

# MELA NOTES

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**ARABIC SCRIPT MANUSCRIPTS  
IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS: PART 12**

Cushing/Whitney Medical Library Yale University

MIROSLAV KREK  
WESTON, MASS.

**C**ushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University, 333 Cedar St., P. O. Box 208014, New Haven, CT 06520-8014. Contact person: Toby A. Appel, Historical Medical Librarian. Date of survey completed: 9 February, 1996.<sup>†</sup>

1. Thābit ibn Qurrah, d. 288/901 (attribution?). كِتَابُ الذَّخِيرَةِ. Copied in ca. X cent. H./XVI cent. A.D. in neat, medium size *naskh*. The 156 fols. measure 15 cm. w. x 25.5 cm. h.; Written surface measures 8 cm. w. x 17.5 cm. h.; 16 lines to page; some interlinear and marginal corrections. Catchwords on bottom of page. Off-white paper is glazed. Leather binding with flap is blind stamped. Contains 31 chapters, starting with hygiene and ending with sexual intercourse. Incipit as *Museon* 79 (1966) p. 454 (Ahmad III Library Ms. no. 2098); Ref.: GAS III 260f; Ullmann, *Medizin* p. 136. Provenance: Gift of Harvey Cushing. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 1, pt.1.
2. Ibn Rushd, d. 595/1198. شَرْحُ مَنْظُومَةِ ابْنِ سِينَا. Copied ca. X cent. H./XVI cent. A.D. in neat, medium size *naskh*. The 113 fols. measure as preceding item; the written surface measures 7.5 cm. w. x 17 cm. h.; 17 lines to page; binding as preceding. Ref. GAL I 457, III #81 cmt. a; incipit as Gotha (Pertsch 2027 #2), Princeton University (Hitti #1094) and (Mach-Ormsby #1570). Provenance: Gift of Harvey Cushing. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 1 pt. 2.

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<sup>†</sup> Editor's note: For background, the reader is referred to "ULASMAI — A Progress Report" *MESA Bulletin* 26 (1992) 185–187. (ULASMAI = Union List of Arabic Script Manuscripts in American Institutions.)

3. Al-Herewī, Muḥammad ibn Yūsuf, fl. 924/1518. *جَوَاهِرُ اللُّغَةِ*. Copied 18 Dhū- al-Ḥijjah, 1009 H./21 June, 1600 in clear, medium size *naskh*. The 243 fols. measure 12 cm. w. *x* 18.2 cm. h.; 16 lines to page. Alphabetical arrangement, lemmata in red. Laid paper is light brown and glazed. Modern leather binding. Ref. GAL S II p. 592 §10, 1 #1 where this title is claimed to be identical with ... *بَحْرُ الْجَوَاهِرِ*, but cf. Ullmann, *Medizin* p. 237 and Mach-Ormsby 435 #1, which is considerably different from *ibid.* 112 #1. Incipit as Mach-Ormsby 435 #1. Provenance: Gift of Harvey Cushing. Call no. Cushing Arabic Ms. 2.
  
4. Al-Maghribī, Abū Saʿīd ibn Ibrāhīm al-Ṭabīb. *كَنَزُ الْحِكْمَاءِ وَمَطْلَبُ الْأَطْبَاءِ*. Copied 23 Ramaḍān 1021 H./18 Nov. 1612 A.D. by ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿAbd al-Muṭṭalib al-Khurasānī in clear, medium size *naskh*. The 250 fols. measure 18 cm. w. *x* 29.3 cm. h.; the written surface measures 11.5 cm. w. *x* 20.5 cm. h.; 25 lines to page. Some catchwords on bottom of page are cropped. Fols. 111v–232r have illustrations on margin in multicolor, representing plants and animals. Paper is glazed. The leather binding without flap is blind stamped. Ref. GAL S II 1031, 45. Incipit: ... *أَلِكِتَابِ الْأَوَّلِ يَشْتَمِلُ عَلَى مَعْرِفَةِ حَدِّ الطَّبِّ*. Provenance: Gift of Harvey Cushing. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 3.
  
5. Al-Majūsī, ʿAlī ibn al-ʿAbbās, fl. 4/6 cent. *كِتَابُ كَامِلِ الصَّنَاعَةِ الطَّبِّيَّةِ مَعْرُوفٌ بِالْمَلِكِي*. Copied in 841 H./1511 A.D. (date had been tampered with). Copied in clear, small *naskh*. The 497 fols. measure 17 cm. w. *x* 27 cm. h.; the written surface measures 10.7 cm. w. *x* 19.7 cm. h. Text ruled with blue and gold lines. 29 lines to page. Catchwords on bottom of page. Headings and other catchwords in red. Two multicolored *ʿunwān*’s. Laid paper is light brown and glazed. The leather binding has no flap. Consists of two *juz* each of which consists of ten *maqālah*’s. Ref. GAL I 237, 17 (19) #1. Incipit as Berlin #6261. Other, mostly incomplete holdings at MH-H, DNLM, NjP, CaQMM, CLU. Table of contents precedes the text. Provenance: Gift of Harvey Cushing in 1939, who acquired it from Saʿeed Kurdistānī (correspondence included in ms. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 4.

6. Ibn Sīnā al-Qānūnī, d. 428/1037. *الْقَانُونُ فِي الطَّبِّ*. Copied in medium size *naskh* in 1006 H./1597–98 A.D. The 505 fols. measure 21.5 cm. w.  $x$  31 cm. h.; the written surface 14.7 cm. w.  $x$  22.5 cm. h. Text is gilt ruled. 39 lines to page. Catchwords and headings in red. Blue and gold *‘unwān*. The leather binding is gilt stamped. Ref.: GAL I 457, III #82. Incipit as CaQMM (Gacek 161 #1) and NjP (Mach-Ormsby 867 #2). Provenance: Gift of Harvey Cushing July 30, 1929. Purchased from Dr. Sa‘eed Kurdistānī. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 5.
  
7. *Idem*. Covers *fann* 11 of vol. 3 to end of vol. 5. Copied by Muḥammad Qūlī al-Shīrāzī at Shīrāz 1155 H./1742–43 A.D. (The date has been tampered with). Large calligraphic *naskh*. Approximately 500 unnumbered fols. measure 25 cm. w.  $x$  44 cm. h.; the written surface, measuring 16.5 cm. w.  $x$  31.5 cm. h., is ruled with gold and blue lines. 21 lines to page; catchwords on bottom of page. Occasional marginalia. Large gilt headings. Multicolored *‘unwan*. Laid paper is beige in color and glazed. Old leather binding ; no-flap. Explicit: ... *تَمَّ كِتَابُ الْاِقْرَابَادِينَ* ... *تَمَّتِ الْكُتُبُ الْحَمْسَةُ الشَّيْئِلَةُ عَلَى الْقَانُونِ* ... Provenance: Harvey Cushing bequest 1939 (bought from Sa‘eed Kurdistānī. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 6.
  
8. *Idem*. Covering Book 1 and 2 only. Book 2 preceding vol. 1. Copied in various *naskh* hands in 1226 H./1811 A.D. About 300 fols. are unnumbered and measuring 9.5 cm. w.  $x$  28 cm. h.; the written surface, measuring 13.5 cm. w.  $x$  21 cm. h., varies. Some marginalia. Catchwords on bottom of page partially cropped. Contains a dozen or so rather crude drawings in the margin. Paper is light brown and glazed. Some loss of text. The leather binding has no flap but has some tooling of later date. Encased. Ref. as item #6. Provenance: Harvey Cushing bequest 1939 (Purchased from Sa‘eed Kurdistānī). Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 7.
  
9. Jālīnūs (Galen), d. ca. 200 A.D. *كِتَابُ جَالِينُوسِ فِي عَمَلِ التَّشْرِيحِ*. Tr. from the Greek by Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq. Copied 939 H./1532 A.D. (but more likely 12/18 cent.) in neat, medium size *naskh*. The 99 fols. measure 10.5 cm. w.  $x$  18.5 cm. h.; the written surface measures 6.5 cm. w.  $x$  13 cm. h.; 17 lines to page. Catchwords on bottom of page. Paper is brittle,

- light brown with some glazing. Leather binding; no flap, boxed. Ends with *maqālah* 2. Ref.: GAS III p. 98 Provenance: Harvey Cushing? Call no: Cushing Arabic Ms. 8.
10. Koran. Two fols. covering Q 11:113 to 12:17 (englased) and 4:158 to 4:177. Copied in rather large *maghribī* script in about 11 cent. H./17 cent. A.D.; Provenance: Harvey Cushing. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 9a and 9b.
  11. Al-Rāzī, Abū Bakr Muḥammad ibn Zakarīyā, d. 313/925. *كِتَابُ الْحَاوِي*. Copied in rather small *naskh* by Muḥammad Riḍā Ḥakīm in 1085 (?) H. The 343 fols. measure 24 cm. w.  $\times$  37.7 cm. h.; the written surface measures 15 cm. w.  $\times$  28.5 cm. h.; 39 lines to page.; few marginalia; red used in catchwords, sources, and headings. Catchwords on bottom of page. Small blue and gold *unwan*. Paper is glazed. The leather binding is blind stamped. Ref.: GAL I 234 #1; GAS III 278; Ullmann, *Medizin* p. 130f. Incipit: *عِلَاجُ الْفُرُوجِ وَالْجِرَاحَاتِ* ends *فِي السَّكَنَةِ وَالْفَالِجِ وَالْحِذْرِ وَالرَّعْشَةِ وَعُسْرِ الْحَيْضِ* Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 10.
  12. Ibn Jazlah, Yaḥyā ibn ʿĪsā, d. 493/1100. *تَقْوِيمُ الْإِبْدَانِ*. Therapeutics in form of tables copied ca. 10 cent. H/16 cent. A.D. in clear *naskh* and *nastaʿlīq* in medium size and large *thulth* in headings. 92 measure 20.5 cm. w.  $\times$  28 cm. h.; the written surface 18 cm. w.  $\times$  25 cm. h.; 27 lines to page; laid paper is beige and lightly glazed. Some text loss on lower right side fols. 80 to end. Damp stained, title page pasted over. Cardboard binding. Ref. GAL I 485; 8 #1; Ullmann, *Medizin* p. 160. Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 11.
  13. [Unidentified work on therapeutics] Copied by Muḥammad ibn S-q-b-ī (?) in medium hasty *naskh* end of Ṣafar 1069 H/1658 A.D. 54 fols. measure 9.5 cm. w.  $\times$  18cm. h.; the written surface measures 5 cm. w.  $\times$  12.5 cm. h. which varies. 16 lines to page, varies. Marginalia; catchwords on bottom of page. Laid paper is light brown. The leather binding without flap is blind tooled. Incipit: *أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَمَعَ بَيْنَ الطَّيِّفِ وَالْكَشَفِ* Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 12 #1.

14. Al-Rāzī, Abū Bakr Muḥammad ibn Zakarīyā, d. 313/925. *في الادوية الموجودة في كل مكان*. Copied in 1069 H./1658 A.D. in hasty, medium size *naskh*. The 39 fols. measure 9.5 cm. w.  $\times$  18 cm. h.; the written surface measures 5 cm. w.  $\times$  12.5 cm. h.; 14 lines to page; catchwords on bottom of page. Laid paper is slightly glazed. Binding as preceding item. Ref.: Ullmann, *Medizin*, p. 266. Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 12 #2.
15. Muḥammad ibn Ṣadr al-Dīn, al-Ṭabīb. *رسالة شفاء العاجل*. Copied 1069 H./1658 A.D. in hasty, medium size *naskh*. The 43 fols. measure as preceding; the written surface measures 5 cm. w.  $\times$  12 cm. h.; 15 lines to page; some marginalia. Catchwords on bottom of page. Paper as preceding entry; binding as entry 13. Ref. GAL S II 1028; NjP (Mach-Ormsby 1365); incipit as latter. *Dharrah* and Mach-Ormsby have the author Ṣadr al-Dīn ‘Alī ibn Muḥammad al-Jilānī, d. 1018/1609. Provenance: Harvey Cushing. Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 12 #3.
16. Ibn Sīnā al-Qānūnī, d. 428/1037. (sic!) *رسالة جاورية* For *جاورية*? 7 fols. measure as item 13; the written surface measures as item 14; some marginalia; catchwords on bottom of page. Paper as item 14. Ref.: Ullmann, *Medizin*, p. 336. In Persian; item not verified. Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 12, #4
17. Yūsufī, Yūsuf ibn Muḥammad, fl. 16/16 cent. *جامع الفوائد*. Copied in 1067 H./1656-67 A.D. in medium size, hasty *nasta‘liq*. The 80 fols. measure as item 13; the written surface measures as item 14.; 15 lines to page; catchwords on bottom of page. Paper as in item 14, and so is binding. In Persian. Ref.: Storey II 237 #408 (6). Incipit as CLU. Richter-Bernburg 61; Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 12 #5.
18. Ibn Jazlah, Yaḥyā ibn ‘Isā, d. 493/1100. *تقويم الابدان في تدبير الانسان*. 21 fols. In form of tables, see item 12. In Persian. Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Arabic Ms. 12 #6.
19. [Anatomical drawings fols. 1r-6v] Few Persian labels. Western influence conspicuous. Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Persian Ms. 13 #1.

20. Al-Ṭūsī, Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad, d. 672/1274. *دَر مَعْرِفَةِ الاسْطَرلاب*. also known as *باب بیست*. Copied ca. 11 cent. H./17 cent. A.D. in medium size *taṣlīq*. The 15 fols. measure 13 cm. w.  $\times$  21.5 cm. h.; the written surface, measuring 10 cm. w.  $\times$  19 cm. h., is ruled with red lines. 21 lines to page. Marginalia. Red catchwords and headings; catchwords on bottom of page. Simple drawings. Laid paper is light brown and glazed. The leather binding without flap is blind stamped. Ref.: GAL I 512 #48; Incipit as King, Pers. mss. 4/3/14 with slight variation. Provenance: Harvey Cushing; Call no.: Cushing Persian Ms. 13 #2.
21. Rūmī, ‘Alī Ja‘farī. *دَر عَمَلِ اسْطَرلاب* (or *فِي صِنَاعَةِ اسْطَرلاب*). Written or copied in ca. XI cent. H/XVII cent. A.D. in medium size *nasta‘līq*. Other descriptive entries as preceding item. Incipit: *سپاس و ستائش مر صانع قدیم وقادر حکیم راکه*. Unverified. Followed by various anonymous and fragmentary materials. Based on notes made by E. Savage-Smith in March 1988 these are: fols. 29v–30v *faṣl* on astrology (فَلَكُ الْبُرُوجِ); fols. 31r–47r: 3 *faṣl* on the constellations, illustrated with star systems in the form of animals, mostly in blue; fols. 48v–50v: magical and divinatory chapter (عِلْمُ الْخُرُوفِ) and poem attributed to Rūmī; fols. 51r–66v: a treatise on geomancy (رَمَل) attributed to Daniel (Cf. Ullmann, *Die Natur-und Geheimwissenschaften*, p. 344); fols. 67r–69v: *زَاك مَالَا*; Provenance Harvey Cushing. Call no.: Cushing Persian Ms. 13 #3.
22. Ibn Ilyās, Maṣṣūr ibn Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad, fl. VIII/XIV cent. *تَشْرِيحُ بَدَنِ إِنْسَانٍ* (also known as *تَشْرِيحُ مَنْصُورِي*). Copied in ca. IX cent. H/XV cent. A.D. The 25 fols. are in medium size *naskh*. Text is divided into *bayt*’s. Pages are misnumbered. Folio size is 15 cm. w.  $\times$  24 cm. h.; the written surface measures 12.5 cm. w.  $\times$  17 cm. h.; 20 lines to page. Catchwords and headings in red; catchwords on bottom of page. Simple anatomical illuminations, Indian influence noticeable. Laid paper is brown. Leather binding with no flap. Some tooling and painting. Ref.: Ullmann, *Medizin*, p. 180; Incipit as in BMP p. 467b. Provenance: Gift of John Farquhar Fulton; Call no.: Cushing Persian Ms. 14.

23. [Collection of medical treatises in various hands, often incomplete]. Ca., 200 fols. measure 18 cm. w.  $x$  29.5 cm. h.; The brown leather binding bears two labels: *Glossary of Rhazes*, Haly Ben Abbass; Avicenna and *مُعَالَجَاتُ وَمُشَاهِدَاتُ*. Ibn Muḥammad Zakaryāʾ. Needs to be analyzed.
24. Al-Anṭākī, Dāʿūd ibn ʿUmar al-Ḍarīr, d. 1008/1599. *الزُّهَّةُ الْمُبَهَّجَةُ فِي التَّشْحِيدِ الْاِذْهَانِ وَتَعْدِيلِ الْأَمْرِجَةِ*. Copied by al-ʿAbd Muḥammad Ṭāhir on 26 Rajab 1081 H/10 Dec., 1670 A.D. in neat, small *naskh*: The approx. 180 fols. measure 15 cm. w.  $x$  23 cm. h.; the written surface measures 9 cm. w.  $x$  17.5 cm. h. 24 lines to page; few marginalia the catchwords on bottom of page are sometimes cropped. The paper is beige and glazed. Three-fourth leather binding of European origin. Ref.: GAL II 364, 3 #2; Incipit as Institute of Ismaili Studies (McGill University) Gacek II 145 and and Vienna, Loebenstein 2387; Other copies in the U.S. DNLM, Sommer A 52; Incomplete copy also in CaQMM. (Gacek #159); Call no.: Or. Arabic Ms. S-1. Provenance: [?]
25. Al-Damīrī, Muḥammad ibn Mūsā, d. 808/1405. *حَيَاتُ الْحَيَوَانِ الْكُبْرَى*. Written in *Dhū al-Ḥijjah* 773 H/1372 A.D. and copied probably in XII H/XVIII A.D. in medium size *naskh*, becoming more cursive towards the end of the work. Ca. 400 fols. measuring 18 cm. w.  $x$  31.5 cm. h.; the written surface measures 10.5 cm. w.  $x$  23.5 cm. h.; 33 lines to page. Off-white paper is watermarked. The flyleaves, of later date, are watermarked with eagles and the letters T S C. The leather binding with flap is blind stamped. Ref.: GAL II p. 138 §16, 1 #1. Incipit as Berlin 6168 and NjP (Mach 4767 and Hitti 1067). Eleven other copies are held in other North American libraries. Acquired 31. May, 1944. Call no.: Or. Arabic Ms. S-2.
26. Al-Qumrī, al-Ḥasan ibn Nūḥ, d. soon after 380/990. *الْغِنَاءُ وَالْمَنَاءُ*. Copied 5 Rabīʿ II (year illegible but probably) 1034 H/Jan. 16, 1625 in medium size *naskh*. The 213 fols. measure 15.5 cm. w.  $x$  24 cm. h.; the written surface measures 13 cm. w.  $x$  18,5 cm. h. 21 lines to page; catchwords on bottom of page; headings in red. The laid paper is light brown and not glazed. Damaged, poorly repaired. Leather binding with no flap. Ref.: GAL I 239, 22 (24) #1. Incipit after doxology, as CaQMM. (Gacek 38



#1); Other copies at DNLM (damaged) and MdBj-W. Provenance M. A. R. Barker, Nov. 12, 1969. Call no.: Or. Arabic Ms. S-3.

27. Ibn Sīnā al-Qānūnī, d. 428/1037. **الْقَانُونُ فِي الطَّبِّ**. Book 1 and 2. Copied in IX cent. H./XV cent. A.D. (?) in small *nastaʿlīq*. The 185 fols. measure 18 w. *x* 28.5 h.; the written surface measures 11 cm. w. *x* 22 cm. h.; text is ruled in black and red lines. 27 lines to page, varies. Some marginalia. Red headings and catchwords. Catchwords on bottom of page. Laid paper is brown with minimal glazing. Worming affecting text somewhat. Half leather binding with flap is blind stamped. Text ends abruptly in 6<sup>th</sup> *maqālah*. Ref.: GAL I 457 111 #82; Incipit as Berlin 6269. 34 other copies found in North American libraries, most of them at CLU, NjP and CaQMM. Provenance: Thomas Marston. Call no.: Or. Arabic Ms. S4.
  
28. Al-Nūrbakhshī, Bahāʾ al-Dawlah, fl. 10th/15th cent. **خُلَاصَةُ التَّجَارِبِ**. Copied 3 Rajab, 1071 h./March 5, 1661 in elegant, rather small *nashkh*; 388 (or 439?) fols. measure 14.2 cm. w. *x* 25.2 cm. h.; the written surface measures 9.5 cm. w. *x* 18.5 cm. h.; 27 lines to page; red headings and catchwords; catchwords on bottom of page. Laid paper is brown; red linen binding. Ref.: Storey II pt. 2 p. 231 incipit agrees; Browne, p. 186; Fonahn, *Zur Quellenkunde* #28. Previous owner: Library of Ibrāhīm Pāshā, son of Muḥammad ʿAlī. Call no.: Or. Persian Ms. S-5.
  
29. Al-Yazdī, Abū Bakr al-Muṭahhar ibn Muḥammad, fl. 580/1184–5. **فَرْحِ نَامَه**. Copied in 11. cent. H/17 cent. A.D. in large *taʿlīq*. Ca. 150 fols. measure 15 cm. w. *x* 24. cm. h. are ruled with red and black lines. The written surface, measuring 14 cm. w. *x* 21.5 cm. h. Catchwords on bottom of page. Illuminated with detailed multicolored illustrations of humans, animals, plants, stones, etc., mounted onto thin yellow paper. Worming affecting text is crudely patched. European linen binding is gilt stamped. Ref.: BMP p. 465b; Fonahn, *Zur Quellenkunde* #287. Printed Lucknow 1282/1865. Acquired: June 19, 1951. Call no.: Or. Persian Ms. S-6.

30. Tunakābunī, Muḥammad Muʾmin, fl. XI/XVII cent. نُحْفَةُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ: تَشْخِصٌ رَّابِعٌ فِي مَدَاوِي سُمُومٍ. Copied by Molla Muʾmin Kashmīrī in small *nastaʿlīq* in Shāḥbān 1124/1712. Ca. 110 fols. measure 13 cm. w.  $\times$  24 cm. h.; the written surface measures 8 cm. w.  $\times$  17.5 cm. h.; 20 lines to page. Marginalia and catchwords at bottom of page some of which are cropped. Wove paper is brown and lightly glazed. The red leather binding with no flap is blind stamped. Ref.: BM (P) p. 476f; incipit as Berlin (Pertsch) #623; Fonahn, #232. Provenance: John F. Fulton, March 11, 1944. Call no.: Or. Persian Ms. S-7.
31. Ibn Ilyās, Maṣṣūr ibn Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad, fl. VIII/XIV cent. تَشْرِيحُ الْبَدَنِ (or تَشْرِيحُ مَنْصُورِي). Copied 14 Muḥarram 1121 (?) H/March 27, 1709 in large *nastaʿlīq*. The 36 fols. measure 20.2 cm. w.  $\times$  30 cm. h.; the written surface measures 13.5 cm. w.  $\times$  23.5 cm. h.; 14 lines to page; catchwords on bottom of page; contains six anatomical, multicolored illustrations. The wove paper is of brown color. Modern buckram binding. Ref.: Ullmann, *Medizin*, p. 180; DNLM P 18. Incipit as #22 above. Printed Delhi 1264. Provenance: John F. Fulton, June 19, 1951. Call no.: Or. Persian Ms. S-8.

### Abbreviations

**BMP** Rieu, Charles. *Catalogue of the Persian Manuscripts in the British Museum*. London: British Museum, [1876] 1879–1883.

**Browne** Nicholson, R. A. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Oriental Manuscripts belonging to the late E. G. Browne*. Cambridge: The University Press, 1932

**Dharīʿah** Āghā Buzurg al-Ṭīhrānī, Muḥammad Muḥsin, *al-Dharīʿah ilā taṣānīf al-Shīʿah*. al-Ṭabʿah 1. Tihrān : Dānishgāh, 1964.

**Fohnahn**: Fohnahn, Adolf Mauritz. *Zur Quellenkunde der Persischen Medizin*. Leipzig: J. A. Barth, 1910.

**Gacek**: *Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Library of the Institute of Ismaili Studies*. London: Islamic Publications, 1984–

**GAL**: Brockelmann, Carl. *Geschichte der arabischen Litteratur*. 2. den supplementbänden angepasste Aufl. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1943–1949.

**GAS**: Sezgin, Fuat. *Geschichte des arabischen Schrifttums*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1967–

**Hitti**: Hitti, Philip K., Nabih Amin Faris, Butrus Abd-al-Malik. *Descriptive Catalog of the Garrett Collection of Arabic Manuscripts in the Princeton University Library*. Oriental Studies Series; no. 5. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1938.

**King**: King, David A. *A catalogue of the Scientific Manuscripts in the Egyptian National Library*. Cairo: General Egyptian Book Organization in collaboration with the American Research Center in Egypt and the Smithsonian Institution, 1981–

**Loebenstein**: *Katalog der arabischen Handschriften der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek*. Museion: Veröffentlichungen der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek. n. F., Reihe 1, Veröffentlichungen der Handschriftensammlung, Bd. 3. Wien: Hollinek in Komm., 1970–

- Mach:** Mach, Rudolf. *Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts (Yahuda Section) in the Garrett Collection, Princeton University Library*; index by Robert D. McChesney. Princeton Studies on the Near East. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1977.
- Mach-Ormsby:** Mach, Rudolf & Eric L. Ormsby. *Handlist of Arabic Manuscripts (new series) in the Princeton University Library*. Princeton Studies on the Near East. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1987.
- Pertsch:** *Die orientalischen Handschriften der Herzoglichen Bibliothek zu Gotha*. Unveränd. Neudr. d. Ausg. Wien, 1859–93, 8 vol. Walluf b. Wiesbaden: Dr. Martin Sändig oHG, 1971– 2 v.
- Richter-Bernburg:** Richter-Bernburg, Lutz. *Persian Medical Manuscripts at the University of California, Los Angeles : A Descriptive catalogue*. Humana civilitas; v.4. Malibu [Calif.]: Undena Publications, 1978.
- Sommer:** Schullian, Dorothy M. & Francis E. Sommer. *A Catalogue of Incunabula and Manuscripts in the Army Medical Library*. New York: Published for the honorary consultants to the Army Medical Library by H. Schuman [1948?]
- Storey:** Storey, C. A. *Persian literature: A Bio-bibliographical survey*. London: Luzac & co., 1927– ; London: published by the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland and sold by its agents Luzac & co., 1970–
- Ullmann, Medizin:** Ullmann, Manfred. *Die Medizin im Islam*. HdO 1. Abt. Ergänzungsbd. VI, 1. Abs. Leiden: Brill, 1970

**DEVELOPING A WORLD WIDE WEB RESOURCE COLLECTION**  
**AND A GUIDE TO INTERNET RESOURCES**  
**ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES**

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In the era of digitized libraries and networked information resources, the skills and services of the area studies librarian are as needed as they have ever been.<sup>†</sup> The library's role in brokering intellectual access to information is becoming increasingly more important today than the traditional role of physically owning the material. Librarians' traditional skills and experience in selection, evaluation, organization and description of information resources are still, however, prerequisites in the new cyber-environment as well. The Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) in particular have emerged, arguably, as viable and effective means to publish, retrieve and exchange information. Nevertheless, the absence of a governing body for this medium and the lack of standards for organizing, analyzing and describing its contents only add to the chaos already reigning on the Internet. As in the print environment, the abundance of online information, left unorganized, will only increase the user's confusion and frustration—regardless of how effective retrieval tools may be. Topical guides of networked resources, tailored to the dynamic needs of a specific audience, can be the librarian's contribution to the networked information process. The object of this discussion is the process of identifying, collecting, evaluating and organizing Internet resources in the specific area of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies.

### **1. Purpose and Criteria For Developing A Subject Guide**

The Internet's most obvious characteristic is being a means for wide scale diffusion and exchange of information in various formats and sizes. In the academic environment the Web has acquired a vital importance in the few years since its inception by providing new and improved opportunities for research and education and making the institution accessible from anywhere, anytime. Web support for courses and the curriculum is encouraged by administrators. Universities are getting all their courses (hours, place, links to course materials), directories, etc. up on the Web. Consequently,

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<sup>†</sup> This paper was originally presented at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association, November 1997 in San Francisco.

libraries are called upon to play a supporting role in providing other kinds of platforms for Web activities such as Web support for bibliographic instruction on the use of Web resources and in selecting and developing Web-based collections of resources. Libraries see their role also in teaching the core set of computer competency skills, including the use of word processing and spreadsheet software, as well as applying HTML and creating Web pages.

The popularity of the Web stems from the fact that it is easy to create a site and put it up for the public. There is an abundance of information on every conceivable subject on the Internet; but the value and worth of such information varies widely. Therefore, a measure of selectivity should be applied. The process of building a subject guide of Internet resources is similar, in theory, to developing a traditional collection or a topical bibliography. Resources assembled are judged for quality and substance, by applying parameters and criteria similar to those the collection development librarian takes into consideration when selecting in the traditional environment. Some of the criteria applied when choosing links for a subject guide are:

-Audience: It should be clear what audience the resource is meant for: academic, public, general, etc. If the intended audience is academic, is it undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, or specialist. The selector probes the suitability of the resource and selects based on the knowledge of the constituency and audience catered to.

-Currency: Good resources are frequently updated and reviewed. Currency is usually indicated by a date on the front page. Periodical revisions, before each semester, at the minimum, include revising pages, updating links, and removing dead links. Updating links and other information is often an arduous and time consuming task, especially in non-commercial sites.

-Affiliation: If the resource and its author are affiliated with an institution or an organization, it is important to know the nature of it: commercial, religious, political, etc. This is to gauge any bias behind the information when determining the usefulness of the resources for inclusion.

-Expertise: This criterion should be applied to the developer or creator of the source. If the developer is not already well-known, is there an "about" section in the document, about the person or the entity in charge. Reputation of the source and developer counts.

-Content Merit: The question is whether the source offers an original, in-depth and new approach to the topic. A comparison with similar types of sources may answer the question. Do the sources appear to be reliable

or substandard? Is attention paid to details such as spelling, grammar and factual accuracy?

-Requirements/limitations: It should be noted that an increasing number of sites are fee-based or require a password and other access permissions. Many sources limit their access to a specific community (campus population only). In that case it might not be useful to a wider audience when included in your collection.

## 2. Exploring Resources on the Internet for Middle East and Islamic Subjects

Today there are around 2000 search services on the Web (Search engines, Virtual libraries, Subject directories, etc.) covering over 50 million sites. Many offer automatically generated indexes, relevance ranked searching results, as well as various options that allow for more precise and controlled searches, using Boolean logic<sup>2</sup> for instance. The biggest problem, however, is noise, which refers to irrelevant search results mixed in with the jewels,

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<sup>2</sup> Boolean Basics:

AND, OR, NOT, and NEAR—if used correctly you will be looking at a dozen relevant sites instead of thousands of unrelated ones for the same search. The terms—part of a century-old system called Boolean logic—act as effective filters for finding just the hits you need on the Web. Most of today's search engines support some form of Boolean query, but not every service uses them. Check the help section of your favorite search engine to find out whether it allows Boolean searches.

### AND

The AND operator makes sure all the terms you request appear on the selected sites. If you type **Tripoli AND Libya** your search will not return pages about Tripoli, Lebanon.

### OR

Use OR to return pages that contain either of two terms. For example, **Istanbul OR Constantinople** will find pages that mention either or both names.

### NOT

Use NOT to ensure that certain words won't appear in your search selections. **Turkish NOT Ottoman**.

### NEAR

This term is used to find words located within a certain number of characters of each other. Not every service uses NEAR in the same way, and some don't offer it at all. For example, AltaVista uses it to find words

i.e., your search results in hundreds of links which you need to sift through to retrieve what is within scope.

The lack of uniform standards for organizing what is put on the WWW makes surfing for information a time-consuming undertaking. Aimless Web wandering and following links from site to site and guessing in the hope of getting the information needed is not always practical, especially when assisting someone in need of an immediate answer, right here and now. It is not usually the time for crafting elaborate queries. Browsing through subject guides and keyword searching using search engines can be an effective tool to discover information on a given subject, assemble it in a form of a handy guide, and make it easily accessible. It is crucial that this guide be

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within ten characters of each other, while WebCrawler lets you specify the number of characters.

#### Parenttheses

Organize your searches even further by using parentheses. **NOT Lebanon AND Maronites** will return pages with **Maronites** in them; **NOT (Lebanon AND Maronites)** will avoid pages with both names.

#### AltaVista's Boolean Operations:

Keyword	Symbol	Action
AND	&	Finds only documents containing all of the specified words or phrases. Mary AND lamb finds documents with both the word Mary and the word lamb.
OR		Finds documents containing at least one of the specified words or phrases. Mary OR lamb finds documents containing either Mary or lamb. The found documents could contain both, but do not have to.
NOT	!	Excludes documents containing the specified word or phrase. Mary AND NOT lamb finds documents with Mary but not containing lamb. NOT cannot stand alone—use it with another operator, like AND. For example, AltaVista does not accept Mary NOT lamb; instead, specify Mary AND NOT lamb.
NEAR	~	Finds documents containing both specified words or phrases within 10 words of each other. Mary NEAR lamb would find the nursery rhyme, but likely not religious or Christmas-related documents.



only one of the tools relied upon in the daily library work, to be used when appropriate alongside other tools.

There are many tools available to explore the Internet for the purpose of building such a guide. Three types of tools are examined here for the subject “Middle East and Islam,”: Internet virtual libraries or general subject directories, Internet subject guides, and search engines. The terms Virtual Libraries, subject directories and subject guides are often used by many indiscriminately. As the Internet grows and indexing techniques develop more sophisticated differences between these terms become clearer.

#### **a. Internet Virtual Libraries**

A Virtual Library (VL) is a collection of links of Internet resources, organized by subject categories, and preferably compiled and evaluated by specialists who are familiar both with the topic and how people would seek information within it. The purpose of this “links library” or “links index” is to help searchers navigate through a vast number of selected resources. Subject categories represent systematic trees, e.g. organized hierarchically, to make it much easier to navigate from the general to the specific.

More convenient than search engines, VLs remain available and do not present endless delays due to high demand during peak hours. Their searchable domain however is limited, since the coverage tends to be broad, and quality is dependent on the subject expertise and Internet experience of those doing the selecting. With millions of contributors, VLs tend to be less controlled. A search in Yahoo on “Middle East” or “Islam” yields hundreds of categories and site matches (or pointers), many of which have little or nothing to do with the topic (For Example: under the category Social Science: Middle East Studies, the following item also appears: Regional: U.S. States: New York: Cities: *Eastchester*: Education: *Eastchester Middle School*). Compounding the problem of relevancy, the searcher will find that a number of pointers, or links, will be out of date or defunct. The search also produces a sizeable number of related e-mail discussion groups, Usenet newsgroups, etc. A Search for the term “Middle East” in *The WWW Virtual Library* (<http://celtic.stanford.edu/vlib/Overview.html>), a so-called distributed subject catalog, produces little more than a link to the Web page of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas. There is at present no listed “item” under Islam in *The WWW Virtual Library*. It is clear that the coverage of the subject is not fully developed in this virtual library. Further searching by country in the same WWW Virtual Library turns up a listing of several Middle Eastern countries (but not all of them), with scant and irregular annotations.

Although the use of Boolean operators (“and”, “or”) merely reduces the amount of data retrieved and increases the relevancy of hits, it still retrieves irrelevant items. The inherent problem with automated indexing and retrieval of information is often a lack of precision and fuzziness of results, especially when executing fairly comprehensive searches. Therefore, for more comprehensive searches it is crucial to investigate a diversity of searching tools. The following Virtual libraries and general directories were probed for the subject:

**Argus Clearinghouse** (formerly known as the Clearinghouse for subject-oriented Internet resource guides)

<http://www.clearinghouse.net/>

This resource can be considered the equivalent of a bibliography of bibliographies. It is a catalog that provides subject access to specialized Web, gopher, and ftp sites for most subjects which can be found on the Internet. Searches can be done on the full text of all guides. It can be browsed systematically by topic. A search on “Middle East or Islam” using Search/Browse mode yields 12 related guide titles, less than half of which deal with the search subject in general. The rest are narrower in focus: Guide to Information on Oman in the Internet, Bahrain Online, etc.

#### **Galaxy**

<http://galaxy.Einet.net/galaxy.html>

Galaxy is one of the largest databases of Internet resources. It is a guide to worldwide information and services, which indexes only pages actually submitted. Although business oriented, a variety of subjects are covered, including Middle East and Islam. It allows searches by “All text, Title text, and Link text.” The display of results is one of the best around: in addition to the link it displays an “Excerpt” paragraph about the resources, “Frequent Words” used and other detailed technical data. There is adequate reviewed information about a host of middle Eastern subjects.

#### **Global Network Navigator (GNN)’s Whole Internet Catalog**

<http://www.avaloncity.com/info/fprefect/matrix/whole.htm>

GNN is a subject index with 12 major subject areas, each divided into specific collections of documents (there are 3 levels of organization). Subject areas also list popular Usenet newsgroups with relevant content. Documents are gathered from various Internet sources such as What’s New lists, Usenet newsgroups, and user-suggestions. These documents are then sorted into the appropriate subject categories. The Catalog boasts over 600 rich links, and new pointers are added at the rate of about 10 or 20 a week. However, it doesn’t offer any search services.

**Infomine**

<http://lib-www.ucr.edu/>

Self-described as “Scholarly Internet resource collections,” this guide is intended for the introduction and use of Internet/Web resources of relevance to faculty, students, and research staff at the university level, maintained at the library of the University of California, Riverside. It is being offered as a comprehensive virtual library and reference tool containing 10,000 Internet/Web resources including databases, electronic journals, electronic books, bulletin boards, listservs, online library card catalogs, articles and directories of researchers. A subject search in the category Government information retrieves several entries available locally (FBIS: Foreign Broadcast Information Service) and mirrored sites, all very well reviewed.

**Internet Public Library**

<http://www.ipl.org/>

IPL is offered by the University of Michigan School of Information. Its Ready Reference Collection of about 14,000 items, each selected, cataloged and described by a member of the IPL staff, contains links with descriptive annotations for selected Internet sources. It can meet general and undergraduate needs.

**Magellan (also known as McKinley’s Internet Directory)**

<http://www.mckinley.com/>

Magellan is a subject directory of over 100,000 Web sites. It is maintained by a group of international publishers, technologists and information specialists offering star ratings and brief descriptions for Web sites. It also includes a search engine for easy browsing. Although its rating system is useful for selecting quality sites the database is far from comprehensive. Searching can be limited to reviewed sites only and by “Green light,” a unique feature that blocks adult contents.

**NetGuide (CMP Media Inc.)**

<http://www.netguide.com/>

NetGuide provides a database of thousands of reviewed sites, searchable by subject categories or keywords. Excellent reviews are offered. A search for “Middle East” yields 59 links and for “Islam” 49.

**OpenText (web, gopher, FTP sites; no newsgroups)**

<http://www.opentext.com/>

OpenText has varied search capabilities: “Search the World Wide Web for pages that contain... this exact phrase” or “Search this Site for pages that contain...” It has three different options for your search: simple search,

power search, or weighted search. The site itself has no entries for the phrase Middle East.

**The University of Texas-Middle East Network Information Center (UT-MENIC)**

<http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html>

Launched in 1993, UT-MENIC includes gopher and World Wide Web (WWW) interfaces. This is a true virtual library of information specifically on the Middle East. Although its collection of files is a small representation of the documents available on the Internet, from a research and teaching point of view, the information presented is more valuable than what is available at most other sites. Main **Subject Categories** are 8: ancient history, ancient history/Archaeology, Maps Travel and Regional information Arts/Culture, News Media/News Groups, Business/Finance/Economics, Religion, Government/Country Profiles, Oil, Energy, and Natural Resources. **Additional Research Resources** include: Conferences, Middle East Centers and Institutes, Internet/networking, Organizations/associations, K-12 Educational Resources, Reference, Libraries/electronic Publishing, Search the Internet. The organization is simple but highly practical. In addition, there are links to other gopher/WWW sites in the Middle East and to other Middle East studies centers.

**The WWW Virtual Library**

<http://celtic.stanford.edu/vlib/Overview.html>

This site is made up of more than 50 subject indexes that are located at sites distributed around the world. It currently offers a Category Subtree, Library of Congress Classification (experimental), Top Ten Most Popular Fields (experimental), and Statistics (experimental). It includes sections for African Studies, Asian Studies, Middle East studies (which is a link to University of Texas Center). The coverage is generally spotty and not comprehensive.

**Yahoo**

<http://www.yahoo.com>

Yahoo is more comprehensive than most subject directories, although quality is not always consistent and links are sometimes out of date. It includes short descriptions of the sites. Yahoo, like many other directories, collocates several search engines and tools such as Excite, Infoseek, Lycos, Hotbot, etc., and organizes them by categories: Subject specific, White and Yellow pages, Software. Most of these search tools combine powerful search capabilities, allowing retrieval and indexing of documents throughout the Web. Although most of them do include a large number of links to the topic

at hand, many of these links retrieved are not equally relevant and, due apparently to the lack of maintenance, many links are obsolete. Coverage of the Middle East and Islam is adequate, certainly useful for preliminary searches for general Internet resources. Returns on searches vary from zero to several hundred.

#### **b. Internet Subject Guides**

Subject directories are in essence virtual libraries but tend to be more focused and include more annotations and evaluations of Internet resources on a given topic. The coverage varies widely from one directory to another in terms of the number and kinds of resources listed and their evaluation, although most claim to include the best links. One of the problems related to subject oriented directories is their use of natural language instead of a controlled vocabulary. Controlled vocabulary is important for retrieval purposes, since disciplines and sub-disciplines have their peculiar jargons. The lack of a standardized vocabulary could complicate the search process, turning it into time-consuming guesswork. A search for Leptis Magna in one of the services returns: leptis: 1,126; magna: 172,637 appended with a not very helpful "Tip: Don't be alarmed by a large number of results. All documents containing at least ONE of the terms in your query are counted, but the first few documents are better matches." More and more directory organizers are using standard classification terms, such as the Library of Congress subject classification. The best subject directories are selective when it comes to inclusion and exclusion. Ideally, annotations based on the serious review of individual resources enhances the value and credibility of the directory. Well-maintained services will often include a brief summary, or Abstract, and other information to assist users in identifying the most useful materials.

Most directories and guides relevant to the Middle East and Islam are affiliated with businesses or research and educational institutions. Businesses based in the Middle East and North Africa constitute the majority of Web site owners and developers. The following reviews include samples of specialized subject directories and some common mainstream ones:

#### **1001 sites, The Arab Internet Directory**

<http://www.1001sites.com/>

#### **Arab World Online**

<http://www.awo.net/>

1001 Sites.com is a service of Multitasking On Line Corp. and is licensed to Arab World Online. Arab World Online in turn is a joint venture between the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) and Multitask-

ing Online, a Washington D.C.-based web developer/Internet marketing firm. It offers “access to virtually every aspect of the Arab world;” however, its database is still small and most entries are business oriented. Created on the principal of providing “value-added content,” its reviews are not particularly rigorous. Results listed are also identified by subject categories without a percentage figure as to how relevant they are. In 1001 Sites keyword searches need to be narrowed down by terms from a “category” menu. A keyword search for airline(s) in the category “travel” retrieves 4 links. The same search will yield zero results if not defined by the term travel.

### **Arab Internet Directory**

<http://www.arabview.net/aid/>

Developed by The ArabView Network, this directory currently includes over 1000 reviewed entries. Many of its 15 subject categories have only a small number links. A search on Ramadan (as a keyword) returns no entries; and Hajj has three matches. The result of the search is a list of matching AID Categories followed by a list of matching AID Web Sites. It allows keyword and Boolean searching, the latter limited to AND / OR.

### **ArabiaWeb**

<http://www.arabiaweb.com/>

ArabiaWeb is an Arab World Internet Directory and search engine by Arabia.On.Line. It promotes itself as “the first destination for Arab world news, business, and culture on the Internet,” but at this time it covers less than half of the Arab countries. Currently it has six categories called “channels,” providing News, Business, Technology, Living, Culture and Community. It features a combination metasearch function Web guide, ArabiaWeb, that includes a directory of reviewed and classified Arab world Web sites. It boasts some dubious statistics such as 1 million hits a week, 63% of its user are business oriented, about 56% of the people accessing Arabia.On.Line come from the United States; the rest come from Europe (19%), the Arab World (14%), the Far East and the rest of Asia (11%).

### **Arabist Online**

<http://www.arabist.com/>

Arabist Online is an Arab Search Engine and Web authoring company by Al-Shorouq for Computer Services Inc. It was established January 1997, in Amman, Jordan. It intends to include companies, organizations, and institutions in the Middle East that are present on the Internet. Links retrieved are mostly businesses in Jordan and some other Arab countries.

**ArabNet**

<http://www.arab.net/welcome.html>

This site provides comprehensive online access primarily to resources dealing with countries in the Middle East and North Africa (Currently 1,770 pages). It is owned by ArabNet Technology (ANT), part of the Saudi Research and Marketing Group, publisher of leading newspapers and magazines in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia including *Asharq Al-Awsat*. Although mainly commercial in nature, it includes a wealth of general information on individual countries. Information is divided into eight categories: Overview (statistics and short facts) History, Geography, Business, Culture, Government, Transport, Tour Guide. Its searching capabilities are very good, by way of Excite search engine, and it uses natural language (English). ArabNet is the winner of the title of best Arab site on the Internet ahead of Sakhr, according to *al-Hayāt* newspaper (6 Nov. 1997)

**Ayna?** (Arabic for Where?)

<http://www.ayna.com/index.html>

Published from Chelmsford, MA., by Engineering Graphical Solutions (EGS), Ayna? is a pioneer in the Web Arabization efforts. This well-structured Arabic language guide and search engine offers 100% Arabic support both in browsing and searching. Its subject guide has 14 categories with linked sub-categories of Arabic and related material. The search engine uses a variety of Arabic lexical rules to retrieve the best match. Ayna's hierarchical structure (support for CP-1256 and ISO-8859-6) allows a larger number of users to access it at the same time. It has an index-based search engine Nazrah [Nathra] (below). You need to run your browser under Arabic Windows, or download Sakhr's Sindbad <<http://www.Sakh.com/>> or Alis' Tango <<http://www.alis.com/>>.

**Iran Online**

<http://iranol.com/>

Iran Online provides headline news "on time" as well as a fairly comprehensive list of Iran-related sites. The pages are well organized, but documents are in English only. It also provides a simple search function for the site itself.

**Maghreb Net**, Morocco, Maghreb, Arabic, Chat

<http://maghreb.net/>

Maghreb Net is a growing subject guide that includes subjects related to North Africa and to a lesser degree, the Middle East, although it claims that it is an online guide to Africa, the Maghreb and the Middle East. Hierarchically organized, it contains over 175 different categories and sub-

categories (12 main subjects), created from submissions received through The Paparazzi web submission engine, Submit-It, or selected by the web-master.

### **The Middle East Internet Pages**

<http://www.middle-east-pages.com/me.html>

This guide is developed by NetComm for the Dubai Promotion Board. It is mostly a business-oriented subject and search site, specifically comprehensive for business or services related to the United Arab Emirates. Its subject structure is similar to that of Yahoo. Contents, however, are limited and some subject categories are completely empty (no links).

### **The Middle East North Africa Internet Resources**

<http://www.cc.utah.edu/~jwr9311/MENA.html>

This guide “was created to serve the needs of scholars, students, and interested individuals in finding and using Internet resources dealing with the Middle East. The Middle East is defined as broadly as possible.” Developed by Joseph W. Roberts, Department of Political Science, Middle East Center, University of Utah, this is merely a collection of links. There are three broad categories further subdivided in subcategories: Academic Disciplines, which is general and not related to the Middle East; Nations and States of the Middle East; Regional Services that cut across specific country boundaries or provide regional information; Religion and Special Services (Bibliography, the Internet, etc.)

### **al-Murshid**

<http://www.murshid.com/>

al-Murshid is a searchable, browsable hierarchical index of the Internet on the Middle East in 13 categories: Arts and Literature, Business and Economy, Computers and Internet, Countries and Regions, Education, Entertainment, Health, News and Media, Politics and Law, Recreation and Sports, Reference, Sciences, Society and Culture. It allows searching by category, using natural language either in English, Arabic, or both. The number of items indexed is still fairly limited and sites tend to be business oriented in nature. A search for Amman, for example, produces no matches for site type Arabic and 15 matches for site type English and All.



Table 1

**Subject Directories, Guides and Virtual Libraries Evaluated for Relevance to Middle East and Islamic Studies:**

\*=Poor    \*\*=Acceptable    \*\*\*=Good    \*\*\*\*=Outstanding

<i>Virtual Library or Subject Guide</i>	<i>Web Documents</i>	<i>FTP, Listservs, Usenet, etc.</i>	<i>Vernacular Language</i>	<i>Speed &amp; Clarity</i>	<i>Overall Rating</i>
Arab World Online/ 1001 sites, Arab Internet Directory <a href="http://www.arabview.net/aid/">http://www.arabview.net/aid/</a>	yes	no	no	**	**
Arabia Web <a href="http://arabiaweb.com/">http://arabiaweb.com/</a>	yes	no	no ("Arabic soon")	**	***
Arabist Online <a href="http://www.arabist.com/">http://www.arabist.com/</a>	yes	no	no	*	**
ArabNet <a href="http://www.arabnet.com/">http://www.arabnet.com/</a>	yes	yes	via CountryLink	***	***
Argus Clearinghouse <a href="http://www.clearinghouse.net/">http://www.clearinghouse.net/</a>	yes	yes	no	***	**
Ayna? <a href="http://www.ayna.com/">http://www.ayna.com/</a>	yes	yes	yes:Arabic	**	***
Galaxy <a href="http://galaxy.Einet.net/galaxy.html">http://galaxy.Einet.net/ galaxy.html</a>	yes	yes	no	***	***
Global Network Navigator (GNN's Whole Internet Cat.) <a href="http://www.avaloncity.com/info/fprefect/matrix/whole.htm">http://www.avaloncity.com/info/ fprefect/matrix/whole.htm</a>	yes	yes	no	**	**
Infomine <a href="http://lib-www.ucr.edu/">http://lib-www.ucr.edu/</a>	yes	yes	no	***	**

<i>Virtual Library or Subject Guide</i>	<i>Web Documents</i>	<i>FTP, Listservs, Usenet, etc.</i>	<i>Vernacular Language</i>	<i>Speed &amp; Clarity</i>	<i>Overall Rating</i>
Internet Public Library <a href="http://ipl.org/">http://ipl.org/</a>	yes	no	no	**	**
Iran Online <a href="http://iranol.com/">http://iranol.com/</a>	yes	no	no	***	***
Magellan <a href="http://www.mckinley.com/">http://www.mckinley.com/</a>	yes	yes	no	**	***
Maghreb Net <a href="http://maghreb.net/">http://maghreb.net/</a>	yes	yes	no	***	***
Middle East North Africa Internet Resource Guide <a href="http://www.cc.utah.edu/~jwr9311/MENA.html">http://www.cc.utah.edu/ ~jwr9311/MENA.html</a>	yes	yes	no	***	****
Middle East Internet Pages <a href="http://www.middle-east-pages.com/me.html">http://www.middle-east- pages.com/me.html</a>	yes	no	no	*	*
Murshid <a href="http://murshid.com/">http://murshid.com/</a>	yes	no	Arabic	*	**
NetGuide <a href="http://www.netguide.com/">http://www.netguide.com/</a>	yes	yes	no	**	*
OpenText <a href="http://www.opentext.com/">http://www.opentext.com/</a>	yes	yes	no	***	*
UT-MENIC <a href="http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html">http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html</a>	yes	yes	no	****	****
WWW Virtual Library <a href="http://celtic.stanford.edu/vlib/Overview.html">http://celtic.stanford.edu/vlib/ Overview.html</a>	yes	yes	no	***	***
Yahoo <a href="http://www.yahoo.com/">http://www.yahoo.com/</a>	yes	yes	no	***	***

Subject guides tend to include a smaller number of documents than most automated search engines. An effective search will necessarily probe search engines in addition to subject guides.

### **c. Search Engines**

Also called “spiders” or “crawlers,” good search engines constantly visit web sites on the Internet in order to index and catalog web pages automatically. Metasearch engines (Meta-Crawler, and Savvy Search) take one query and send it to several major search sites and display the results in a single list. The results of various experiments indicate that in addition to the three top services, Alta Vista, Excite and Infoseek, several more can be probed with varying results for subjects related to Middle East and Islamic studies. The following comparison of search engines takes into account the relevance of search results to the subject. It becomes clear after a few searches that each engine covers a somewhat different part of the Web, although many claim to include the best. For the sake of comprehensiveness, the use of more than one service for a given search is perhaps necessary. For larger engines, such as Alta Vista one needs to spend time learning its peculiar search syntax, to avoid being inundated with a huge number of resulting sites.

#### **AltaVista**

<http://altavista.com>

Arguably, AltaVista is the most comprehensive index of documents on the Web. Although it is very thorough, it often turns up so many matches that it is impossible to pursue them all. Thus, one needs to be very specific in search criteria. Any search on Middle East or Islam turns up thousands of hits. It indexes all words in any document published on the World Wide Web or in Usenet discussion groups. The best matches appear at the top of the list. It has an “Advanced Search” feature, search by date, detailed searches that include (or exclude!) any combination of words or phrases. It is seemingly the fastest. The AltaVista database can be updated every few days, a feature which reduces the likelihood of retrieving dead URLs. A unique feature of the “Simple Query” page is the capability to show how many other pages on the Web contain links to your own Web site.

#### **ArabSeek**

<http://www.arabseek.net/>

ArabSeek is a basic search engine created by al-Nadeem computing company to provide up-to-date information related to the Middle East available on the Internet from World Wide Web pages, Gopher and FTP sites. Although it does not allow Boolean searches, searches can be formulated as

“Match all the words” or “Match some of the words.” Links retrieved include sometimes a summary, composed usually by the submitting parties themselves. There does not seem to be any particular order in the results displayed.

**Excite**

<http://www.excite.com/>

Excite is a comprehensive search tool, it indexes more than 50 million Web pages, 140,000 Web site listings, and thousands of Usenet postings.

**Infoseek**

<http://www.infoseek.com/>

Voted by PC Computing magazine’s editors as the most valuable search tool for 1995, Infoseek offers a fee-based version and a free one. It features plain English searching. Infoseek has merged four search engines into one integrated tool that is described as “accurate, current, comprehensive, and superfast.”

**Lycos**

<http://www.lycos.com/>

Lycos is one of the biggest and most popular search engines and is fast becoming the leader in the field. It has a very large index that claims to include 90 per cent of the Web. The index is selective and does not include all words of a Web page. Elements included are the title, the headings, and the most significant 100 words. It has been often unavailable during peak and even regular work hours.

**MidEast Net Search Engine**

<http://www.mideastnet.com/>

Developed by The Arab & Middle East Business Gateway, a business promoter in Cairo, this site includes mostly businesses and large contracting companies. Its engine has some basic interactive features which include such parameters as type of matches (words, whole or truncated) and case sensitivity. This service is not comprehensive; even for businesses and companies the database is still very limited.

**Nathra [Nazrah]**

<http://www.ayna.com/search/>

This engine searches only the subject guide Ayna? mentioned above and indexes, analyzes, sorts HTML and text documents written in Arabic and any other language. One needs to run an Arabic-capable browser under Arabic Windows in order to search with this engine, since it is fully in Arabic both in browsing and searching mode.

### Northern Light Search

<http://nlsearch.com/>

Northern Light offers web-searching (simple and advanced) for both site content and full text of articles from a wide range of popular and scholarly magazines and journals through InfoTrac. It is perhaps the most comprehensive and efficient search service.

### Webcrawler

<http://webcrawler.com/>

Webcrawler is easy to use, smaller than Lycos, but more often available. It indexes every word of a Web page; titles, as well as content and is fast, and relatively easy to use. However, it returns a ranked list of hits with no descriptions. It has been absorbed by America Online.

**Table 2**

**Search Engines Evaluated for Relevance to Middle East and Islamic Studies:**

*\*=Poor      \*\*=Acceptable      \*\*\*=Good      \*\*\*\*=Outstanding*

<i>Search Engine</i>	<i>Boolean Allowed</i>	<i>Results Sorting</i>	<i>Vernacular Language</i>	<i>Speed &amp; Interface</i>	<i>Overall Rating</i>
AltaVista <a href="http://altavista.com">http://altavista.com</a>	yes	yes	no	***	***
ArabSeek <a href="http://www.arabseek.com/">http://www.arabseek.com/</a>	no	no	no	**	**
Excite <a href="http://www.excite.com/">http://www.excite.com/</a>	yes	yes	no	***	**
Infoseek <a href="http://www.infoseek.com/">http://www.infoseek.com/</a>	no	yes	no	***	***
Lycos <a href="http://www.lycos.com/">http://www.lycos.com/</a>	no	yes	no	***	**
MidEast Net Search <a href="http://www.mideastnet.com/">http://www.mideastnet.com/</a>	no	no	no	*	*

<i>Search Engine</i>	<i>Boolean Allowed</i>	<i>Results Sorting</i>	<i>Vernacular Language</i>	<i>Speed &amp; Interface</i>	<i>Overall Rating</i>
Nathra [Nazrah] <a href="http://www.ayna.com/search/">http://www.ayna.com/search/</a>	no	no	Arabic only	* * *	* * *
Webcrawler <a href="http://webcrawler.com/">http://webcrawler.com/</a>	yes	yes	no	* * *	**

### Adding value to the selected collection

**1- Review:** Resources gathered through the different searches need to be checked against the previously set criteria for inclusion or exclusion in the guide being developed. Each resource is reviewed for appropriateness. In many instances resources offer little originality or are put together in less than a meaningful way to be considered. All this sounds like applying familiar collection development criteria, which in fact it is, except that the format is different.

**2- Description:** This is an important added-value factor in the process of forming the guide. A description, objective and subjective, serves to provide information as to the contents of the item retrieved and its quality, and physical and technical characteristics, e.g., the support needed for usage (special browser capability, particular software, video and audio support). The description and annotation of individual resources are certainly a time-consuming process.

**3- Organization:** The way the guide is organized depends on the needs of the particular audience targeted. The distribution of resources by topic, hierarchically, chronologically, and geographically, should parallel the overall structure of the web site in order to provide maximum efficiency. The main page constitutes the table of contents which provides the most general overview of the hierarchy, including internally-linked documents (pages) tables of contents. It is important to determine what content goes where. Pages expand over time, and for really large sets of documents the presentation is key. The concept of “Storyboarding”—borrowed from movie-making—is often used in Web site development. It consists in providing an overall structure to the film that permits the movie director and staff to know where each individual shot and scene fits in the movie overall.

**4. Design:** The Web designer has to make the page logical and attractive. Users go to the Web more often to seek facts than to have an experience, although most of the time on the Web may seem like an experience; therefore, the designer of the site is the one who determines what that experience

should be like. Many designers try to make every single page as graphically attractive as possible, giving less thought and consideration to the user's overall experience, which derives from the combination of contents, endless waiting for information during downloads of graphics, images, backgrounds, etc. Visitors are usually reluctant to tolerate graphic file-size over 30 to 40 Kilobytes (jpg's) or over 10 to 15 Kilobytes (gif's) and text of pages over 100 to 150 kilobits.

\* \* \*

The Internet might dramatically change publishing as it is known. It is no coincidence that official figures show that trade book sales, especially hardcover, have dropped by about 10% in the last two years.<sup>2</sup> It might be that electronic publishing in the future will assume a central role in the academic environment, as authors bypass publishers by publishing their work themselves on the Internet and charging the user directly. With printing optional, the problem of storage space in library buildings could be reduced.

As the Internet gains popularity in MidEast and North African countries, several governments are clamping down on what they perceive as immoral or subversive on the Web. Internet providers are required to set up software blockades to censor material. A case in point is Etisalat, the only service provider to the seven states of the United Arab Emirates. Through a "proxy cache server," sites that are deemed immoral are cut out. The problem with this is that not only have some users there developed skills to bypass the blockages anyway, but serious research is impeded. If the software is programmed to block keywords such as sex, breast or nude, information about Middlesex county in the United Kingdom, breast cancer research, or even a recipe for chicken breast are also blocked.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ken Auletta: "The Impossible Business." In: *The New Yorker* (Oct. 6, 1997): 50–63.

<sup>3</sup> For a narrative on the Internet in the Middle East see: Shuji Hosaka's "The Internet and the Middle East Studies," In: *Time Review* (Spring 1997). The essay deals rather with the Internet and Internet services in the Middle East, and not much with the Internet and Middle East Studies.

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Science in Medieval Islam: An Illustrated survey.* By Howard R. Turner. Austin: University of Texas Press. Pp. 262. Bibliography. Index. \$19.95 (paperback).

When one considers that the *Journal for the History of Arabic Science* is barely twenty years old, it should be clear that earnest European-American study of science as it was practiced in pre-modern Islamic realms is in its relative infancy. Every graduate student in the field of Middle Eastern Studies learns that Avicenna, Averroes, al-Ghazzālī and al-Khwārizmī were prominent medieval Arabic-speaking scientists whose works bridged the temporal space between the classical Greek world and the European Renaissance. However, an appreciation of the history of the exact sciences in medieval Islam, much less a basic understanding of the details of a particular science, generally remains outside the ken of most people, even those engaged in the study of Islamic history and cultures. Those few who do study the physical sciences in the Islamic Middle Ages tend to specialize in one particular field; consequently, one finds that treatises on specific sciences far outnumber general introductions or surveys.

Perhaps the most widely known work of the latter variety is Seyyed Hossein Nasr's *Islamic Science: An Illustrated study* (Istanbul, 1989, 1976), with Donald Hill's *Islamic Science and Engineering* (Edinburgh, 1993) a close second. *Science in Medieval Islam: an Illustrated Survey* is an attempt to present to general readers a broad overview of the achievements and contributions in the various sciences by Muslim scientists between the ninth and sixteenth centuries. H. R. Turner, a television and educational film writer, was science curator for the travelling exhibition, "The Heritage of Islam, 1982–1983;" the present work grew from and is thoroughly informed by the author's involvement with that project.

Following a brief historical introduction, *Science in Medieval Islam* proceeds to two discussions of the cultural, linguistic and religious forces in early Islam which facilitated the absorption of classical learning and sparked interest in the investigation and refinement of the ideas found there. These are followed by nine chapters, each devoted to a specific branch of scientific inquiry. Beginning with cosmology and continuing through mathematics, astronomy, astrology, geography, medicine, the natural sciences, alchemy, and optics, the book presents significant developments in each field and



sketches of the Muslim scientists who produced them. Major Muslim contributions to the various sciences are summarized at the end of each chapter. Ninety-five supportive illustrations including photographs of structures, tools, manuscript pages, and museum objects are provided.

Turner concludes with chapters on the decline of scientific inquiry in the later centuries of Islamic history, the transmission of Islamic scientific findings to Europe, and the impact of those findings on the subsequent development of scientific thought in the West. A scientific-historical time line, glossary of Arabic terms, and bibliography augment the volume. Also useful is the list of the sources for the illustrations.

Given the relative paucity of general introductions to the history of the physical sciences in Islam, there is certainly room for books of this type. *Science in Medieval Islam* is perhaps unique among extant works in that it has developed directly out of research for an exhibition of Islamic scientific materials (the extent and composition of which is never made clear). Although the author is not a specialist in any field of Islamic or scientific studies, an examination of his acknowledgments reveals that he has had the able guidance of some of the most prominent scholars in the several fields of Islamic science, including A. I. Sabra of Harvard, Sami Hamarneh, late of the Smithsonian Institution, George Saliba of Columbia and David A. King of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, among others.

As Turner makes explicit in the foreword, this book is intended for the use of general readers. As such, it makes no claim of presenting new, exciting developments in the field. What it does, and what it does quite well, is to reveal the breadth and sophistication of scientific inquiry in the medieval Islamic world. Attention is paid both to theoretical as well as to practical applications of science. By way of example, mathematical theorems, as might be expected, are discussed, but mechanical devices for moving water are also given substantial treatment. Of equal importance, Turner places these contributions in historical context, describing for the reader the conception of a principle in ancient times, how that principle was refined or developed under the Muslims, and what impact such a development had on subsequent research in European lands. Emphasizing points of connection between the Islamic and European scientific communities contributes to an historical appreciation of the importance of Muslim achievements in the sciences and of the role of Arab, Persian and other Muslim scientists in preserving the legacy of the Greek philosophers whose work we hold to be so important to our culture.

One might prefer that the illustrations were in color rather than in black and white, but it is understandable that the cost of such a feature might not be justified in a work whose appeal is to a general readership. In terms of their relevance to the text, the visual materials supplement the subject matter rather well. The bibliography lists only secondary works in English, but the authors, almost without exception, are noted scholars in their respective fields, and general readers turning to the works cited will be assured of finding authoritative information on a given topic. Turner's work offers a sound general introduction to the subject of the history of Islamic science in a clear and cogent manner.

KARL R. SCHAEFER

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*Ottoman Lyric Poetry: An Anthology*. Ed. and transl. by Walter G. Andrews, Najaat Black, and Mehmed Kalpaklı. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997. Pp. 312. : ill. ; incl. bibliography. Price: \$40 hardcover, \$14.95 paperback.

April is National Poetry Month in the United States. In celebration of the occasion, public libraries and bookstores across the land host authors reading their verse, trendy cafés from the East Bay to Manhattan hold poetry slams, and little magazines put out special poetry issues. Yet, few would argue that poetry—at least of a sort more formal than advertising jingles and rock lyrics—occupies a central place in our culture. Not many adults these days, even among the educated, can recite more than a fragment or two of verse; fewer still actually try to write poetry.

By contrast, in the Ottoman Empire—which for nearly half a millennium covered most of what in post-Ottoman times has become known as the Middle East, as well as much of southeastern Europe—poetry functioned as perhaps the single most important medium of cultural expression. Everybody knew poetry and could recite it from memory. Poetic allusions and quotations were part of daily discourse; formal and informal recitals of verse could be expected at most social occasions. Virtually everyone who had any claim to sensibility or cultivation at least tried his or her hand at composing poetry—to express romantic longing, grief, worry, humor, passion, the search for spiritual truth and mystical union, or the quest for worldly rewards in the form of patronage and employment.

The degree to which poetry pervaded Ottoman society and culture is exemplified by a 648-page volume entitled *Maliyeci şairler antolojisi* [An

Anthology of Poets of the State Fiscal Administration]. It includes selections from the work of 219 Ottoman and 47 Republican-era bureaucrats—who would gather, after a long day of adding up the figures in the ledgers, to compose and recite lyric poetry by moonlight. Included among these poet-bureaucrats are some of the greatest names in Ottoman literature. Could one seriously envision an American companion volume entitled: *An Anthology of Poets of the Internal Revenue Service*? Yet in the Ottoman context the juxtaposition is a natural one, expressing as it does two accomplishments to which any Ottoman *efendi* would have been proud to aspire.

In short, one cannot hope to fully understand the Ottoman era without some appreciation of the place of poetry in society and culture. Yet, for all but a handful of specialists, that appreciation has long been hindered by the lack of readable and accessible translations. In recent years, faculty members teaching courses in Middle Eastern history and area studies have been trying to provide their students with readings that can give them a feel for the cultural context—something to take them beyond the dry discourses of political history, economics, and social science towards a sense of what moved and affected people in a place and time remote from their own.

This is, of course, hard to do if the key texts are not translated well and if the extant translations are not available in print. In the case of Ottoman poetry, the situation could hardly have been worse. The one substantial body of published translations of Ottoman verse into English was E. J. W. Gibb's monumental *History of Ottoman Poetry*, published at the turn of the century when the Ottoman Empire was still a going concern. In his English versions of the Ottoman poems, Gibb sought to imitate the rhyme and metric patterns of the originals and deliberately tried to make them sound archaic, exotic, and obscure—a style of translation unlikely to appeal to modern readers. The only other substantial anthology that has appeared in English since then is the *Penguin Book of Turkish Verse*, which included a section of Ottoman *divan* poetry in new translations by John R. Walsh. Published two decades ago, it is unfortunately no longer in print and was never distributed in the United States.

Thus, the appearance of *Ottoman Lyric Poetry: An Anthology*, the first major translation of Ottoman poetry in nearly a century, could not be more timely or more welcome.

This new anthology is the result of collaboration between Walter Andrews, one of the foremost interpreters of Ottoman literature in North America, the Turkish scholar Mehmet Kalpaklı, and Najaat Black, who

is a poet in her own right. Included in the volume are free-verse translations of 75 lyric poems by 36 authors, spanning a broad range of epochs and styles from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century. The translators' achievement is evident in the poems themselves, which are remarkably fresh and poetic, while remaining scholarly and faithful in spirit to the originals.

Rather than "floating the poems on a sea of footnotes," Andrews, Kalpaklı, and Black elected to keep annotations to a minimum and put them in a separate section, letting the translations speak for themselves. Instead, they surrounded them with a cultural "milieu" to aid the reader in understanding these poems and the contexts of their creation and reception. Inserted among the poems are brief prose sections, retelling popular tales and legends frequently referred to in lyric poetry. Another excursus explains the social context of the *meclis*, the parties at which poets and connoisseurs of poetry gathered to celebrate earthly and mystical love in verse. We also find a letter addressed to Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent by a fellow poet, critiquing two of the sultan's poems; explanations of the symbolic significance of downy cheeks and of the letters of the Arabic alphabet, and much else that is both useful and illuminating. For those who wish to refer to the original poems, there is an appendix giving the Ottoman texts in transcription. To give the reader some idea of the experience of encountering these poems in manuscripts, the book includes a selection of miniatures (in serviceable black-and-white reproductions) illustrating stories in the poems and examples of Ottoman calligraphy.

Particularly illuminating are the brief biographical entries for each poet, which introduce us to a diverse world of writers. Among them are such fascinating figures as the wandering poet and mystic Nesîmî, skinned alive as a heretic in early-fifteenth-century Aleppo; the lady Mihri Hatun, the daughter of a kadi who wrote passionate love poems addressed to men of her literary circle, yet never married, and was honored for her poetry with more lavish royal gifts than any of her male contemporaries; Zâtî, the untutored, partly deaf son of a provincial bootmaker, who went to the capital and became famous for his wit and poetic gifts, a favorite of the sultan and his viziers, and the best-loved and most prolific poet of the age; Şeyhülislâm Yahyâ, the chief mufti (Islamic jurisconsult) of the empire and author of works on theology and law, who also gained renown as the author of love-lyrics; Taşlıcalı Yahyâ Bey, conscripted into the Janissary corps from a remote Albanian mountain village, who rose to high rank and fame both on his strength as a poet and of his service in military campaigns from Tabriz to Vienna; Şeyh Galib, scion of a long line of sheikhs of the Mevlevî order and educated in a *tekke* (dervish lodge), who became famous both as

the greatest lyric poet of his time and as a supporter of modernizing reform at the end of the eighteenth century. Although all of the poets appear as individuals rather than types—and exceptional individuals at that—taken together these short biographies give a sense of the richness and variety of the five centuries of Ottoman culture represented in this book.

But it is the poems that are the real *raison d'être* of this anthology and its greatest achievement. Walter Andrews, Najaat Black, and Mehmet Kalpaklı have accomplished the difficult task of making these poems live in English while making the reader feel what it is that makes them great poems in Ottoman Turkish. This is a book that will be useful both to the beginning student and to the specialist. It belongs in every library that deals with the cultures and history of the Middle East.

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ANDRÁS RIEDLMAYER

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*Iranian Intellectuals in the 20th Century*. By Ali Gheissari. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1998. Pp. 247.

*Iranian Intellectuals in the 20th Century* is a well written book that describes the 20th century intellectual movements in Iran. It is obvious from the rich bibliography that the author enjoys the knowledge of many languages including Persian, Arabic, English, and some other European languages. Gheissari's book is based on extensive research work. A detailed "Notes" section and a "Bibliography" at the end of the text help future scholars in their study of Iranian intellectual movements and literary history. The style of Gheissari's writing is simple and pleasant. He has made the topic altogether interesting and it is easy to follow the intellectualism, nationalism, and constitutional movements in Iran. The book, although scholarly in nature, can be enjoyed by serious scholars as well as individuals with limited knowledge of Iranian intellectual history.

The book is divided into six chapters: Modern intellectualism in Iran; Intellectuals in the Constitutional Period; Intellectuals and state nationalism, 1921–1941; Politics and literature, 1941–1953; Critique of Westernism and debates over modernity; and an epilogue. Each chapter describes a specific period and the development of nationalism and intellectualism in the light of political changes in 20th century Iranian history.

The author argues that failure to reform 19th century Iran paved the road for nationalism leading to the constitutional movement of 1905. Adherents of the anti-constitutional movement also aired their voices and supported the principles of Sharia over constitutionalism.

Gheissari discusses the overthrow of the Mosaddeq government in the coup d'état of 1953, and how the Shah gradually tightened his grips over Iran.

In 1957 SAVAK (the Iranian secret police) began to eliminate the Shah's opponents. Members of the Tudeh (communist) party suffered the most during this period of time. Between 1953–1979 university campuses became main centers of opposition to the Shah and often their conflicts ended in tragedy and loss of lives. Intellectuals used periodicals as their main channel for spreading their ideology.

Gheissari's book briefly covers the post-revolutionary intellectual literature, and he believes that the intellectual movement of this era could be studied best by reading the October 1977 Iranian Writers' Association poetry and speeches that were held for ten evenings at the Goethe Institute in Tehran. He found their proceedings a good representation of Iranian intellectual thought during that specific period of time. The author mentions that the 59 members of this association, in spite of their diverse ideological views, had a common goal, and that was the overthrow of the monarchy system in Iran. Not long after the return of Ayatollah Khomeini and the departure of the Shah of Iran, Writers' Association members—who believed that the clerical leaders' rule would be temporary and would be replaced with a more "rational" regime—found the situation to be otherwise. Disagreements surfaced among the intellectuals and some members were expelled from the Writers' Association. Gheissari also mentions the effects of the 1979 revolution on intellectuals and their literary works. The reviewer found the book very informative and a good source for the study of Iranian intellectual history.

SHAISTA WAHAB

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*Islam, Democracy, and the State in North Africa*. Edited by John P. Entelis. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, c1997. Pp. xxv, 228. ISBN 0-253-33303-3 (Cloth) \$35.00 ISBN 0-253-21131-X (Paper) \$15.95.

The Maghreb has witnessed a number of political phases since its independence. The editor of this book, John P. Entelis, recognizes six phases: struggle for national liberation; era of optimism and benign authoritarianism envisioning a period of “modernization” and “Westernization”; an increased involvement in the late 1960s and early 1970s of the secret services in politics, suffocating all forms of independent political expression; economic failures in the early and mid-1980s to support the “welfare contracts” which regulated state-society relations, resulting in growing popular unrest; 1989–1991 witnessed initial Maghrebi experience with liberalization and democratization, which gave rise to popular voices, most notably of Islamic movements; the last phase brought forth military backed authoritarian regimes, trying to maintain their hold over society and at the same time benefit from the support of the West, and follow its advice in liberalizing Maghrebi economies.

This book examines the last three phases during the 1980s and 1990s, analyzing the interaction of Islam, democracy and the state in North Africa from the perspectives of political culture and political economy. Among the issues discussed are the implications of modernization and Westernization, aiming at radical secularism, on the rise of popular and politicized Islam; the relation of Islam and democracy; economic reasons for the popular support of Islamist movements; and the interrelation between changes in the political regimes and the need to find new sources of revenue.

The collection constitutes an interesting examination of the political, cultural, social, and economic developments in North Africa from different perspectives, utilizing diverse sources and methodologies. It shows how certain developments are important steps in North African political life, even when viewed with suspicion and hostility in the West. On the other hand, this is not an apologetic analysis of North African politics: just as North African political life is maturing, so is its scholarly examination.

RACHEL SIMON

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*The Maghrib in Question: Essays in history and historiography.* Ed. Michel Le Gall and Kenneth Perkins. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, ©1997 Pp. xxv, 258. ISBN 0-292-76576-2 \$40.00

Research on North Africa has greatly increased during the last quarter century in North Africa as well as in Europe and the USA, and the number of monographs, articles, and specialized journals continues to grow. The current collection sets out "...to develop an overview of historiographical production in the years since the Maghrib states won their independence, to assess the quality of the work, and to identify its most salient trends" (p. vii). The contributors are veteran and new scholars of several disciplines, seven from Maghreb and six from the USA, and the coverage is from antiquity to contemporary times. Regarding the structure of the book, the editors decided to bring together "essays focusing on different periods in order to throw into relief important continuities, patterns of interaction, and linkages between eras that might otherwise escape notice" (p. ix). The volume is divided into three parts, and the papers, which include numerous bibliographical citations, are followed by endnotes, but there is no index.

The first part, Reconnoitering the Terrain, covers issues relating to the region as a whole and discusses overall problems by period (ancient, medieval, and modern). The second part, Modern History and Historiography, treats mostly individual countries, and shows how changes in politics are reflected in research. The third part, Theoretical Issues and Case Studies, deals with specific sources, periods, and case studies.

All papers cite numerous studies and reference sources in Arabic and in European languages. The book is a useful tool for further research, presenting a wide range of studies followed at times with evaluation. The absence of an index, though, makes it difficult to find studies on a particular subject (e.g., women or education). Very little is mentioned regarding the study of North African Jews, which has been constantly growing in Israel as well as in Europe and the USA. By now, Attal's 1973 bibliography on the subject (p. 69) has been replaced by his much larger 1993 edition.

The *Maghrib in Question* is a very useful tool for advanced scholars and beginners, as it presents the state of the art in many fields as well as theoretical issues and different points of view. It also shows what areas are less researched and where relevant primary sources are located.



This work should also stimulate scholars in other fields to pay more attention to developments in North Africa for comparative studies and thus help to rescue North African studies from their relative marginality.

RACHEL SIMON

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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*Palestinian Women of Gaza and the West Bank*. Ed. Suha Sabbagh. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, ©1998. Pp. 262. ISBN 0-253-33377-6 Cloth \$39.35 ISBN 0-253-21174-3 Paper \$16.95

Emergency situations often make people act in unconventional ways, and social conventions regarding acceptable behavior are less strictly adhered to. Once the conditions have changed, pressures to return to previous modes of behavior might appear and encounter strong resistance from those affected because of the possible decrease in their freedoms and authority. A case in point is the condition of Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the late 1980s and the 1990s as a result of the Palestinian uprising (Intifada) which started in late 1987. The changes in the condition, behavior and authority of these women are examined in this collection by Palestinian and American scholars, most of whom are women, and many of whom teach at Bir Zayt University or are active in various Palestinian women's organizations. An important aspect of the book is the authors' open criticism of the Palestinian leadership and the majority of the male population for trying to deprive women of achievements gained during the Intifada and restricting as much as possible women's equality. The book includes an introduction, four parts, an appendix, end notes for most chapters, and an index.

The introduction by the editor, Suha Sabbagh, gives the background to women's participation in the Intifada, the history of Palestinian women's organizations, feminism and nationalism in the Arab world, and writings about Palestinian women. Here, and in several papers, it is stressed that Palestinian women were anxious not to suffer the same fate as the Algerian women, who were active during the Algerian War of Independence, but lost much of their status under independence.

The first part, "Defining the Role of Women", includes four papers detailing and analyzing the involvement of women in the Intifada. Women, especially adults, participated in demonstrations against Israel, at first in order to protect their sons, and later in demonstrations in their own behalf. Women became active in committees and supplied prepared food, first aid,

and other services. Women's involvement in mixed-gender environments became more accepted, and relations within the family started to change favorably for women.

The second part, "How Culture Recorded Women's Roles", examines gender issues in literature. Despite the obvious changes in women's behavior and status, their description in poetry did not basically change, due to the more traditional and conservative character of poetry, mostly written by men. On the other hand, many of the legends which started circulating during the Intifada do reflect the changing position of Palestinian women.

The third part, "The Double Burden of Women: Tradition and Occupation", stresses the fact that women are often twice oppressed: as women by traditional male society and as Palestinians by the Israeli occupation. Thus, women, who were still expected to fulfill all their traditional household tasks, and young women also, often felt that their participation in mixed-gender activities, including demonstrations and committee meetings, would define them as morally lax and deficient. Consequently, such activities could decrease and even nullify their chances to get married. Serving a prison term might cause them to be considered moral outcasts, while young men's esteemed heroism would increase following similar incidents and enhance their social and political status. This part, as well as the fourth, "Anticipations after Oslo", examine the background in Palestinian women's status during the second phase of the Intifada and the beginnings of the deliberations in preparation for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Thus, at the time of compiling this collection, the Declaration of Principles on Palestinian Women's Rights" had gone through several revisions, but had not yet been approved by the Palestinian National Assembly. The text of the third draft of this declaration, followed by an analysis of the various drafts, reflects the aspirations of Palestinian women and the reaction from male politicians, especially in the Islamic movement.

This is an important collection, which combines testimonies of Palestinian women with scholarly analysis. A major strength is that it provides an insider's voice—that of various Palestinian women, both young and adult, workers, professionals, housewives, and scholars. The fact that much criticism regarding the social, economic, and political status of Palestinian women is voiced by these women themselves makes these pronouncements sincere and worthy of attention.

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### Brief Reviews

*The Sinai : A Physical geography.* By Ned H. Greenwood. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1997. Pp. xii, 148, ill., maps. Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 0 292 72798 4 (alk. paper) \$35.00 ; 0 292 72799 2 (pbk: alk. paper) \$16.95.

The author, a professor emeritus of geography at San Diego State University, admits in his preface to having first considered writing "a comprehensive geography of the Sinai," but upon realizing the overwhelming magnitude of that task, he settled on focusing on "the physical aspects of that geography." The result is a fine, succinct book which does an excellent job of meeting its stated purpose.

The book consists of seven chapters. The first, a brief introductory one, defines the Sinai physically and politically. The next four get down to the heart of the matter, describing the Sinai's physical geography: its plate tectonics and geology, geomorphology and drainage, weather and climate, and its soils. It concludes with a chapter on biogeography, and one on the human ecology of the region, with the intriguing title of: "May they eat lamb in paradise," borrowed, the author claims, from an old Bedouin greeting/benediction.

The style is lucid, easily followed by geographer and non-specialist alike. Technical terminology is generally defined in the text, and there is a glossary of Arabic place names. The numerous black and white line maps, despite their apparent simplicity, do much to enhance and complement the text. The black and white photographs are adequate, but doubtless the contrast between different types of terrain, or between terrain and vegetation, would have been greater had they been in colour; but then, that would probably have raised the cost of this reasonably priced book. It has a useful bibliography, and a good index.

All in all, it is a very informative, well-written book that would be a good addition to any Middle East collection.

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*Over-Stating the Arab State: Politics and society in the Middle East.* By Nazih N. Ayubi. London; New York: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 1995. Pp. 459. Index, Bibliography, Paperback \$19.95.

This book consists of twelve chapters; in its final chapter, Ayubi concludes, "that the Arab state is an authoritarian state, and that it is so averse to democracy and resistant to its pressures should not, of course, be taken as a measure of the strength of that state—indeed quite the reverse." This is an important study by a well-known Arab author whose works on Arab politics and economics in English constitute an important body of research material. The major theme in this present work is that although most Arab states are "hard" states and some of them are "fierce" states, few of them are really "strong" states.

The author discusses in detail the origins of the "Arab-Islamic" state and the diverse and contrasting experiences of state formation in the Arab world. The author also deals with many questions often raised about the nature of the Arab state and Arab politics, such as: Why did all the attempts at Arab unity fail? Why have efforts at democratization born no fruit? Why the ruling caste is often very narrowly based and non-representative? In presenting answers to these questions the author, who chooses to focus attention on twelve Arab countries, depends heavily on the works in Arabic, by Arab political writers and scholars who have studied their own societies and political systems.

This book, which the author states took ten years to complete, has an extensive bibliography of thirty five pages and a detailed index. Ayubi's book is a valuable contribution to the study of politics of the Arab States.

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*Language and Identity in the Middle East and North Africa.* Ed. Yasir Suleiman. London: Curzon, 1996. Pp. 192. ISBN 0-7007-0410-8.

*Language and Identity in the Middle East and North Africa* is a collection of essays by various contributors on the "significance of language in collective identity conceptualization, whether in ethnic or national terms." The essays define themselves in geographical terms and comprise, in addition to the Middle East and North Africa, the Central Asian and Caucasus countries of the former Soviet Union, and linguistically to include, in addition to the Semitic languages, the Turkic, Iranian, and Caucasian families.

The essays were originally presented at the Language and Ethnic Identity Symposium in the Middle East and North Africa held 3–5 July, 1995, at Edinburgh University. Suleiman's introduction summarizes each essay and addresses the common themes among them. Such issues as diglossia, written vs. spoken language, nationalism and language, ethnic and religious identity and language, language and alphabet reform, and language and (ethno-)politics are discussed in the collection, insofar as they bear on Arabic, Turkish and Turkic, Persian (Tajik), Kurdish, Berber, and Hebrew. Each essay concludes with a brief bibliography. Readers of these essays will no doubt turn first to those which deal with their individual geographical and linguistic areas of expertise, but will find on further reading that the conjunction of language and identity is universally applicable, regardless of its particular geographical or linguistic conditions, and that language and identity manifest themselves as powerful and often divisive forces with profound international social and political implications.

Since it is impossible for a brief review to deal comprehensively with a multifaceted collection such as this, with each contribution approaching its topic with its proper disciplinary methodology, a listing of the contents will serve to inform the reader:

Mike Holt, "Divided Loyalties: Language and Ethnic Identity in the Arab World"; Yasir Suleiman, "Language and Identity in Egyptian Nationalism"; Ibrahim Muhawi, "Language, Ethnicity and National Identity in the Tunisian Ethnic Joke"; Sarah Lawson-Sako and Itesh Sachdev, "Ethnolinguistic Communication in Tunisian Streets: Convergence and Divergence"; Muhammad Amara and Bernard Spolsky, "The Construction of Identity in a Divided Palestinian Village: Sociolinguistic Evidence"; Çiğdem Balim, "Turkish as a Symbol of Survival and Identity in Bulgaria and Turkey"; Farida Abu-Haidar, "Turkish as a Marker of Ethnic Identity and Religious Affiliation"; Jacob M. Landau, "Language and Ethnopolitics in the Ex-Soviet Muslim Republics"; Joyce Blau and Yasir Suleiman, "Language and Ethnic Identity in Kurdistan: An Historical Overview"; Mohamed Tilmatine and Yasir Suleiman, "Language and Identity: The Case of the Berber"; Bernard Spolsky, "Hebrew and Israeli Identity".

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