

MELA *notes*

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Number 41

Spring, 1987

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MELA NOTES
ISSN 0364-2410

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David Partington
Harvard University

President 1987

Janet Heineck
Washington University

Vice-President 1987
Program Chair

James Weinberger
Princeton University

Secretary Treasurer 1987-'89

Basima Bezirgan
University of Chicago

Editor 1985-'87

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FROM THE EDITOR

June 27-July 2 marks the 106th Annual Conference of the American Library Association, which takes place this year in San Francisco. The following meetings are of particular interest to us in area studies. The Library of Congress Special Foreign Acquisitions Program (Sunday, June 28, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.); International Relations Round Table reception for foreign librarians (June 29, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.); Association of College and Research Libraries Asian and African Section Program, "Asia and Africa in Undergraduate Library Collections" (June 29, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.). The latter program's speakers include: Bill Hunt, Steve Mullin, Robert Senler, Bill Stewart.

Thanks to Palmira Brummett for typing and editing assistance.

Basima Bezirgan
MELA Editor

ARTICLES

Islamic Manuscripts in North American Libraries, Part B.

Oberlin College Library
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Contact person: Dina B. Schoomaker, Curator, Special Collections

Date of inventory: August 26, 1985 (per correspondence).

1. Koran

Copies in large naskh hand of the 17th or 18th century. The 241 fols. measure 27.4 x 39 cm.; the written surface 21.5 x 31 cm. 13 lines to page; catchwords. Some marginalia. Usual Koranic illumination proportional with the size of the ms. in blue and gold. Wove paper is buff color and is glazed. Some foxing, creasing; pages torn and not always skillfully mended. The leather binding with flap is blind stamped. Gift of William Barton, 1928. Item was exhibited at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis in 1904. Call no. 091.297/K 84.

2. Koran.

Copies in 1235 H./1819-1820 A.D. in a rather small naskh hand. The 302 fols. measure 10 x 15.7 cm.; the written surface measuring 6.4 x 10.3 cm. is ruled. 15 lines to page; some marginalia. The usual Koranic illumination is rather crude. Paper is laid, yellow and glazed. Some pages torn. The leather binding is tooled and blind stamped. Gift of William Barton to Frank Hugh Foster, donated to the library in 1929. Call no. 091.297/K 84.3.

3. Koran.

Copied in 1153 H./1740 A.D. by 'Umar al-Buhsini (?) in ghubar like minute naskh. The 153 fols. measure 6.6 x 10.4 cm.; the written surface measuring 4 x 7.7 cm. is ruled with gold predominating. 23 lines to page; catchwords. The usual Koranic illumination is gold, blue, red, pink and light blue. Wove paper in buff color is glazed. Some foxing and worn pages. The red and black leather binding with flap is tooled and gilt stamped. Acquired from the Library of F. B. Artz in 1983. Uncatalogued.

4. Koran.

Copied in rather small calligraphic naskh, probably in the 18th century. The 293 fols. measure 10.5 x 16.5 cm.; the written surface measuring 6 x 10.4 cm. is ruled. 15 lines to

page. The usual Koranic illumination in gold, blue, red, orange, pink, green, and light blue, is finely executed. The wove paper is buff colored and glazed. Some worming, some mended pages. The leather binding with flap is gilt and red tooled. Acquired in 1983 from the Library of F. B. Artz. Uncatalogued.

5. Koran.

Copied 1281 H./1864-1865 A.D. in medium size, calligraphic naskh. The 288 fols. measure 10.5 x 15.5 cm.; the written surface measuring 6.4 x 10.3 cm. is ruled. 15 lines to page; catchwords. The usual Koranic illumination in gold, blue, green and orange, except for lv containing al-Fātihah which is missing. Paper is wove and yellowish in color. Many pages are torn, mended and rewritten over mend. Leather over boards binding with flap. Gift of Lootfy Levonian, Prof. of Old Testament School of Religion, Athens, Greece. Call no. 091.297/K 84.2.

6. Tadhkirat al-shu'arā',

presumably that of Dawlat Shāh ibn Bakhtishāh, of Samarqand (d. 900 H./1494-1495 A.D.). Unverified, possibly an abridgment. The 94 fols. measure 19.4 x 27.5 cm.; the written surface measuring 10 x 20 cm. is ruled in blue, yellow, red and black. 15 lines to page. Paper laid, cream color and watermarked. Some foxing; some pages torn and repaired, especially around the edges. The soft leather binding is blind tooled; spine is repaired. From the library of William Downs Henkle. Acquired late 19th century, Ref. E.G. Browne, Literary History of Persia, Cambridge, 1964, v. 1, p. 449; H. F. Hofman, Turkish Literature, Sect. III, pt. 1, v. 3, p. 7ff where other copies of this Persian ms. are located. Call no. 091 D322.

Miroslav Krek

Final Communiqué of the 9th International MELCOM Conference

1. MELCOM International acknowledges the invaluable assistance given by the Institut Supérieur de Documentation in Tunis and the Centre Culturel International at Hammamet in organizing the ninth annual conference.

2. The delegates welcomed the opportunity of holding the conference in the Arab world for the first time. In a spirit of friendship and cooperation they learned of the many library and bibliographical projects being undertaken in Tunisia and elsewhere, and had the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual importance with their Tunisian colleagues.

3. The Tunisian delegates welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Conference in an official capacity and to publicize their many activities to a European audience.

4. The Conference recommends:

- a) the continuation of the series of conferences
- b) the fraternal participation in its meetings of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information
- c) the establishment of a permanent administrative council for MELCOM International consisting of a president, secretary, and members from participating countries
- d) the undertaking of European bibliographical projects under the aegis of MELCOM International
- e) the publication of the papers presented at the ninth International MELCOM Conference by the Institut Supérieur de Documentation.

Submitted by Wolfgang Behn

BOOK REVIEWS

Georges T. Labaki, The Lebanon Crisis (1975-1985), A Bibliography, Center for International Development and Conflict Management, College Park: University of Maryland, 1986. 134 pp., \$12.50.

The Lebanon Crisis (1975-1985) is the first bibliography on the subject to compile and cite the most relevant books, monographs, articles, and for the first time, the official documentation of the United States Congress concerning Lebanon. Moreover, it is the first to list the most crucial professional articles written in esteemed English journals on the ongoing crisis.

The bibliography lists approximately one thousand entries, covering the period of 1975-1985. It is divided into three sections: books, monographs, and articles. The bibliography is in three major languages: English, French, and Arabic, with additional sections in German, Hebrew, Russian, Italian and Armenian. In each, the arrangement is alphabetical by author. The contents are indexed by author and subject matter. In order to facilitate the search, the numbers listed in the index are those of the entries rather than page number.

As described by Dr. George Atiyeh, the bibliography is "a useful compilation that should help all those concerned".

Guita Hourani
Ohio State University

C.H. Bleaney, Official Publications on the Middle East: A Selective Guide to the Statistical Sources, MELCOM Research Guides, 1, Durham: University of Durham, 1985. ISBN 0-948889-00-4, 32 pp., 3.50 British pounds.

This guide is a selective introductory survey of Middle Eastern statistical sources, geared to the non-specialist user. It includes information on the publications of international and regional organizations in the Middle East, as well as information on the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic, and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The guide includes lists by country and year of censuses and national development plans. It also contains brief but useful sections on English language reference materials, collections of Middle Eastern statistical materials in the United Kingdom, and their addresses.

The major problem with this guide is that it does not contain the bibliographic information which would allow the user to follow-up on the references given. Transliterated titles of the statistical sources are not provided. As a result, the guide informs the reader that a statistical yearbook or official gazette was published for a certain country, in certain years, but does not include the title of the publication. The exception occurs when the title is in French or English. Although the introduction discusses official gazettes, the gazettes for most countries listed are not included in the country-by-country survey. On page 12, the guide informs the reader, "Italian data are available for some areas..." on Libya, but does not mention what the data is or where it can be located.

In sum, this guide provides a useful quick-index. However, the user may be frustrated by the lack of searchable title information.

Palmira Brummett
University of Chicago

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeads Quarterly

At its Midwinter Meeting, the Executive Committee of ALA's International Relations Round Table appointed Michael Albin Chair for the Middle East and North Africa. Mike's responsibilities are to cover library developments relating to the region for publication in IRRT's quarterly Leads, and to report on matters of professional interest at the annual meeting. He urgently needs your help in this sortie into professional journalism. If you have news items or full-fledged reports or articles you would like to submit to Leads, please send them to Mike at 5603 Ventnor Lane, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

Al-Masāq, Studia Arabo-Islamica Mediterranea

Al-Masāq has been established as an international journal for historians, archaeologists, linguists and belle-lettrists. The journal is devoted to the study of all aspects of the Arabo-Islamic Mediterranean culture from the second/eighth to the eighth/fourteenth century with special interest in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural investigation. The journal emphasizes questions of a comparative nature on the Arabo-Islamic Mediterranean basin as a whole: the eastern, mid and western Mediterranean lands.

Scholars are invited to submit papers on all aspects of Arabo-Islamic Mediterranean culture. The first volume will appear at the end of 1988. Manuscripts and editorial correspondence would be sent to: Dionisius A. Agius, Centre for Arabo-Islamic Mediterranean Studies, 11 Parkers Hill, Tetworth, Oxon, OX9 7AQ, England. Books for review should be sent to: Leonardo Chiarelli, Marriott Library, SE Section, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, 84112.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**MELCOM International, Tenth International Conference of Middle East Librarians**

The Middle East Libraries Committee of International (MELCOM) is pleased to invite you to attend the 10th International Conference of Middle East Librarians, which will be held in Paris from 18th to 20th April, 1988, to mark the official opening of the Institut du Monde Arabe.

Since 1979, the MELCOM international conferences have brought together librarians from Europe, North America, and the Middle East to meet, discuss questions of mutual importance, and hear a variety of papers. The 1988 conference will be held at the Institut du Monde Arabe, 23 quai Saint-Bernard, Paris.

All librarians, archivists, and scholars dealing with the Middle East are entitled to attend; we welcome, in particular, participation by librarians and academics from the Middle East and North Africa itself. Sessions suggested for the 1988 conference are: Arabic script cataloging, MELCOM's bibliographical projects, union catalogs, acquisitions, catalogs and booksellers. Parallel to the conference, an exposition on Avicenna shall be organized by Madame Debout at the Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Langues Orientales, Paris. A preliminary programme will be sent in mid-March to all those who indicate they wish to attend. Acceptance of this invitation, even if provisional, should reach me by the end of December 1987.

Anyone who wishes to offer a paper should contact me by the end of February, 1988. Papers should be in English or French and should last between 10 and 20 minutes. It is proposed that all those who give a paper would provide an abstract of not more than 500 words in multiple copies for distribution to the delegates. Anyone requiring special facilities for giving the paper, e.g. slide projector and screen, should let me know in advance.

As MELCOM disposes of no funds of its own, no financial assistance can be offered to any delegate for travel, accommodation or subsistence. As usual, participants will be responsible for making their own arrangements for travelling and accommodation. A list of reasonably priced hotels, as well as other information, will be mailed in January, 1988. All enquiries regarding the conference should be addressed to the permanent secretary:

Wolfgang Behn
Permanent Secretary
Conference of Middle East Librarians
Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz
Postfach 1407
D-1000 Berlin 30

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTSAmerican Library Association

Applications are now being accepted for 1987-1988 positions in the Library/Book Fellows Program. The joint program of the ALA and the United States Information Agency will place eight U.S. citizens overseas beginning in September 1987, in the following countries: Brazil, Chile, Malaysia, Turkey, Amman, India, Ethiopia, Kenya. It is anticipated that the program will expand in coming years, funding additional fellows. Positions in the Middle East are offered as follows:

Ankara, Turkey. Documentation Center of the Higher Education Council of Turkey and the Hacettepe University School of Library Science. One or two semesters, Turkish desirable, but full time interpreter available if necessary. Teach courses in Dialog and other database search techniques.

Amman, Jordan. American Center of Oriental Research. One year, English as basic language, reading facility in French and German desirable, conversational fluency in Levantine Arabic helpful. Develop acquisitions policy for center library; assist in establishing computerized cataloging system linking the collection with other libraries; teach basic library skills to Jordanian students and other researchers.

The American Library Association is creating a database of potential fellows and is soliciting applications from librarians, publishers, and information specialists with foreign language skills, technical expertise and international interests or experience. If interested, please send resume with a cover letter briefly stating foreign language skills, subject expertise and maximum placement service length. Include preferred posts, if pertinent. The deadline date for applying for 1987-1988 is April 15, 1987. Contact: Robert P. Doyle, Director, Library/Book Fellows Program, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Illinois, 60611, 1-800-545-2433 (in Illinois: 1-800-545-2444; in Canada: 1-800-545-2455).

Arabic Catalog Librarian, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic

Position for a catalog librarian to lead in the cataloging and processing of Arabic language material is needed to work

in the Documentation Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) in Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic. This position is available on a two-year contract with a U.S. AID-funded Agricultural Development Support Program.

The Documentation Center, a unit of the MAF General Directorate of Planning and Statistics, was established to serve the information needs of MAF employees, expatriate donors and others interested in the agricultural development programs in Yemen. Construction for the new Documentation Center building on the grounds of the Ministry was completed in September, 1984. By August, 1986, more than 11,000 documents, in English and Arabic, had been acquired by the Center. Original software for a PC, to produce catalog card sets in both languages is being developed following AACRII. Approximately one-third of the collection, primarily English language documents, has received partial or full cataloging using the Dewey Decimal and Jackson classification systems and Library of Congress subject headings.

The Center, which operates on a six day work week, is presently staffed by a U.S.-trained expatriate advisor and four library technicians. Two MAF nominees, who will eventually fill the professional positions in the Center, are studying for the MLS degree in the U.S. The Arabic Catalog Librarian will report to the Advisor, who has responsibility for directing the work of the Center.

Responsibilities:

1. Working with library technicians, catalog and process Arabic language publications and documents related to Yemen agriculture. This will include preparing descriptive cataloging records, assigning subject headings and classifications. The Arabic Cataloger will also assist in designing processing systems for Arabic materials in a variety of media including maps, microfilm, and audio-visual.
2. Lead in the training, supervision, and assignment of work to the technical support staff.
3. Prepare a manual of policies and procedures for cataloging and processing Arabic material.
4. Design and implement an in-service training program for technical staff on the organization and cataloging of Arabic materials.
5. Assist in the development and implementation of collection development policies.
6. Assist with reference and other public services as needed.

Qualifications:

1. Minimum of three years successful experience cataloging Arabic materials in a University research or special library, documentation center, or a major cataloging and processing center, using standardized cataloging rules and classification systems and controlled subject headings. Preference will be given to applicants with experience working with AACRII, Dewey Decimal or UDC classification systems and LC subject headings.
2. Experience in training/supervising library technicians.
3. Fluency in Arabic and English.
4. Bachelor's degree. Preference will be given to applicants with Master's degree or equivalent certificate in library science.

Additional Preferred Qualifications:

1. Experience with serials and documents cataloging.
2. Knowledge of the literature of agriculture.

Compensation:

Salary, paid in U.S. dollars, is based on qualifications and experience. Housing, transportation to post, leave, health insurance and other benefits will also be provided to employee and dependents.

Application:

Position is open immediately. To apply please send a letter of application, resume of education and experience, transcripts of all post-secondary education, and the names and addresses of three references who are familiar with your training and professional work and can comment on your qualifications for the position, to: Dr. Amir Badiei, Core Team Leader, Yemen Agricultural Development Support Program, P.O. Box 379, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic.

Cataloger, Near East Cataloging Team, Librarian I

Available: July, 1, 1987.

Description: Performs original subject and descriptive cataloging of acquisitions in Near Eastern languages using the RLIN database, AACR2, Library of Congress subject headings and classification. May prepare authority records for input to the Library of Congress Name Authorities File. Revises RLIN member copy to conform with national cataloging standards. Resolves problems, performs general departmental duties and participates in special projects as needed.

This is an entry-level position offering a strong foundation for a career in academic librarianship. Princeton University Library is a major research library which catalogs approximately 60,000 titles a year with a cataloging staff of 25 professionals and 12 support staff. The Catalog Division provides extensive training for new staff in all areas of cataloging and is a leader in NACO participation and in the development of online cataloging applications. Princeton is a pilot library for the Carlyle online catalog and is heavily involved in the development of this exciting new system. The Library's Near East collections are among the most important in North America.

Qualifications: MLS from ALA accredited library school. A good reading knowledge of Arabic is required, including ability to romanize. Knowledge of other Near Eastern languages is desirable. Subject background in Near East studies preferred. Applicants should have a strong interest in bibliographic control of library materials, good analytical skills, the ability to adapt in a rapidly-changing environment and the ability to work effectively with other library staff.

Benefits: Twenty-four (24) vacation days a year, plus eleven (11) paid holidays. Annuity program (TIAA/CREF), group life insurance, health coverage insurance, and disability insurance, all paid for by the University.

Salary and Rank: In a range having a floor of \$20,500, depending on qualifications and experience.

Applications, including resume and the names, titles, addresses and phone numbers of three references to be contacted, should be postmarked by June 30, 1987, and sent to:

Near East Cataloger Search Committee
c/o Maria G. Gopel
Personnel Librarian
Princeton University Library
Princeton, N.J. 08544

MEMEBERS NEWS

Basima Bezirgan has been appointed to serve for two years as a member of the American Library Association's Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials. Her term will begin after the San Francisco meeting, in July. Dona Straley is currently holding this position.

David Hirsch has accepted a position at Princeton University Library as Arabic and Hebrew Cataloger.

CONTRIBUTORS TO MELA NOTES

All contributions related to Middle Eastern Librarianship are welcome. Because of space limitations we ask that articles be limited to a maximum of 7 double spaced pages. Book reviews should be no longer than 500-700 words, or 2-3 double spaced pages. All submissions should be complete and ready for publication in a standard journal format, with footnotes clearly indicated.

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Please be sure to send all meeting notices well in advance so that MELA members can be informed in a timely fashion.

MELA Notes

c/o Basima Bezirgan
University of Chicago Library
Middle East Section Room 560
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Chicago, IL 60637

