

# MELA Notes

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## MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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Edward A. Jajko	(Yale)	Vice President-Program Chairperson
Janet P. Heineck	(Chicago)	Secretary-Treasurer
James W. Pollock	(Indiana)	Editor

MELA NOTES is being published now three times a year, in February, May and October. It is distributed to members of the Association and to non-member subscribers. Membership dues of \$ 5 bring the NOTES and other mailings. Subscriptions are still \$ 3 per calendar year, or \$ 1.50 per issue for most back numbers. Address dues, requests for membership information or subscriptions to Janet P. Heineck, Secretary-Treasurer MELA, Regenstein Library, Room 560, University of Chicago, 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637.

IN THIS NUMBER:	Page
Editorial: Inklings in Motion and Prognosis	1
Association Chronicle:	3
Minutes of the 1977 Business Meetings	3
News of the Members	9, 36
MELA Workshop: The Technical Processing of Middle Eastern Library	
Materials, Statler Hilton Hotel, New York City, November 9, 1977	11
Virginia Gibbons, Foreword to the Program	11
Jack Crawford, Report on Library of Congress Middle East Operations	12
Marsha McClintock, Arabic Cataloging : Problems and Progress	16
Chris Filstrup, Automated Processing at the New York Public Library	24
Martha Dukas, ALA Sub-Committees on Descriptive Cataloging and	
Subject Analysis of Asian and African Materials	25
Addresses, Essays, Lectures:	27
Michael W. Albin, Index to Permen in Najī Zayn al-Dīn's	
<u>Muṣawwar al-Khaṭṭ al-'Arabī</u>	27
Collation for the NOTES:	
Publications Announced	10, 26, 35
Position Vacancies	35
Miscellanea	36

## Inklings in Motion and Prognosis

Middle East librarianship is one of the scholarly specialties fostered in the company of like minds forming the Middle East Studies Association. The First MESA Conference in 1967 held at the University of Chicago welcomed a panel organized by librarians and entitled "Library and Bibliographical Problems." At Austin in 1968 "Cooperation among Libraries and Scholars in Collection of Source Materials" was offered as our profession's panel. At Toronto in 1969 and during the next few years individual librarians met at MESA in growing numbers to compare notes on the profession, and participate in the "world of learning." At Columbus in 1970 we librarians had a luncheon meeting where the consensus grew that this mutual interest should be-

come an organization. At Denver in '71 a Library Round Table was called together for talks with the result that an ad hoc committee took form to propose bylaws and prepare for an organizational meeting the next year. Thus at Binghamton in 1972 the Middle East Librarians Association was established and officers were elected to begin serving with 1973 to formulate goals and assist the profession toward them.

At Milwaukee in 1973 MELA presented another panel discussion in MESA's Program on the theme "The Role of the Middle East Librarian in the Area Studies Program." Following that look at our role, the 1974 meeting at Cambridge and Boston was a day-long intensive study of "Options in Cooperative Middle East Librarianship" (= MELA Workshop I on Cooperation). This program so whetted the Association's mental appetite that outside funding was located for an extended special workshop ( II ) at Ann Arbor May 26-31, 1975, on "Cooperation Among Middle East Libraries of North America." The November 1975 annual meeting at Louisville was then our IIIrd to focus on cooperation, with implementation of the proposals generated earlier as emphasis. Los Angeles 1976 saw a return to the MELA/MESA panel format in a richly pleasing discussion of "Islamic Printing and Publishing." All these papers were published, three as centerpieces for successive numbers of the 1977 MELA NOTES. Most recently, MELA's own annual meeting program at New York City in November 1977 was a thorough discussion of technical processing matters.

Soon after the turn of the 1978 new year, on the same January morning, the editor's phone spoke a double, echo-like pattern of significant news for our Association and all our researching friends.

I--George Atiyeh from the Library of Congress reported that publication of the National Union Catalog for Arabic, Persian and Turkish Materials is now funded and work on it is under way. Editorial work to reconcile the varied forms of reported holdings into standard ALA/LC romanization will precede printing in that form in the next two years.

II--John Eilts from Michigan reported that Xerox University Microfilms had printed twenty sets on microfiche of the Arabic Script Union List - Cumulation through 1977. These photographs of catalog cards sent in provide immediately the cooperative cataloging efforts of Berkeley, Chicago, Indiana, Michigan, Utah, and perhaps others. MELA underwrote the printing cost and will be repaid with the sale of these sets at \$50 each. John Eilts receives and ships the orders; Janet Heineck will send invoices for costs repayable to MELA.

These events falling in with the pattern of our history should give us pause, a rare shock, that it all signifies we can control and move backlogs, identifying and preserving our examples of the great and small products of Middle Eastern civilization. Union catalogs and lists tell of cooperation past. They can also be read as commitment to continue. As to days not yet counted, we have these inklings side by side.

## ASSOCIATION CHRONICLE:

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association was held on Wednesday, 9 November 1977, at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York City. About fifty members and visitors came from all parts of the country. Many thanks to those whose work on the meeting program made that day a success. Virginia Gibbons and her committee on program and local arrangements have served the Association well. Appreciation is also expressed to Marilyn Jenkins of the Metropolitan Museum of Art for memorable tours of the Islamic Art section conducted for us on Thursday afternoon and Friday evening.

We extend a welcome to our new members. At the time of the Annual Meeting they were Midhat Abraham, Joel Beinin, Lynn Dorris, Claire Fund, Dorothy Lechnir, Nabila Mango, Abdel Rahman Mostafa, Ina Rubin, and Omneya Tewfik-Foz.

Announcement should be made here that in January of 1978 Xerox University Microfilms of Ann Arbor completed production of the Arabic Script Union List - Cumulation to 1977 on microfiche. Copies may be ordered from John Eilts, Near East Division, University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Invoices will be sent out by the Secretary-Treasurer and will be payable to MELA at \$ 50.00 per set. Total investment cost to MELA was \$ 953.75. Twenty positive copies and a master negative were printed. When these twenty sets are sold MELA will have earned back its investment.

Minutes of the Executive Board meeting, Tuesday 8 November 1977, Statler Hilton Hotel, New York City.

Fawzi Khoury, President, James Pollock, Editor, and Janet Heineck, Secretary-Treasurer, met to prepare a list of items for the business meeting and to discuss matters of concern to the Executive Board. Virginia Gibbons, Vice President and Program Chairperson arrived later in the day.

The Executive Board agreed that Xerox University Microfilms should produce on microfiche the Arabic Script Union List and authorized the Secretary-Treasurer to make the necessary disbursement. John Eilts, MELA's liaison with that company, had emphasized in earlier talks with the members of the Executive Board that limited microfiche camera availability made a quick decision necessary. In view of this, the Executive Board decided to proceed with the microfiche project.

James Pollock noted that MELA's treasury has not up to now been divided and suggested that part of it be designated a Publications Fund. MELA's first publication project could be the microfiche edition of the Arabic Script Union List. The projected handbook of Middle East bibliography, a series, and other proposals which have been made would require MELA's financial support as well. The existence of a publications fund may also be to MELA's advantage in any future grant application.

The Executive Board decided on a procedure for taking the vote on the bylaws amendments, which was to be the chief topic of the business meeting.

Fawzi Khoury suggested that at the business meeting an editor "elect" be chosen to help the current editor during the remaining period of his final term, perhaps to assist with the survey of academic library resources and to gain experience beforehand with the preparation of MELA NOTES. Mr. Pollock replied that although assistance with the survey of collection strengths would be most welcome, the actual work of preparing an issue of MELA NOTES was not too much for a person to learn during his/her regular term as editor. While an editor "elect" is not really needed, and in any case could not be chosen yet under our bylaws, he said he hoped that anyone interested in taking up the role of editor in November of 1978 would let him know soon.

The Secretary-Treasurer said that committee chairmen had not been asked to prepare reports for this meeting, partly because of a sense that the committees have been inactive and reports unnecessary. Mr. Pollock noted that the committees appear to be nearly informal and suggested that committee chairmen present at the business meeting be asked to report on their groups' activity during the past year.

The list of topics for the business meeting had been made, and the meeting ended.

#### Report of the Joint MELA/MESA Research and Training Committee meeting.

Professor Jere Bacharach, Chairman of MESA's "RAT" Committee spoke briefly concerning the meeting held earlier in the afternoon before the business meeting. He said that discussions on needed bibliographical tools for the Middle East field produced a list of problem areas to be circulated among the sixteen members of the committee, ten of whom are librarians. Problems in the chronological sources, the transliteration of names, and overseas research facilities are among the topics dealing with the state of the craft on the tentative list made at the meeting.

#### Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, Wednesday 9 November 1977, Statler Hilton Hotel, New York City.

After it was established that a quorum was present, MELA President Fawzi Khoury opened the meeting. Officers gave their reports, the texts of which appear following these Minutes.

The first item of business was the vote on the bylaws amendments. Edward Jajko (Yale Univ. Library) introduced the topic. After discussion and voting were underway the Secretary-Treasurer noted that although a bare majority of members were present the voting was so divided that fewer than the "simple majority of all the professional members" needed for a decision on the bylaws were united on any one question. Consequently, the bylaws amendments shall be submitted to the complete roll of professional members for their approval by mail ballot, as the bylaws direct in such a case.

Election of new officers for the 1977-1978 term was then taken up. Nominated for President had been Fawzi Khoury and Jalal Zuwiyya. For Vice President and Program Chairperson the names of Marsha McClintock and Edward Jajko were listed. Ballots were marked and our Secretary was asked to count them and report. She reported that Fawzi Khoury had been re-elected President

for the coming year, and Edward Jajko was elected as Vice President and Program Chairperson.

During the counting of the ballots other business had been taken up. At the close of the morning's panel discussion Program Chairperson Virginia Gibbons had summarized briefly as follows: "We have at least identified one area where MELA as an organization can take some considered efforts, and that is Marsha's suggestion of a monitoring task force on automation, -- a standards committee. I hope we will be able to discuss that this afternoon." President Khoury opened up this topic, and Virginia expressed a wish to know what the feeling of the Association was. A considerable discussion ensued, with the following points brought out:

1) It would be better for MELA to be actively related to automation developments, rather than not to be, and later learning after the fact.

2) Choice of Arabic type fonts is one aspect of the choices MELA should help to make. It would be difficult to change after programming.

3) MELA should have a strong hand in the future way bibliographic control would develop, whether toward Cathode Ray Terminals that handle Arabic script, or towards use of romanized records.

4) Information on development of CRT's, what is available and where they would be useful, should be actively communicated among concerned MELA members.

5) In a romanized/transliterated system, what minimum standards would be used? Without standards automation does not mean bibliographic control.

6) MELA's present Cataloging Committee is discussing automation, but the specific problem now is which script, roman or Arabic, to think of.

7) LC has decided to computerize Arabic script, but after Cyrillic. A pilot project on the automation of romanized South Asian languages is to go forward. Now romanization is not considered for Arabic, and the East Asian languages. But if success and acceptance comes with romanized South Asian languages, and if the feasibility of computerized Arabic script is hard to establish, use of romanized script for the Arabic area in automation might be reconsidered by LC.

8) The NUC for Near Eastern materials at LC will use romanized script due to present costs and state of CRT capabilities.

9) The extra cost to libraries of Arabic script computer capacity may not be covered by library budgets.

10) East Asian librarians in the U.S. hope for funding of their NUC by Ford Foundation and The American Council of Learned Societies. They plan to automate the Chinese characters. Although addition of Arabic to hoped for computer capacity to handle Chinese characters would not be too difficult, it would not be advantageous to modify the grant proposal at this time.

11) A proposed task force should investigate parallel activities in other area librarians' organizations and try to locate where funding support might be. A definite report on the whole matter should be made next year to the Association.

12) A separate Standing Committee is better than a subdivision of the Cataloging Committee for this monitoring effort.

Motion by Richard Cooper was adopted by MELA as follows:  
That MELA establish a Committee on Machine-Readable Data to 1) monitor the developments in the conversion of Arabic script data to machine-readable form,

2) inform the membership of such developments, and 3) represent the interests of MELA in the application of standards for machine-readable data. As to membership on this committee it was suggested that the three members who were speakers in the morning be on the committee. President Khoury said he would appoint members to the committee if there were no volunteers.

In other business, a Publications Fund as had been suggested in the Editor's report was discussed. President Khoury suggested that a separate Publications Fund beginning at \$1,000 be established, now that MELA's treasury has reached a working amount, whose first project could be to finance the microfilming of the Arabic Script Union List. Richard Cooper said that the first immediate use for the treasury should rather be to improve and upgrade MELA NOTES--to give it a cover and improve the typography. He said that in view of the reasonable printing costs if there are papers we can publish, they can be published in the NOTES rather than separately. Frank Unlandherm suggested that the treasury surplus be used to supplement the resources of MELA professional members so that more of them could attend the annual meeting. Virginia Gibbons proposed using the funds to help pay for some of the material that MELA/MESA-RAT wants to produce. Chris Filstrup praised MELA NOTES and hoped that the money could be used to support that publication and help it to grow. Prof. Eleazar Birnbaum gave the Turkish Studies Association Bulletin as an example of how an organization can improve and change its simple newsletter into a technical publication. After Mr. Khoury appended to his original motion the creation of a Committee on Special Publications to make recommendations on how the \$1,000 was to be spent, Martha Dukas suggested that the current Publications Committee itself could do that. Richard Cooper asked why it should take a resolution to spend money on projects approved by the Executive Board, the Publications Committee, or any other group since there are no restrictions on how the treasury is spent at all. Finally, the Association voted that a separate Publications Fund of \$1,000 be established.

A motion introduced by Mr. Khoury that MELA send Mr. Frank McGowan of the Library of Congress a "vote of confidence" about the appointment of Michael Albin in Cairo and also about the positive development of a field directorship there was approved. However, further discussion of the message to Mr. McGowan, particularly Jack Crawford's (Library of Congress) statement that Mr. McGowan was not solely responsible for Mr. Albin's appointment and Richard Cooper's criticism of the motion's wording, led Mr. Khoury in turn to agree to write a letter expressing MELA's satisfaction with the re-establishment of the Cairo Field Directorship to the several persons responsible for it.

Virginia Gibbons, outgoing Vice President and Program Chairperson, expressed concern about MELA's future direction. She hoped that MELA's members would become more actively involved and would give the Executive Board more information on what they feel it should be doing. Several members said that more meetings planned around a particular theme and more MELA-supported MESA panels were a good idea for the future. MESA's scheduling of all associated groups' meetings on the day before the regular conference began was criticized by several other members.

After the Secretary announced an opening for a cataloger at Cleveland Public Library the Business Meeting adjourned.

From the President's Message: During the past year the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules Committee of ALA put us on their mailing list. The draft statements for the revised rules were all mailed to me and I circulated them to members of the Executive Board for review and comment.

One of the major concerns for me is the question that was mentioned this morning: where do we stand as an organization? What is our role in an academic institution? Are we librarians who will consider the question of the library profession, or are we persons who are concerned with their institutions and the promotion of research in their institutions? Have we been able to reach the parties who have commissioned us to give them our message? As an example, in order to do something new for the people of the community at Washington we applied for and were given a grant from the federal government to hold a two-day conference for two and four-year institution librarians around the State of Washington. None of these people are specialists in the Middle East. The purpose of this was to be a continuation of the MESA Image Committee. How is the Middle East represented not only in the classroom, but how is the Middle East represented in libraries? What kind of collections do they buy, if they buy any, dealing with the Middle East?

Twenty-eight librarians were invited, two being public librarians from the Seattle Public Library and the King County Public Library systems. The format of the conference was in asking faculty members in the department, each person with his or her own specialty; for instance, Jere Bacharach was to deal with history and the ancient Near East specialist with the ancient Near East. They brought their books and they relayed their love of books to those librarians. Bibliographies were compiled and handed out. And the conference was a success. I give this as an example not to say that we have done a great job, but to say that it is a necessity for us as area specialists to think of outreach. We must go out from our own little cubicles or big offices, reaching our own faculty, our own students, and reach out to the whole library community.

At the end of this week I will be going to the Middle East. The major purpose of this trip is to attend the Second Arab Conference on Bibliography. I have received the outline of the conference and a tremendous emphasis is being given to automation. Emphasis is being given of course on the technical cataloging of materials. After all they have other than Islamic Studies to worry about. Not much emphasis is given to Islamic Studies, if that is a question of the subject headings which I mentioned this morning. I will be visiting eight countries altogether. The purpose of my visit to those countries is to buy books, to visit as many libraries as I can and to study the status of book publishing. I will be staying for about two weeks in North Africa, because for me and my library this is an area of concern. In my book buying I will be covering the French market too as well as the North African market.

Last but not least, indeed a matter of major concern to me, is that, as you will notice from the Treasurer's report, we do have some money now in the treasury. What should we do with this money? The proposal came in that some of this money be put aside for publication, as a Publications Fund. Our Editor will bring this up in his report in detail. Finally, if there are any questions to ask the MELA/MESA-RAT Committee please contact Richard Cooper.

Vice President's Report (summary): I'd like to make an "aside" about that AACR 2d edition the Executive Board had a chance to review. Princeton spent many staff hours going through it, sent in voluminous comments and criticism, and protested that it should not be published as rapidly as planned...There was really no response. It was passed by ALA and will be published on schedule... The community response wasn't sought very systematically; it was done rapidly, and I feel a little bitterness having spent so much time on it. But now for a report: You have seen what we planned this morning. I want to remind you of the tour at the Metropolitan tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m... And now I would like to thank Chris Filstrup and Frank Unlandherm who helped me get this program together.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: MELA's current savings account balance is \$ 1,263.84 ~~\$1,486.41~~ as of January 24, 1978-. Income during the past year came from membership dues and subscriptions to MELA NOTES, occasional sales of copies of our membership list and of the proceedings of the Ann Arbor workshop of 1975, and from interest on our account. The total income was \$ 882.93.

I would like to remind everyone that 1978 dues are payable now.

Expenses based on production, printing and postage for MELA NOTES no. 10 and no. 11, and for xeroxing, supplies and clerical help amounted to \$380.89.

We have gained eleven new members of MELA since the last issue of the NOTES. Their names appear elsewhere in this issue. At present we have 54 professional and 104 associate members, and 42 subscriptions to MELA NOTES.

Editor's Report: During 1977 the Publications Committee was augmented by the recruitment of a corps of regional reporter members. This has begun to prove a real assistance in the communication process that is formalized in our NOTES. It increases the pleasure for an editor to be in this kind of more frequent contact with colleagues. It will strengthen our Association also if we can encourage more of our generalist librarian members to write their needs and their experiences in both library operations and personal information gathering. I encourage all our reporters and all members to communicate freely in this generalist librarianship application. Our new members and service opportunities are found in that direction I believe.

When the Publications responsibility requires some form of decision, the Editor looks to the Executive Board members, who are ex officio on the Publications Committee.

One more year and three more numbers of the NOTES remain ahead in the second and concluding term of editorship. A year from now a new person will take over. I hope that there are members who would like to try their hand and ideas, and I especially hope that these members will be "discovered" by the next nominating committee. No bashful person should be an editor, so friends, if you are interested but modest, you have one year to lose your modesty!

Opportunities for widening MELA's publishing activities are beginning to multiply. Papers that are a bit too long for the NOTES, and also that have



some sale potential are cropping up. A detailed setup for a possible series needs to be formulated and studied.

A suggestion that could prove useful to our Association comes from a colleague in Latin American studies. This is to establish a Publications Fund. A portion of dues could go to build up this fund, and it should earn interest as our unified treasury fund does now. Having an established Publications Fund is noted as being a positive credit when making applications for grants. At present most of our expenses are publications related. Some experience might be necessary to judge whether such a proposed fund should be reserved for series publications, for something special like the Handbook under discussion, or for any and all publications.

During 1977 we built our successive numbers of the NOTES around the excellent panel papers read in Los Angeles. Revisions of some of these caused us to move back regular publication dates, but this is a minor consideration in retrospect. It would be a great thing if we could sponsor a set of papers every other year, with a workshop and discussions alternating with the panels.

In 1978 another edition of MESA's Directory of Middle East Programs will be due. The accompanying Directory of Middle East Library Collections will require another look at the vernacular holdings. If possible a willing "conscript" will be found to bring a fresh perspective to MELA's contribution. N.B.: Happily, this assistance will be provided by Chris Filstrup..

Summary of recommendations: 1) That the Treasurer set up a separate Publications Fund, to begin with, \$1,000. 2) A study of special publications should be made, with a report to MELA next year.

News of the Members with Changes of Address Information, and New Members' Names.

Midhat D. Abraham, University of Washington Libraries, FM-25, Seattle, WA 98195 Tel.: 206/543-1882 is a new professional member.

Mohammed B. Alwan's address should read: Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Joel Beinlin, 3413 Braeburn Circle, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 is a new associate member.

Basima Bezirgan is a continuing associate member. Her office address is Middle East Collection, Academic Center, Room 29, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712. Tel.: 512/454-1198.

Brenda E. Bickett becomes a professional member upon moving to the post of Arabic Materials Specialist, Georgetown University Library, Washington, DC 20007 Tel.: 202/625-6175.

Beverly J. Brewster's address should be corrected to: Graduate Department of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064.

Mohammed Said el-Dabbas has a new address: 2414 North LeClaire, Chicago, IL 60639.

Lynn M. Dorris is a new associate member. She is Library Coordinator, Aramco Recreation Libraries, Box 84, c/o Arabian American Oil Company, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Mailing address is: The Bookmart, P.O.Box 101, Gardiner, NY 12525.

Peter Duignan is a new associate member. Address: Curator, Africa/Mideast Collections, Hoover Institution, Stanford, CA 94305.

Chris Filstrup of the New York Public Library will edit the 1978 Directory of Middle East Library Collections. The Editor is gratified to learn that Chris is an experienced editor of newsletter-type publications and can look to secretarial assistance. This interest was expressed at the 1977 meeting in New York upon the invitation made for just such an expression.

Claire Fund is a new associate member. She is Research Associate, Denoyer-Geppert, 5235 North Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640.

Leila H. Kellow's address and telephone number are revised to read:  
English Language Center, Loyola Hall, University of San Francisco,  
San Francisco, CA 94117. Tel.: 415/666-6862.

Horace Kurdy has an address change to: 587 Elizabeth Street, Apartment 305,  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102.

Dorothy Lechnir is a new associate member. Address: Room 204, New York Public Library Research Libraries, 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue, New York,  
NY 10016.

Francine McNulty becomes a professional member with her position in the Middle Eastern Dept., Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Linda K. McWilliams, change of address to: 2603 Ridge Road Drive,  
Alexandria, VA 22302.

Nabila Mango is a new associate member. Her address: Department of Oriental Studies, 847 Williams Hall CU, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia,  
PA 19104. Tel.: 215/243-6336 and 243-6045.

Louis Mitler transfers to associate membership in 1977.

Abdel Rahman Mostafa, change of address to: 8139 Heatherton Lane, No. T4,  
Vienna, VA 22180.

Michel Nabti, change of address to: Trancos Cottage/Wilbur, Stanford University,  
Stanford, CA 94305.

Mary Nichols is a new professional member. She is Cataloger of Near East Materials, Middle East Collection, Academic Center, Room 29, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712. Home address is 1413 Concordia, Austin, TX 78722.

Ina M. Rubin is a new associate member. She is Assistant Librarian, Joseph Meyerhoff Library, Baltimore Hebrew College, 5800 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215. Tel.: 301/466-7900 x 307. Mailing address is: 6156-D Green Meadows Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21209.

Abdulla Sharif has an address change to: P.O. Box 9087, Suk El Juma,  
Tripoli, Libyan Arab Republic.

Mrs. Omneya Tewfik-Foz is a new associate member. She is Documents Librarian, United Nations Library, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 2000, New York,  
NY 10017. Tel.: 212/754-7404.

Lilian Vitale reports change of position: Chief Serials Librarian, Jafet Library, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

Jan W. Weryho sends a revised form of address: McGill University, Islamic Studies Library, 855 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal PQ, Canada H3A 2T7.

(Cont. on p. 36)

COLLATION FOR THE NOTES: Publications Announced (cont. on p. 26).

The MELA publication, Cooperation among Middle East Libraries of North America : a workshop held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 26-31, 1975, may still be ordered from John A. Eilts, Near East Division, University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Cost is \$5.00 with billing from MELA's Secretary-Treasurer.

MELA Workshop: The Technical Processing of Middle Eastern Library Materials,  
held at the Statler Hilton Hotel, New York City, November 9, 1977.

Foreword to the Program,

By Virginia Gibbons, Program Chairperson

The meeting this morning I have called a "workshop" deliberately because I think that we need to learn from one another how we are going about the processing of Near Eastern materials, and I'd like to be able to set up a dialogue with the Library of Congress about some of the things we are doing. I felt there was a need for such a workshop because we are getting systematic complaints about service from the Library of Congress--that they are not doing enough cataloging, that their classification is "wrong" on various matters, that there are sizeable backlogs at each one of the MELA members' libraries, those that are involved in these matters;--I can give you a case in point, at Princeton we have an arrearage of 20,000 volumes that we are working on. I felt that MELA needed something concrete to work on, because we have reached the point in the development of the organization where there seems to be some hiatus here--little activity. I had some difficulty in getting any response from the membership about this program, and I'm a little discouraged by that. So I'm hoping that today we can identify some issues that need to be addressed by the MELA membership.

The lack of any union catalog makes Inter-library Loan and other services difficult. This is something I think we will be able to talk about today. There is a need for concerted and consolidated effort to back development of non-roman alphabet cataloging, computerized cataloging. That is also something that Marsha and Chris will be talking about.

Now I will run briefly through the program as I see it. Jack Crawford, Assistant Chief of the Overseas Operations Division at the Library of Congress, will address the status and future of acquisitions and cataloging at the Library of Congress--the status quo at LC. Then Marsha McClintock, who is the Arabic Bibliographer at Ohio State University, will raise the problems of Near Eastern cataloging and developments at the Ohio College Library Center, otherwise known as OCLC, and finally, Chris Filstrup and Martha Dukas will talk about possible solutions, although I'm not sure that is the word for it. Chris will discuss progress at New York Public and their success vis à vis computerized cataloging, and Martha will talk briefly on the ALA sub-committees that are working on the problems of Near Eastern cataloging. I hope that we will generate a great deal of questions this morning, provoke discussion, and send Jack Crawford back to the Library of Congress with a large list of questions to be answered.

## Report on Library of Congress Middle East Operations (summary),

by Jack Crawford

As those in the Special Foreign Currencies Program are aware, activity has picked up considerably in Cairo since Mike Albin has gone there as the first Field Director in ten years. At the last reporting over 425,000 (in multiple copies) pieces were shipped, compared to 313,000 last year. The Cairo Office is current in its shipments to participants in the Program. Mike is interested to receive correspondence and to provide service to libraries' individual needs. There are files and bibliographic tools there in the Cairo Office to assist that may not exist anywhere else. Mike is also interested in making the Program more cost efficient, cutting down on unnecessary expenses. Serials and newspapers sometimes are kept on subscription rather than making a decision to discontinue the title or wait until microfilm becomes available in the case of newspapers.

Another fact is that the amount of non-Egyptian imprints has increased greatly, and the statistical increase shown for the Cairo shipments is largely in the non-Egyptian imprints. The problem of duplication in ordering is recognized. Notice of purchase of a non-Egyptian book is sent by airmail to participants. Any reasonable suggestions costwise for cutting down duplication will be welcomed by both Mike Albin and by Mr. Crawford's office in the Library of Congress.

The success of the purchasing effort for non-Egyptian materials has brought out a problem in that it is having an adverse effect on the business of reliable dealers in the materials of Lebanon, Syria, etc. The example of Mr. Sulaiman was given. However, the report came from Cairo that supplies of Lebanese publications on the Cairo market were interrupted temporarily. Too many libraries relying on LC Cairo for Lebanese books, for instance, would tend to discourage a reliable dealer. Then when LC Cairo could not supply, there might not be a dealer that could. Libraries are urged to let LC know if the early notification system is working well enough.

A new resource that is being developed is the Archive of Asian Literature on Tape. Following the success of the effort in Spanish and Portuguese literature of having authors read from their own works, a limited program is being started where LC has offices to do this in Asia. Suggestions as to which authors to approach for this program are welcomed. Recording is done onto a disk, then transferred to 1/2 hour cassettes, with material well indexed. It is a very important step forward in building up our resources.

Some areas it is very difficult to cover and obtain multiple copies, areas such as Sudan and Djibouti. But suggestions are welcomed. Mr. Crawford told members attending that there is one thing Mike is trying to support and that is the proposal that MESA invite Dr. Al-Hagrassy to the 1978 Meeting. He asks MELA to give its support for this proposal. Dr. Al-Hagrassy is LC's cataloging consultant in Cairo and also is in the University of Cairo Library School.

As to cataloging at LC, current materials are going through. Reasons for uncataloged backlog can be numerous. A reasonable list of problem

titles sent in by our libraries would be accepted at LC so that a search could be made as to where the holdup in cataloging might be. Complex operations provide many such delays.

The staff at LC is also concerned about the coming of automation and is preparing for it. This will begin with Cyrillic in the non-roman scripts, as it has the most public demand behind it. A person has been employed at LC to prepare manuals for use with the new languages to go into the data base. Although the card catalog will be closed, new catalogs will be opened. It is not a sure thing that the automated catalog will work right away when the card catalog is closed. Until it is established that the computer systems will be reliable, after the card catalog is closed there will be a dual system so that everything in the computer is also in a manual catalog. There will be two manual catalogs: one catalog will be for roman alphabet materials, for things in the data base, and one for non-roman alphabets not in the data base. The first manual catalog can be discarded when the automated system is working smoothly and regularly. At present no hope is seen that anything but Cyrillic can be input into the data base until 1981 and perhaps 1982. One criterion the Library of Congress has is that the hardware should be capable of handling both roman and non-roman alphabets, as many non-roman as possible. They will be working with at least one language of the "right to left" variety, whether Arabic or Hebrew has not yet been decided.

The closing of the catalogs will give an opportunity for implementing any ideas and changes that will improve cataloging practices. Communication with the Library of Congress is desired so that any proposals and suggestions can be considered and desirable features planned for the new system. LC strongly asks that each one interested in these matters, either subject cataloging or descriptive cataloging get in touch with them during the next two years. Once the card catalog is closed then the changes can be made.

At present the practice in subject cataloging is that new subjects are being established and errors corrected, but LC is not doing any revising until the new catalog begins. It is just too expensive to change what is already in the catalog.

LC understands that there are terminals and keyboards available now that will handle both roman and Cyrillic, but at present it would not be possible to add both Arabic and Hebrew to these same terminals and keyboards. Another thing now being planned, though it doesn't affect Arabic and Persian, is that sessions will be held at ALA, both midwinter and summer conferences, and they welcome as much input as possible, to discuss putting the South Asian languages into the data base in romanized form. The time when these languages could be put into the computer in original form is so distant that the disadvantages of having them in romanized form are offset by the advantage of having them in the data base. This will be announced soon in the LC Information Bulletin Nov. 18, 1977 issue, and again any comments are welcomed. It is interesting to note that the National Bibliography of India has always handled everything in romanized form, so their scripts in romanized form don't bother the Indians, so maybe it shouldn't bother us as much, but everyone does have problems. Mr. Crawford firmly stressed that there are no plans to handle Chinese, Japanese and Korean in romanized form.

Of course at the present time the serial data base is handling all of these in romanized form, in this case including Arabic, but all in the audience, Mr. Crawford said, were in a better position to tell how that was working as he had not had an occasion to look up an Arabic title.

One other problem when the catalogs are closed is the question of romanization. Close to adoption are the ISO International Standards Organization tables for Arabic. As much feed-in from other libraries as possible is desired in LC's consideration of this step. The new American National Standards for romanization of Arabic is Z 39.12. The ISO standard was out in 1961 which has received general agreement but is not 100 percent approved, in Mr. Crawford's understanding of the matter. But he said whether there are advantages to adopting this rather than our present one remains a problem for study.

In Subject Cataloging, LC no longer uses Western Asia, but instead uses Near East and South Asia. David Littlefield is answering questions in subject cataloging that are sent in and welcomes further inquiries. He is working on a new set of subject headings for Libya and expects to have this ready when the catalogs are closed. "Free floating" subject headings that can be used with any type of entry are increasing and catalogers need to become familiar with this kind. The University of Cairo is publishing a subject outline of Islamic science - or? the Islamic sciences, and as soon as LC receives this some revisions will possibly be planned on its basis. Also a subject heading list will be published soon by the University of Cairo. The subdivision "--Collections" will no longer be used in addition to the heading "Hadith" at LC. Littlefield would very much like to hear from catalogers as to the adequacy of the present outline of the Hadith in LC subject heading treatment. Should the major and minor Hadith be separated? In Subject Cataloging there is a rather low arrearage, about 100 Persian titles.

Special Foreign Currencies Program participants are reminded to supply materials to those institutions in Egypt who provide publications on an exchange basis. Each recipient is responsible for sending materials. LC handles the shipments but does not follow up on the exchanges.

In Descriptive Cataloging, 2884 unsearched Arabic titles are on hand in LC Washington. In Fiscal Year 1977, Descriptive Cataloging provided cards for 1490 Arabic, 116 Persian, 202 Turkish titles. LC has 528 Turkish unsearched, and 1471 Persian titles are on hand. (George Atiyeh mentioned here that the Near East Section has some 10,000 in the backlog.) The Turkish Specialist at LC made a very successful acquisitions trip to Turkey and was well received in the government publishing departments. The latest census was obtained as well as many statistical and attractively published monographs.

Mr. Crawford made a clear case for moving towards some plan for cooperative purchasing in difficult acquisition areas. A dealer will be more successful and more responsive if orders can be grouped into quantities of a given title, rather than the same title being ordered on many different occasions. A dealer faces numerous problems in handling transactions individually hoping to make a profit. Some way must be found to cooperate with the dealer in helping to give a reasonable profit and this will increase acquisitions. Export licenses, bond with banks, and many other factors handicap service. In the matter of

exchanges, some institutions overseas are so hard pressed financially that they cannot afford the postage for sending return books, or even a reply letter sometimes. Buyers should be aware of the many reasons that prevent dealers from supplying materials. We should be willing to pay fair prices in view of these handicaps, and not think only of purchase costs while being unmindful of high cataloging costs entailed at home.

Discussion: David Partington said that many seemingly unheard pleas had gone in to the Library of Congress urging that attention be given to the Near East Union Catalog and that support be given to making it a useful tool. Had a comparatively small amount of money been allocated for this, the backlog of 10,000 Persian books held in the Near East Section could have been cataloged largely with the help of the extensive work done by Princeton and Harvard and other libraries active in this language. George Atiyeh reported that an application to the National Endowment for the Humanities to support this work of preparing and publishing the Near East Union Catalog is near to being favorably acted on. The probability is that it will provide a partial grant to be matched by other funds that must still be raised. The project is moving ahead. The project will be on computers and will be romanized, since computers are not yet smoothly functioning in producing Arabic character input-output. It would mean indefinite delay and increased cost if Arabic character capacity in Automation were to be waited for. The romanized Union Catalog can be put on tape that could be purchased cheaply, and there are several publishers willing to publish the Catalog in romanized form now. News that the grant has been made is hoped for in a very few weeks. This will include Arabic, Persian and Turkish. The Hebrew Section has many more cards and could not be reckoned into the proposal as the cost would have been too great.

It was reiterated that LC will be making use of the University of Cairo's forthcoming publications in subject headings and classification regarding Islamic and Arabic subjects. Dr. Atiyeh made a significant point when he reviewed the fact that a number of attempts had been made by librarians in countries of the Islamic world to classify books--in Egypt, Pakistan, India, Turkey and Iraq--but that there has been no unified effort to create subject headings for Islamic or Arabic studies there.

Mr. Crawford pointed out that 1980 or '81 is the magic date for the time when it might be possible to update our whole file of subject headings by pushing a button or a key. Now the problem of the cost of changing card catalogs faces one who wishes to do this. Some psychological restraint is felt in federal operations such as the Library of Congress when the legislative appropriations budget approaches a symbolic round number figure of x dollars. Efforts are made to keep under this psychological ceiling, until a "break-through" occurs, when planning and other work regain flexibility.

In Iran acquisitions problems felt by LC are common to other libraries. The Library of Congress has appointed a salaried agent in Afghanistan to obtain materials there and dispatch them to the LC Karachi Office. A new Accessions List Afghanistan will be published beginning in January, 1978, probably, which will list all acquisitions from that country.

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## Arabic Cataloging : Problems and Progress,

by Marsha McClintock

This is a brief outline of the larger problems in the technical processing of Arabic materials, followed by a discussion in greater depth of several advances in Arabic cataloging and bibliographic control through automated and non-automated systems. A list of suggestions for further advances in the field is also included. The greatest problems are recognizable to any system working with Arabic materials as these are also the same problems encountered by catalogers of material regardless of country of origin. And since many problems in Arabic cataloging cannot be separated from problems of bibliographic control and procedures used in each individual library system the outline of problems encountered will be organized according to the main bibliographic elements found in cataloging copy.

Main Entry. Uniform establishment of personal and corporate main entry, usually names, is a problem in any language with any material. In Arabic cataloging, this may also be a result of the historic lack of emphasis on author entry in many of the Arabic speaking countries and the emphasis on author main entry in English speaking countries. Perhaps the most difficult, or most challenging depending on the point of view, are the classical and medieval Arabic names. These multi-part names have no relation to the fore and sur-name pattern of the common modern Western name. AACR, Chapter 2, Special Rules for Names in Certain Languages, advises the cataloger to use the following pattern in establishing the name: enter under the element or combination of elements by which the person is best known; in case of doubt, enter under the last element. Other elements of the name are listed in the order of the khitāb (honorific); kunyah (compound element usually beginning with Abū); the ism (given name); the patronymic (usually beginning with Ibn); and other name elements, such as the laqab (descriptive epitaph).

Placing main entry under the most commonly used form of the name creates several difficulties. The most commonly used form in the Western world may be, for instance, a Greek or Latin form which has been used historically and is therefore the best known form. The Arabic name itself may not be recognizable to the reader from this "common" form. In specialized subject areas such as medieval philosophy and medicine, this common form of the name may not be known by the cataloger. Checking for the correct common form of the name in a local name authority file can be done successfully if all parts of the name are listed on the title page or in the text of the books. This is not always the case.

The name of an author may not appear on the title page or in the book at all, and if the book is old enough it may lack a title page completely. The name may appear on the title page in an abbreviated form as well. If an abbreviated form of the name is given on the title page, as is most often the case, verifying the name in a local name authority file, or while searching for LC/NUC copy may be misleading. This may be seen most often in cases where the element under which the name is entered does not appear on the title page although five name elements do appear. Thus, the title page may have a name with multiple parts, but the particular element of entry needed for verification and search for copy may not appear.



Many difficulties arise from this omission on the title page. The most obvious is that one book may be cataloged under one main entry while another book by the same author is cataloged under a differing entry, thereby splitting the author's works. Most libraries in the United States make use of Library of Congress cataloging copy for Arabic cataloging and also maintain some system, such as a name authority file, for determining the uniform entry form for personal and corporate names. However, if copy received from LC establishes a name in variance with local custom, the local library has the option of altering the LC cards or recataloging existing titles at a great loss of time and money in order to keep a uniform catalog entry.

Classical names are by far the most complex form of personal name in Arabic cataloging but there are also problems with other types of names. Modern names, again according to AACR, Chapter 2, are to be established by the preferred form of the author, if known. If that form is not known, a transliteration according to the Library of Congress transliteration tables for Arabic is used. The use of these transliteration tables can also bring up many questions which will not be dealt with here. The preference of the author is seldom known by LC or any individual cataloger unless personal contact has been made with the author, the author is very well known, or has published in the Western world or in roman script. French pronunciation, especially in the North African countries also can influence the transliteration an Arab author may prefer. The name may then appear in a completely different part of the catalog from the same name transliterated by the Library of Congress tables, not a few cards away but several drawers away.

The logical progression from this discussion of names is the role of the cross-reference in aiding patrons and librarians in the complexities of the modern, medieval or classical Arabic name. Do all names established for authors from North Africa and Lebanon have a cross-reference from a French influenced system of transliteration? Probably not. Arabic script cataloging and European language cataloging of translations of Arabic works are often done by different divisions within a library system. This means a French influenced form of transliteration of an Arabic name may not be matched with the LC form of the author's name, again splitting that author's works. These translations might also be sent through processing without the addition of any cross-references to variant forms of the name. Two cards may appear in the name authority file for the same author.

There has been a call recently for cross-references for personal and corporate names from the most correct form available which is the name as given in Arabic script. This is a great service to patrons and librarians. The name in Arabic script would then lead the user to the correct form used in each library as well as the most likely variation to be found in translations of that author's works. This would save a great deal of time and effort; however, it would add the cost of creating a position for a filing clerk who can read Arabic script and can alphabetize according to the original alphabet.

Names, personal and corporate, are the biggest villain in Arabic librarianship. The cataloger has to consider the problems discussed above. The bibliographer has to consider the possibility of purchasing duplicates due to the differing forms in which book dealers, local libraries and the

Library of Congress may list an author's name. Since it is not uncommon for two works to have the same title, the true identity of the author is the only way in which two books can be proven to be unique titles or expensive duplicates. These are not all of the questions which arise in determining main entry. Corporate entries can cause many difficulties along the same lines as those discussed above for personal names; however, problems other than main entry should also be included in any discussion of Arabic cataloging.

Titles. Many older works lack title pages or give abbreviated or alternate forms of a title. The title appearing on the title page may not be the most commonly known form of a well-known work. Again, the use of title added entry is essential in tracking down parts of classical or medieval works which have been subdivided or retitled. In the same category are classical or medieval works which have one, two, three or even four commentaries written with calligraphic abandon in the margins of the main text. These works of commentary create difficulties in verification of authorship and title. Some of the options available for cataloging these commentaries include listing the marginal works as "bound with" the larger work, or using extensive notes covering these distinct works especially if they lack an identifiable author or title.

Dates. Older works and some modern works may omit the date of publication or any information indicating the general time period in which the work was printed. The publisher will frequently give the birth and death dates of a classical or medieval author while omitting the date of publication of the work. This is a usual problem in all cataloging, regardless of language, especially if the work is old or originates from a small press. What is unusual however, is when a publisher, printer or dealer removes the title page from a work and replaces it with a new title page indicating a different publisher, place of publication and date from those originally accompanying the text. These pirated or altered texts create a great deal of confusion for the cataloger and often cause the purchase of duplicate works mistakenly believed to be added editions. Reprints and photo-reproductions are also indicated with varying consistency from publisher to publisher and the reliability and amount of information, especially on the edition statement, will also vary considerably.

Turkish. Some of the problems covered above, including main entry, title, publisher, date and edition, are not only problems in Arabic cataloging but in processing materials from all areas of the world. One area where cataloging is particularly difficult is with Turkish materials from the Ottoman period or from that transitional period in which forms of bibliographic entry were changing. Sets or compiled works which cover both the Ottoman and modern Turkish languages have two sets of scripts and a differing vocabulary and grammar to consider. The transliterations used will be especially flexible and changing as the Turkish language was updated. There is also the problem of no generally accepted uniform system of transliteration for Ottoman Turkish. After the adaptation of the fore and sur-name pattern for Turkish names, the interesting situation occurs in which an author may well be known under two completely differing names, neither of which is a pseudonym. The use of honorific or abbreviated names on title pages of works by particularly well known authors creates the need for an in-depth knowledge of the literature of the period and a well developed cross-reference system. These problems leave the independent cataloger faced with researching the names of authors at great length or using the abbreviated form of the name listed on the title page. Again, either of these forms may conflict with LC's practice in establishing names.

Solutions. What are some of the alternatives for processing these problem materials? First, a look at personal and corporate names. One solution would be to attempt the major project of compiling an authority list of Arabic, Persian and Ottoman and modern Turkish names, both personal and corporate. This would have to include extensive cross-references, including cross-references from the original script form to the preferred transliterated form. Work of this kind has begun with the Arab States Author Headings compiled by Mohammad M. Aman in 1973 at St. John's University. There are, however, no references from the original script entries in Aman's useful work.

Problems in identification and verification of titles, publishers, dates and editions can be alleviated greatly through better shared bibliographic control. Better shared bibliographic control would also benefit the field by providing locations for works, aiding inter-library loan, aiding replacement of missing or damaged pages by photocopying from complete copies and helping to alleviate purchasing of duplicate materials such as pirated or altered editions. But most important, better shared bibliographic control, of the type discussed below, would improve sharing of resources, e.g., in use of books and shared cataloging. How can better bibliographic control be obtained in this field? There are many kinds of control, each serving a different purpose, using different methods. One is internal control of cataloged and uncataloged materials, and the other which will be discussed in greater detail is inter-library control of cataloged materials.

Internal Control. Each library differs tremendously in its internal procedures and policies. Those libraries which have money, and therefore staff, perhaps do not have to worry about books in an uncataloged backlog. Most libraries agree a backlog of books is an undesirable thing because patrons have little or no access to acquired titles, and the acquisitions librarian may purchase duplicates not knowing exactly which titles are already held. One solution which has proved satisfactory at the Ohio State University Libraries is the use of a system called pre-cat, short for pre-cataloged section. It has the drawbacks of any system short of full cataloging but the advantages have been well worth the effort involved. The pre-cat system takes a book in hand that cannot be cataloged immediately and follows this procedure. The author and title are recorded as they appear on the title page and the book is streamered with an accessions number made up of a prefix identifying the library location or language, and a five digit number starting with 00001. The number will be a substitute call number. The author and title are unverified and therefore contain many errors, but again the books are processed very quickly. The accessions number, author, title and date of publication are read onto OSU Libraries' internal computer system. They could just as easily be typed on a card and filed in a card catalog. The pre-cat section is arranged by accessions number in a locked stack storage area. This section is locked to discourage browsing and to maintain correct accessions number order on the shelves, as this is the only method of retrieval for these works. Patrons have limited access to the works by requesting a particular author/title or accessions number at the circulation desk. Pre-cat books are cataloged after being circulated or after a shipment of printed cards is received from LC and the works can be cataloged by clerical staff. The pre-cat section is also referred to during a slowdown in the work flow when cataloging staff is available. All books from the Library of Congress Office in Cairo are put into

the pre-cat section to await LC printed cards. This lowers the percentage of original cataloging necessary by holding all current titles for a reasonable amount of time until copy becomes available. In the meantime, titles can still be circulated. The OSU Libraries system circulates approximately 8,000 from all pre-cat sections every year. As these titles are returned and cataloged, different titles are being circulated each year. This also means backlogged titles are available for inter-library loan requests. The pre-cat system is not fool-proof. Mistakes occur particularly in the unverified main entries, but the over-all effect of the system has been very positive, providing better patron access to materials and a greater internal control of uncataloged materials.

External Control. The major solution to the many problems occurring in Arabic cataloging is better inter-library bibliographic control of cataloged materials. This is needed to streamline acquisitions procedures, including pre-order searching, and to make greater use of inter-library loan for difficult to obtain materials. It would also cut down on duplication of effort with shared cataloging of certain common Arabic language works. There are a great many pockets of Arabic cataloging with varying amounts of production throughout the country, but this information is not generally distributed from one library to the next. There are two alternatives for distributing this information--a manual system or an automated system.

CCC. A working example of a manual system of this type is the Chinese Cooperative Catalog which is used for sharing information about acquisitions and cataloging of Chinese character materials. The monthly catalog, similar in format to the National Union Catalog Monthly Updates, is made up of Chinese cataloging done by twelve major libraries. The results of this cataloging appear on catalog cards written in LC format with transliterated main entry and title. The body of the card is written in characters. These cards are then copied and appear just as they would in the National Union Catalog. Fifty-six libraries pay around \$ 350.00 per year to receive the monthly catalogs and yearly cumulations. The catalog is compiled from the member contributing libraries' copy at the Library of Congress Catalog Publication Division. This is an interesting and helpful example of a manual system of bibliographic control and shared cataloging of special materials. The problem with the book format is cost. It is estimated that one hundred instead of fifty-six libraries should be subscribing in order to make the project cost efficient and the catalog will probably not survive in book form. Plans are now underway to convert the Chinese Cooperative Catalog to microfiche.

Automated Systems. The book catalog format is expensive to produce, cannot be updated or corrected until later issues and needs annual or periodic cumulation. What are other alternatives? Many libraries are making greater use of automated systems for better inter-library bibliographic control. The Ohio State University Libraries are thoroughly committed to automated processing and retrieval through the internal library computer system. This Library Control System (LCS) contains information on a title from the beginning of the acquisitions process until after the book finally leaves the system through loss, theft or discard. Cataloged titles held at Main or any department library, books in the pre-cat section awaiting cataloging, books in process of being cataloged, orders and approval plan books are all on the library computer system, as well as current circulation and bindery records. After a title has been lost or stolen, that

information is also available until the title can be replaced. Serial titles and holdings are now being read onto the system.

OCLC, Inc., formerly the Ohio College Library Center, has also made progress in increased bibliographic control and shared cataloging through automated systems. OCLC, Inc. is one of the major automated library networks containing information on library holdings for over one thousand participating libraries and the MARC tapes with current Library of Congress cataloging. OCLC can be used as a tool for storing information needed for inter-library loan as it gives location codes for holding libraries. Most important, it can be used for shared cataloging. This system can be used for a variety of functions depending on the library system using it and the individual profile OCLC uses to meet the needs of member libraries when producing cards. What about Arabic? At the moment, Arabic cataloging cannot be read onto any major network unless it has been transliterated. The controversy over advantages and disadvantages of transliteration has been argued at length in the literature. It must at best be imperfect due to the discrepancies arising from differing interpretations of vowelling, colloquial vowelling patterns, and the interpretations of the transliteration tables as well as differing applications of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules. These things alter alphabetization and retrieval possibilities and make full transliteration of entries an undesirable alternative. Patrons who are able to make use of the original script materials are probably ill-equipped to wade through the possible variants in spelling and alphabetization caused by differing transliteration systems. Transliteration of Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Turkish is by no means standardized within the United States, without consideration of the many systems available throughout the world.

Therefore, the most desirable solution for those who agree transliteration of the complete entry is full of seen and unseen difficulties, is to have a computer system which could record, store and retrieve and display information in Arabic script. This is possible and has been done in the Middle East. Other systems in this country, such as New York Public Library, have been doing similar projects with other scripts.

OCLC, Inc. Projections. The following is a short introduction to the work being done or planned at OCLC, Inc. involving the use of Arabic script on computer terminals. This is a discussion of what has been done to this point and what is being projected with the present state of technology. OCLC, Inc. is working on four alphabetic non-roman scripts at the same time. These are Greek, Cyrillic, Arabic and Hebrew, in no stated order of priority. Once a non-roman script is on-line, the additional Greek and Cyrillic pose little difficulty as they are alphabetic, block scripts. Hebrew is also alphabetic but has the added difficulty of being written from right to left, while Arabic is written from right to left and is also cursive. Due to the nature of these languages, three problem areas can be identified.

Dot Matrix. The first problem in getting Arabic script on computer terminals is defining the dot patterns for the characters. A computer terminal is made up of a cathode ray tube, similar to a television screen, connected to a typewriter keyboard. Information typed on the keyboard appears on the screen and the response to the request typed in also appears, or is displayed, on the

screen. A typical screen, or vector screen, displays information made up of small dots. Dots put together in particular patterns appear to form lines and characters. At the present time, the number of dots per area is sufficient only for block roman script. However, higher resolution terminals which have a greater number of dots per area are available at a higher cost. Flowing Arabic script could easily be reproduced in a readable display with a higher resolution terminal. Libraries will have to determine which of these programs and hardware are most suited to their systems and budgets. The cost of higher resolution terminals is not so great as to cause difficulties, though. The most important issue is that the terminals are capable of handling complex, cursive, non-roman scripts with existing, though non-standard equipment.

Cursor. The second problem area is the direction of the printing which is determined by the cursor direction. A cursor is a small blinking dot on the display tube showing the direction of printing and the position where the next letter will appear when typed. The cursor must reverse direction from its normal left to right pattern and go right to left to print that part of the cataloging or entry which is in Arabic script. This has been studied and is possible through several existing approaches. A terminal using Farsi has been developed with a reversed cursor direction. This would create the need for an all script record, as opposed to the LC format of mixed scripts. OCLC, Inc. is investigating a switch-over system using the inset mode. The cursor would not move with each letter in this mode. When the terminal is switched into the Arabic script sequence, the cursor would stand still while the previously written text on the screen would move in the correct direction to accommodate any additional text. This means a title could be cataloged in Arabic and then the date, written from left to right, could be included without changing the cursor direction back and forth. OCLC, Inc. favors this system because the inset mode is already in use for other materials and would require fewer programming adjustments.

Programming. The third major area of concern is the central computer programming needs. In order to switch from one script to another, the terminal must be told what to do, which program to pick up, which direction to go, everything it must do to produce an intelligible display. An escape sequence, telling the computer to go into another pattern of production has already been used to add characters needed for Scandinavian languages. All records in a comparable system for Arabic script materials will be read into the computer tagged as Arabic. When a certain escape sequence is entered, the computer will start adding information to the Arabic coded section. Any reprogramming of the data as a whole can be done to the information with the unique Arabic tag.

To accommodate the needs of some systems, it is possible for the computer to store information about each letter in the Arabic script, such as the letter "alif" is equivalent to the letter "a". This is a one-to-one correspondence simple to program. The implications of this letter for letter correspondence are many. An entry can be read into the computer in roman script while the screen would display the same entry in Arabic script. The entry also can be read into the computer in Arabic script and read out in roman script, but the computer, not understanding Arabic grammar, would be unable to provide vowels. This means a library which uses only transliterated catalog cards would still be able to use an entry written in script if a librarian would vowel the read-out. This shows one of the options available theoretically to those libraries with individualized systems.

The final question in any discussion of computerized library systems is what hardware will be necessary to provide the services necessary for the system. For the types of functions described above, it would not be necessary to have a different terminal for each script required. One terminal would be able to handle more than one script, including roman, depending on the number of characters necessary for the display of each alphabet. A terminal with an escape sequence for several non-roman scripts is now being estimated at an initial cost of about \$ 5000. The current 100 model terminal in use by OCLC, Inc. costs around an initial \$3700. This proposed multi-script terminal should be able to receive, store, retrieve and display information in a variety of scripts, do transliteration of vowelised languages, transliterate unvowelised languages leaving the vowels out, and have access to any bit of information in the central computer files regardless of original script. If a requested entry is in a script the terminal is not programmed to display, it will automatically transliterate the entry and display it in roman script.

These possibilities for display of Arabic script cataloging are still in the future. Some of the programming exists and the hardware necessary is already in use in other systems, but these separate elements must be brought together to develop a new system. This means time and money. What the outcome will be is still in the future.

Many different problems and solutions have been presented. All are possible, whether they are probable or not remains to be seen. But certain suggestions can be made in light of the above information. The first is, more information must be gathered in order to make decisions which will affect Arabic cataloging in the future. Second, most computer programmers do not know Arabic, Persian or Ottoman Turkish. An innovative project such as on-line Arabic script records, is of such importance to Arabic and Middle Eastern librarians that it should be developed with input from interested librarians and language experts in the initial stages of planning. These future systems should be devised by those people who will be using them in conjunction with the experts in the computer field. To this end, it is recommended to the Middle East Librarians Association that a task force or committee be formed to keep advised of the progress made in computer technology regarding the use of Arabic script, and that this group be the clearinghouse for information on the subject, and that this group serve as an advisory body and a supportive lobby to those networks presently investigating non-roman script possibilities. This group should work to maintain and improve access to materials in Arabic script through automated systems or other systems which prove more effective, to provide information for patrons and libraries and increase bibliographic control of non-roman library collections.

N.B.: A committee on library automation was formed (the Committee on Machine-Readable Data; see p.5-6 in this number of the NOTES for MELA action and committee charges at the Middle East Librarians Association meeting in New York, November, 1977 in response to the above suggestion and the need expressed by Middle East librarians to be aware of progress in the field of Arabic script computer systems. Any person wishing to participate on that committee should send their name to Fawzi Khoury, President, Middle East Librarians Association, University of Washington Library, Seattle, WA 98195. This is an enlarged revision of the paper read at MELA's 1977 meeting.

Marsha McClintock is Islamica Bibliographer, Ohio State University Libraries.

## Automated Processing at the New York Public Library, by Chris Filstrup

At the end of 1971, the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library closed their card catalogs and opened a book catalog photocomposed from a computerized data base. The operation of the computer in producing a public catalog is best seen in its manipulation of MARC records. The computer is programmed to recognize and format the tagged items (e.g., personal authors, series, topical subjects) and then to display the information -- first as a computer printout and later as the complement of book catalog entries. In addition to formatting and displaying a bibliographic record, NYPL's computer also maintains an authority file by which access points appearing in the book catalog are controlled.

The move to a computerized data base and photocomposed catalog left non-roman scripts eating the dust of transliteration. Since the library ceased to use cards (both LC and locally produced) and only roman characters were available for display, catalog records in languages in Hebrew, Cyrillic, Arabic and other non-roman scripts had to be transliterated in toto. In 1976, after several years of preparation, NYPL added Hebrew characters to its display program. This involved three steps: 1) assigning a code of symbols (mostly roman characters) having a one-to-one correspondence with Hebrew characters; 2) writing a program which would print Hebrew characters right to left; 3) designing the Hebrew character grids for photocomposition. The book catalog now uses Hebrew characters for the body of the bibliographic record (as in an LC card) and for a separate title listing at the end of the book catalog.

There lurks somewhere in the collective consciousness of NYPL a commitment to "bring up" Arabic script in the foreseeable future. The programming for right to left display is available. Both Pierre MacKay and the University of Texas Arabic instruction staff have developed "massage" programs which select the correct graphic form (initial, medial, final) for displaying a character in context. The NYPL computer uses a 7-bit character code which limits the number of possible graphic shapes to 256. Elegance requires upwards of 300 characters, but MacKay's Hattat program, which is readable, comprises only 120 basic strokes.

The next step towards marrying the Arabic script and a computerized data base is to gather all existing knowledge on software and hardware and organize it so as to demonstrate the benefits and costs of alternative packages. I will attempt such a review article in the next issue of MELA NOTES.

Chris Filstrup is Head, Middle East Section, Oriental Division, New York Public Library. He has summarized above the presentation given at MELA's 1977 meeting.



ALA Sub-Committees on Descriptive Cataloging and Subject Analysis  
of Asian and African Materials, by Martha Dukas

Virginia has kindly allotted me a few minutes to speak about two ad hoc committees formed by the American Library Association and to solicit your opinion concerning MELA's response to them.

The committees I refer to were formed in 1976, in part, I believe, to try to make amends for the fact area specialists were not much consulted about revision of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules by the Catalog Code Revision Committee. One is to concentrate on descriptive cataloging and the other on subject analysis of Asian and African materials.

The descriptive cataloging subcommittee is chaired by Frances Ladd, head of the Catalog Department at the University of Rochester Library. It has five other members: Effie Chen of Princeton and Thomas Lee of Wisconsin to represent East Asian Librarians, David Michener of Northwestern to cover Africa, and Henry Scholberg of Minnesota to handle South Asia. Lee and Scholberg also represent their areas on the subject analysis subcommittee, whose other members are Yung-hsiang Lai of Harvard for East Asia, Allen Cohen of Pennsylvania State to cover Southeast Asia, and Elizabeth Widemann of Columbia to represent Africana librarians. This second subcommittee is chaired by Arlene Zukerman who is head of Technical Services at UCLA.

The charge to each subcommittee is deceptively simple: identify problem areas in need of change, determine priorities, suggest solutions, and report these findings to the appropriate organization which more often than not, is the Library of Congress.

Both subcommittees met at the last ALA Midwinter and Annual Meetings and will do so again in 1978. When Michael Fitzgerald (chairman of ALA/RTSD/CCS/Descriptive Cataloging Committee) first asked me last spring to serve on the descriptive cataloging subcommittee, my immediate reaction was, "Why bother? The AACR revision has already taken place and we'd just be sweeping up after them." Gradually, however, I was won over by the realization that there would, indeed, be continual revisions of the cataloging code and LC practices and the observation that ALA appears to have had some effect on LC whereas MELA, by itself, has not. I was also moved by the fact Michael could not find anyone else willing to join ALA in order to represent Middle East and North Africa specialists on this committee.

In September, I was asked to replace John Eilts on the subject analysis subcommittee after his resignation from it and ALA. John, with very little help from anyone else, had represented Middle Eastern interests in ALA for several years, and I can respect, even if I don't agree with, his reasons for resigning in protest.

The ALA schedule requires me to submit an interim report to each subcommittee at Midwinter, the last week in January, and for the subcommittees themselves to submit final reports to their parent groups at the Annual Meeting in June. There is some question, in my mind at least, about whether this deadline can be met. There is also some puzzlement on my part concerning the

extensiveness of the Middle East contribution. Like anyone who has been in the business for awhile, I could draw up a list of pet peeves and a bill of particulars against LC, but I doubt you would consider this adequate representation. On the other hand, a full-blown "state of the art" paper might be deemed an overreaction to the charges addressed to these ALA subcommittees. However, Marsha seems to have gone quite far along that path already.

We lack time today to discuss perhaps the substance of our response--a session for that purpose could be held during this conference if you like--but I would welcome your suggestions on how I might approach this work. The South Asian representative sent a personal appeal to 21 of his colleagues and got 8 replies. The East Asian representatives on the descriptive cataloging subcommittee distributed 70 copies of a questionnaire and received 14 responses. The entire subject analysis subcommittee addressed a very general and brief questionnaire to major libraries--how many I don't know--and invited the readers of several library journals to contribute suggestions. I have drafted a one-page questionnaire we might use to solicit the opinions of our colleagues unable to attend these sessions in New York. (This questionnaire was mailed to all professional and associate members of MELA at the end of November and was to be returned before Christmas.)

It has been suggested that overseas librarians be consulted, particularly those in countries which have adopted the AACR, such as Turkey, or where the DDC is widely used, for example Iraq. Perhaps more could be accomplished, however, by concentrating on the concerns of North American librarians working mainly with the LC classification schedules and subject headings.

ALA is inviting us at last to participate in a fairly constructive way, and I, in turn, invite your suggestions about the substance and form our response should take.

Martha Dukas is Head Librarian, Middle East Collection, the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712 USA. A copy of the above-mentioned questionnaire may be obtained by any who would like to communicate on these matters, if they have not already done so.

COLLATION FOR THE NOTES: Publications Announced (cont. from p. 10).

A Gazetteer of Arabic Printing has recently (late 1977) been published privately by Miroslav Krek, Head of the Acquisitions Department, Brandeis University Library, Waltham, Mass. It contains 138 pages and index to Arabic place names and the chronology of titles issued. Mr. Krek may be reached at his home address: 805 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02193 USA.

The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1945-1971 : a bibliography by John Sherman, Associate Professor of Library Science at Queens College of the City University of New York, is to be published in March, 1978 by the Garland Publishing Co., New York City. It is a 450 page bibliography and sells for \$30. It is indexed by author and subject and contains over 3000 items, each arranged alphabetically within the year of publication.

(cont. on p. 35)

## ADDRESSES, ESSAYS, LECTURES:

Index to Penmen in Nājī Zayn al-Dīn's Muṣawwar al-Khaṭṭ al-'Arabī,

Prepared by Michael W. Albin

- \*Abbās al-ʿAmīdī, 113, 349.
- \*Abbās ibn ʿUmar, 337.
- \*Abd al-ʿAzīz, 238.
- \*Abd al-ʿAzīz al-Rifāʿī, see Md. ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz al-Rifāʿī.
- \*Abd al-ʿAzīz ibn ʿAlī, 73, 333.
- \*Abd al-ʿAzīz Md. al-Qarshī al-Tarqī, 337.
- \*Abd al-Baqī al-Qawsī, 349, 357.
- \*Abd al-Fattāḥ [d. 1314], 227, 374.
- \*Abd al-Fattāḥ al-ʿAsharī, 166, 363.
- \*Abd al-Ghanī [1937- A.D.], 130, 186, 354 (biog.).
- \*Abd al-Ḥamīd al-Awwal, 268, 384.
- \*Abd al-Jabbār Khān ʿZādah, 357.
- \*Abd al-Karīm Khalīfah, Waqāʿīyah ʿZādah, 348.
- \*Abd al-Laṭīf Afandī, 354.
- \*Abd Allāh al-ʿAbid, 333.
- \*Abd Allāh al-Amāsī, 106, 331, 347, 348.
- \*Abd Allāh al-Mawlawī al-Anīs, 358.
- \*Abd Allāh al-Qrīmī, 348.
- \*Abd Allāh al-Ṣirfī, 64, 168, 329, 330, 331, 347.
- \*Abd Allāh al-Wafāʿī, 348.
- \*Abd Allāh Arghūn [d. 742], 356, 377.
- \*Abd Allāh Bahāʾ al-Dīn al-Alūsī [d. 1291], 357 (biog.).
- \*Abd Allāh ibn ʿAlī, 331.
- \*Abd Allāh ibn Ishāq, 33.
- \*Abd Allāh ibn Ishāq al-Aḥwal, 319.
- \*Abd Allāh ibn Md. [fl. 4th cent.], 347.
- \*Abd Allāh ibn Md. al-Azdī, 332.
- \*Abd Allāh ibn Yūsuf al-Marjānī, 82, 337.
- \*Abd Allāh Khulūṣī [d. 1291], 114, 230, 349, 364, 375, 378.
- \*Abd Allāh Shafīq, 201.
- \*Abd Allāh Zuhdī [d. 1296], 145, 170, 348, 359 (biog.), 363.
- \*Abd al-Majīd al-Ṭalaqānī, 377.
- \*Abd al-Malik, called Abū Zayd, 332.
- \*Abd al-Malik ibn ʿUbayd, 32, 319.
- \*Abd al-Malik ibn Yazīd, 34.
- \*Abd al-Muʾmin, 331.
- \*Abd al-Qaddūs [ibn] Md. Ṣalīḥ al-Muṣīlī, 236, 349, 350, 362, 377.
- \*Abd al-Qādir, see ʿAbd al-Qādir Aḥmad Tawfīq.
- \*Abd al-Qādir Aḥmad, see ʿAbd al-Qādir Aḥmad Tawfīq.
- \*Abd al-Qādir Aḥmad [1292-1361], 149, 360.
- \*Abd al-Qādir Aḥmad Tawfīq [1299- ], 129, 150-53, 161-64, 170-75, 177, 199, 209, 229, 233, 244, 254, 257, 258, 348, 354, 360 (biog.), 361 (biog.), 362, 364, 375.
- \*Abd al-Qādir ʿAlī [d. 1298], 357.
- \*Abd al-Qādir al-Imām [d. 1285], 357.
- \*Abd al-Qādir Md., 242, 265, 271, 384.
- \*Abd al-Raḥīm al-Jazīrī al-Asfahānī, 112, 349.
- \*Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Aḥmad al-Qalqashandī, 81, 336.
- \*Abd al-Raḥmān ibn al-Ṣāʿīgh, see Ibn al-Ṣāʿīgh.
- \*Abd al-Razzāq Md. Ṣalīm, 239.
- \*Abd al-Razzāq Ṣalīm, 192.
- \*Abd al-Salām Afandī, 361.
- \*Abd al-Waḥḥāb ibn ʿAbd al-Razzāq, see ʿAbd al-Waḥḥāb Nīyāzī.
- \*Abd al-Waḥḥāb Nīyāzī [d. 1325], 227, 357 (biog.), 374.
- Abū ʿAbd Allāh ibn Muqlah, 316, 319, 366.
- Abū ʿAbd Allāh Md. ibn Asad ibn ʿAlī ibn Saʿīd, 323.
- Abū al-ʿAbbās al-Faql ibn Sahl, see al-Faql ibn Sahl, Abū al-ʿAbbās.
- Abū al-Aswad al-Diblī, 316, 317.
- Abū al-Durr Amīn al-Dīn Yāqūt ibn ʿAbd Allāh, see Yāqūt ibn ʿAbd Allāh al-Malikī.
- Abū al-Faql al-Khāzan al-Dīnawarī, 377.
- Abū al-Ḥasan ʿAlī, see Ibn al-Bawwāb.
- Abū al-Ḥasan ʿAlī ibn Zankī, see al-Walī al-ʿAjamī.
- Abū al-Ḥasan ibn Ibrāhīm al-Aḥwal, 319.
- Abū ʿAlī al-Ḥasan ibn Ishāq, 76.
- Abū ʿAlī al-Juwaynī [d. 586], 320, 333.
- Abū ʿAlī al-Ziftāwī, see Md. ibn Aḥmad al-Ziftāwī.
- Abū ʿAlī ibn Muqlah, see Ibn Muqlah.
- Abū ʿAlī Md. ibn Muqlah, see Ibn Muqlah.
- Abū al-Jahm, 322.
- Abū al-Maʿālī al-Naḥḥās al-Asfahānī, 377.
- Abū al-Qāsim Saʿīd ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Ṣalīḥ, 45, 323.
- Abū al-Ṣīdīq, Abū Bakr ibn ʿAlī ibn Md. ibn ʿAlī al-Ḥarīrī, 81.
- Abū Bakr, Caliph, 20, 314.
- Abū Bakr, al-Ḥafīz [d. 316], 328.
- Abū Bakr ʿAlī ibn Aḥmad ibn Waḥshīyah al-Nabaṭī, 84, 85.
- Abū Bakr al-Rāwandī, 376.
- Abū Bakr Md. ibn ʿAlī ibn Waḥshīyah, see Abū Bakr ʿAlī ibn Aḥmad ibn Waḥshīyah al-Nabaṭī.
- Abū Bakr Mumtāz ibn Muṣṭafā [d. 1287], 268, 269, 348, 358, 381, 384.
- Abū Bakr Rāshīd, 348.
- Abū Dharjān, see Md. ibn Maʿdān.
- Abū Faṭḥ al-Ḥammāmī, see Ibrāhīm al-Ḥusaynī al-Wafāʿī.
- Abū Ḥafṣ ʿUmar ibn ʿAlī, see Sirāj al-Dīn Abū Ḥafṣ ʿUmar ibn ʿAlī.

- Abū Ishāq al-Najīrī, 322.  
 Abū Maṣṣūr al-Faql ibn 'Umar, 320, 333.  
 Abū Ṭahir Mā. ibn Ḥasan ibn 'Alī ibn 'Abd al-'Azīz ibn 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Badrānī, 283.  
 Abū Ṭalib al-Karkhī, 320, 333.  
 Abū Yazdād 'Amīl al-Layth ibn Faql, 36.  
 Abū Zarfān, see Mā. ibn Ma'dān.  
 'Adīf al-Miṣrī, 176, 362.  
 'Afīf al-Dīn Mā. al-Ḥalabī, 320.  
 Aḥmad Abū al-'Izz, 358.  
 Aḥmad al-Darwish, 348.  
 Aḥmad al-Hā'irī, 357.  
 Aḥmad al-Shukrī, 358.  
 Aḥmad al-Suhrawardī, see Aḥmad ibn 'Alī, called Ṭayyib Shāh Suhrawardī.  
 Aḥmad 'Arīf al-Filībahli [1246-1327?], 128, 133, 355 (biog.), 357, 360, 361.  
 Aḥmad Ḥafīz [d. 12-13 cent.], 358.  
 Aḥmad Ḥamdī Tazjān, 129, 354.  
 Aḥmad ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Baghdādī [d. 1157], 357.  
 Aḥmad ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Ḥijāzī, 68, 330, 331.  
 Aḥmad ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn Mā. ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn Ḥusayn al-Fārqānī, 73, 333.  
 Aḥmad ibn 'Alī, called Ṭayyib Shāh al-Suhrawardī, 331, 356, 377.  
 Aḥmad ibn Ḥafṣ, 319.  
 Aḥmad ibn Ḥusayn al-Ghaḍārī, 320.  
 Aḥmad ibn Mā. ibn Ḥafṣ, see Aḥmad ibn Ḥafṣ.  
 Aḥmad ibn Sufyān al-Wahbī [d. 1285], 357.  
 Aḥmad ibn Ṭayyib Shāh, see Aḥmad ibn 'Alī, called Ṭayyib Shāh Suhrawardī.  
 Aḥmad 'Izzat, 193, 380.  
 Aḥmad Jalabī, 348.  
 Aḥmad Kāmil, 348.  
 Aḥmad Kāmil, Rā'īs al-Khattātīn [d. 1360], 129, 147-49, 159, 167, 173, 189, 208, 354 (biog.), 358, 360, 361, 380, 381.  
 Aḥmad Qarah ḥiṣārī, 16, 69, 88-90, 106, 109, 110, 278, 331 (biog.), 339, 340, 345, 347, 348.  
 Aḥmad Qazānjī'zādah [d. 1116], 348.  
 Aḥmad Rāqim al-Kūjūk [d. ca. 1283], 113, 349, 358.  
 Aḥmad Shāh Zarīn'qalam, 311, 312, 348, 356.  
 Aḥmad Shaykh'zādah, 348, 358.  
 Aḥmad Shukrī, 348.  
 Aḥmad Ṭayyib Shāh, see Aḥmad Shāh Zarīn'qalam.  
 Aḥmad Yūsuf, 92.  
 al-Aḥwal al-Muḥarrir, 316, 319.  
 'A'ishah bint Aḥmad, 338.  
 'Akīf, 121.  
 'Alā' al-Dīn, 264, 348, 359.  
 'Alā' al-Dīn ibn Mā. al-Ḥafīz al-Tabrīzī, 69, 331.  
 'Alī Aḥmad Nūrī, 357.  
 'Alī 'Alā' al-Dīn, 331.  
 'Alī al-Darūsh al-Faqlī, 150, 360.  
 'Alī al-Faqlī [d. 1368], 357 (biog.).  
 'Alī al-Kātib, see Rif'at 'Alī Yāzghān.  
 'Alī al-Kūtī [d. 1335], 357.  
 'Alī ALIr Akhūr, 348.  
 'Alī 'Askar al-Arsjānī, 71, 332.  
 'Alī Badawī, 112, 167, 210, 216, 349, 352, 363.  
 'Alī Bāqir al-'Ajāmī, 239.  
 'Alī Haydar, 359, 360.  
 'Alī ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Baghdādī, 320.  
 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭalib, Caliph, front., 20, 307, 314, 378.  
 'Alī ibn Aḥmad al-Warrāq, 337.  
 'Alī ibn al-Ḥasan ibn Hibat Allāh ibn 'Asākīr al-Shāfi'ī, 74, 334, 335.  
 'Alī ibn Ḥamzah al-Baghdādī, 320, 333.  
 'Alī ibn Hilāl, see Ibn al-Bawwāb.  
 'Alī ibn Mā., 333.  
 'Alī ibn Mā., 66, 330.  
 'Alī ibn Mā. al-Muḥaddith, 28, 317.  
 'Alī ibn Mā. ibn 'Alī ibn Jamīl al-Mu'afīrī al-Mālaqī, 75, 334.  
 'Alī ibn Mā. ibn Ibrāhīm Sabzawārī, 64, 329.  
 'Alī ibn Shādān al-Rāzī, 322.  
 'Alī ibn Ṭahir ibn Abī Sa'd, 41.  
 'Alī ibn Ṭalḥa al-Rāzī, 320.  
 'Alī ibn Yahyā al-Ṣūfī, 331.  
 'Alī ibn Zankī, Walī al-'Ajāmī, see al-Walī al-'Ajāmī.  
 'Alī ibn Zayd, 320.  
 'Alī Nafsi'zādah, 348.  
 'Alī Qarqābān, 348.  
 'Alī Qāshuqjī'zādah, 348.  
 'Alī Qayūm'bashī, 348.  
 'Alī Riqā 'Abbās, 332.  
 'Alī Waṣfī, 354, 359, 364.  
 al-ʿAmīdī, Ḥāmid, see Ḥāmid al-ʿAmīdī.  
 Amīn al-Rushdī, 348.  
 Amīr Akhūr, 'Alī, see 'Alī Amīr Akhūr.  
 Amr Allāh Afandī, 348.  
 al-Anīs, see 'Abd Allāh al-Mawlawī al-Anīs.  
 'Arīf al-Dīn Mā. al-Shīrāzī, see 'Arīf al-Dīn Mā. al-Ḥalabī.  
 'Arīf al-Falbūī, see Aḥmad 'Arīf al-Filībahli.  
 'Arīf Hikmat [d. 1918 A.D.], 360-62, 379, 382, 402.  
 Asad Allāh al-Kirmānī, 105, 331, 347.  
 As'ad al-Yasārī, see Mā. As'ad Yasārī.

al-'Asharī, see 'Abd al-Fattah al-'Asharī.  
 Asma 'Ibrat, 206, 371.  
 Awis ibn Zayd, 320.  
 Ayyas, Shaykh, 331.  
 'Aziz, see Md. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i.  
 'Aziz Afandi, 353.  
 'Aziz al-Rifa'i, see Md. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i.  
 'Azmi, see Hamid al-Amidi.  
 al-Baba, 254, 255, 378.  
 Baba Shah al-Ashfahani, 376.  
 Badawi, see 'Ali Badawi.  
 Badr al-Din Tabrizi, 376.  
 Bahir Afandi, 360.  
 Bakr Afandi [d. 1246], 357.  
 Bakr al-Sidqi [d. 1295], 357.  
 Bakr Nasih ibn Abi Bakr [d. 1303], 138, 358.  
 Bani Ahwal, 319.  
 Baqqal 'Arif, 376.  
 al-Barushaki, 362.  
 al-Bayhaqi, 335.  
 Bazagf, see Ahmad ibn Hafs.  
 Binman al-Ashfahani, 320, 333.  
 Bir Afandi ibn Darwish Md., 111, 348.  
 al-Biruni, 43, 323.  
 al-Charkass, Ibrahim 'Ala' al-Din, see Ibrahim 'Ala' al-Din al-Charkas.  
 Dal'i Yusuf, 348.  
 Damad Ibrahim Basha, 384.  
 Dara Shukuyh, 224, 374.  
 Darwish 'Abd al-Majid al-Talaqani, see 'Abd al-Majid al-Talaqani.  
 Darwish 'Ali [fl. 12-13 cent.], 358.  
 Darwish 'Ali Afandi [d. 1086], 332, 348, 358, 367.  
 Darwish 'Ali Kujuk, see Kujuk Darwish 'Ali.  
 Darwish Md., 348.  
 Darwish Nu'man al-Dhaka'i, see Nu'man al-Dhaka'i.  
 Darwish Yasir [d. 1174], 349, 357 (biog.).  
 Dhahhak ibn 'Ajlān, 315.  
 al-Dili, see Abu al-Awwad al-Dibli.  
 Duhaqi Mustafa, 348.  
 al-Du'li, see Abu al-Awwad al-Dibli.  
 Durreh, 337.  
 Fadl Afandi, 358.  
 Fadl Allah [d. 1107], 348, 358.  
 al-Fadl ibn Sahl, Abu al-'Abbās, 240.  
 Fa'iq Afandi, 348.  
 Fani ibn Ahmad 'Inayat, 229, 375.  
 Farahad Basha, 331.  
 Faraj al-Baghdadi [fl. 9th cent.], 356.  
 Farid Afandi, 360, 361, 380.  
 Fatimah, Hadiyah al-Muizz ibn Badis al-Sanhaji, 28.

Fatimah bint Abi al-Faraj, see Zaynab.  
 Fatimah bint al-Aqra', 333, 338.  
 Fazad 'Ali Qutbah, 315.  
 Gazidah Hamum, 234.  
 Ghali al-Fawzi, 134, 356, 357.  
 Ghali Sabri al-Hillali [1930 A.D.- ], 188, 365.  
 Gharib, see Md. Gharib.  
 Ghayath al-Mujallid al-Ashfahani, 331.  
 Ghazi, 330.  
 Ghazi, Shihab al-Din, see Shihab al-Din Ghazi.  
 Ghizlan Bak, 249, 252, 381.  
 Haddad, 175, 183, 365.  
 Hafiz Kamil, 128, 353 (biog.).  
 Hafiz Tahsin [d. 1331], 118, 126, 193, 203, 218, 264, 269, 348, 360, 361.  
 al-Hafiz 'Uthman, see 'Uthman al-Hafiz [1052-1110].  
 al-Hafiz 'Uthman al-Thani Qa'ish'zadah [d. 1322], 196, 243, 348, 379.  
 al-Haji 'Arif, see Ahmad 'Arif al-Filibahli.  
 Hakak'zadah, see Mustafa Hilmi Hakak'zadah.  
 Halim, 177, 254, 264, 364, 383.  
 Hamd, Shaykh, 331.  
 Hamd Allah al-Amasi, 68, 104-06, 190, 242, 329, 331 (biog.), 346-49, 359, 376, 379.  
 Hamdi Afandi [d. 1361], 232, 376.  
 Hamdi Tazjan, see Ahmad Hamdi Tazjan.  
 Hamid [d. 1316?], 357.  
 Hamid al-Amidi, 116, 133, 150, 155, 156, 181, 188, 194, 263, 348, 352, 355, 361 (biog.), 362, 364, 380, 382, 385.  
 Hammamji'zadah, Salih, see Salih Hammamji'zadah.  
 Haqqi, see Isma'il Haqqi Tughrakashi al-Iskandari.  
 Haqqi Bak, 188.  
 al-Harith ibn Marwan, 337.  
 Hasan, 165.  
 Hasan 'Abd al-Samad, 331.  
 Hasan Afandi, see Uskudari Hasan Jalabi.  
 Hasan al-Basri, 307, 331, 365.  
 Hasan al-Diya'i, 358.  
 Hasan al-Rushdi, 358.  
 Hasan Husni Qarin'abad [d. 1333], 216, 232, 376.  
 al-Hasan ibn 'Ali al-Juayni [d. 583], 328.  
 al-Hasan ibn 'Ali ibn Ahmad, 77.  
 al-Hasan ibn 'Ali ibn Muqlah, Abu 'Abd Allah, see Abu 'Abd Allah ibn Muqlah.  
 Hasan ibn Hasan al-Diya'i [d. 1182], 358.  
 Hasan ibn Md. ibn Ja'far al-Baghdadi, 77, 335.  
 al-Hasan Nahuj, 320.

Hasan Qarīn'ābādī, 360, 361, 373.  
 Hasan Ridā [d. 1336], 126, 353 (biog.), 360, 361.  
 Hasan Rushdī, 354.  
 Hasan Tahsīn, see Ḥafīz Tahsīn.  
 Hasan Tal'at, 360.  
 Hasan Zarīn'qalam, 219, 373.  
 Hashim Mī. al-Baghdādī, 95, 122, 123, 128, 130, 131, 182-84, 187, 191-93, 247, 253, 255, 273, 348, 350, 352 (biog.), 353, 354, 357, 364, 365, 385.  
 Hayyūn ibn 'Amr, 319.  
 Ḥilmī, 268, 361, 383.  
 Husām al-Dīn Khalīfah, 348.  
 Husayn 'Abd al-Ru'uf [b. 1283], 159, 362.  
 Husayn al-Jazā'irī, 358.  
 Husayn Hasan [i.e. Husnī Hasan, d. 1319], 228.  
 Husayn Husnī, 146, 359 (biog.), 360, 375, 385.  
 Husayn ibn 'Umar ibn Nasr ibn Hasan ibn Sa'd ibn Bān al-Mawṣilī, 75.  
 Husayn Jalabī Khalīfah, 348.  
 Husayn Shihāb al-Dīn, 348.  
 Husayn Waṣfī, 364.  
 Husnī al-Dimashqī, 169, 176.  
 Ibn 'Abd al-Salam, 316.  
 Ibn 'Adil, see Sirāj al-Dīn Abū Ḥafṣ 'Umar ibn 'Alī.  
 Ibn al-'Adīm al-'Uqaylī al-Ḥalabī, 320, 333.  
 Ibn al-'Afīf, 'Imād al-Dīn Mī., see 'Imād al-Dīn Mī. ibn al-'Afīf.  
 Ibn al-'Afīf, Mī., 330.  
 Ibn al-Amīn, see Mī. Kamāl ibn al-Amīn.  
 Ibn al-Barfaṭī, 320, 333.  
 Ibn al-Bawwāb, Abū al-Ḥasan 'Alī ibn Hilāl [d. 1022 A.D.], 43-45, 59, 97-99, 101-04, 214, 310, 315, 320, 323 (biog.), 328, 331, 333, 343-46, 351, 354, 356, 358, 366, 369, 371-73, 377, 378.  
 Ibn al-Irshād, see Shihāb al-Dīn Ahmad al-Afghan, called ibn al-Irshād.  
 Ibn al-Sa'igh, 'Abd al-Rahmān [d. 845], 67, 168, 240, 311, 320, 330 (biog.), 331, 345, 346, 378, 379, 387.  
 Ibn al-Shaykh, see Ḥamd Allāh al-Amāsī.  
 Ibn al-Shaykh, see Muṣṭafa Dahdah ibn Ḥamd Allāh al-Amāsī.  
 Ibn al-Tabnī, 320, 333.  
 Ibn al-Wahīd, Sharaf al-Dīn Mī. ibn Sharīf ibn Yūsuf, 356.  
 Ibn al-Ziftāwī, see Mī. ibn Ahmad al-Ziftāwī.  
 Ibn 'Amir, 333.  
 Ibn Asad, see Abū 'Abd Allāh Mī. Ibn Asad ibn 'Alī ibn Sa'īd.

Ibn Farḥūn, 333.  
 Ibn Hanī al-Lakhmī, see Mī. ibn 'Alī ibn Hanī al-Lakhmī.  
 Ibn Hilāl, see Ibn al-Bawwāb.  
 Ibn Kamunah, 319, 320.  
 Ibn Mufasssal, 332, 338.  
 Ibn Muqla, Abū 'Alī Mī. ibn 'Alī al-Hasan, called Abū 'Abd Allāh [d. 328], 25, 96, 308, 315, 316 (biog.), 318-23, 331, 333, 335, 338, 341, 342, 344-46, 351, 355, 357, 365, 368, 370, 372, 387.  
 Ibn Rashīq, 337.  
 Ibn Sadagah, 320, 333.  
 Ibn Sakrān, 333.  
 Ibn Wahshīyah, see Abū Bakr 'Alī ibn Ahmad ibn Wahshīyah al-Nabaṭī.  
 Ibrāhīm, see al-Sayyid Ibrāhīm.  
 Ibrāhīm Ahmad Basha, 348.  
 Ibrāhīm 'Alā' al-Dīn al-Charkas, 158.  
 Ibrāhīm al-Aḥwal, 319.  
 Ibrāhīm al-Bakrī al-Andalusī, 332.  
 Ibrāhīm al-Husaynī al-Wafā'ī [d. 1211], 358.  
 Ibrāhīm al-Rifā'ī, 385.  
 Ibrāhīm al-Sijzī, 315, 316, 319, 331, 345.  
 Ibrāhīm al-Sukutī, 352.  
 Ibrāhīm Fahīmān [1304- ], 154, 361.  
 Ibrāhīm Hasan, 331.  
 Ibrāhīm ibn Ahmad Shaykh'zādah, 358.  
 Ibrāhīm ibn Hilāl ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Ḥarūn, 42, 377.  
 Ibrāhīm ibn Mī. al-Madani, 380.  
 Ibrāhīm ibn Ramaḍān, 348.  
 Ibrāhīm ibn Sus, 337.  
 Ibrāhīm Munīf, 380.  
 Ibrāhīm Mu'nis, 350.  
 Ibrāhīm Namiq, 136, 357.  
 Ibrāhīm Nāshid ibn Ahmad, 226, 374.  
 Ibrāhīm Sultān [d. 827], 376.  
 Ibrāhīm Waṣfī, 364.  
 Ibrat, Asma, see Asma' Ibrat.  
 Ḥsān [d. 1356], 160.  
 Ḥyās al-Shahīd, 331.  
 'Imād al-Dīn ibn al-'Afīf, see 'Imād al-Dīn Mī. ibn al-'Afīf.  
 'Imād al-Dīn Mī. ibn al-'Afīf, 320.  
 'Isā al-Bandani, 357.  
 'Isa ibn Abī 'Ata, 34.  
 Ishāq ibn Ḥammad, 315, 331.  
 Ishāq ibn Ibrāhīm al-Aḥwal, 319.  
 Ishāq ibn Khalīl al-Makkī, 320.  
 Isma'īl al-Anwarī al-Baghdādī [d. 1175], 18, 112, 200, 349, 357, 369.  
 Isma'īl al-Baghdādī, see Isma'īl al-Anwarī al-Baghdādī.  
 Isma'īl al-Muḥasib [d. 1175], 200, 369.  
 Isma'īl al-Wahbī [d. 1187], 358.

- Ismā'īl Haqqī, Altūn Yazar, 331, 360, 361.  
 Ismā'īl Haqqī ibn Mī. 'Alī, see Ismā'īl Haqqī Tughrākashī al-Iskandarī.  
 Ismā'īl Haqqī Samī [1253-1330], 121, 147, 161, 189, 230, 261, 264, 352 (biog.), 359, 360 (biog.), 361-63, 375, 376, 380, 383.  
 Ismā'īl Haqqī Tughrākashī al-Iskandarī [d. 1355], 166, 179, 182, 205, 264, 348, 354, 359, 364, 380, 383.  
 Ismā'īl ibn 'Alī, 197, 332, 348, 367.  
 Ismā'īl ibn Ishāq al-Ahwal, 319.  
 Ismā'īl Khalīfah, see Ismā'īl ibn 'Alī.  
 Ismā'īl Turk [d. 1085], 348.  
 Ismā'īl Zuhdī, 348, 359.  
 'Izzat Afandī, see Mustafā 'Izzat [d. 1293].  
 'Izzat Mustafā, see Mustafā 'Izzat [d. 1293].  
 Jābī 'Zadah Mī., 348.  
 Ja'far al-Sādiq, Imam, 22, 315.  
 Jalāl Amasī, 331.  
 Jamāl al-Dīn al-Amasī, 348.  
 Jamāl al-Dīn ibn 'Alī, 331.  
 al-Jubūrī, Mahdī Mī. Ṣāliḥ, see Mahdī Mī. Ṣāliḥ al-Jubūrī.  
 Kamāl [from Jordan], 189.  
 Kamāl al-Thānī, 68, 331.  
 Kamil, 160.  
 Kāmil, see Ahmad Kāmil, Rā'īs al-Khattatīn.  
 Kāmil Aqdaḳ, 331.  
 Kāmil Mahmūd al-Marṣifī, 211.  
 al-Karkūkī, see Mī. 'Izzat al-Kirkūkī.  
 Khalaf ibn 'Abd al-Mu'min [d. 1278], 357 (biog.).  
 Khalaf ibn Sulaymān, 338.  
 Khalaf ibn 'Umar [d. 460], 333.  
 Khālīd Afandī, 348.  
 Khālīd ibn Abī al-Hayyāj, 315.  
 Khālīd ibn al-Hayyāj, see Khālīd ibn Abī al-Hayyāj.  
 Khālīl al-Hafīz, 348.  
 al-Khālīl ibn Ahmad al-Farāhīdī, 317.  
 Khandān Mī., 331.  
 Khayr al-Dīn al-Mar'ashī [d. 896], 329, 331.  
 Khulūṣī, see 'Abd Allāh Khulūṣī.  
 Khushnam, 315.  
 al-Kirkūkī, see Mī. 'Izzat al-Kirkūkī.  
 Kūjuk 'Arab'zadah Mī., 348.  
 Kūjuk Darwīsh 'Alī, 348.  
 Lāz 'Umar Waṣfī, 348, 364.  
 Mahdī Mī. Ṣāliḥ al-Jubūrī, 188, 365.  
 Mahmūd Afandī Tanjānī, 348.  
 Mahmūd al-Rajī, 366, 378.  
 Mahmūd Jalāl al-Dīn [d. 1245], 131, 206, 348, 354 (biog.).  
 Mahmūd Khan al-Thānī, Sultan of Turkey [1199-1255], 137, 211, 264, 353, 357.  
 Mahmūd Mustafā, see Mī. Mustafā.  
 Mahmūd Nadīm [d. 1336], 357.  
 Mahmūd Yāzīr [d. 1372], 121, 133, 167, 218, 232, 240, 265, 267, 355 (biog.), 361, 363, 366, 367, 376, 377, 379, 382-85.  
 Majīd al-Turkī, see Majīd ibn Zuhdī.  
 Majīd ibn Zuhdī, 127, 184, 348, 353, 365.  
 Makkāwī, see Mī. 'Alī Makkāwī.  
 Malik al-Daylamī, 222, 332, 373.  
 Malik ibn Kathīr, 33, 315, 319.  
 al-Marjānī, see 'Abd Allāh ibn Yūsuf al-Marjānī.  
 Mawhūb ibn Ahmad al-Jawālīqī, 47, 324.  
 Mīr 'Alī al-Harawī [d. 966], 222, 373.  
 Mīr 'Alī al-Tabrizī, 220, 373.  
 Mīr 'Amad al-Husnī al-Qazwīnī [d. 1024], 69, 222, 332 (biog.), 358, 373, 376.  
 Mīr Mī. Amin, 226, 374.  
 Mīr Muḥī al-Dīn ibn Mī. Jalāl al-Dīn [1278-1311], 132, 355 (biog.).  
 al-Mirjānī, see 'Abd Allāh ibn Yūsuf al-Marjānī.  
 Mīrzā Mī. Husayn Mushkīn'qalam [d. 1330], 231, 375, 377.  
 al-Mu'afirī al-Malaqī, see 'Alī ibn Mī. ibn 'Alī ibn Jamīl al-Mu'afirī al-Malaqī.  
 Mubārak Shāh Qutb [d. 711], 356, 377.  
 Mubārak Shāh al-Sīyufī [d. 735], 356, 377.  
 Mī. 'Abd al-'Azīz, see Mī. 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Rifā'ī.  
 Mī. 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Rifā'ī [d. 1353], 149, 161, 162, 165-67, 176, 182, 186, 205, 207, 230, 235, 239, 262, 273, 348, 360 (biog.), 362, 375, 377, 382.  
 Mī. 'Abd Allāh al-Sayrafī, 377.  
 Mī. 'Abd al-Qadir, 401.  
 Mī. Afandī, 271.  
 Mī. Akram Bak, 178.  
 Mī. al-Anṣārī, 332.  
 Mī. Amīn, al-Sadr al-Ā'zam, see Mīr Mī. Amīn.  
 Mī. al-Badshī al-'Ajāmī, 331.  
 Mī. 'Alī, 231.  
 Mī. 'Alī Haydarlī [d. 1324], 158.  
 Mī. 'Alī ibn Sa'ūdī, see Mī. 'Alī Ṣābir.  
 Mī. 'Alī Makkāwī, 169, 211.  
 Mī. 'Alī Ṣābir [d. 1360], 181, 256, 357 (biog.), 364, 381.  
 Mī. al-Imam, 348.  
 Mī. al-Jamal, 233, 376.  
 Mī. al-Khalīlī, 252.

- Md. al-Kirmānī, 347.  
 Md. al-Nūrī, 358.  
 Md. al-Rajā'ī, see Md. Shākir al-Rajā'ī.  
 Md. al-Shahrī al-Bustānī, 358.  
 Md. al-Simsimānī, see Md. ibn 'Alī al-Simsimānī.  
 Md. al-Wasfī [d. 1247], 125, 348, 353 (biog.).  
 Md. al-Wasīmī, 330.  
 Md. Amīn, see Md. Amīn 'Izzat.  
 Md. Amīn al-'Umarī [d. 1288], 357 (biog.).  
 Md. Amīn Dadah [1300-1364], 148, 360.  
 Md. Amīn 'Izzat [d. 1333], 159, 195.  
 Md. Amīn Rushdī, 352.  
 Md. 'Arab'zādah [d. 1122], 348.  
 Md. 'Arif Bashigtash, 157, 181, 362.  
 Md. As'ad Yasārī [d. 1213], 224, 225, 229, 374, 375.  
 Md. 'Azīz, 202.  
 Md. Badawī al-Dīrānī, 349, 385.  
 Md. Bāhir al-Yasārī, 229, 375.  
 Md. Basīm al-Wafā'ī, 224, 229.  
 Md. Darwīsh al-Baghdādī [d. 1357], 203.  
 Md. Darwīsh al-Barūshkī, 113, 349.  
 Md. Fā'iq, 359.  
 Md. Gharīb, 210.  
 Md. Husayn al-Kashmīrī, 376.  
 Md. ibn 'Abd al-Malik, 328.  
 Md. ibn 'Abd al-Rahman, 333.  
 Md. ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab, 332.  
 Md. ibn Abī Tālib al-Badrī, 77.  
 Md. ibn Ahmad al-Ziftawī [d. 806], 320, 330.  
 Md. ibn 'Alī al-Simsimānī [d. 415], 320.  
 Md. ibn 'Alī ibn Hānī al-Lakhmī, 78, 335.  
 Md. ibn Asad al-Ghāfiqī [d. 410], 320, 331.  
 Md. ibn Faramūz, 331.  
 Md. ibn Hamdī, 331.  
 Md. ibn Hasan al-Tayyibī, 100, 103, 241, 242, 311, 331, 346, 377-80.  
 Md. ibn Hukm ibn Sa'id, 332, 338.  
 Md. ibn Husayn [d. 609], 332.  
 Md. ibn Husayn al-Qurtubī, 337.  
 Md. ibn Ibrāhīm al-Maqdisī, 358.  
 Md. ibn Idrīs al-Shāfi'ī, 21, 315.  
 Md. ibn Isma'īl, 338.  
 Md. ibn Ma'dān, 319.  
 Md. ibn Mansūr ibn 'Abd al-Malik, 320.  
 Md. ibn Md. ibn Yahyā [d. 630], 333.  
 Md. ibn Sabāh, 337.  
 Md. ibn Sa'd al-Razī, 333.  
 Md. ibn Sayyid, 331.  
 Md. ibn Yahyā ibn 'Abd al-Salām al-Qurtubī, 337.  
 Md. Ibrāhīm, 177, 385.  
 Md. 'Izzat [d. 1318], 117, 118, 121, 125-27, 191, 218, 243, 248, 249, 252, 255, 269, 270, 350 (biog.), 352, 353, 360, 361, 373, 379.  
 Md. 'Izzat [1216-1293], 124, 352.  
 Md. 'Izzat al-Kirkūkī [1347- ], 178, 179, 364.  
 Md. Jābī'zādah, see Jābī'zādah Md.  
 Md. Jalabī, al-Darwīsh, 331.  
 Md. Jalāl al-Dīn, 264.  
 Md. Kamāl ibn al-Amīn, 362.  
 Md. Kāmil, see Hāfiẓ Kāmil.  
 Md. Khulūṣī, see 'Abd Allāh Khulūṣī [d. 1291].  
 Md. Khulūṣī [d. 1334], 348, 354, 355, 360, 361.  
 Md. Khwājah'zādah, 348, 358.  
 Md. Mahfūz, 272, 385.  
 Md. Mamdūh, 349, 365, 383.  
 Md. Mu'nis al-Misrī [d. 1290], 116, 117, 124, 349, 352.  
 Md. Mustafā, 162, 362.  
 Md. Najm al-Dīn, 216, 234, 352, 373, 376 (biog.).  
 Md. Naqash'zādah, 348.  
 Md. Naḡif, 348, 361.  
 Md. Nūr [fl. 10th cent.], 376.  
 Md. Rādī, 348.  
 Md. Rafī' Kātib'zādah, 224, 374.  
 Md. Rājī, 349.  
 Md. Rashid [1265-1286], 123, 352 (biog.).  
 Md. Rāsim [d. 1169], 264, 348, 349, 354.  
 Md. Rāsim ibn Husayn Rushdī al-Ṭarabazūnī [d. 1302], 132, 354 (biog.), 359, 383.  
 Md. Riḍa, 356.  
 Md. Ridwan 'Alī, 204, 370.  
 Md. Sābir [d. 1360], 313.  
 Md. Sābirī al-Hilālī [d. 1952 A.D.], 125, 170, 176, 191, 228, 235, 239, 262, 264, 268, 350, 352, 357 (biog.), 358 (biog.), 359, 363, 364, 375, 377, 378, 382, 383, 402.  
 Md. Sa'd Allāh ibn Fātiḥ, 137, 357.  
 Md. Sa'dī al-Razī, 320.  
 Md. Sa'id, 357.  
 Md. Sālih al-Jubūrī, see Maḥdī Md. Sālih al-Jubūrī.  
 Md. Sālih al-Muṣilī [1309- ], 156, 184, 185, 362 (biog.).  
 Md. Shāfiq al-Sayfī, 144, 348, 359.  
 Md. Shāfiq ibn Sulaymān Mahir [d. 1297], 89, 132, 140-44, 204, 207, 228, 231, 256, 352, 353, 354 (biog.), 355, 358, 359 (biog.), 360, 370, 375, 376, 380.  
 Md. Shākir al-Rajā'ī [d. 1291], 202.  
 Md. Shams al-Dīn Khulūṣī, see 'Abd Allāh Khulūṣī.



- Md. Shawqī al-'Iraqī, 114-16, 350.  
 Md. Shawqī ibn Ahmad Aghā [1244-1304], 181, 224, 364 (biog.).  
 Md. Siyam, 187.  
 Md. Tahir, 176, 252.  
 Md. Tahir al-Kurdī al-Makkī, 205, 362, 363, 383, 402.  
 Md. Tawfiq [d. 1343], 148, 360.  
 Md. Waṣfī [fl. 13th cent.], 357.  
 Md. Waṣfī [d. 1347], 176.  
 Md. Zaghlūl, 349, 363.  
 Md. Zahir, 348.  
 Md. Zuḥdī Zakī [d. 1331], 261, 264, 382, 383.  
 Muḥī al-Dīn, 331, 348.  
 Muḥī al-Dīn [d. 1368], 357.  
 Muḥī al-Dīn Amāsī, 331.  
 Muḥī al-Dīn 'Ismat, see Mīr Muḥī al-Dīn ibn Md. Jalāl al-Dīn.  
 Muḥī al-Dīn Khalīfah, 331.  
 Muḥī al-Dīn Kūṣah, 331.  
 Muḥsin al-Mazarbanī, 331.  
 Mu'izz al-Dīn ibn Md. al-Ḥusaynī, 223, 374.  
 Mullā 'Alī, see Md. 'Alī Ṣābir.  
 Mullā Hamūdī, 357.  
 Mullā Jābir [d. 1325], 357.  
 Mullā Muḥsin al-Ta'ī, 357.  
 Mullā Muṣṭafā [d. 1241], 357.  
 Mullā 'Umar Afandī, 354, 358.  
 Muntaz Bak, see Abu Bakr Muntaz ibn Muṣṭafā.  
 Mu'nīs'zadah, see Md. Mu'nīs al-Miṣrī.  
 Musā 'Azmi, see Ḥamid al-Āmidī.  
 Mushkīn'qalam, see Mīrzā Md. Ḥusayn Mushkīn'qalam.  
 al-Miṣlī, Yāqūt ibn 'Abd Allāh, see Yāqūt ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Malikī.  
 Muṣṭafā 'Akif, 361.  
 Muṣṭafā al-Ayyūbī, see Muṣṭafā ibn 'Umar al-Ayyūbī, called Siyūlijī.  
 Muṣṭafā al-Kutāhī, 348.  
 Muṣṭafā al-Sa'ī, 349.  
 Muṣṭafā 'Ashir [d. 1219], 227, 251, 374.  
 Muṣṭafā Dadah, see Muṣṭafā Dahdah.  
 Muṣṭafā Dahdah, 331, 348.  
 Muṣṭafā Dahdah ibn Ḥamd Allāh al-Amāsī [d. 945], 110, 349.  
 Muṣṭafā Farid, 201.  
 Muṣṭafā Ḥilmī Ḥakak'zadah [d. 1266], 125, 353.  
 Muṣṭafā ibn Md., 331.  
 Muṣṭafā ibn Naṣūḥ, 331.  
 Muṣṭafā ibn 'Umar al-Ayyūbī, called Siyūlijī [d. 1097 or 1099], 70, 197, 332 (biog.), 348, 367.  
 Muṣṭafā 'Izzat, Qadī'askar, see Muṣṭafā 'Izzat Yasārī'zadah.  
 Muṣṭafā 'Izzat [d. 1293], 203, 204, 348, 359, 364, 370, 379, 384.  
 Muṣṭafā 'Izzat Yasārī'zadah [d. 1265], 225, 226, 348, 354, 374.  
 Muṣṭafā Khalīfah, 358.  
 Muṣṭafā Qabaq'zadah [d. 1270], 348.  
 Muṣṭafā Qadī'askar, see Muṣṭafā 'Izzat Yasārī'zadah.  
 Muṣṭafā Raqim ibn 'Arif [1291-1368], 149, 360.  
 Muṣṭafā Rāqim ibn Maḥmūd [d. 1241], 114, 138, 139, 144, 201, 211, 264, 348, 349, 355, 357, 358 (biog.), 359, 364, 381, 383.  
 Muṣṭafā Sharīf [d. 1308], 227, 374.  
 Nahuḥ, see al-Ḥasan Nahuḥ.  
 Na'im Afandī, 348.  
 Na'imā, 381.  
 Najīb Hawawīnī, 128, 155, 353 (biog.), 361.  
 Nakhat, 234.  
 Naṣīb Makarim, 130, 354.  
 Naṣīḥ, 264, 380, 383.  
 Naṣīr al-Munshī, 107, 347.  
 Naṣr al-Muḥafī, 332, 338.  
 Naṣr ibn Naṣīr ibn Naṣr al-Ḥadādī, 76, 335.  
 Nazīf Bak, al-Khattāt [1262-1331], 144, 359.  
 Niebur, Carsten, 89.  
 Niyāzī, 227, 357, 374.  
 Nu'mān al-Dhaka'i [d. 1246], 19, 135, 314, 356, 357 (biog.).  
 Nūr al-Dīn al-Wasīmī, 320.  
 Nūr Md. al-Tunju'i, 238.  
 al-Nūrī, Yāqūt ibn 'Abd Allāh, see Yāqūt ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Malikī.  
 Qādir Afandī, 353.  
 Qadrī [fl. 14th cent.], 360.  
 Qahwah'jī Bashi Ibrahim, 70, 332.  
 Qarah 'Alī Afandī, 348.  
 Qarah Ḥasan Afandī, 348.  
 Qarah Ḥusayn Afandī, see Qarah Ḥasan Afandī.  
 Qarah'hisārī, see Ahmad Qarah'hisārī.  
 Qarā'hisārī, see Ahmad Qarah'hisārī.  
 Qasim Afandī, 358.  
 al-Qasim ibn Ismā'īl al-Aḥwal, 319.  
 Qasim ibn Md. ibn Sulaymān al-Hilālī, 332.  
 Qutbah al-Muharrir, 315.  
 Rabī' ibn Sulayman, 321.  
 Raḍīyah, 338.  
 Ra'fut [d. 1369], 169, 363.  
 Rajab Khalīfah, 348.  
 Raja'i, 380.  
 Ramaḍān ibn Ismā'īl [d. 1097], 348.

- Rāqim, see Muṣṭafā Rāqim ibn Maḥmūd.  
 Rasa, 193, 366.  
 Rāshid Afandī [fl. 13th cent.], 359.  
 Rasim, see Md. Rasim ibn Ḥusayn Rushdī al-Ṭarabazūnī.  
 Rida 'Abbās, 376.  
 al-Rifa'ī, see Md. 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Rifa'ī.  
 Rif'at 'Alī Yāzghān, 137, 358.  
 al-Rushdī, see Ḥasan al-Rushdī.  
 Ṣabir, see Md. 'Alī Ṣabir.  
 Ṣabrī, see Md. Ṣabrī al-Ḥilālī.  
 Ṣabrī Ḥilālī, see Md. Ṣabrī al-Ḥilālī.  
 Sa'd al-Dīn, 352.  
 Sa'd Allāh, see Md. Sa'd Allāh ibn Fātiḥ.  
 al-Sajzī, see Ibrāhīm al-Sijzī.  
 Salāḥ Najī, 125, 218, 234, 340, 350, 377.  
 Ṣalīḥ al-Sa'dī, see Taqī al-Dīn Ṣalīḥ al-Sa'dī al-Mūsili.  
 Ṣalīḥ Ḥammāmji'zadah, 358.  
 Ṣalīḥ ibn Ahmad ibn Yahyā al-Sa'dī [d. 1252], 357, 362.  
 Ṣalīḥ ibn Sulaymān Bashā [d. 1239], 357.  
 Ṣalīḥ Na'ilī [1239-1293], 145, 359.  
 Salman, 184.  
 Samī, see Ismā'īl Ḥaqqī Samī.  
 Samī Afandī, see Ismā'īl Ḥaqqī Samī.  
 al-Sayyid 'Alī al-Rifa'ī, 348.  
 al-Sayyid Ḥafiz Kāmil, see Ḥafiz Kāmil.  
 Sayyid Haydar, 331.  
 Sayyid Ibrāhīm, 119, 130, 186, 187, 190, 238, 256, 272, 351 (biog.), 352, 354, 364, 388.  
 Shafīq, see Md. Shafīq ibn Sulaymān Mahir.  
 Shāhā Bashā, 348, 380, 381.  
 Shams al-Dīn Md. al-Ziftāwī, see Md. ibn Ahmad al-Ziftāwī.  
 Sharī ibn al-Amīr, 80, 336.  
 Shawqī, see Md. Shawqī ibn Ahmad Aghā.  
 al-Shaykh, see Ḥamd Allāh al-Amāsī.  
 al-Shaykh al-Thalith, see 'Uthmān al-Ḥafiz.  
 al-Shaykh al-Thānī, see Darwish 'Alī Afandī.  
 al-Shaykh 'Azīz, see Md. 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Rifa'ī.  
 Shihab al-Dīn Ahmad al-Afqam, called ibn al-Irshad, 358.  
 Shihab al-Dīn Ghāzī, 320.  
 al-Shijrī, see Ibrāhīm al-Sijzī.  
 Shuhdah bint al-Abbarī, see Zaynab.  
 Shuhdah bint al-Ibrī, see Zaynab.  
 Shukr Allāh Khalīfah, 348.  
 Sirāj al-Dīn Abū Ḥafṣ 'Umar ibn 'Alī, 80.  
 Siyūlijī'zadah, see Muṣṭafā ibn 'Umar al-Ayyūbī, called Siyūlijī.  
 Sufyān al-Wahbī al-Baghdādī [d. 1277], 134, 228, 314, 356, 357, 375.  
 Sulaymān, 35.  
 Sulaymān Afandī, 352.  
 Sulaymān al-Hijazī, 331.  
 Sulaymān al-Kāshifī, 357.  
 Sulaymān al-Qanūnī, Sultan of Turkey, 384.  
 Sulaymān al-Shakirī, 358.  
 Sulaymān ibn Md. [d. 440], 332.  
 Sulaymān Sa'd al-Dīn Muṣṭaqīm'zadah, 348.  
 Sultan 'Alī al-Mashhadī [d. 919], 220, 221, 373, 376.  
 Suyūlichī, see Muṣṭafā ibn 'Umar al-Ayyūbī, called Siyūlijī.  
 Tabṭub, 319.  
 Ṭahir Afandī [fl. 13th cent.], 348.  
 Ṭahsīn al-Imām, 348.  
 Ṭaknah'jī Ḥasan Jalabī, 348.  
 al-Ṭalaqānī, 'Abd al-Majīd, see 'Abd al-Majīd al-Ṭalaqānī.  
 Ṭalhha ibn 'Amir, 320.  
 al-Ṭaliqānī, see 'Abd al-Majīd al-Ṭalaqānī.  
 Taqī al-Dīn Ṣalīḥ al-Sa'dī al-Mūsili, 136, 357.  
 Tawfiq ibn Md., 348, 352.  
 Ṭayyib Shāh al-Suhrawardī, see Ahmad ibn 'Alī, called Ṭayyib Shāh Suhrawardī.  
 al-Tayyibī, Md. ibn Ḥasan, see Md. ibn Ḥasan al-Tayyibī.  
 Thuraya, 380.  
 al-Tughrā'ī, Abū Ismā'īl al-Ḥusayn ibn 'Alī, 382.  
 Tughrā'kash Ḥaqqī, see Ismā'īl Ḥaqqī Tughrākashī al-Iskandari.  
 'Umar, called Katib al-Saray, 348.  
 'Umar Afandī, see Mullā 'Umar Afandī.  
 'Umar Fa'iq [1271-1337], 147, 160, 360 (biog.), 362.  
 'Umar ibn al-Ḥusayn Ghulam ibn Kharniqā, 320, 333.  
 'Umar ibn 'Alī, see Sirāj al-Dīn Abū Ḥafṣ 'Umar ibn 'Alī.  
 'Umar ibn 'Alī ibn Fāris, 80.  
 'Umar ibn al-Khattāb, Caliph, 20, 314.  
 'Umar Naṣuh Bashā'zadah, 348.  
 'Umar Rushdī, 360.  
 'Umar Waṣfī [1297-1347], 128, 201, 353 (biog.), 354, 359.  
 Uskudari Ḥasan Jalabī, 348.  
 'Uthmān al-Ḥafiz, called al-Shaykh al-Thalith [1052-1110 or 1111], 70, 111, 123, 134, 196, 198, 199, 331, 332 (biog.), 348, 349, 352, 355-58, 380.  
 'Uthmān ibn 'Afan, 20, 21, 314.

'Uthmān Nūrī al-Qarīmī [d. 1317], 348, 382.  
 'Uthman Yāwar [d. 1320], 357, 364, 381.  
 Wadād Afandī, 361.  
 Wahīj, 158, 362.  
 Walī, see 'Adlī al-Misrī.  
 al-Walī al-'Ajāmī, 328, 330, 331.  
 Walī Kūtāhiyah 'Abdī Bak, 260, 382.  
 Yahyā Afandī [fl. 13th cent.], 358.  
 Yahyā al-Rūmī, 331.  
 Yahyā al-Ṣūrī [d. 739], 195, 331, 356, 377.  
 Yahyā Hilmi [d. 1325], 72, 348.  
 Yahyā ibn al-Ḥarith, 337.  
 Ya'ish ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Yūsuf ibn Samālī al-Umawī, 79.  
 Yāqūt al-Musta'ṣimī [d. 1298 A.D.], 60, 61, 99, 130, 203, 255, 312, 320, 328 (biog.), 329, 331, 333, 335, 345, 347, 348, 351, 352, 356-58, 366, 377, 385.  
 Yāqūt ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Malikī [d. 618], 320, 333.  
 Yāqūt ibn 'Abd Allāh al-Rūmī, 333.  
 Yasārī Afandī, 348.  
 Yasārī'zādah, see Muṣṭafā 'Izzat Yasārī'zādah.  
 Yūsuf Afandī [d. 1119], 348.  
 Yūsuf Ahmad al-Misrī, 95, 340.  
 Yūsuf Akhū Ibrāhīm al-Sijzī, 240, 345.  
 Yūsuf Dhanūn al-Misilī [1932- A.D.], 259, 274, 385 (biog.).  
 Yūsuf ibn Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-Hādī, ibn al-Mubarrad, 81.  
 Yūsuf Bashā, 268.  
 Yūsuf Rasā, 194, 349.

Zaghnūs Bashā, 268.  
 Zahr, 157, 362.  
 Zakī Dadah, 348.  
 Zarīn'khayt, 235-37, 378.  
 Zarīn'qalam, see Hasan Zarīn'qalam.  
 Zayn al-'Abidīn al-Sharīf al-Ṣafawī, 72, 333, 339.  
 Zayn al-Dīn, Najī, 24, 92, 96, 116, 119, 121, 340.  
 Zayn al-Dīn 'Abd al-Rahmān ibn Yūsuf al-Qahirī, see Ibn al-Ṣa'igh.  
 Zaynab, called Shuhdah al-Ibbarī [d. 574], 320, 328.  
 al-Ziftawī, see Mī. ibn Ahmad al-Ziftawī.  
 Zū al-Ri'āsitayn, see al-Fadl ibn Sahl, Abū al-'Abbas.

N.B.: The two printings of Zayn al-Dīn's Muṣawwar al-Khayt al-'Arabī brought out in Baghdad in 1968 and 1974 are essentially the same. This index can be used for both. Turkish names have been romanized as though they were Arabic; however, the text is not consistent in orthography in these cases, so neither is the index. All dates are for hijrah years, unless noted otherwise.

Michael Albin is Field Director, Library of Congress Office, Cairo, Egypt.

#### COLLATION FOR THE NOTES: Publications Announced. (cont. from p. 26)

The Catalog of the Middle Eastern Collection, Formerly the Oriental Institute Library : First Supplement has recently been published by the Boston firm of G.K. Hall with 1977 as imprint date. The University of Chicago Library's Middle East staff send this announcement of the first supplement in a series planned. Access to bibliographic information in this Supplement is by main entry, and in it are represented Chicago's holdings on the Middle East in general and in Middle Eastern languages in particular. The task of editing the card file for filming was shared among the Middle East staff, who hope that the Supplement will be as useful and successful a bibliographic research aid in Middle Eastern studies as was the Catalog itself.

Position Vacancies. The University of Michigan Library is seeking a Near East Cataloger (Assistant Librarian) to perform descriptive and subject cataloging in Near Eastern languages. Requirements include the MLS degree, a working knowledge of French and German, strong competence in Arabic as demonstrated on the Arabic Proficiency Test, a reading knowledge of modern Persian (Farsi), second graduate degree in Islamic history and civilization, and good communication skills in both English and Arabic. Write to:

Mrs. Lynn Marko, Assistant for Personnel and Staff Development, 818 Hatcher Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.

Since the issue of NOTES no. 12 notices of a few other position vacancies have been received by the Editor for possible publication. Application deadlines have expired on these, so they can not be used. Due to our infrequent publication schedule the chances of useful publication of notices is not so high as it would be in a weekly or monthly publication. As a reminder to all members of MELA, interested library science or Middle East area students, and library personnel officers who may be notified of this service, our MELA Secretary-Treasurer maintains a coordinating service to provide current information regarding position vacancies and qualified personnel actively interested in relocating. First contact regarding position vacancies should be made there.

Miscellanea. "Grants and Awards" noted in LC Information Bulletin, 5/6/77, p.305.

...!The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced a grant of nearly \$15,000 to the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA) of the Association for Asian Studies to support a project entitled Southeast Asia Research Tools : a survey of the need for a national development plan. Shiro Saito of the University of Hawaii and the current chairman of the CORMOSEA Subcommittee on Reference Aids, will direct the project."

Mark Day, MELA member seconded from Indiana University Library's Government Publications Department to Riyadh University Library's GPD writes to compare notes and say that the Documentation and Scientific Publications Dept. there publishes an accession list for the Riyadh University Library. Mark has persuaded the officer there to send a copy to each contact person for North American Libraries indicated in the 1976 MELA/MESA Directory of Library Collections on the Middle East in the United States and Canada.

Martha Dukas, representing MELA, met with other members of the subcommittees on subject analysis and descriptive cataloging of African and Asian materials at ALA 1978 Midwinter Meeting to prepare a report to be relayed to LC. General recommendations to LC included: 1) resolution of inconsistencies in name headings; 2) more specific subject headings, especially chronological subdivisions; 3) more attention to Asian and African materials, and better use of expertise at LC; 4) elimination of offensive terms and avoidance of western oriented terminology; 5) use of vernacular for culture-specific terms and English for multi-cultural usage; 6) increased history and scope notes. A tentative structure of the final report was formulated. Each area member will submit his or her own section's work by May 15 to the Chair of each subcommittee so the reports can be duplicated for presentation at the annual meeting in June.

Note by Frances Morton.

#### News of the Members. (Cont. from p. 10)

William P. Collins is a new associate member. Address: Bahá'í World Centre Library, P.O. Box 155, Haifa 31-000, Israel.

Simon Samoeil is a new associate member. Address: 16 Linden St., New Haven, CT 06511.

Mark Day's address for 1978 and possibly '79 is: Central Library (Government Publications Dept.), P.O. Box 2454, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.