
- Mossad, Faiez A. (A) Regenstein Library, Room 560, University of  
Chicago, 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637. Tel.: 312-753-4370.
- Ziko, Atef O. (A) Shell Oil Co., Information and Library Services,  
Box 587, Houston TX 77001. Tel.: 713-220-5897.
- Zipin, Amnon (P) 4214 11th Avenue Northeast, Apt. 409, Seattle, WA  
98105. Tel.: 206-634-1277.

News of the Members. Fawzi TADROS, formerly Near East Cataloger at Indiana University Library, has a new position in the Near East Section in the Orientalia Division of the Library of Congress. Donald J. WEBER, formerly of LC's Division of the Blind and Handicapped, is now Director of the Florida Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, P.O. Box 2299, Daytona Beach FL 32015. Amnon ZIPIN is the new Near East Cataloger at the University of Washington Library in Seattle.

St. John's University Press (Jamaica NY) has published Abazar SEPEHRI's Iranian Corporate Headings with References in the St. John's University Occasional Papers : Library Science series, no. 2 (\$1.95. SBN:87075-103-4) Sepehri is Assistant Librarian for Middle East Studies, University of Chicago.

Middle East Library staff at the University of Chicago have recently completed A Provisional Hand List of Serial Publications Relating to Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in the University of Chicago Libraries, copies of which are available upon request.

Michael C. HILLMANN, Assistant Professor of Persian at the University of Texas at Austin has just published Twentieth Century Persian Literature in Translation: a Bibliography. Mike Albin's note comments: "This valuable tool is the first published attempt to list all translations into English of modern Iranian verse, fiction and drama. The bibliography is preceded by a list of anthologies, bibliographies and criticism of Persian literature. Annotations accompanying entries in this section help the reader appraise the standard surveys in English. The frank comments will be greatly appreciated. For example, on Kubickova's essay in Rypka's History of Iranian Literature Hillmann says, "...This article virtually ignores the major post-World War II poets and, with its glaring errors of fact, reveals the author's lack of first-hand familiarity with much Persian fiction of the same period." The bibliography is available from the Imperial Embassy of Iran, Cultural Affairs Department (3005 Mass. Ave., NW, Washington DC 20008) and is No. 3 in its publication series.

Beyond the Grapevine : Position Vacancy Information Exchange.

MELA's former Secretary-Treasurer, Martha Dukas, acted as an informal referral point for information on vacancies in Middle East library positions. The present Secretary-Treasurer would be glad to continue and regularize that service, and have the general membership see one function of the office as that of employment information clearinghouse. Grapevines are effective, but they bypass people who aren't already in the system, or who miss the employment announcements at the annual meetings. People interested in finding or changing jobs should let the Secretary-Treasurer know, and she will keep them informed of vacancies that have been reported to her office. The success of this depends on the interest of the people concerned, so do write if you're looking.

Please keep the Secretary-Treasurer informed also of any position and address changes, and of other news which might be of interest to MELA members. The September/October number of the NOTES will carry the annual membership list, committee lists, and the first listings of the Serials Classified Section. NOTES 9 must shape up in the first week of September. Committee Chairpersons are invited to send in progress reports to the Secretary at any time, and especially the roster of each group for next number.

ADDRESSES, ESSAYS, LECTURES

Amman, Jordan: a Bibliography to 1974, by Deirdre Malarkey

Introduction. A student of Middle Eastern studies, urban planning, or geography may find an abundance of material for research on the more famous cities of Cairo, Beirut, or Damascus; it is more difficult to find publications dealing with the smaller city, particularly publications which are in English. With a few exceptions, most of the publications listed below are in English. Each citation should have some references to Amman in it. Lacking are publications which cover the entire region, and newspapers, notably al-Dustour.

- Al-Abidi, Mahmoud. 'Ammān fī mādhā wa-ḥādirihā. Amman: The Municipality, 1971.
- Adams, Michael. Chaos or rebirth, the Arab outlook. London: British Broadcasting Corporation, 1968.
- Aharoni, Yohanan. The Land of the Bible: a historical geography. London: Burns and Oates, 1966.
- Amman, Jordan. Amānat al-'Āsimah. 1972 Amman. Amman: The Municipality, 1972.
- American Schools of Oriental Research. Newsletter 4 (1969), and 7 (1973).
- Beheiry, Saleh. Jughrāfiyat al-Urdun. Amman: University of Jordan, 1973
- Bliss, Frederick Jones. "Narrative of an expedition to Moab and Gilead in March, 1895." Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement (1895), p. 203-235.
- Breen, A. E. A Diary of my life in the Holy Land. Rochester: 1906.
- Brown Engineers International, Inc. for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, City of Amman. Final Engineering Report on the Water Distribution System, 1960. Amman? The Company? 1960?
- Burdon, David J. Handbook of the geology of Jordan. Amman?, Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 1959.

- Butler, Howard Crosby. Ancient architecture in Syria. Section A: Southern Syria; Part 1: Ammonitis. (Publications of the Princeton University Archaeological Expeditions to Syria, in 1904-1905 and 1909, Division II) Leyden: E.J. Brill, 1912 (?).
- Clarke, John Innes. Population geography and the developing countries. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1971.
- \_\_\_\_\_, and W. B. Fisher. Populations of the Middle East and North Africa: a geographical approach. London: University of London Press, 1972.
- Condor, C. R. The Survey of Eastern Palestine, Vol. I: The Adwan Country. London, Palestine Exploration Fund, 1889.
- Dajani, Rafiq W. "The Amman Theater fragment." Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, v. 12/13 (1967/1968), p. 65-67.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "An (EB-MB) burial from Amman." Ibid., p. 68-69.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Iron Age tomb from Amman." Ibid., p. 41-47.
- DeLew, Gather International, Consulting Engineers, and Jouzy and Partners, Consulting Engineering Bureau. Draft report on hydraulic design of the Seil Culvert and Seil Channel. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman-Zarqa Highway, Section I & II. Amman: "The Company?," 1971.
- Dornemann, Rudolph Henry. "The Cultural and archaeological history of the Transjordan in the Bronze and Iron Ages." Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, 1964.
- Doughty, Charles M. Travels in Arabia Deserta. New York: Boni and Liveright, 1921?.
- Gedeon, Raja H. "The Pollution problem of some underground waters in Ain Ghazal area." Typed manuscript. Amman: Natural Resources Authority, 1973.
- Gese, Hartmut. "Ammonitische Grenzfestungen zwischen Wādi es-Sīr und Nā'ūr." Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palaestina-Vereins, v. 74 (1958), p. 55-65.
- Glueck, Nelson. "Explorations in Eastern Palestine, III." Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research, v. 18/19. New Haven: American Schools of Oriental Research, 1939.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Explorations in the Land of Ammon." Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, v. 68 (1937), p. 13-21.
- Hacker, Jane M. Modern Amman: a social study. (Department of Geography Research Papers Series, no. 3) Durham: University of Durham, 1960.
- Hadidi, Adnan. "The Pottery from the Roman Forum at Amman." Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, v. 15 (1970), p. 11-17.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Roman Forum at Amman." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Missouri, 1970.
- Harding, G. Lankester. The Antiquities of Jordan. New York, F.A. Praeger, 1967.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Recent discoveries in Jordan." Palestine Exploration Quarterly, (1958), p. 7-18.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Two Iron Age tombs from Amman." The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine, v. 11 (1945), p. 67-74.

These are but a few citations to the many articles by Harding. By the same token, for a thorough study of archaeological excavations in Amman, one should read all issues of the publications of the Department of Antiquities. Only a few of the articles have been mentioned in this bibliography.

The following list of government publications does not mention annual

reports of various departments -- e.g., those of the Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Places and Holy Places. These are sources not to be overlooked for a study of development and planning.

- Jordan. Department of Antiquities. The Archaeological heritage of Jordan. Part I: The Archaeological periods and sites (East Bank). Amman: 1973.
- . Department of Statistics. First census of population and housing, 18th November, 1961. Final tables. Amman: 1964.
- . Population census and internal migration for Amman, Jerusalem, Zarqa, Ruseifa, Irbid, and Aqaba, 1967. Amman: n.d.
- . (?). Statistical guide to Jordan, 1973. Amman? 1973?
- . Statistical yearbook, 1962- Amman: (annual publ.)
- . Housing Development Plan in Jordan, East Bank, 1973-1975. Amman: (?) No publisher indicated: 1972.
- . Jordan Development Board. Survey of municipal activities of Amman. Amman: 1964.
- . Ministry of Agriculture. Department of Agricultural Research and Extension. Report on agricultural zoning. Working paper. Amman: 1974.
- . Ministry of Culture and Information. Economic development of Jordan, 1954-1971. Amman: (?) 1972?
- . The Government of Jordan. Amman: (?) n.d.
- . Jordan: land and people. Amman: Jordan Press Foundation, 1973.
- . Ministry of Economy. Economic Planning Division. Report on the laying out of a prohibited area to protect the Ras el Ain Springs at Amman. Amman: 1956.
- . Ministry of National Economy. Jordan Investment Promotion Office. Investment conditions and opportunities. Amman: 1972.
- . Ministry of Transportation. Meteorological Department. Jordan climatological data handbook. Amman: 1968.
- . National Planning Council. Three-Year Development Plan, 1973-1975. Amman: (?) 1973?
- (This is the latest of three development plans, as of 1974.)
- . Natural Resources Authority. Rainfall in Jordan in the water years...- Amman: (annual publ.)
- , the United States Agency for International Development, and the United States National Park Service. A Master Plan for improving visitor services and activities in Amman. Amman: Tourism Authority Press, 1968.
- Hennessy, J. B. "Excavation of a Late Bronze Age temple at Amman." Palestine Exploration Quarterly, (1966, p. 155-162.
- Henschel-Simon, E. "Note on the pottery of the 'Amman tombs.'" Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine, v. 11 (1945), p. 75-80.
- Hentschke, Richard. "Ammonitische Grenzfestungen suedwestlich von 'Amman.'" Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palaestina-Vereins, v. 76 (1960), p. 103-123.
- Witti, Philip K. Capital cities of Arab Islam. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1973.
- Hoff and Overgaard, Planning Consultants; Carl Bro, Roughton, and Partners, Consulting Engineers; and Skaarup and Jespersen, Architects and Physical Planning Consultants, in Association with Arabtech Consulting Engineers for The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Amman Penetrator Road Corridor Development Study for the Municipality of Amman. Progress report. Amman: 1973.
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The economic development of Jordan. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1957.

- Jarvis, C. S. Arab Command: The biography of Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. Peake Pasha. London: Hutchinson and Co., 1942.
- Kanaan, Niazi Ragheb. "Amman." In The New metropolis in the Arab world, edited by Morroe Berger. New York: Allied Publishers, 1963.
- Khadra, Bashir. "Local government in Jordan: the Municipality of Amman." Master's thesis, American University of Beirut, 1966.
- Landes, George M. "The Material civilization of the Ammonites." The Biblical Archaeologist, v. 24 (1961), p. 66-86.
- LeStrange, Guy. Palestine under the Moslems. (Khayat's Oriental Reprints, 14) Beirut: Khayat's, 1965.
- Lorenz, Victor, for The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ministry of Interior for Municipal and Rural Affairs, Department of Regional and Town Planning. Physical planning in Jordan. Amman: 1968.
- Luke, Harry Charles. The Handbook of Palestine and Transjordan. London: Macmillan, 1930.
- McGarvey, John William. Lands of the Bible. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1881.
- MacKenzie, Duncan. "The Megalithic monuments of Rabbath Ammon at Amman." Annual of the Palestine Exploration Fund, v. 1 (1911, p. 1-40.
- Malarkey, Deirdre Dexter. "Amman, Jordan: an urban landscape study." Master's thesis, University of Oregon, 1974.
- Manchester, Eng., Town Clerk, City Treasurer, and Water Engineer, for The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Jordan Development Board. "City of Amman water supply." Manchester, Eng.: 1963.
- Masri, Munib. Amman-Zerqa area. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Central Water Authority Geological Report. Amman: 1963.
- Merrill, Selah. East of the Jordan. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1883.
- Mudallal, Usama H. "Hydrogéologie de la région d'Amman-Zerqa (Jordanie)." Ph.D. dissertation, l'Université Louis Pasteur de Strasbourg, 1973.
- Muir, William. Annals of the early Caliphate. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1883.
- Newcombe, Vernon A., United Nations Town Planning Advisor, for The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ministry of Interior. "Amman Metropolitan Area, Draft Outline Development Plan: Amman West-Wadi Seer. Report." Amman: (?), 1963.
- Northey, A. E. "Expeditions in the East of the Jordan." Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement, (April, 1872).
- Ochsenwald, William Leo. "The Hijaz Railroad: a study in Ottoman political capacity and autonomy." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1971.
- Patai, Raphael. The Kingdom of Jordan. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1958.
- Peake, Frederick Gerard. A History of Jordan and its tribes. Coral Gables, Fla.: University of Miami Press, 1958.
- Post, George E. "Narrative of a scientific expedition in the Trans-Jordan Region in the Spring of 1886." Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement, (1888), p. 175-237.
- Rihani, Fuad Akil. "A Transportation study for the City of Amman, Jordan." Master's thesis, University of North Carolina, 1964.
- Rizk, Hanna. "National fertility sample survey for Jordan, 1972; the study and some findings." Population Bulletin of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, v. 5 (1973), p. 14-31.
- Saleh, Hassan A. K. "A Social survey of the Circassian population in Jordan." Amman: The Author, 1972.

- Solignac, J. L. Marcel. "Report on a protective device at Ras el Ain (Amman)." Amman: [No publisher indicated] 1955.
- Thompson, Henry O. "The 1972 excavation of Khirbet al-Hajjar." Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, v. 17 (1972), p. 47-64.
- Toukan, B. A. A Short history of the Trans-Jordan. London: Luzac, 1945.
- Touqan, Ghaleb. "Urban administration in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan." In Administrative problems of rapid urban growth in the Arab states, p. 106-109. New York: United Nations, 1964.
- United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. "Social survey of Amman, 1966." Beirut: 1968.
- U.S. United States Agency for International Development/Jordan. "Some effects of population growth in Jordan, 1967-1980." Amman: (?) 197-?
- Van Elderen, Bastien. "The Byzantine church in Swafieh." Annual of the Department of Antiquities in Jordan, v. 15 (1970), p. 25-27.
- Vattenbyggnadsbyrån (VBB). Feasibility study and master plan for Amman water and sewage works -- Stage 3, Final report. Amman: (?) 1972.
- Wander, Hilde, for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Department of Statistics. Analysis of the population statistics of Jordan. Amman: Department of Statistics Press, 1966.
- Ward, William A. "Scarabs seals and cylinders from two tombs at Amman." Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, v. 9 (1966), p. 5-18.
- Ziadeh, Nicola A. Urban life in Syria under the early Mamluks. (Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Oriental series, 24) Beirut: American University of Beirut, 1953.

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The Book Situation in Iran, by K. Tābandah, translated by Abazar Sepehri from Kitāb-i Imrūz, Winter 1974/75, p. 59-60

One year after the International Book Year, the meager book publishing industry in Iran is facing its biggest crisis, caused primarily by a staggering rise in the cost of book production. For the past 7 or 8 months a serious crisis in paper supply and cost has been developing. During that time we have been witnessing several developments in publishing:

Many publishers have set aside the printing of new editions, which require type-setting, and are content with producing off-set reprints.

A group of publishers has urged the Publishers and Booksellers Association to find a solution to their problem. Among other things they have suggested that customs duties on imported paper be rescinded (the government consented to this in late Tīr, i.e., July/August 1974); that the Association set up a printing house to produce their printing orders at a low cost and that the government regulation of publishing be liberalized.

A number of smaller publishers that did not have a place of their own to sell their publications had to close down.

Some publishers increased their prices by as much as 20-30 percent.

The soaring cost of paper is a world problem caused partly by inflation and partly by the dwindling supply of paper in the face of increasing demands. The increases in the costs of type-setting, printing and binding should also be expected in a country geared for rapid economic development. Much of the



blame must go to the publishing industry itself which, in the midst of all the changes the country is going through, remains archaic and inefficient. For instance, a printing of 2,000 copies does not justify the use of a paper costing 95 rials per kilogram, nor does 8 pages of type-setting warrant 3,000 rials. Such increases in production cost will diminish the sale of books further unless the impasse is ended. To break the impasse, the author (K. Tābandah) sees but two alternatives:

1. Direct financial aid to publishers by the government. This, despite its disadvantages--including the loss of initiative by publishers in the long run--is a workable solution and requires a maximum of 200 to 300 million rials in aid only, which with the present oil revenue does not amount to much.

2. A review of the present publishing situation. If the publishing industry is to stand on its own feet, the only remedy is to improve book distribution throughout the country and find a book market among the relatively affluent class of Iranians who do not visit book stores.

If none of this happens, private publishing may disappear altogether. This would give more room to government publishers who, with their bulging purses, can afford expensive paper and printing whether they sell their books at the lowest price or not.

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#### Survey of Turkish Acquisitions,

by Richard S. Cooper

A survey recently taken at the University of California at Berkeley's General Library indicated that it had received through its Turkish blanket order only 37 percent of the scholarly monographic titles it would have selected from 2 issues each of Türkiye bibliyografyasi and Bibliyografya. Orders for these titles resulted in OP reports from the dealer, and attempts to purchase photocopies from other U.S. institutions were unsuccessful because the same titles were missed everywhere. It appears that the Library of Congress faces similar problems and that for a number of years it has sought authorization to enter into a multi-national agreement with Turkey for the acquisition of Turkish publications.

In order to verify that the problems faced by Berkeley were indeed wide-spread, a questionnaire was circulated to 18 institutions with Middle East programs. Of the 14 who responded, one did not collect Turkish and 3 had minimal programs. Since the remaining 10 had varying collecting policies, the data elicited is not statistically significant, but is complete enough to provide an impressionistic response relative to the effectiveness of their Turkish acquisition efforts.

The respondents also provided sufficient material to formulate selection criteria in the event an NPAC or similar program for Turkey becomes a reality.

All responding institutions which had any kind of Turkish collecting mission (13) favored some multi-national program (including a Canadian institution, which would benefit from accession lists). Two qualified their answers, one stating that it should be an NPAC program (which includes basically on-demand cataloging), and the other that coverage must be as good as current coverage at that institution and for the same price.

The questionnaire revealed that most of the 10 institutions which we have chosen as representatives (Berkeley, Chicago, Columbia, Harvard, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Toronto, UCLA) rely on a combination of methods to acquire materials, with blanket orders (8) and individual title orders generated from bibliographies and dealers' lists (6) the most popular. One institution relies wholly and two rely partially on an agent for current imprints. Elif Kitabevi was either the primary or secondary dealer for 9 institutions. Other Turkish dealers included Inal (3), Turhan (2), Enderun (1), Inkilap ve Aka (1). Bibliotheca Islamica of Minneapolis services 3 institutions. One institution relies additionally on regular buying trips, another on occasional buying trips, and surprisingly, only 2 mentioned exchanges.

A question not asked on the questionnaire, but asked personally on other occasions, was the degree of satisfaction with dealers. The overwhelming response was dissatisfaction.

Nine responded to the question of number of titles received, ranging from ca. 200- ca. 1000. The average number of titles received was 651 and the mean number was 683. David Partington ("Book production in the Middle East" in MELA NOTES 5, April, 1975) estimates that there are about 800 collectable Turkish titles published annually. The figures we give here indicate that most institutions fall short of this figure, and of course the questionnaire has not asked the percent of receipts on blanket order shipments which are subsequently rejected.

Percentage of desired titles received ranged from 37 percent to nearly 100 percent. Only 6 responses can be tabulated statistically, showing an average of 66 percent success in acquiring titles wanted, and a median figure of 62 percent. One library responded that a "significant" percentage was received.

More difficult to ascertain was how bibliographers verified their success in acquiring desired titles. The Berkeley experience, which seems to be typical, is that little time is available for follow-up, and that heavy reliance is placed on blanket order arrangements. The survey reported above indicates the inadequacy of this method of acquisition, and subsequent experience revealed that the same titles missed by Berkeley were slipping through everyone's net.

The question "how do you monitor acquisitions?" was intended to reveal if large holes do indeed exist in our national net. However, the question was not clearly formulated and failed to specify that this was not intended to insure that all orders were filled, but that all scholarly titles were in fact ordered. This could only be done, it seemed to us, by checking the national bibliography, Türkiye bibliyografyası (TB) after the fact. It is issued too late to be of use in ordering titles still in print, for which Yeni Yayınlar is a better tool, but is not comprehensive. Thus our answer to the question of completeness of coverage, subjective at best, is based on an analysis of the answers to this question and those relating to methods of acquisition and selection tools used.

Based on the experience of 7 institutions (Berkeley, Toronto, Chicago, Harvard, UCLA, Pennsylvania, Columbia) only one regularly checks TB to ensure that all scholarly titles have been ordered. Three institutions occasionally check TB, one occasionally checks against LC proofslips and dealer catalogs, and 2 never check. The only institution which regularly checks is also the only institution which relies on yearly buying trips among other means of acquisition, and it is not surprising that the same

institution reports nearly 100 percent coverage.

To summarize, we are collecting nationally about 65 percent of the collectable output of Turkey suitable for academic libraries, owing to (1) the inability of any single resident dealer to secure and supply all desired titles, (2) lack of a national or trade bibliography which is both timely and complete, and (3) insufficient staff time to monitor receipts and ensure that all desired titles have been secured. The experience of one institution indicates that success is very high when a representative regularly visits Turkey, supervises an extensive collection network, and has sufficient staff to check all selection tools and the national bibliography.

In a period when most institutions do not have sufficient staff and/or material resources to duplicate this effort, the lesson is clear -- cooperation. And since the Library of Congress indicates its problems in Turkey are of the same order, cooperation clearly means a multi-national agreement administered by the Library of Congress.

Richard S. Cooper is Islamica Librarian, Collection Development Department, The General Library, University of California at Berkeley.

The Library/Scholar Interface in Middle East Bibliography,  
by Martin Davis

(Transcribed from the tape of the MELA Program, November 8, 1973, this text is printed three years following its presentation, because the editor believes it critically useful now as an exercise in the measurement of progress toward long felt needs.)

One of the joint tasks of the scholar and librarian is to build and to promote the use of a collection that will represent and add to the strengths of present and future faculty in the academic program. Neither can accomplish the objective alone. Consequently interfaces must be developed where interaction can take place between them. In the individual library the basic interface is the public catalog. It is where most interactions start, and where many reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Its counterpart on the national level is the National Union Catalog. After we check our own local catalogs it is one of the first places to look for verification of the existence and location of a title. It is already more than a national bibliography. NPAC and shared cataloging are developing it into a truly international bibliography of global proportions. And so I was dismayed to find that its subtitle, "A cumulative author list representing Library of Congress printed cards and titles reported by other American libraries," was not as straightforward a statement as it first seemed. One had to read the preface to find that cataloging of titles in the Arabic alphabet is represented only by LC cards. In the absence of LC cards these titles remained unrepresented in NUC no matter how many other libraries have cataloged and reported them. I am not a Middle East specialist and I do not know how much information is lost from NUC as a result of this policy, or how much effort it would take to include the information. But I believe that a study of the problem should be a high priority project for M.E.L.A.

I was pleased to learn that several of you are concerned about the problem and have begun to work on it. Perhaps you might consider the formation of a committee to investigate courses of action that M.E.L.A. might take as a group to further the interests of Middle East specialists in this matter. There may even be related areas that the committee would wish to investigate. For example, there is a similar problem building in other types of national interfaces, the library network databanks, and also in MARC. Some, if not all of them, are restricted to titles in the Roman alphabet. At what point will it become desirable to input Arabic language titles, and Persian, and other languages? If you don't express your interests in this matter your interests will probably be forgotten.

Lack of standardization in cataloging practices created the problems that led to the exclusion of Arabic entries from NUC. I believe it can also cause a communication problem in our local catalogs. When a scholar visits or moves to a new location served by a different library he must become oriented to the new situation. Fewer differences (that "don't make a difference") that he must contend with in the new catalog, the more standardized it is, the less difficulty he will have in learning from it what he needs to know. Librarians who move to other libraries have a similar problem. We are presumably trained to cope with it. And yet we all know of librarians who can't accept a new library until they redo it to resemble the one they came from! Scholars usually have less of the background and patience needed to cope with variations and procedures in different libraries. We've got to reach them with our catalogs, otherwise our catalogs' only use will be in talking among ourselves.

Let's talk among ourselves in M.E.L.A. about the work, and compromise if necessary in order to collate the Arabic alphabet titles into NUC and make it interface for us as it does for other areas.

Martin Davis is Director, Area Collections Department, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

Middle East Datafile: an evaluation,

by John A. Eilts

Middle East Datafile is a microfilming project begun during 1974-75 by University Microfilms at the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Durham.

The quarterly collections of 10.5 x 15 cm microfiche sheets filmed at a reduction ratio of 24X are numbered and indexed according to the subject classification scheme of the Durham Documentation Centre that was established at the University's Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. A printed index accompanies each quarterly installment. Cumulations are anticipated. In addition to giving access to all documents on the fiches the index also is a guide to other documents not filmed but located in the Centre at Durham. These Durham Documents (coded DD) were excluded from filming primarily for reasons of copyright.

The works filmed are documents of Middle East governments and international organizations. Included are many valuable statistical and census publications. Statistics on foreign trade are another important item included.

Serial publications are included in the project and we are assured that Durham does make every effort to complete its holdings. The filming of serial backfiles is under discussion and would seem to be a very valuable addition to the collection.

Currently the only access to documents on the fiches is through the subject index. There is no main entry or title index. I have discussed the possibilities of full cataloging of the documents with the University Microfilms staff and they are most receptive. They are currently investigating the possibilities.

The amount of duplication of materials in our collection at the University of Michigan is minimal. For some items a microfiche copy is welcomed as our paper copy has not always survived the elements and was usually printed on poor quality paper.

The amount of the subscription is staggering when seen as a whole. When one looks at it more closely and realizes that it is only about \$1.60 per fiche the price seems much more reasonable. The collection is well worth the money to the library with the budget to meet its need to receive current documents from the Middle East.

John Eilts is Near East Bibliographer in the University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor MI.

#### SERIALS CLASSIFIED SECTION

Members desiring to list their serial duplicates or "want" items are urged to send full information to Virginia Gibbons, Cataloging Division, Princeton University Library, Princeton NJ 08540. Be sure to include your terms, such as "for free", for sale (mention limits of negotiation possible!) or trade. We hope to offer the first listings in the fall number of the NOTES. Material should be sent in plenty of time for coordination and then forwarding from Princeton to Bloomington, Indiana, where the material for the fall number will be put in final shape hopefully the first week of September.

#### COLLATION FOR THE NOTES

Invitation to authors. The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, is sponsoring the publication of a series of short paperbound books to supplement the established hardbound series.

The announcement states, "We invite the submission of short monographs (under 200 pages) on any area of Middle Eastern studies for consideration. The series will include bibliographies, translations, short case studies, and other resource materials."

Inquiries and manuscripts should be addressed to the Editorial Board, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, 78712.

Position openings announced. Check also with our Secretary.

The Library of Congress has approved the recruitment of a Persian cataloger. More information on this position is available from Joseph Howard, Director, Processing Department, Library of Congress, Washington DC 20540.

Princeton University Library announces their immediate need for a Persian/Arabic cataloger (Librarian I). Send full resume and transcripts, by July 1, to Maria G. Larson, Personnel Librarian, Princeton University Library, Princeton NJ 08540.

The University of Arizona Library, Tucson, is seeking a Head Oriental Studies Librarian to administer the approximately 50,000 item collection containing vernacular materials from China, Japan, the Middle East and South Asia, along with a reference collection in European languages. Fluency in English and one of the following is needed: Japanese, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, or Arabic, and a reading knowledge of Chinese is desirable but not required. Application deadline is July 15, 1976. Send resumes and inquiries to: Mary Dale Palsson, Asst. Librarian for Public Services, University of Arizona Library, Tucson, Arizona 85721.

Library literature to Cairo. This information was sent to us by Rosalie Cuneo Amer whose name is remembered from LC Cairo office correspondence. She is serving as Middle East & North African Area Chairperson of the International Relations Round Table of ALA and is an associate member of MELA, being Librarian of Cosumnes River College in Sacramento CA.

Recent Library Science Journals Needed for Cairo University's  
Librarianship Department

Cairo University's Department of Librarianship and Archival Studies would like to receive American journals, 1972 to date, in all aspects of librarianship, library education and research for faculty and student use. Any interested library can send full year runs to the Smithsonian Institution addressed:

Department of Librarianship and Archival Studies

Cairo University, CAIRO, EGYPT

c/o The International Exchange Service

Smithsonian Institution

Constitution Ave. at 10th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20560.

The sending library must pay postage within the United States, i.e., to the Smithsonian.

ARL voting on NPAC center. Near the end of December Edmond L. Applebaum reported to ARL libraries the results of the voting on the NPAC centers felt to be most needed: Latin America - 43, Far East - 29, Middle East - 22, and Southeast Asia - 2. His letter stated: "After extensive discussions at the Library of Congress and with due consideration of the indications of priority need provided by the research library community, it has been decided to request Congressional approval of regional acquisitions centers to be located in Latin America and in the Far East."

New Imperial Calendar for Iran. The Iranian Solar Calendar has been replaced by the Imperial Calendar as of March 22, 1976. So instead of 1355, the date 2535 became official in Iran.

The figures 1180 and 559 are to be deducted from the Imperial date when converting readings into the Solar and Christian dates respectively.

Note by Abazar Sepehri

Arab League librarians hold symposium on computer use. The following note by Peter J. de la Garza appeared in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin of February 20, 1976, p. 111. We trust it is OK to use in full.

Under the sponsorship of the General Assembly of ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization), delegates of Arab League countries met at Khartoum, Sudan, from November 28 to December 4, 1975, to participate in a symposium on the theme The Use of Computers in Documentation

and Bibliography in Arab Countries. The preparation committee for the symposium was composed of Hisham al-Shawwaf, director of Baghdad University Library, Abd al-Rahman al-Nasri, director of the University of Khartoum Library, and Saad M. Hagrassy, head of the Archives and Library Sciences Department, University of Cairo, and consultant to the Library of Congress office in Cairo.

The principal paper for the symposium was presented by Mr. Hagrassy, who emphasized the Library of Congress' leadership role in the development of standards and the application of computers to bibliographic functions. The appendixes to the paper include Arabic versions of samples taken from two Library of Congress publications, Books: a MARC format, and Serials: a MARC format.

The discussions, presentation of papers, and working group meetings culminated in a set of 17 recommendations expressing a unanimous decision in favor of the maximum use of computers in bibliography and documentation throughout the Arab world, and urging national and international coordination and cooperation on a number of interrelated fronts. Among these are research in library automation, the creation of a computerized data base for the Arab Publications Bulletin, the compilation and publication of Arabic/English glossaries and thesauri for ADP, participation in the international numbering system for books and serials, the dissemination and promotion of the Arabic translation of Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, Chapter 6 Revised (cf. LC Information Bulletin, June 13, 1975, p. 240), the compilation of a central automated authority file of Arabic names, the compilation and dissemination of international bibliographic formats modeled on those of the Library of Congress, and the encouragement of exchange of persons with non-Arab countries to study common problems and share technologies.

Several of the recommendations listed above are to be implemented through specific projects to be undertaken by ALECSO, which is also assuming responsibility for following up the recommendations and resolutions of the symposium.

Teheran seminar on university library problems. Iraj Afshar forwarded to the NOTES c/o Dave Partington news that the Tehran University Central Library and Documentation Center recently hosted a 4-day seminar on the Problems of Iranian University Libraries. Jointly sponsored by Tehran and Isfahan Universities, the meeting, held from 3-6 January 1976 attracted wide attention and promoted lively discussion through the presentation of papers on current university library issues. Papers read focused attention on problems concerned with 1) the education of professional librarians, 2) the development of library collections, 3) administration, budgeting, and personnel services and 4) library publishing. Annual follow-up meetings are planned.

The Proceedings of the meeting are freely available from the Central Library of Tehran University, Tehran, Iran.

Oxford bibliographical conference on Middle East. From Wolfgang Behn comes this useful note:

At the request of the publishers, the Middle East Libraries Committee (MELCOM) organized a bibliographical conference to update Middle East and Islam; a bibliographical introduction (edited by Derek Hopwood and Diana Grimwood-Jones). The meeting was held at St. Antony's College, Oxford, 29-30 March, 1976. Prior to the meeting the contributors to the first edition had distributed the revisions of their original papers which were then dis-

cussed. The authors are now in the process of rewriting their contributions in the light of these discussions. At the regular business meeting MELCOM appointed Ms. Diana Grimwood-Jones editor of the second edition, supported by an editorial committee made up of professors Johnstone, Pearson and Drs. Latham and Hopwood. It is anticipated that the new edition will go to the publishers in the fall of this year.

NYPL trains 'scope on "Ships of the Desert." New member Chris Filstrup, Middle East Librarian for NYPL, reports: The Oriental Division of the New York Public Library recently held an exhibit, "Ships of the Desert," devoted to the camel. The exhibit comprised about 40 items ranging from Persian manuscripts, illustrated texts, and prints to selections of poetry and government documents. Highlights included: 1) A 16th century Persian ms of Qiṣaṣ al-anbiyā' with an illustration of the episode, based on the Qur'an (e.g., 7.74 ff.) in which Salih draws a she-camel from the rocks as an offering of good will to the Banī Thamūd. 2) A 16th century ms of al-Sūfī's Kitāb al-kawākib wa-al-suwar, with an illustration of the constellation of the Camel. In the Ptolemaic system this was the constellation of Camelopardalis, or Giraffe. The Arabs dropped the "-pardalis" (-leopard), leaving the "camel-." This illustration is painted on a large linen fold-out and represents the finest work of the Isfahan school. Although I (CF) have not been able to research fully this illustration, I have a hunch that ours is the only ms of this work with an illustration of the Camel. The constellation is a faint one between Cassiopeia and Ursa Major.

3) Paintings and drawings of camels by al-Wāsiṭī, Delacroix, and James McBey; a 14th century Catalan atlas showing a camel caravan plying the Central Asian silk route; and 16th century German woodcuts of lavishly decorated camels in the service of the Ottoman army.

4) The daily journal of the "camel deck" of the U.S. supply ship which carried camels to Texas in 1856, and other documents charting the brief career of the camel in the U.S.

## *Ships of the Desert*



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