



Middle East Librarians Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BRUCE D. CRAIG RECEIVES
PARTINGTON AWARD FOR 2012**

DENVER, CO. – A pioneering figure in the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA), colleagues recognized Bruce D. Craig for his contributions to the field by awarding him the association's Partington Award for 2012. The announcement was made during MELA's annual conference on November 16th, 2012 at the St. Cajetans Conference Center in Denver, Colorado. Although Bruce himself was unable to receive the award in person, MELA President David Hirsch read the acceptance speech on his behalf.

"It's an honor to accept this award, especially so since it is named for David Partington, who facilitated my transition to librarianship as a career, and who was both a mentor and a role model, and because, in my absence, I am being represented by David Hirsch, whose library school thesis at the University of Chicago, I supervised," wrote Bruce.

The David H. Partington Award was established to recognize members of MELA who have displayed a high standard of excellence, with accomplishments in the field of Middle East librarianship, librarianship in general, and scholarship; and who have given outstanding service to the association.

Bruce began his career in 1966 as an assistant professor at the American University in Cairo, and in 1968 he became a work-study scholar at the University of Michigan Libraries. In 1969 Bruce was appointed Assistant Professor and Middle East Bibliographer at the University of Minnesota. From 1973 until his retirement in 2010, for more than 35 years, he served as a Middle East Bibliographer at the University of Chicago.

Bruce greatly enhanced the holdings of the University of Chicago Library and created a world-class collection there for research in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. He further established a new research and publication unit at the University of Chicago, the Middle East Documentation Center (MEDOC). Among the unit's projects are the *Chicago Online Bibliography of Mamluk Studies*, the *Chicago Online Encyclopedia of Mamluk Studies*, and the *Chicago Studies on the Middle East* monograph series. One of his most significant accomplishments was founding and serving as editor of the scholarly peer-reviewed journal *Mamluk Studies Review*, the first issue of which came out in 1997.

Bruce's service to the library profession is also impressive. He was one of the founders of the Middle East Librarians Association in 1972 and served as its first president.

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As a mentor Bruce worked with many of us in the field and he can proudly claim to have prepared his assistants for their later positions at places like the University of Chicago, Library of Congress, University of California Los Angeles, Indiana University, and others. MELA proudly honors Bruce D. Craig and thanks him for his service to the profession.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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