

MELA Notes

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 54

FALL 1991

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Editor's Note

With this issue we are now on track with our Notes publication schedule. With a lot of help from the membership, we will be able to keep *MELA Notes* a useful communication among our members.

You will notice that the annual list of members is not in this issue. It has been decided that we will issue the list of members as a separate publication and mail it only to members. This should discourage it from being used as a mailing list. The up-to-date mailing list of members and subscribers is available to all for purchase from the Secretary-Treasurer. Delaying it until after the November meeting will also guarantee that the list is more accurate and current. Look for the list of members before the end of the year.

For those members able to attend the meeting in Washington, DC, I would like to hear from you about *MELA Notes*, what you want to see in it and how you want it to look. We have a committee that is to come up with recommendations, but I would also like to hear from you.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

1991 Annual Meeting Library of Congress Washington, DC

Saturday, November 23

9:30am Business Meeting, West Dining Room
(agenda to be distributed at meeting)

12:00noon Lunch
[for those who replied by the 15 September deadline lunch
will be hosted by the Overseas Operations and Near East
Sections of LC]

1:30pm Round table discussion, West Dining Room

"RLIN Arabic's significance for cataloging and reference
work"

Panel: John Elits, RLG
 Kay Ritchie, Descriptive Cataloging, LC
 Chris Murphy, Near East Section, LC
 Tony Pierce, APLO, LC

Middle East Microform Project

3:45pm MEMP Annual Meeting, West Dining Room

Minutes of the 1990 Annual Meeting

MERYLE GASTON (New York University), President of the Middle East Librarians' Association 1990, called the annual meeting of the Association to order on Saturday, November 10, 1990 in San Antonio, TX. A quorum of professional members was established and **GASTON** opened the meeting with a welcome and general remarks.

SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT

MICHAEL HOPPER (Harvard University), Secretary/Treasurer asked for any changes to the minutes of the 1989 annual meeting as published in *MELA Notes* 49. There being no emendations or additions, the minutes were approved as published. **HOPPER** then gave a brief report on the state of the membership and summarized the treasurer's report for 1990 which had been distributed to members at the meeting (published in *MELA Notes* 52). The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

MELA NOTES EDITOR'S REPORT

BRENDA BICKETT (Georgetown University), *MELA Notes* outgoing editor, gave a brief on the state of *MELA Notes*. **BICKETT** thanked everyone for their support and contributions during her tenure as editor. **GASTON** extended the thanks of the association for **BICKETT'S** labors as editor. **BICKETT** suggested the possibility of forming a subcommittee on publications.

OLD BUSINESS

MELA Reference Book Award Committee

EDWARD JAJKO (Hoover Institution) reported on the MELA Reference Book Award Committee. Communication among members had been a problem during the past year. **JAJKO** reported that one member had resigned and that the committee had had no communication from another member. Thus only **JAJKO** and **DONA STRALEY** (Ohio State University) remained as members. Therefore, an election was held to fill the two vacancies with **RAGAI MAKAR** (University of Utah), **BASIMA BEZIRGAN** (University of Chicago), and

A. SEPEHRI (University of Texas) being nominated. **BEZIRGAN** and **SEPEHRI** were elected to fill the vacancies. **STRALEY** announced that she had a press release ready for distribution on the MELA Reference Book Award

NEW BUSINESS

Election of New Officers

GASTON presented nominees for the position of Vice President/President-Elect and Program Chair and for the position of MELA Notes editor. Nominees for Vice President/President-Elect and Program Chair were **VIRGINIA AKSAN** (University of Toronto) and **CHRIS MURPHY** (Library of Congress). **MURPHY** was elected. Nominees for *MELA Notes* editor were **JOHN EILTS** (RLG) and **JAJKO**. **EILTS** was elected.

MELA publications

After the election of **EILTS** as editor there followed a general discussion of MELA publications. **DAVID PARTINGTON** (Harvard University) reported that there were many difficulties encountered in completing the second number of Occasional Notes, but that the series was still alive. **AMNON ZIPIN** (Ohio State University) commented that the question of Occasional Notes was worth studying and bringing a recommendation to the Executive Committee. **FAWZI ABDULRAZAK** (Harvard University) suggested an assistant editor for Occasional Notes. **BEZIRGAN** brought up the issue of an index for *MELA Notes*. She wondered if a task force might be appointed to study this issue. The group decided to set up a Committee on Publications. **BICKETT** volunteered to serve on this committee. **FAWZI KHOURY** (University of Washington), incoming President, will appoint the remaining members of the committee.

MELA Bylaws

HOPPER noted that after having served as Secretary/Treasurer for one year he thought that there were some areas of the bylaws which needed examining in light of changes in the organization over the years.

He volunteered to chair a committee to examine the bylaws. Other volunteers for the Committee on Revision of MELA Bylaws were: **GASTON, BICKETT, ANDRAS RIEDLMAYER** (Harvard University), and **ALI HOUISSA** (Cornell University)

Cataloging workshop

GASTON brought up the possibility of having a Middle Eastern materials cataloging workshop. **EILTS** suggested that such a workshop would present an excellent opportunity to bring actual examples and to learn of procedures and rules which had changed. **WILL TUCHRELLO** (Library of Congress Office, Cairo) mentioned that such a workshop would be of interest to his office and that perhaps the Library of Congress could co-sponsor such a workshop. Such a workshop could include a segment on Roman versus non-Roman cataloging. **FRANK UNLANDHERM** (Columbia University) stated that he would like to see the Library of Congress's list of preferred transliterations for certain words expanded. **PATRICIA MYERS-HAYER** (Library of Congress) commented that the Library of Congress would welcome additions to their list. **BEZIRGAN** mentioned that she served on ALA's Cataloging: Asian and African Materials committee and that suggestions for changes might better be funneled through this committee by MELA. **BARBARA PARKER** (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) stated that she would be interested in such a workshop. **STRALEY** commented that workshops were a valuable forum for the exchange of ideas and to talk to colleagues about problems. **MYERS-HAYER** noted that romanization issues could be brought up in such a conference. **BEZIRGAN** thought that a pre-MELA conference would be a good idea and then interested parties could attend. **JAJKO** said that a previous workshop conducted some years ago had limited participation and that before that workshop a questionnaire had been circulated to determine interest. He thought that this might be the procedure to follow. **KATHERINE VAN DE VATE** (Princeton University) mentioned that she would like to publish in *MELA Notes* the procedures developed by Princeton University Library's Near East Cataloging Team for establishing Arabic personal name headings at a future date. She thought these guidelines would be helpful to the membership (N.b. this document was published in *MELA Notes* 53, "Establishing Arabic Personal Name Headings", pp. 10-29).

International Conference of Middle East Librarians

KHOURY discussed the possibility of an international conference of Middle East Librarians. He had spoken with the head of the University of Jordan on this topic and the possibility of his institution hosting such a conference in Amman. **HOUSSA** mentioned that he had attended the IFLA conference in Sweden that summer and that the delegations from the Middle East were some of the largest groups present. He wondered if such a conference might be held in conjunction with IFLA. **KHOURY** stated that he was trying to create a conference outside of IFLA. **ZIPIN** felt that the suggestion of a conference in conjunction with IFLA had merit and should be studied. **KHOURY** replied that he wanted to form a committee to look into the issues and report back to the Executive Board and the membership. **GASTON** stated that she would be willing to serve as co-chair of such a committee with **KHOURY**. **KHOURY** agreed to serve as Co-Chair with **GASTON**. Other individuals who volunteered to serve on the Committee on an International Conference of Middle East Librarians were: **DAVID HIRSCH** (University of California, Los Angeles), **JAJKO**, **BEZIRGAN**, and **SIMON SAMOEIL** (Yale University). **HIRSCH** mentioned that the MELCOM convention would be held in Rabat in late March or early April in 1991.

REPORTSMiddle East Microforms Project (MEMP)

JAJKO, chair of the Executive Committee, spoke briefly. He noted that the 1990 program of MESA now listed MEMP as an affiliate organization. He also pointed out that on p. 31 of the program there was a listing for a MEMP workshop sponsored by MELA and that everyone was welcome to attend. **JAJKO** said that there would be a MEMP table in the book exhibit area which would have a brochure on MEMP developed by **STRALEY**. He reminded everyone that the general MEMP meeting would be held in the afternoon following the MELA program.

Library of Congress Overseas Operations

TUCERELLO reported that the meeting on the Library of Congress Overseas Operations would be held the following day in the Bowie Room of the Riverside Marriott beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Library of Congress Cataloging Report

"This has been a productive year for our Middle Eastern catalogers and we've seen large increases in both Arabic and Hebrew cataloging. 4100 Arabic and Persian records made it through the system this year (mostly Arabic). The increase can be attributed in good part to the efforts of the Cairo Field Office's catalogers and to our catalogers review of their work. The Cairo Field Office was granted partial independence in cataloging this past month and we hope that shortly they will be completely free of our ongoing review. They will continue to have a small number of records sampled monthly in order to ensure that the quality remains high.

"The Library is anticipating having RLIN Arabic online in place next summer. We will begin beta testing at LC sometime in the early spring.

"The Library gave descriptive cataloging to 3200 Hebrew and Yiddish titles. It gained two Hebrew catalogers this year. Joan Biella joined us at LC as a Hebrew cataloger on October 15th. The other cataloger transferred within LC. Hebrew cataloging is now completely online at the Library of Congress.

"LC cataloged 486 Turkish titles and 160 Armenian. In Armenian, we are keeping current with receipts. There are about 1500 Ottoman Turkish titles awaiting cataloging. Since the Library has decided to focus its attention on cataloging modern Turkish, custody of the uncataloged titles was transferred to the African/Middle Eastern Division. LC is exploring cooperative arrangements to catalog some of this material.

"Guidelines for creating Ottoman Turkish personal name headings were published in the Fall 1989 Cataloging Services Bulletin. After consultation with libraries interested in cataloging Ottoman Turkish, the Library decided against creating vernacular Ottoman Turkish records.

"We're looking forward to the reorganization of the Cataloging Directorate at the Library sometime in the late spring. This will mean having a separate section for Middle Eastern and African materials and a separate section for Hebrew and Yiddish as well. Currently, Arabic

cataloging is housed in English language section 6 and Hebrew and Yiddish in English language section 3. We are hoping also to cross-train some of the catalogers in the meantime in order to have more balanced teams when they are formed. The new sections will be part of the Regional Cataloging Division."

PATRICIA MYERS-HAYER, Library of Congress

MYERS-HAYER also noted that the Arabic cataloging manual had been put on hold for the present.

Library of Congress Research Services

MURPHY reported on behalf of **GEORGE ATIYEH** (Library of Congress) on collection development activities at LC. He mentioned acquisitions trips by various members of the department to Turkey, Tunis, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Jordan. **TUCHRELLO** commented that a primary purpose of these trips was to establish contacts with book dealers and suppliers in the region. **JULIAN WITHERELL** (Library of Congress) noted that his office was trying to get a waiver on the embargo of Iraqi publications and Kuwaiti publications under Iraqi control.

Committee on the Cataloging of Asian and African materials (ALA)

BEZIRGAN reported on the activities of the ALA's Cataloging: Asian and African Materials committee. She noted that Ben Tucker's office was now working on a transliteration table for Azerbaijani and that any comments on such a table could be directed to Ben Tucker or to the committee.

Intellectual Freedom Issues

BEZIRGAN spoke about the issue of Israeli censorship and the suppression of information by the Israeli authorities. She mentioned the work of the Committee on Israeli Censorship (CIC), an independent group, in this regard (See MELA Notes 50-51, p. 19). **ZIPIN** cautioned that MELA should not become involved in political issues and noted that we are not a political organization. **KHOURY** suggested a letter to the proper authorities to express MELA's concerns about censorship. **TUCHRELLO** mentioned the embargo on books from Middle Eastern

countries as another censorship issue. Other members commented on the general topic of censorship and noted that censorship was a problem in all of the Middle East. **BEZIRGAN** asked if a committee could be established to look into censorship in the Middle East in general and to consider individual issues. At this point **PARTINGTON** made a motion of privilege to adjourn the meeting. The motion was defeated 19-18. It was decided to set up the Committee on Intellectual Freedom. **BEZIRGAN** volunteered to serve on the committee and **KHOURY** stated that he would appoint the remaining members.

Research Library Group

EILTS reported that **RLIN** hoped to have the Arabic script capability in full production by June 1, 1991. He said that a demonstration was available in Booth 31 in the MESA book exhibit. He mentioned "Wired Librarians" as a vehicle of communication among Middle East librarians who have e-mail accounts and that further information could be obtained from him.

Announcements

KHOURY announced that **Nels Drapier of Eastern Language Systems** would speak at a reception hosted by MELA tomorrow evening at 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the **Bowie Room** of the **Marriott Riverside**.

After this the annual meeting of MELA was adjourned.

Michael E. Hopper
Secretary/Treasurer

Announcements

Available in November:

The Middle East in Microform: a Union List of Middle Eastern Microforms in North American Libraries / edited by Fawzi Khoury and Michele Bates. -- Published by the University of Washington Libraries and the Middle East Microform Project.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Princeton University Libraries. LEADER, Near East Cataloging Team, Librarian III.

This position reports to the head of cataloging and is responsible for the supervision and management of a cataloging unit staffed by 5 professional librarians. The team performs original and copy cataloging of materials in Near East languages, with Arabic monographs comprising the bulk of the team's workload. The team is also part of a major preservation/retrospective conversion project for the Library's Arabic collection. In addition to supervising the staff and managing the workflow of the team, the Team Leader serves as a technical resource to members of the team, to the Catalog Division, and to the Library as a whole, in areas of the team's responsibility; hires and trains new team members; evaluates team members and recommends salary advancement merit increases; and performs original and copy cataloging as necessary. The Team Leader participates in the management of the Catalog Division through service on committees, coordination of special projects, and participation in staff meetings. The Team Leader also works closely with other technical services units and with Near East selectors.

Qualifications: MLS degree and a strong working knowledge of Arabic are required. Candidates must possess a minimum of five years professional library experience in a research setting, at least three of which must have involved the selection, processing, and/or management of Near East collections. Candidates' experience must demonstrate competence to lead a high-volume cataloging operation which employs

AACR2, LC classification and subject practice, LC rule interpretations and the MARC format; which relies extensively on online systems; and which is an integral component of the largest NACO operation in the country. Candidates who have knowledge of additional Near East languages will be preferred.

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: Dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Available: Immediately.

Candidates should send applications, including resume and the names, titles, addresses and phone numbers of three references to be contacted to: Near East Team Leader Search Committee, c/o Maria G. Gopel, Personnel Librarian, Princeton University Libraries, One Washington Road, Princeton, N.J. 08544-2098.



REVIEWS

Bennis, Phyllis. *From Stones to Statehood : the Palestinian Uprising*. Photographs by Neal Cassidy. -- New York : Olive Branch Press, 1990.

135 p. ; ill.

Journalist and radio commentator Bennis and photographer Cassidy had been covering the Palestinian intifada for *Frontline* newspaper when they decided in 1988 to go personally and give the world a true look at life under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. The text and many photos give an account sympathetic to the Palestinians and quite critical of Israeli practices and policies. They document the systematic closing of Palestinian-supported schools, hospitals, clinics, child care centers, self help seminars, small scale cooperatives, and labor unions, aimed at keeping the Palestinians completely dependent on the occupying forces, as a captive labor force for Israeli factories under conditions and at wages no European guest worker would accept. Increasing repression has driven those organizations underground. The whole affair took on a personal twist when an Israeli soldier shot Cassidy from far away without warning, while Cassidy was photographing, even though his actions were not illegal.

The humane photographs depict the struggle of an unarmed people trying valiantly to reclaim a tiny share of their land, expropriated to make way for Jewish settlers. It is traumatic for farmers to have not only their land confiscated without payment, but to see centuries-old olive and orange groves deliberately uprooted and homes bulldozed on pretexts such as a child throwing a rock at a settler's car, and to see scarce water resources siphoned off to the feed the affluent air-conditioned homes and the swimming pools of foreign Jewish immigrants. It is not a racial conflict on the Palestinian side but a protest against theft of land, water, and nationality, and against brutality of the foreign invader who uses tactics like "exploding chocolate bars" against children.

Although the photographs go a long way toward portraying the Palestinians as human beings, under siege by a vastly superior military force, struggling to barely exist, this is only one of several fine books

about the intifada to appear lately. A book similar to *From Stones to Statehood* but broader in scope is *Let Us Be Free* (Kingston Press, 1989), by Christian Brother Patrick White, who spent over four years there. *Echoes of the Intifada*, edited by Rex Brynen (Westview, 1991), and three other books, each entitled *Intifada* (1. edited by Zachary Lockman and Joel Beinin; South End, 1989, also with pictures; 2. edited by Jamal Nassar and Roger Heacock; Praeger, 1990; and 3. by Ze'ev Schiff and Ehud Ya'ari; Simon & Schuster, 1990) give more in-depth analyses of the impact of the situation on Israelis as well as on the Palestinians.

Libraries should acquire as many of these books as possible, because the problem is so deep-seated that we must see not only the horror of the present but also the future cost as children of violence grow up. Over 100 nations recognize the right of the Palestinians to a homeland, yet as the intifada winds down and the peace process begins, that process can never succeed until the United State concurs. The public deserves the right to know what is going on.

Louise Leonard
University of Florida Libraries
Gainesville, Florida

**Saunders, Harold H. *The Other Walls : the Arab-Israeli Peace Process In a Global Perspective*. -- Rev. ed. -- Princeton : Princeton University Press, 1991.
240 p.**

Drawing on his experience as part of the Kissinger shuttle diplomacy team, Saunders gives a thoughtful analysis of the Middle East peace process as negotiation within the boundaries of the political environment, using pre-conference accomodation to create the right atmosphere for talks. In the 1985 version of the book he saw the problem as external, between Israel and Jordan. But now that Israel is in full control of the West Bank, he sees it as an internal Israeli problem with global implications, more difficult to solve because the gaining of Arab land in

1948 was seen as a triumph while the relinquishing of subsequent gains would be seen as a defeat. With this revision, he enlarges the context of his step-by-step approach to a changed world in which improved communication has led to more active popular participation, making old strategies inoperable. No one can argue with his agenda: the right of people to live in peace under a government of their own choice; settlement of legitimate debts and claims by peaceful means in accordance with U.N. principles; and development of a new context for resolving regional conflicts.

Nevertheless, whether one agrees with Saunders or not, one has to step back and take a hard look at past events. Theory does not easily translate into practice and, while he sees the few successes of the past as a vindication of his theory, others may see them as proof of failure of a process which worked on the periphery but ignored the key issue--Palestinian rights--resulting in a delaying tactic that allowed Israel to fulfill its expansionist program and thus exacerbate the problem. Time has never been on the side of peace in this dispute, and demanding concessions from only one side has allowed Israel to rebuff all attempts at settlement. In the meantime, Israeli leaders have become so scornful of the American taxpayer that they have failed to see the change taking place in the American mind (through the better communication referred to above) that has led to exasperation with Israeli intransigence and ever-exalating demands for handouts from Washington. John Q. Public is beginning to realize that, even if a minute part of Palestinian land is returned, he will again have to foot the bill to raze the houses his money built for the settlers, just as he did in Sinai. As for Saunders's "Global Perspective," over 100 countries recognize the Palestinians as a nation and the PLO as their representative; only the U.S. and Israel refuse to do so.

Conflict resolution is a hot topic right now, and many excellent books have come out on prenegotiation, the global approach, and asymmetrical negotiation. I would like to mention a few which deal in part with the Middle East: *The Management of Protracted Social Conflict*, by Edward Azar (Dartmouth, 1990), has a chapter on Lebanon. *Peacemaking*, by Lynn Kahn (University Press of America, 1988), has a case study on Begin-Sadat and Reagan-Gorbachev. *Getting to the Table*, edited by

Janice Stein (Johns Hopkins, 1989), has a chapter on prenegotiation in the Arab-Israeli conflict. *Conflict Resolution*, by Thomas Saaty and Joyce Alexander (Praeger, 1989), has a chapter on the Middle East as a case study. Libraries might want have even one of these books, that tackle many problems at once, rather than Saunders's book on one problem.

Louise Leonard
University of Florida Libraries
Gainesville, Florida

McChesney, R.D. *Waqf in Central Asia: Four Hundred Years in the History of a Muslim Shrine, 1480-1889*. -- Princeton, New Jersey : Princeton University Press, 1991.
356 p. : plates (ill., maps)

After the discovery of a tomb in Balkh in 1481, allegedly that of Ali ibn Abi Talib, a large number of visitors came to the site and made offerings of gold, silver, jewels, and land. Sultan Husayn Bayqara ordered that a dome be built and appointed officials to administer the waqf income of the shrine. The income was devoted to supporting religious and intellectual institutions. Waqf established a link between the political clans and the common population.

The circumstances which led to the discovery of the shrine and its political, cultural and religious importance are discussed in detail by McChesney throughout the book. McChesney's study of waqf in Central Asia is based on extensive research and the use of various resources in several languages. His book is divided into fourteen chapters and covers a period of some four hundred years of waqf in Balkh and several adjoining states. Balkh, a city in northern Afghanistan, was for many centuries a center of cultural and economic exchanges where peoples of various cultural backgrounds and languages met and traded commodities and ideas. Balkh's glorious history and its importance are briefly covered by the author.

The author gives a clear picture of the changes over time in the administration of waqf endowments in Balkh. He traces an historical background of the rulers of Balkh during the four-hundred year period under investigation. The book follows a chronological pattern in describing political, social, and economic changes. The shrine's income, the disbursement of the funds, the number of officials and their salaries in 1889 are also given in a table.

The three maps included in the book show Central Asia in the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries; the waqf sites of Balkh appanage in the seventeenth century; and Balkh's Hazdah Nahr irrigation system in the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. McChesney gives a detailed account of the irrigation system, located some ten miles south of the City of Balkh, which supplied the necessary water for numerous villages. The author describes the Hazdah Nahr system as the 'backbone of Balkh's economy.'

McChesney's book is a significant research work on the history of the shrine. It is probably a unique study of the history of the shrine and its waqf endowments in Central Asia.

Shaista Wahab
University Library
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Theory, Politics and the Arab World : Critical Responses.

Edited by Hisham Sharabi. New York ; London : Routledge, 1990.
260 p.

Early in this century Oswald Spengler made the observation that the cultural development of the Near East has taken place historically in terms not of nations and states, but of empires and churches. The last of these empire/churches was Islam.

By the turn of the century, the embodiment of the Islamic order, the Ottoman state, began to break up. The successor states in North Africa and the Middle East were left with the task of reconciling the concept of the secular, territorial state imposed upon them by the European colonial

powers with the medieval notion of the universal Islamic Umma or Community, which until then had provided both cultural identity and juridical personality.

Arab/Muslim reformers grappled unsuccessfully with this problem, repeatedly seeking to read into the ancient texts what they considered as befitting the mechanics of the modern without abandoning the values of the old. Similarly, Western scholars and orientalist sought hopelessly to convey an understanding of Arab/Muslim society in terms of their own assumptions and methodologies.

In the last decade or two, however, a new generation of scholars, Western and Arab, has called into question some of these assumptions and methodologies. *Theory, Politics and the Arab World* is about this questioning and the critical writing it has generated. It is a mind opener, a fresh approach to the study of the region, an indispensable guide to a better understanding of its voluminous literature.

The book starts with an overview, "The Scholarly Point of View: Politics, Perspective, Paradigm," in which the editor, Hisham Sharabi, examines a selective number of Western scholars' writings to underscore the essential point of the book, that the theoretical and methodological perspectives of these scholars negatively affected their understanding and interpretation of Arab/Muslim society. Sharabi's concern is how non-Western culture and society get interpreted in a Western perspective, given that "scholarly disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences are all initially products of Western experience and thought" and far from free of Western politics and ideology.

Sharabi discusses the works of André Servier, Raphael Patai, Carleton Coon, Clifford Geertz, Daniel Lerner, Gustav von Grunebaum, Bernard Lewis, H.A.R. Gibb, Albert Hourani, and Jacques Berque. They represent, in his view, the three main tendencies of conventional academic scholarship--orientalism, area studies, and liberal humanism. He discusses the effect these have had upon the new generation of Arab intellectuals and scholars whose emergent critique is presented here for the first time.

Servier's *La psychologie du musulman* and Patai's *The Arab Mind* belong to the colonial, paternalistic genre of scholarship that is anchored in the hegemonic, Western 'Self,' contemptuous of the non-Western

'Other.' Von Grunebaum and Lewis are at home only with "historically distant and long-dead Arabs." In Coon's *Caravan: the Story of the Middle East*, the mosaic of sects, tribes, and ethnic groups become central signifiers in the social and cultural analysis; while in Geertz's *Islam Observed*, the "intermixture" of radical fundamentalism and determined modernism, two clearly different and puzzling phenomena, is bound to come about when the "observed is reduced to a function of the observer's description." Lerner's *The Passing of Traditional Society* comes closer to addressing the concerns of contemporary Arab and Western critics. To the extent, however, that he equates modernization with Westernization, Lerner is unable to view "alternatives" to modernization that would contribute to the solution of current social and political problems. Even authors admired for their "scholarly objectivity," such as Gibb and Hourani, and those who come close to "identifying themselves with the Arab position," such as Berque, remain too rooted in their "different" cultural soil and "foreign" perspective to be fully exonerated.

Sharabi goes on to analyze two dozen Arab writers who search for those "alternatives" with mixed results. Writing in Arabic or French, they represent the non-traditional, radical, critical writing on Arab society today. They include Ali Ahmad Said (Adonis), whose three-volumes *al-Thabit wa-al-Mutahawwil* is a groundbreaking attempt at a rereading of Islamic history and Arab culture through the relationship of language, religion, and politics; and North African authors Muhammad Arkoun, Abdallah Laroui, and Hichem Djait, known here from English translations of their French books-- *Rethinking Islam*, *The Crisis of the Arab Intellectual*, and *Europe and Islam*, respectively. Among the Arab critical authors Sharabi reviews are Marxists, structuralists, deconstructionists, and feminists. What brings them together, he says, is their rejection of their predecessors' "derivative knowledge" and "borrowed consciousness" which served not to liberate but to reinforce their dependency on the West. They had to go through a process of "unlearning and criticism" if they were to come up with alternatives to the exclusively Western perspectives on their society.

This question of alternatives, raised in this book, is a perplexing one. Recent studies have suggested that the "trajectories of change" are complex and erratic, particularly in the relations between religion and state, a relationship basic to the transformation of Arab/Muslim society

(cf. "Religion and Politics," by Robert Wuthnow, in *Daedalus*, Summer 1991). But the essence of modernization in the sense of movement from the medieval to the modern state is incontrovertible. It includes the idea of Progress, which derives its value and power from its "bearings on the future" rather than the past (J.B. Bury, *The Idea of Progress*); of Secularism as the logical end to liberal faith which originated with the "religious dissenter" (Owen Chadwick, *The Secularization of the European Mind in the 19th Century*); of the institutionalized differentiation between the private and public realms as the key phenomenon in the development of the modern state (Bertrand Badie and Pierre Birnbaum, *The Sociology of the State*); and the disintegration of Community as the critical condition for the emergence of man-made positive law (Roberto M. Unger, *Law in Modern Society: Towards a Criticism of Social Theory*). These are all Western-developed characteristics and criteria of modernization, the products of a process of change unleashed by the Renaissance and the Reformation.

If some of the Arab authors Sharabi reviews try to deny it by invoking the past for inspiration, Sharabi himself is in no means oblivious to the fact that "Arab criticism's main intellectual resources ... are all Western in origin." The goal, he asserts, is not another "alternative hegemonic norm;" rather it is the search for new forms of writing and research into areas "willfully ignored or devalued" by conventional scholarship. He calls for a shift of focus from the purely political to the economic and the social; from the formal, totalizing, and causal narrative of the "Us" and the "They," to the inner functioning of society.

The essays that follow Sharabi's overview take up the state of scholarship in its various disciplines. Lisa Anderson underscores the need for the integration of the Middle East into the "broader concerns of contemporary political science and political theory." She attributes the poverty in this field to the demands and inconsistencies of U.S. policy towards the region. She notes how the "intellectual hegemony of modernization theory" espoused by such authors as Daniel Lerner and Manfred Halpern did not come to an end until the Islamic fundamentalists began to show that traditional beliefs had not been overcome nor democracy realized by the "once-promising mobilizational" regimes. By the 1980s, she observes, a return to analysis of state institutions began a new perspective on political change, but with little or no attempt at a comparative, cross-national analysis. Regrettably,

neither in Anderson's essay nor anywhere else in the book is the role of the law addressed, despite the fact that in Arab/Muslim society, the Sharia, the all-encompassing Islamic law, pervades practically every facet of life.

Lila Abu Lughod registers her disagreement with those scholars, such as Gellner, Hart, Caton, and Dresch, who consider segmentation and tribalism as central to the understanding of Middle Eastern society, when no more than one percent of its population are pastoral nomads or transhumants. She attributes this excessive interest in segmentation and tribalism to their association by male authors with honor, independence, and violence, qualities readily translatable in the contemporary scene to divisiveness and terrorism. The growing interest in theorizing about women and sexuality in Middle Eastern society has been enhanced by the new wave of women writers, who have come forward to look into the changing status, position, and role of women. Her discussion of Islam focuses on the issues raised by Talal Asad in *The Idea of an Anthropology of Islam*, particularly the readiness of conventional scholars to consider Islam a distinctive historical totality with an essential Islamic social structure. She cautions that field encounters with ordinary individuals have convinced her that their statements are often not consistent with those of the learned or the scriptural.

Halim Barakat's essay on social psychology shows that while critical Arab writing is committed to transformation and change, mainstream Western scholarship continues to languish in a static view of Arab culture as constant and homogeneous, such a view inevitably resulting in the stereotyping Barakat finds in Morroe Berger and Bernard Lewis. Among the Arab works he examines in the essay are Hamed Ammar's *Growing Up in an Egyptian Village*, Fouad Moughrabi's *The Arab Basic Personality*, a survey of the literature on the subject, and El-Sayyid Yassin's *al-Shakhsyah al-'Arabiyyah*. Barakat's critique rests generally on three points: the question of national character, patterns of socialization, and value orientation which usually covers the conflicting contentions about Arab society--its fatalism and free will, shame and guilt, conformity and creativity, form and content.

Samih K. Farsoun and Lisa Hajjar take up the problem of adapting Western-specific intellectual constructs in sociology to non-Western society. While the emphasis in the sociology of Western society, they

say, is the problem of order and structure, the focus in the case of the Middle East is on the problem of change, albeit of socioeconomic development along Western capitalist lines. Citing Gellner, Levy, and others, they note how Islamic society is conceptualized principally in terms of the dominant role of Islam and the usual unsavory associations with it--segmentation, stagnation, and despotism. No other region of the world is treated in terms of its particular religion, the way the Middle East is. From the sociology of religion, the essay proceeds to the modernization theory where emulation of the West has been the passion and the pitfall of such writers as Lerner, Levy, Eisenstadt, Smelser, and others. Even those who became aware of the "internal structural transformation," such as van Nieuwenhuijze, did not in the end avoid some of the pitfalls of other Orientalists. Farsoun and Hajjar do not shy away from criticizing Arab-American authors for "eclectic" works, such as Fouad Ajami's *The Arab Predicament*, which they consider as old-fashioned, Orientalist in tone and interpretation, and devoid of modern methods of political science. Likewise, Samir Amin's *The Arab Nation* is scrutinized for its espousal of the dependency theory which has emerged as a principal alternative perspective to modernization theory and Orientalism.

The failure of political economy to leave its mark on Middle East studies is the subject of the essay by Peter Gran. In a sweeping comparative analysis of the field, he blends in the radical, liberal, Marxist views as well as those of the dependency, modernization, and capitalist theories and their mutual influences that contributed to the failure.

Judith Tucker's essay on social history, more than any other in the book, gives substance to the meaning of 'alternatives.' Taking her cue from Charles Tilly's search for links between "small-scale experience" and "large-scale processes" in his work on European social history, Tucker shows the need of Middle East studies to similarly relate microchanges and transformations to their 'micro' origins--the way people perceived, lived, shaped, and accommodated the changes. She calls attention to the ample source materials in the historical writing about the modern Arab World to fill in, on the 'micro' level, the three significant 'macro' changes--the growth of the state, the penetration of capitalism into the region, and the cultural impact of the West. Among this source material she details a number of works by Arab writers in three areas: peasants, merchants and artisans, and women. The discipline, she holds, is still on the threshold of developing a broad understanding of the features and

rhythms of life of the indigenous society, still trying to overcome "the drag of Orientalism" and the inordinate attention paid to political and foreign policy issues by sponsors of research.

Each of the essays is followed by notes and references, with bibliographies appended to the essay on anthropology and the overview by the editor.

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(Review editor's note: Dr. George N. Steir is an international legal consultant residing in Cupertino, California)

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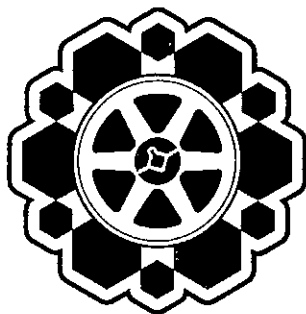
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