MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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NOT SO QUIET ON THE FAR EASTERN FRONT

Transliteration schemes continue to roil library waters.
At about the same time that LC announced its inclination to move
to total romanization in order to include Middle Eastern materials
in MARC, it also voiced a liking to pinyin, a new transliteration
devised by the People's Republic of China to romanize Chinese
characters. Sensing that pinyin is the wave of the future, LC
wants to make the transliteration switch coincidentally with the
closing of the catalog and introduction of AACR 2. This would
make a clean break with the older Wade-Giles system and nicely
commit new Chinese cataloging to Mainland approved pinyin. Such
a change obviously would reflect a reversal in the international
statuses of Taiwan and Mainland China.

I think everybody agrees that neither Wade-Giles nor pinyin
is markedly superior to the other. Pinyin does allow aggregation
of phonetic units to make "words," but, because Chinese characters
are ideographs and not phonetic signs, any romanization scheme is
necessarily imprecise. A phonetic unit such as "chu" can represent
a number of different graphic characters. Only by incorporating
superscript numbers -- a typographical nightmare -- can romanization
gain precision. Nobody thinks this is practical for a library
catalog. Arguments in favor of one system over the other then take
on historical and political tones. Discourse takes place in terms
of tradition versus modernity. Responses to a recent questionnaire
on whether research libraries preferred LC to keep Wade-Giles or to
switch to pinyin showed a slight majority for pinyin. However, a
strong majority of the libraries with large East Asian collections
opposed pinyin, either altogether or until the PRC system is better
standardized and shows promise of stability. The stakes are high.
If LC changes to pinyin, a library with a Chinese collection either
has to close its catalog and open a new one, or has to change
access points back to Wade-Giles. Sceptical of LC arguments that
the change to pinyin by the New York Times, news magazines, and the
British National Library marks the demise of Wade-Giles (and other
Western Orientalist transliterations), RLG has urged LC to delay
its decision.

The situation is complicated by the fact that RLG has contracted
with LC to develop the hardware and software necessary to make
Chinese characters machine readable and MARC-compatible. RLG's
position is that it is better to wait until the automated Chinese
character file is ready and then make the Wade-Giles/pinyin decision.
By then (1983) the consequences of switching or not switching will
be better understood. But LC insists that it is faced with a now

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or 'not in the foreseeable future' decision. Either it jumps on
the pinyin bandwagon in time for the opening of the new, AACR 2
catalog, or it sticks with Wade-Giles for another epoch. LC has
distributed a second questionnaire that does not allow the choice
of delay. Libraries must make the tough decision now. No more
flirting with pinyin. Betroth or desist is the LC challenge.

        In devising its own transliteration system, the government
of China has made romanization an international issue. In
response, LC is asking whether the weight of the Orientalist past
should hold its own against the power of the Orient's present.
LC is really querying research libraries whether their catalogs
should reflect the discontinuities of China's history. Should
libraries stick to the conventions of the past, or should they
let the old die and go with the new? Will it be Mao, Tse-tung
or Mao, Zedong; Peking or Beijing? Will libraries follow
professors of the nineteenth century or mass media of the twentieth?
In playing the role of provoker, LC has made international
relevance a central factor in deciding which transliteration to
follow. It is uncertain whether LC will persuade the large Far
Eastern collections to effect a cultural revolution in their
catalogs. But it is characteristic of the massive push toward
computerized standardization that everybody -- the local branch
that circulates Dream of the Red Chamber as well as large Chinese
vernacular collections -- has a stake in the decision. It is to
LC's credit that it has floated the balloon and invited the fireworks.

                                                CF

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, SALT LAKE CITY, NOVEMBER 7, 1979

At the end of the morning program*, Rashid Wu and the University of Utah treated us to lunch in a lovely dining room with an alpine view and then to a tour of the Aziz Atiya library. The latter included an exhibit of the library's finest manuscripts. Après déjeuner we recollected for our annual business meeting. In the absence of Ed Jajko, who was ill, David Partington, Vice-president, presided. Marsha McClintock gave the treasurer's report. MELA started the year with $1874.12. Income from membership dues ($232), sales of Arabic Union List ($560), the membership list and back issues of the Notes ($76,50)and interest ($85.30) totalled $953.80. Expenses were MELA Notes ($694.68), cancelled subscriptions ($9) and production of the Arabic Script Union List Supplement ($504). An excess of expenditures over income of $253.88 reduced our balance to $1620.24. McClintock noted that MELA was fiscally sound. In 1980 MELA will receive income from the Arabic Script Union List Supplement, catch up on unpaid dues, and reduce the expense of producing the Notes.

Chris Filstrup reported on COMRAD's role in stimulating individual and institutional responses to LC's proposed move to total romanization of Arabic script materials. Frances Morton, MELA's liaison to ALA, reported on the activity of the Committee for Cataloging Asian and African Materials, which approved a romanization table for Santali and discussed the pros and cons of pinyin. The editor of MELA Notes apologized for tardy publication of issues past, promised prompter delivery in 1980, and pled for submissions.

The membership elected Basima Bezirgan (Texas) Vice-president/ Program chairperson.

At the close of the business meeting, Partington presented to James Pollock a bound volume of MELA Notes 1 - 15 as a token of our appreciation of Pollock's outstanding work as MELA's premier editor.

[*All of the morning and most of the afternoon of MELA's annual meeting was devoted to a program of oral reports on collection building, technical services,and public services. Full papers on which the reports were based will be published separately in the near future.]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION QUESTIONNAIRE by Francine McNulty

During the first week of December 1979, seventy six questionnaires were sent to Middle Eastern librarian colleagues in the United States and Canada who are professional or associate members of MELA. My purpose in formulating the questionnaire was to gather information on the extent to which MELA members are currently engaged in BI, and to gauge the amount of interest in BI and attitudes concerning its importance relative to other professional responsibilities, and also to solicit suggestions concerning what MELA might do to promote bibliographic instruction. Although only twenty of the seventy six questionnaires were returned, the number of libraries represented by the respondants is actually forty three percent of the American and Canadian libraries on the MELA membership list.

The results of the survey are summarized in the following table and are incorporated in the list of recommendations. Without exception , respondants indicated that Middle Eastern librarians should be interested in BI, even though only one fourth of them actually assign top priority to it. Those who do not devote a great deal of time to BI are unable to do so because of competing interests: administrative responsibilities and cataloging backlogs receive higher priority.

Several respondants indicated an interest in a workshop at which MELA members could exchange experiences in providing BI, learn teaching and organizational skills which promote more effective instruction, and identify teaching materials which could be cooperatively developed. In the New England area, an excellent resource is already available to coordinate and present this kind of workshop. The Bibliographic Instruction Committee of the New England Chapter of ACRL, in conjunction with its New England Bibliographic Instruction Collection (NEBIC) Subcommittee, has been sponsoring workshops for librarians who seek training in instructional techniques, and who want to know how to design syllabi and other teaching aids. These workshops are specifically designed for small groups of librarians (maximum thirty) of similar interests so as to generate full participation and exchange of ideas and information. Based on a model developed and extensively tested by the Committee, the small workshops are tailored to the specific needs and interests of the participants.

In conclusion, while all respondants to my questionnaire acknowledge the importance of bibliographic instruction, most are

limited in the amount of instruction they are able to provide
because of the lack of time to create the necessary teaching
aids. Nearly every respondant agreed on the need for MELA
members to cooperate and share the responsibility for producing
such materials. MELA, by channeling our members' enthusiasm
for BI into constructive projects aimed at developing teaching
skills, exchanging ideas, and designing a package of instructional
materials, can perform a valuable service to both Middle Eastern
librarians and non-specialists alike.

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I.   Recommendations of MELA members concerning MELA's role in promoting BI.

A.   <u>Publications</u>

1.   Syllabus for course on Near Eastern bibliography. "MELA could prepare a BI syllabus categorized according to area, period, and major academic discipline...With a standardized syllabus, librarians could...instruct BI courses or give course related lectures at their schools' Middle Eastern Centers...Such a syllabus might be compiled by submitting questionnaires to each MELA member for suggestions in the areas in which s/he feels most competent. Correlation could be accomplished by representative committees under a responsible chairman who could see the syllabus through to publication."

2.   Pathfinders on particular subjects.

3.   Point-of-use guides which explain how to use difficult bibliographic and reference tools.

4.   Explanation of how to conduct subject searches in the card catalog using LCSH.

B.   MELA should sponsor a <u>BI workshop</u> for its membership.

II. The following materials will be contributed to LOEX* by these libraries by March 1, 1980:

A.   <u>Course Syllabi</u>

Ohio State University Libraries. Marsha McClintock, Middle East Librarian, instructor, five credit course for undergrads and grad. students.

University of Minnesota, Wilson Library. Nassif Youssif, Head, Middle East Library, instructor, "Bibliography of Middle East Studies," full course for undergrads and grad. students.

B.   <u>Point-of-Use Guides</u>

Ohio State University Libraries

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    C.   <u>Guides to the Literature</u>

        Alderman Library, University of Virginia

        General Libraries, University of Texas at Austin

        Harvard College Library

        Islamic Studies Library, McGill University

        Wilson Library, University of Minnesota

*While most respondants indicated that they had designed some
type of teaching aid or guide to the literature, very few
indicated their intention to contribute to LOEX. All MELA members
are again urged to contribute to this worthwhile project. The
address of LOEX:
        Project LOEX
        Center of Educational Resources
        Eastern Michigan University
        Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

III. Bibliographic instruction at responding MELA libraries

Institution	librarian gives ME BI	ME bibliog. course at Near East center	library gives gen. BI to grads	library gives gen. BI to undergrads	Area/Period/Language Emphasis of ME BI
Arizona	ah			X	ACMWV ICMWV NCMWV TCMWV SCMWV
Berkeley		X	X	X	0
Georgetown			X	X	
Harvard	ah	X		X	ACMWV IMWV
Indiana	ah	X		X	ACMWV NMWV
McGill	*1	X	X	X	ACMWV TCMWV ICMWV
Minnesota	ci fc	X	X	X	ACMWV ICMW
New York U.	ah		X	X	ACMWV ICMWV NCMWV TCMW
Ohio State	ah cr fc	X	X	X	ACMWV ICMWV NCMWV TCMWV
Princeton	ah cr			X	ACMW IW NW TW
Toronto		X	O	O	ACMWV ICMWV NCMWV TCMWV
U.Tex.,Austin	ah *2		X	X	NMWV ACMWV ICMWV
U. Va.	ah cr		X	X	ACMW SCMW NCMW
Wisconsin			O	O	

A - Arab countries   C - Classical period   W - Western languages
N - Near East   M - Modern period   V - Vernacular languages
S - South Asia
I - Iran
T - Turkey

X - Yes
O - No answer given on questionnaire

Instruction Formats Used by Librarians

ah- Ad hoc
ci- Course integrated
cr- Course related
fc- Full course
* - Other

*1 - Instructional seminars offered by the Readers Service of the Islamic Studies Library

*2 - Graduate Library Seminar, offered to all graduate students in various disciplines of Middle Eastern studies. Seminar meets twice per month for 1 1/2 hours.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NATIONAL UNION CATALOG
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK by Gloria Hsia (with introduction and
afterword by CF)

     Back in November 1978, Ed Jajko, then President of MELA,
reported on the year's business with LC. At the end of that report,
Jajko stated that the NUC office at LC had not been forwarding
Yale's reports of Hebrew-script cataloging to the Hebraic Section.
For his full statement, see MELA Notes, 16: 4-5. In response to
Jajko's remarks as published in MELA Notes, Gloria Hsia, Chief of
LC's Catalog Publication Division, sent MELA Notes a rebuttal.
Slightly abridged, it follows.

     "The article in the February 1979 MELA Notes about the National
Union Catalog and the activities of LC's Catalog Publication
Division contains several inaccuracies. It is appropriate, therefore,
that members of the Middle East Librarians Association be informed
of the Near East and Hebraic entries, and locations for those
entries, that are included in the printed current National Union
Catalog (Post-1955 imprints) and in the card-form Hebraic Union
Catalog, the card-form National Union Catalog of Yiddica, and the
card-form Near East National Union Catalog.

     As part of the Library of Congress' services to the libraries
of the Nation, the Catalog Publication Division is responsible
for soliciting and receiving reports to the National Union Catalog
(NUC), and for processing these reports. The Catalog Publication
Division is also responsible for the preparation and editing of
the post-1955 NUC. In its published form, the post-1955 NUC
provides a continuing record of a significant portion of the
library resources of the Nation. With LC printed cards, the post-
1955 NUC is a complete record of current LC cataloging, regardless
of imprint and regardless of language or alphabet. Full coverage
is provided for LC cataloging of Near East and Hebraic materials.
In the case of Near East materials, reports from outside libraries
of pre-1956 imprints are forwarded immediately to the African and
Middle Eastern Division. Also, outside-library reports of post-
1955 imprints--if the Library of Congress has not cataloged a par-
ticular title--are forwarded, after searching, to the African
and Middle Eastern Division for inclusion in the Near East union
catalog card file. Recent discussions with George Atiyeh and
others in the Research Services Department have confirmed that
these NE reports have been received periodically in the Near East
Section.

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The National Union Catalog and its Register of Additional Locations (RAL) also provide a published record of the added locations of both Near East and Hebraic titles. For Hebraic materials, the location symbol of the holding library is posted to LC or outside-library catalog records. Near East outside-library reports are posted as pertinent to LC catalog records. Both the Near East and Hebraic added locations are being input promptly into the automated RAL data base. (The RAL was automated in 1972, and the processing of reports is kept current.) The automated RAL is available for on-line search within LC and is published in annual book-form issues and in a Cumulative Microform Edition, which is currently available on 48x microfiche.

The initial processing of the Hebraic reports is done as follows. The Catalog Publication Division sets aside the pre-1956 imprints and forwards these to the Hebraic Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division. At the same time, those reports carrying an LC or NUC card number are set aside and sent for input to the automated RAL. The remaining cards are to be searched in the NUC Control File. At this point, however, the to-be-searched cards are duplicated and the copies are sent to the Hebraic Section. The last shipment of cards to the Hebraic Section was during the week of March 19, 1979. Another group is at present being prepared for shipment. This present accumulation of approximately seven month's Hebraic reports shows the following card totals:

1,800 (10.4%)   Pre-1956 imprints which will be forwarded immediately to the Hebraic Section.

5,150 (29.8%)   Added locations which will be forwarded for input to the automated RAL.

10,325 (59.8%) Post-1955 imprints which will be searched in the NUC Control File to determine if these are new titles or added locations. (This group of cards will be copied and the copies forwarded immediately to Hebraic Section.)

17,275 (100%)   Total Hebraic receipts March-October 1979.

Under these procedures, two important needs are met on a regular and reasonably prompt basis: (1) post-1955 added locations are published and (2) the Hebraic Section is supplied with a notice of all the reports which are potentially new titles.

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A number of years ago, a commitment was made to include in the National Union Catalog in romanized form Hebraic reports for which LC printed catalog cards were not available. Because of the difficulty of finding qualified staff to search, romanize, and edit the Hebraic NUC reports for publication, an arrearage of searching and editing has accumulated. However, a procedure for photocopying all Hebraic entries at the point of entering the searching and editing process was instituted many years ago in order that there be no delay in notifying the Hebraic Section of these reports. The photocopies of these entries are batched and forwarded to the Hebraic Section for incorporation into the card-form Hebraic and Yiddish catalogs at least once a year and usually several times a year.

Thus, the established procedures in the Catalog Publication Division provide good bibliographic coverage for Near East and Hebraic materials in the NUC and in the RAL. These procedures also assure that the card-form catalogs maintained in the Hebraic and Near East Sections should be bibliographically complete. However, this system will operate properly only if all reports submitted by cooperating libraries are directed to the Catalog Publication Division.

Several statements in the MELA Notes report of February 1979 are either incorrect or stand in need of qualification.

'... the NUC does not file Arabic-language reports from outside LC, but sends them on to [the Near East] Section for inclusion in the Near East Catalogues.'

If an NUC report from outside LC for a post-1955 monograph has an LC card number, this card will not go to the Near East Section; it will be sent for input to the automated RAL and will be published in the next RAL issue. Further, for those reports without card numbers, the Catalog Publication Division searches to determine if a particular monographic imprint has been cataloged by LC; these too, if found, go to the RAL for publication. It is the post-1955 entries which LC has not cataloged, along with all pre-1956 imprints, that are forwarded to the Near East Section. In effect, a published record of post-1955 added locations is provided and other monographic titles not covered by LC cataloging of post-1955 imprints are assured inclusion in the Near East card files.

'...for a number of years those cards have not been forwarded by the NUC office.'

This statement is incorrect. The Catalog Publication Division has been and will continue forwarding outside-library reports to the Near East Section for inclusion in the card catalog.

'... I looked into the ... catalogues of the Hebraic ⌈Section⌉ ... To my surprise, I could find no Yale cards.'

To evaluate a system fairly, one must account for all of the parts. In the instance cited, no accounting was made of the large number of added locations which are published in the RAL.

'... 20,000 cards which had not been forwarded to the ⌈Hebraic⌉ section by the Catalog Publication Division.'

The 20,000 Hebraic cards referred to are awaiting searching and editing in Catalog Publication Division and all of them were photocopied and sent at the time they entered the arrearage, despite statements to the contrary.

This response to the article in the February 1979 MELA Notes has been made in order that members of the Middle East Librarians Association may better understand the current services provided through the NUC and the Catalog Publication Division. For the system to operate properly, all reports must be directed to the Catalog Publication Division, and for this the cooperation of reporting libraries is essential.

The Catalog Publication Division welcomes any comments or inquiries. The mailing address is Library of Congress, Catalog Publication Division, Washington, D.C. 20540.

To her statement, Ms. Hsia attached two appendices -- one a flow chart of the Catalog Publication Division's procedures for processing Near East and Hebraic reports, and the other examples of CtY Hebraic and Near East reports in the RAL. The flow is lucid and available upon request from MELA Notes. In late February, I spoke to Jajko on the telephone about Hsia's rebuttal. Jajko is unconvinced that the NUC procedures really work as Hsia limns them and promises to open a second round of dialogue in a future MELA Notes.

THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY LIBRARY by John M. Madden

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Library is located at Arlington Hall Station in Arlington, Virginia, approximately three miles southwest of the Pentagon. It provides reference library services to all members of the intelligence and military communities in the United States. However, our primary users are our own DIA analysts and several Pentagon offices.

Library holdings consist of hard-copy, microfilm and microfiche books, periodicals, finished intelligence documents, and intelligence reports. These items are accessible through an on-line data-base system by all the traditional means of access of a card catalogue system, i.e., author, title and subject, and, additionally, by certain, "keywords" within the book, document or report. A slightly less complete version of this on-line system is available to our customers as a computer output microfilm catalogue. A final means of access to the library's collection is through a hard-copy title listing and hard-copy serials title and report number listings.

All materials processing is accomplished in a "Documents Analysis" section, separate from the reference library itself. Until approximately two years ago, documents analysis utilized the LC Subject Headings for its subject cataloguing. More recently, however, the section has developed and used its own Thesaurus, which has provided better coverage for military-related subjects.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the DIA reference library is its division into several world areas, with a librarian in charge of each area for reference and acquisition purposes. My position is that of Middle East and general reference librarian. The Middle Eastern materials, like those of the other areas (e.g., Soviet Union, Latin America, Africa), are shelved in their own special section, and, within that section, by the individual country most pertinent to the subject content of the book or document, according to a modified LC classification scheme. At the head of each such section are the materials dealing with the area as a whole. In the Middle East area we also have a "Persian Gulf" location for materials dealing with more than one country in that region. This entire area arrangement allows for faster retrieval and more expenditious browsing on the part of our users. Intelligence reports are filed in a separate area, by producer and then by number).

As the Middle East reference librarian, I am called upon to

answer all Middle East-related reference requests, be they written, by phone, or in person. To aid me in my tasks, I can call upon a number of classified on-line data bases for access to our own holdings and intelligence reports, and upon the New York Times Information Bank and the ORBIT and DIALOG on-line systems for access to a wealth of unclassified information. Since I am the only person in the library who knows the Arabic script, I am also occasionally asked to identify a piece in that script for the documents analysis section.

The pressures associated with working at the DIA Library are rather different from those in an academic setting. Although it is a research library, the librarians are expected to do much more bibliographic development, retrieval and examination of materials than librarians or users at academic institutions would feel they should do. Time is often of the essence as well, an added pressure not usually encountered in the academic library. Too, since ours is a special library, the librarians there feel some obligation to let users or potential users know of their existence and the services they can perform.

This has been a necessarily brief overview of the DIA Library and my position in it. For me, personally, the change from academic to special librarianship has been a very positive one. The challenges of directly serving users, plus becoming conversant with numerous on-line data bases, have kept me very busy since I arrived here in May 1979. And I now have the added advantages of living in the Washington, D.C. area and being able to keep abreast of a world "hot spot" as part of my daily work.

COMRAD REPORT by Chris Filstrup

The Committee on Machine Readable Arabic Data (COMRAD) met on November 8, 1979, in Salt Lake City. We started off with a committee lunch and then moved to an open meeting at the Utah Hotel. Classicist and computer buff, Pierre MacKay (rhymes with "rye"), showed up to regale us with the ins and outs of putting the computer to Arabic script work. Over the last ten years MacKay has worked on computerizing Arabic-script languages for editorial purposes. Springer-Verlag used MacKay's editorial program KATIB and script display program HATTAT to produce Gerald Toomer's

edition and translation, <u>Diocles on Burning Mirrors</u> (1976).
MacKay describes both programs in his article "Setting Arabic
with a Computer" (<u>Scholarly Publishing</u>, January 1977).

Dressed in a fatigue jacket and looking more the archaeologist
than computer programmer, MacKay joined us for cream cheese soup
(a desert plateau specialty?) and sandwiches and afterwards spent
several hours explaining how the computer can learn Arabic without
tears. MacKay has programmed a Hewlitt-Packard keyboard terminal
so that a standard IBM keyboard, when put into an escape mode,
produces Arabic script on the screen. In its regular mode the
keyboard inputs Roman characters and other conventional signs. In
the escape mode, the same keys produce Arabic characters. For
example, in the escape mode, p = پ , P = چ , r = س , R = ش , and
so forth. The escape mode arrangement follows that of an IBM
Persian typewriter but expanded to include Ottoman variants and
additions as well.

The escape mode procedure leaves the main frame -- the central
"number cruncher" of the computer system -- insouciant of the
Arabic form of the data displayed. Because the binary code remains
the same, the main frame is happily ignorant of how its machina-
tions become visible. Programmers do not have to tamper with the
basic software of the main frame to accomodate Arabic script
activity. It is important, according to MacKay, not to load down
the main frame with particularistic software. MacKay's programs
for editing and CRT display are restricted to a terminal, to the
periphery, where they belong.

What KATIB and HATTAT do require are 1) the modified Hewlitt-
Packard terminal, and 2) a main frame coded to standards set by
the American International Standards Office, International
Standards Office, and Federal Information Processing Office. MacKay
says that not all computers are coded to these standards, but they
should be. So if a systems officer in your institution attempts to
beat down your first charge into computer politics by saying that the
software will not accomodate KATIB, don't retreat. A main frame
that does not hum according to ISO, ANSI, and FIP standards is sub-
standard. MacKay contends that in the best of all worlds he could
edit an Arabic script text by telephone as long as there was a
modified Hewlitt-Packard terminal plugged into a properly coded
computer. Since the program for script display resided in the
terminal, neither can the systems office fend you off by saying it
is too expensive to write a new program for the main frame. From

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MacKay's vantage, the technology of the escape mode offers escape from dependence on programmers more concerned with checks than texts,with staff than ḵāf.

MacKay's programs and terminal are designed for the simplest, 7-bit computer. Limited to a basic set of 128 characters, it was impossible for MacKay to fashion an attractive font using one character per binary digit. Arabic cold type fonts run from a readable 450 bits to an elegant 900. To produce readable script, MacKay analyzed Arabic characters into 120 basic strokes of cursive script. In combining the appropriate strokes to form a letter, HATTAT abides by traditional rules of calligraphy. For the genera-tion of texts such as Diocles this cursive style is a happy marriage of computerization and traditional form.

The CRT display is, in MacKay's estimation, as readable and no less pleasing than al-Ahram. The screen, 80 characters across and 24 lines high, is adequate for searching and editing. For more sophisticated display in hard copy form, one could write a VideoComP program that would be loaded in the main frame and would produce from qiṇds a script closer to cold type styles. So a library could use HATTAT for terminal work and reserve a more sophisticated and much more expensive VideoComp hook up for final, public copy.

It is important to keep in mind that KATIB is an editorial program with clever editing maneuvers and simple CRT display. MacKay's software does not tag different kinds of information or search keywords or find combinations of data. Whether KATIB and HATTAT can be adapted to library use is unclear, at least to members of COMRAD.

In the meantime, MacKay's development work is finished. He can produce results on the one terminal he had adapted. It is up to Hewlitt-Packard to take the next step of making the terminal commercially available. MacKay estimates that if Hewlitt-Packard would make 500 terminals, they would sell for about 3500 dollars each, a price affordable by any institution working with Arabic script materials.

After listening to MacKay, COMRAD became more convinced than ever that the library community needs a rigorous, comprehensive survey of what hardware and software is available and how they can be adapted to library purposes. This would require a grant to hire an independent consulting agency. COMRAD agreed 1) to discuss this

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matter with systems people in home institutions and networks, and 2) to draft a letter to Joe Howard at LC requesting LC's cooperation in developing MARC-compatible hardware and programs. Since COMRAD's meeting in Utah, RLG has contracted with LC to develop the hardware and software necessary to make East Asian scripts MARC-compatible. Having secured funding of 1.2 million dollars, RLG promises to deliver the package in three years. This takes RLG out of the Arabic script business for at least that long. Other agencies bruited about are OCLC, the League of Arab States, various universities in the Middle East, especially in the Arabian Peninsula, and Morocco. COMRAD continues to hear sundry reports of good intentions and pilot projects, but a coherent picture eludes us. It seems imperative that libraries of the West and the Middle East somehow coordinate their efforts and start serious discussions on standardization and MARC-compatibility.

HARVARD CONSER UPDATE by Francine McNulty

Since April 1978 the Middle Eastern Department of Harvard College Library has been engaged in the difficult and complex project of inputting its bibliographic records for Arabic and Modern Turkish serials to the CONSER data base. This initial stage of the project, the culmination of thousands of hours invested in recataloging and inventorying the collections, preparing accurate holdings records, tagging and inputting, is at last completed. The Department's on-line serial file now contains some 650 Arabic and 140 Turkish bibliographic records, with a corresponding locally accessible holdings record for each title. The vast majority of these records represent either original input or a substantial upgrading of existing records in the CONSER data base.

Preparations for the final stage of the Department's participation in CONSER are now under way. This stage consists of recataloging Widener Library's entire Ottoman Turkish serial collection of well over one hundred titles and preparing them for input to the data base. Moreover, some sixty Arabic records representing recently cataloged or recataloged titles will be added to the existing file. The Department expects to complete this final stage of the project in June 1980, by which time it will have contributed over 950 bibliographic records to CONSER.

A number of distributable products derived from Harvard's
CONSER data have been envisioned. The most valuable in terms of
bibliographic control is an alphabetic listing of Harvard's Arabic
and Turkish titles, together with complete holdings information.
Such a list will provide for access to all added entries, including
added titles, editors, and corporate bodies. In addition, the
Department expects to produce chronological and geographical
listings as well as a listing by subject so as to give the greatest
possible access to the records and to increase the potential value
of the data for bibliographic research.

BOOK REVIEW by David Partington

The rarity of an occurence is oft likened to a blue moon's
appearing within human eye-sight. Although few librarians were
looking skyward at the time, we can thank our stars for the
appearance of Gustav Meiseles' Reference Literature to Arabic
Studies; a bibliographical guide. (Tel Aviv: University Publishing
Projects, 1978).

This is the kind of book that every young orientalist hopes
to ensconce among the fixed stars in the firmament of bibliography,
raised up from a carefully tended file of 3 x 5 cards. Alas, it
rarely happens that a person with a catholic range of interests can
bring a protestant perspicuity to the task: Dr. Meiseles of
Tel Aviv may be the ecumenist we need.

The first law of bibliographics is that a bibliography must
be useful to mankind. The first requirement of the compiler is
to clearly delineate the boundaries of his topic so that anyone
who tries the work will immediately see its pertinence for his
quest. While Reference Literature is beyond question a needed
and useful work, Meiseles does not clearly delineate his concept.
On one hand he seems to restrict himself to philology, on the other
he intends "a contribution to the whole field of Middle Eastern
studies" (p. xiii). To this reviewer, the book in hand falls
between these objectives.

What, then, are "Arabic Studies?" The word "Arabic", while
it once referred to the natives of Arabia, is an adjective that
today refers most properly to the language of the Arabs. In

Meiseles' book, "Arabic Studies" covers not only the philology
and literature that a strict definitionist would expect, but a
wider range of topics: biography; encyclopedias; paleography;
Koran; hadith; historical and geographical sources; Islamic art;
and, finally, periodicals -- almost the orientalist corpus pre-
sented within an Arabic frame of reference. The "social sciences"
are virtually ignored, as one would expect; but Meiseles' also
excludes philosophy and the physical or exact sciences, except for
references to the lexicography of those subjects. It is in-
comprehensible to this reviewer why Islamic art is included in a
work whose intent is "philology, in the broad sense of that term."
Despite the emphasis on language and literature (76% of the text
does deal with subjects from a philological slant) the book ignores
proverb literature and makes no mention of printing history.

Meiseles chose not to include the names of publishers in
his bibliographical data. Nevertheless, this is a useful book
because it is systematically and well-arranged in convenient format
and size. The items selected for inclusion are in English, German,
French, Italian, Russian, Arabic and Hebrew. Specialists will
welcome especially the more than 450 entries in Arabic script,
ensuring that the beauty of the page be unblemished by the scars
of "romanization."

The value of the book for librarians is enhanced by lists of
periodicals, tables of romanization, explanations of abbreviations
found in Arabic books, chronological tables of the genesis of
Arabic studies in East and West. Fifty plates of pages from
significant bibliographical sources follow the text (pp. 187- [238]),
and the final touch is provided by indexes in Latin and Arabic
type.

This is a selective bibliography by a man who knows his
terrain; yet every person, while grateful for guidance, may have
his own ideas about the path followed and the objects pointed out.
Certainly, Littlefield's The Islamic Near East and North Africa
(1977) should be included in "general sources," and Abdalrazak's
Arabic historical writing (1974-) deserves a spot under historiog-
raphy. Manzalaoui's Arabic writing today... (1970) was overlooked
in Meiseles' "Modern Arabic Literature" section. Also, the section
on Ismaili authors would be strengthened by Poonawala's Bibliography...
(1977). On the positive, this reviewer notes with favor the
exclusion of European derogating biographies of the Prophet.

It is noteworthy that neither Hitti's Descriptive Catalog of

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the Garrett Collection (1938), nor R. Mach's Catalog...(1977)
are mentioned under "Some Important Catalogs."

The section on periodicals should prove useful to librarians.
Over two hundred titles are listed and arranged in these topics:
Arabic studies; Semitic studies; Middle East and Islam; Christian
Middle East; North Africa; Orientalist; General; Historical;
Religious Sciences; Anthropology and Social Sciences; and "Some
Leading (Arabic) Cultural Periodicals." The scope of the periodi-
cals is more extensive than the scope of this bibliography. Amongst
the Arabic cultural periodicals, the absence of al-Mawrid is
serious.

Meiseles' appendices (pp. 159-183) are interesting and useful,
as stated above. They include a chronologically arranged list of
major Western contributors to Arabic studies that should provide
many names to be dropped in casual conversation whenever Middle
Eastern librarians congregate. This reviewer thinks that
Margoliouth, A. Guillaume, D.B. MacDonald, Gottheil, and Juynboll
deserve inclusion more than some on the list.

Finally, the careful preparation of this book has resulted in
few typographical errors. Pfannmüller is misspelled several times;
"treaties" occurs often for treatises; undotted "i's" are not used
in the Turkish citations; "mimeographied" is applied to several
items that are not memeographed' A. Walsh (p. 24); Keşf-el-Zunun
(p. 44); ahbar (p. 73); W. Nassau Lees (p. 75); وجدى (p. 75);
Handbücher (p. 78); Ahlwardt (p. 82); M.F. Said (p. 107); السجستاني
(p. 117); Littmann (p. 142); Reiske (p. 173); Edward (p. 174) --
were spotted without deliberately proofreading the text.

COLLATION

Wolfgang Behn has published The Iranian Opposition in Exile: an
Annotated Bibliography of Publications from 1341/1962 to 1357/1979
with Selective Locations (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1979; DM 59).

The International Association of Orientalist Librarians will meet with
IFLA in Manila, Philippines, August 17-23. Registration forms can
be obtained from The National Library, T. M. Kalaw St., Manila,
Philippines.