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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1st Lesley Wilkins Education Award Announced

WASHINGTON, D.C., (21 Nov., 2014) – The Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) announced David H. Partington as the first recipient of the *Lesley Wilkins Education Award*, given in alternate years in Lesley Wilkins' memory to a person who made significant contributions to education and mentorship in Middle East librarianship. The Award was established by MELA with generous donations from the friends and family of M. Lesley Wilkins, the first Bibliographer for Law of the Islamic World at the Harvard Law School Library. The award was presented at the 43rd annual meeting of MELA, held at the **George Washington University** in Washington, D.C., on November 21, 2014.

David H. Partington began his career at Princeton University working with, and learning from the now legendary Rudolph Mach. From Princeton Partington moved to Ann Arbor to become the second full time librarian in the position of Head, Near Eastern Division, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library of the University of Michigan. During his tenure at Michigan he served as mentor to many of our colleagues such as Muhammad Sulaiman, now of Sulaiman's Bookshop in Beirut, Lebanon, Bruce Craig, now retired from a distinguished career as Bibliographer of the Middle Eastern collection at the University of Chicago, John Eilts, who succeeded Partington at the University of Michigan before moving to California to work on the non-Latin script implementations for the Research Libraries Group, and then to Stanford University as their first Curator for the Islamic & Middle Eastern Collection.

After Ann Arbor, Partington made a move eastward to become the Head of the Middle Eastern Division at Harvard College Library. At Harvard he was mentor to a number of MELA members, including Fawzi Abdelrazzak, publisher of Dar Mahjar, and David Giovacchini, now Middle East Studies Librarian at the University of Pennsylvania. Of course, David Partington was also a mentor to our own Lesley Wilkins who herself went on to distinguished careers in Oman, Egypt, Austin, Texas, Boston, followed by Harvard as the first Bibliographer for Law of the Islamic World.

It is for this generous and influential legacy he passed on as a mentor to scores of Middle East librarians that we honor David H. Partington today with the first Lesley Wilkins Award.

Christof Galli
Chair, Lesley Wilkins Award Committee, 2014