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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Omar Khalidi (1954-2010)

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Omar Khalidi passed away in a tragic accident in Cambridge on the 29th of November 2010. He was the Aga Khan Librarian at Rotch Library at MIT from 1983 to 2010 and served as the President of the Middle East Librarians Association in 2008–2009. Many of us knew him in that capacity, and many remember him for his generosity and helpfulness. But Omar was also an outspoken scholar who published more than thirteen books, including *Muslims in Indian Economy* (2006), *Khaki and the Ethnic Violence in India* (2003), and the edited *An Indian Passage to Europe: The Travels of Fath Nawaz Jang* (2006).

Omar's was a scholarship that sprang from an interest in his heritage, both personal and national, and most probably under the influence of his father, Abu Nasr Khalidi, a well-known scholar of Arabic and Islamic studies at Osmania University. His first book, *Consequences of Hadrami Migration to India: The Arab Presence in Haydarabad,* published in 1987, was a study of the role Hadhrami (south Yemeni) migrants played in India, especially in his beloved Hyderabad. He went on to publish a couple of historical and urban studies on Hyderabad, including *The British Residency in Hyderabad: An Outpost of the Raj: 1779–1948* (2005) and *Hyderabad: After the Fall* (1988).

His scholarly work branched out into two areas in which he became a world expert: the status of Muslims in India, past but especially present, and the status of mosques in the West. The first was a natural outgrowth of his politico-sociological engagement with the history of Islam in India, the second a result of his many years of work at AKPIA. Both, however, showed the side of Omar that will be remembered most: his doggedness in the pursuit of telling-it-as-it-is as the most genuine method of committed scholarship. This earned him many admirers and detractors.

Though scholarly to the bones, Omar was also a man with a sharp sense of humor. This complemented his inborn criticality,

which he unsheathed in every discussion we had. His probing remarks on our shared concerns: Muslims and modernity, Muslims in the West, Muslims in India, Western views of Muslims, education about Islam in the U.S. and in the Islamic world, and the self-fulfilling prophecy of Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations* as it has been unfolding in recent years were incisive, bordering on the sarcastic, but very perceptive.

What I will remember most, however, is how Omar's facial expressions and hand movements collaborated to enhance and give shape to his mordant criticism. He will squint his eyes, press his lips in a restrained smirk, and turn his hands upward in a very slow movement before softly uttering the most challenging observation. At that moment I felt that the man's whole being is coming together to make his point.

Omar earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wales-Lampeter, Wales, U.K. in 1994, and his B.A. from Wichita State University, in 1980. He is survived by his wife, Nigar, and his daughter, Aliya.

The Digitization of the Periodicals of the German Oriental Society (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft) in the Context of MENALIB

LUTZ WIEDERHOLD
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The Middle East Virtual Library—MENALIB

Since 1998, the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt in Halle (ULB Halle) has held responsibility for the German national Middle East and North African collection—the Sondersammelgebiet Vorderer Orient einschliesslich Nordafrika (SSG VO)[1]. In 1999, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [DFG])—which supports a system of approximately 120 Sondersammelgebiete[2]—launched an initiative aiming at the creation of virtual libraries coordinated by the various national special subject collections. Virtual libraries supported by the DFG are designed to coordinate the activities of national and international information providers working in their particular field of specialization. They are expected to collect digital bibliographic information and full-text materials and to make these types of information accessible through a website. In the context of this initiative, ULB Halle started to develop the information portal MENALIB (Middle East North Africa LIBrary) in 2000, focusing, in its first years, on creating enhanced access to bibliographic information by introducing, among other tools, the Middle East Virtual Catalog,[3] the periodical contents database MENAcontents, and by cataloging tables of contents of article collections such as Festschriften or conference volumes into its electronic catalog. The resulting bibliographical information was linked to different models of document provision, primarily

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[1] http://org.sub.uni-hamburg.de/webis/index.php/Vorderer_Orient_einschl._Nordafrika_(6.23)
[2] http://org.sub.uni-hamburg.de/webis/index.php/Hauptseite
[3] http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/hylib/vk_ssg_vo.html

interlibrary loan and the electronic document delivery service
Subito.[4]

**The Electronic Full-Text Repository of MENALIB (MENAdoc)
and the Digitization of the Periodicals of the Deutsche
Morgenländische Gesellschaft (ZDMG Digital)**
The primary objective of virtual libraries as developed by the
German special subject collections is to enhance and accelerate
access to various types of information, including electronic full-text
documents. As electronic full-text documents whose availability is
unrestricted by copyright or other legal regulations guarantee an
optimum of accessibility, the agenda of MENALIB from an early
stage included the collection of scholarly full-text materials that are
freely available on the Internet. These documents were catalogued
into the OPAC of ULB Halle and, if permission was granted by
authors or publishing institutions, downloaded to the local server as a
backup file to their original version. As of July 2009, ULB Halle had
created in its OPAC records for more than 1,000 electronic full-text
documents, the majority of which were downloaded to the library's
servers.[5] Already in 2008, the German Research Foundation (DFG)
had started to support the collection of these materials by funding
staff dedicated to this particular field of acquisition.

     At the same time, the DFG created large-scale funding programs
for the digitization of printed materials relevant to the humanities
and especially for materials held by the special subject collections.
ULB Halle participated in one of these programs for the first time in
2006 with a project aimed at the digitization of copyright-free
documents from the research library of Prof. Jacob M. Landau, a
collection purchased by ULB Halle in 2004 and comprising ca. 3,000
documents, many of them gray literature items related to the political
history of twentieth-century Turkey.[6] From this unique collection,
approximately 400 titles comprising 52,000 pages were digitized.

     In 2008, ULB Halle received funding from the DFG for the
digitization of 132,000 pages of ca. 250 volumes of journals

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[4] http://www.subito-doc.de/index.php?

[5] A list of these documents is available on the MENAdoc website:
http://menadoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/ (MENAdoc Einzeldokumente)

[6] For information on the current state of this project see
http://menadoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/landau/doc/home?lang=en

published by the German Oriental Society (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft [DMG]), including (1) the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft,* the society's main periodical dealing with all the different fields traditionally subsumed under Oriental studies, its first volume published in 1847; (2) the *Zeitschrift für Semitistik und verwandte Gebiete,* published 1922–1935; (3) the *Zeitschrift für Indologie und Iranistik,* published 1922–1935/1936; and (4) the *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und verwandte Gebiete,* published 1886–1938. All these periodicals are of particular importance, not only to the scholarly community by virtue of their reflection of the history of scientific discourse in various Oriental studies disciplines in Germany and also internationally, but also to the city of Halle as a center of Oriental studies in Germany. The DMG was founded by scholars from Halle and Leipzig in 1845, and the society's library has always been maintained in Halle since its inauguration in 1846 (since the end of the nineteenth century, as a result of a contract between the society and the Prussian state) as an integral part of the library of the University of Halle.

In view of the substantial number of Middle East and Islamic studies-related electronic full-text materials already available and plans to extend the number of such materials in the future in other digitization projects, ULB Halle decided to create the full-text repository MENAdoc using the infrastructure of the institution's digital library, which is based on the document management system Visual Library produced by the company Semantics Kommunikationsmanagement GmbH.[7] In addition to materials from the Landau collection and the periodicals of the DMG, further texts have been digitized and integrated into MENAdoc by ULB Halle, among them ten out-of-print titles published in the series Islamkundliche Untersuchungen in cooperation with the publisher Klaus Schwartz Verlag, and the catalog of printed books of the library of the German Oriental Society, published by Richard Pischel in 1900.

ZDMG Digital: National and Local Context
In order to ensure a high degree of usability of electronic copies produced in digitization projects, the German Research Foundation

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[7] http://www.semantics.de/index.html

(DFG) has formulated a set of practical guidelines[8] and developed a standard software for the visualization of image files resulting from these projects, i.e., the DFG viewer.[9] The practical guidelines for the realization of DFG-funded projects formulate principles for the selection of materials to be digitized, technical norms for image production, full-text generation, long-term preservation, and metadata standards for the provision of electronic documents (including a statement on the importance of Open Access), and presentation formats.

A critical element of creating searchable texts using OCR software on the basis of digital images, according to the DFG guidelines, is the indication of the structural data of the original documents. Structural data comprise formal elements of a text or a volume, for example, title page, preface, article, chapter, etc.[10] For the journals of the German Oriental Society (DMG), author names and article titles have been added to these general structural data by a cataloguer. These enriched structural data provide accurate title information and enable the user to navigate within the volumes of the digitized journals.[11]

As to the principles of selection, the DFG guidelines identify demand among the scholarly community for a particular document as the primary criterion when choosing materials for digitization. Besides this, projects are called upon to avoid unnecessary duplication of digitization efforts by checking title lists of related digitization projects. Also, digitization projects are expected to transfer metadata to a number of different databases, among them the Central Index of Digitized Imprints (Zentrales Verzeichnis Digitalisierter Drucke [ZVDD]),[12] the Kalliope database of autographs,[13] or, in the case of periodicals, DigiZeitschriften[14]. These

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[8] http://www.dfg.de/forschungsfoerderung/wissenschaftliche_infrastruktur/ lis/download/praxisregeln_digitalisierung_en.pdf

[9] http://dfg-viewer.de/en/regarding-the-project/

[10] For a list of structural data as developed for the DFG viewer see http://dfg-viewer.de/en/structural-data-set/

[11] See, for example, the table of contents of vol. 1 of the ZDMG http://menadoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/dmg/periodical/structure/2454

[12] http://www.zvdd.de/

[13] http://kalliope.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/ The Kalliope database is designed to contain metadata of personal archives, autographs, etc. ULB

databases are expected to offer multiple access points to digital collections in addition to project websites, such as the electronic catalogues of libraries like ULB Halle and library consortia like the Common Library Network (Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund [GBV]),[15] and commercial search engines like Google and Yahoo.

Besides the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library [DNB])[16] is an important institution in the context of German digitization projects. Since 22 June 2006, the DNB has held responsibility not only for the collection of print and other physical media such as CDs and DVDs, but also for Internet-based documents published in Germany.[17] According to the collection policy of the DNB, Internet-based publications include electronic journals, electronic dissertations, audio files, websites, and also digital copies of documents formerly available only in print. All digital copies produced by digitization projects in Germany are considered German publications irrespective of the printed original's place of publication. As a consequence, copies of the resulting digital documents must be forwarded to the DNB for collection and long-term preservation purposes.[18] The DNB, in cooperation with various partner institutions, has developed a long-term preservation strategy in the context of the project kopal 2004–2007.[19] The primary objective of kopal was to create a workflow securing long-term access to electronic resources using, among other things, data migration, i.e., the conversion of older original to current file formats[20] and/or processes of emulation which

Halle has transferred metadata of digital copies of the personal archives of Leopold Zunz, one of the founders of Jewish studies as an academic discipline: http://www.jewish-archives.org/doc/home?lang=en

[14] http://www.digizeitschriften.de/index.php?id=64&L=2

[15] http://www.gbv.de/en/

[16] http://www.d-nb.de/

[17] On 29 June 2006, the law for the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library [DNB])—http://bundesrecht.juris.de/dnbg/index.html— went into effect, according to which, among other things, collection responsibilities were assigned to the DNB that had not previously been part of the collection responsibilities of its predecessor, Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

[18] http://www.d-nb.de/netzpub/sammlung/np_digi.htm

[19] http://kopal.langzeitarchivierung.de/index.php.en

[20] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_migration

permit the use of older original file formats in current hardware and software environments. An integral part of the long-term preservation strategy of the DNB is the creation of metadata that help to identify technical, administrative, and bibliographic aspects of an electronic resource which represent a critical precondition for storage and retrieval of these resources. While some technical metadata are essential for determining necessary routines of migration and emulation processes, other metadata elements furnish the possibility of scientific citation and persistent identification of the resources involved.

Citation and Persistent Identification in ZDMG Digital
The practical guidelines formulated by the DFG refer to citation and persistent identification of digital documents available on the Internet as central requirements to be observed in the process of digitization. Both issues are highlighted as being of critical importance not only to long term access to digital documents, but also to the acceptance of digital copies of scholarly literature in academic writing and discourse.

According to the DFG guidelines, a unique address for each document, or even for pages of a document, and efficient addressing techniques must therefore be viewed as critical prerequisites for introducing Internet-based electronic full-text materials into academic workflows.[21] The fact that documents and all their parts, including numbered and unnumbered pages, cover, endpaper, etc., are incorporated into the numerical or alphanumerical sequences that identify particular image files can be viewed as an advantage to the possibility of quoting the printed original, since for many parts of a printed document no unique identifier is available.

In 2007, ULB Halle, in cooperation with Semantics GmbH, established a routine for the creation of persistent identifiers in the context of the digitization of the Ponickau collection,[22] one of four

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[21]http://www.dfg.de/forschungsfoerderung/wissenschaftliche_infrastruktur/lis/download/praxisregeln_digitalisierung_en.pdf, p. 17.

[22] In the Ponickau collection project, items from the library's holdings of 9,621 titles published in the seventeenth century, containing ca. 600,000 pages, have been digitized. The collection contains books focusing on the history of the German provinces and states of Saxony, Anhalt, and Thuringia which were donated by Johann August von Ponickau (1718–

projects of mass digitization of imprints from the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries currently located at the library. This routine uses Uniform Resource Names (URN) as persistent identifiers for electronic full-text documents.[23]

Generally, Web-based resources are identified by Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI). Although URI is perceived as the only naming and/or addressing technology available on the Web, it may however appear in a multitude of different shapes or schemes. A URN is a URI that follows the URN scheme and is designed to provide persistent and location-independent identification of an electronic resource.[24] In this, a URN differs from another scheme of URI, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL), which is used to define the current location of a particular resource. While the location and consequently the URL of a resource may change between or within institutions, for example in the process of reshuffling organizational frameworks and corresponding server infrastructure, the URN will stick to the resource throughout its existence. The basic requirements of the URN scheme, among them global scope and global uniqueness, were formulated by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) in the Request For Comments (RFC) 1737 in 1994.[25] This document also mentioned that the URN scheme was designed to make it easy to map other namespaces into the URN-space, a requirement that facilitates the integration of existing number systems as ISSN or ISBN into the definition of URNs.[26] At the same time, the URN scheme is open for the integration of standard number systems that are newly introduced by particular interest groups and communities. The resulting flexibility of the URN scheme is important in the context of the ZDMG Digital project, since a number of national libraries registered the National Bibliography

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1802) to the library of the University of Wittenberg in 1789 and transferred to the Halle in 1817 when the Universities of Halle and Wittenberg were merged. Cf. http://digitale.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/pon

[23] Another type of persistent identifier is the Digital Object Identifiers (DOI).

[24] http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2141.txt

[25] http://www.w3.org/Addressing/rfc1737.txt. On the meaning of a Request For Comments (RFC) in the development of the Internet see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Request_for_comments

[26] http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2288

Number (nbn) with the Internet Assigned Number Authority (IANA)[27] as a new namespace within the URN scheme in 2001.[28]. Also, periodicals digitized in the ZDMG digital project are registered with the German National Library (DNB) as legal deposit materials. Therefore, the URN that is attached as a persistent identifier to these documents includes the element of the National Bibliography Number (nbn).

A URN is composed of the scheme name (i.e., urn) followed by a colon and a particular namespace identifier (nid) to which in some cases one or several subnamespace identifiers (snid) can be added, again followed by a namespace-specific string (niss). For documents that are digitized at the ULB Halle and sent as legal deposit copies to the DNB, a URN will consist of the following elements: **urn:nbn:de:gbv:3**. In this sequence of characters, "urn" is the scheme name, "nbn" is the namespace identifier (nid) pointing to various systems of National Bibliography Numbers, "de"—a country code based on ISO 3166—signifies the German origin of the respective nbn, "gbv" as a first subnamespace identifier stands for the library consortium of which ULB Halle is a member—the Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund (GBV [Common Library Network])—and "3" as a second subnamespace identifier is the identification number which ULB Halle holds within the German national library system. As mentioned above, the namespace identifier (nid) "nbn" was registered with the Internet Assigned Number Authority (IANA). However, the actual shape of the nbn can be decided for the various national contexts by the national library that holds responsibility. According to RFC 3188, national libraries "may also assign [a] trusted organisation(s) its own sub-namespace." In the case of the URN quoted above, the subnamespace "gbv" was granted by the DNB to the Common Library Network (GBV) and the subnamespace "3" was registered with the DNB by ULB Halle for electronic resources created or

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[27] http://www.iana.org/

[28] http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3188, officially registered by Juha Hakala (Helsinki University Library—The National Library of Finland) for the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) and the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL).

collected as legal deposit materials[29] at that library. In the context of ULB Halle, another group of subnamespace identifiers describing various projects and collections was introduced and registered with DNB—for example, snid "1" for digitized volumes from the Ponickau collection, or "5" for documents digitized for the National Middle East and North Africa collection at ULB Halle. Consequently, the URN of a digitized copy of a document belonging to this collection, including ZDMG Digital, will carry a URN beginning with **urn:nbn:de:gbv:3:5**. To this sequence of namespace identifier and subnamespace identifiers a namespace specific string (niss) is added for each document.

A URN identifies an electronic resource, but not its location. However, in the process of URN resolution a relationship between the persistent identifier of a document (i.e., a URN) and a URI that describes the current location of the resource (i.e., one or several URLs) can be established.[30] The process of URN resolution needs to be prepared and actively managed. If a respective infrastructure does not exist already, this may involve substantial staff and/or technical resources in the context of projects of mass digitization and long-term preservation. Furthermore, a coherent architecture of persistent identification based on URN will also need coordinated efforts in building organizational structures on national and also international levels in order to enable, for example, users from other national nbn namespaces to access resources in the nbn.de namespace.

URN resolution is based on a register in which URNs are related to URLs and vice versa. The resolving service for the namespace nbn:de is offered by the DNB.[31] In order to render URN resolution possible, ULB Halle sends a pair of one URN and one URL for digital objects, parts of digital objects, or different versions of digital objects to the DNB, where these data are stored in the respective register. The infrastructure available at the DNB enables ULB Halle to add, delete, or alter a URL related to a particular URN if necessary. Transfer of URN-URL pairs of resources digitized at the ULB Halle to the DNB may be organized in different ways. The

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[29] ULB Halle is the legal deposit library for printed and electronic resources published in the state of Saxony-Anhalt.

[30] http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2276.txt

[31] The resolving service was developed in the project EPICUR; cf. http://www.persistent-identifier.de/?link=610&lang=en

preferred method is sending data as an e-mail attachment or using the interface based on the OAI 2.0 protocol, since these methods offer advantages in editing procedures that might become necessary in the future.[32]

Persistent Identification of Periodical Contents in the Context of ZDMG Digital

A URN can be attached to complete electronic resources or to parts of resources. In the context of projects of mass digitization at ULB Halle, the URN definition is organized on different levels. For the Ponickau collection, the subnamespace 1 was added to the subnamespace of ULB Halle 3, followed by an identification number for each title. Part of the URN workflow developed by ULB Halle and Semantics GmbH in the context of the project URN Granular was the persistent identification not only of electronic objects representing a whole title, but also of the individual pages of an electronic copy of a particular title.[33] For example, the electronic version of the title *Wilhelm Burchards. Eines in die 19. Jahr von Türcken gefangen gewesenen Sachsen auffs neu eröffnete Türckey*, *Magedeburg: Müller 1688* carries the URN urn:nbn:de:gbv:3:1-13799 and, for example, the title page, which is preceded by 6 other uncounted pages, is identified as urn:nbn:de:gbv:3:1-13799-p0007-4.

For digitized periodicals, there are still no standards available for persistent identification of individual pages. The DNB and ULB Halle are currently discussing a method of persistent identification of issues and single pages of periodicals. After such a method has been established, ZDMG Digital will maintain an automated workflow for the production and management of URNs in cooperation with the DNB, using the x-epicur format[34] based on the standards of OAI PMH 2.0. The OAI interface of the document management system Visual Library as provided by Semantics GmbH is able to process

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[32] http://www.persistent-identifier.de/?link=220&lang=en

[33] Dorothea Sommer, Christa Schöning-Walther, and Kay Heiligenhaus, "URN Granular: Persistente Identifizierung und Adressierung von Einzelseiten digitalisierter Drucke," *ABI-Technik* 28/2 (2008): 106–114; Dorothea Sommer, "Persistent Identifiers: the ‚URN Granular' Project of the German National Library and the University and State Library Halle," *Liber Quarterly* 19.3/4 (2010): 259-274.

[34] http://www.persistentidentifier.de/dokumente/EPICUR_xml_RefDescr.php

data in Dublin Core (DC)[35] format, data structured according to the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS),[36] the Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS),[37] and the MARC 21 XML Schema (MARCXML)[38] as specified by the Library of Congress.

Automated procedures have been developed not only for the generation of URNs and related URLs for digitized objects, but also for the transfer of these data to the DNB. The DNB operates an OAI harvester that sends data requests to the document repository at ULB Halle twice a day and collects new metadata including URN and current URL, adding the harvested data to the respective digital register database securing the URN resolution service at the DNB.

Conclusion

The project ZDMG Digital at the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt in Halle (ULB Halle) has created open access to electronic versions of four important scholarly journals published by the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG). An automated workflow developed in cooperation with Semantics GmbH and the German National Library (DNB) provides persistent identification of the resulting digital objects not only at the level of bibliographical units but also at the level of items and individual pages. This practice of persistent identification is designed to support methods of scientific citation of electronic resources in academic discourse and to provide a model for other periodical digitization projects in the future. The URN for the individual objects produced in the context of ZDMG Digital is present on the respective web pages of the DFG viewer and the MENAdoc repository, and may be copied for purposes of scholarly citation.

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[35] http://dublincore.org/
[36] http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/
[37] http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/
[38] http://www.loc.gov/standards/marcxml/

Report on Iraqi Libraries and Archives (2010)

JEFF SPURR
SABRE FOUNDATION
MELA COMMITTEE ON IRAQI LIBRARIES

The status of Iraqi libraries and archives remains a highly fraught one nearly seven years after the invasion. Given the parlous state of basic infrastructure (water, power, sewage, transportation), we should not be surprised how much yet needs to be accomplished before the social and cultural infrastructure is addressed effectively. Paralysis at the center of government both highlights and exacerbates this state of affairs. As mentioned below, even a highly successful institution such as the Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA) faces daunting challenges, and is not even safe from the overt acts of violence that punctuate the lives of too many Iraqis in too many cities. It is therefore all the more important that we do what we can for our friends and colleagues in Iraq, and continue to draw attention to their situation, concerns, and needs.

Substantive developments concerning various classes of seized Iraqi documents are yet to materialize despite the fact that formal conversations between Iraqi and American officials have finally begun. Since this process only commenced in April 2010, there remain grounds for hope.

This report as prepared for MELA Notes will address the following topics: (1) the current status of the IVSL (Iraq Virtual Science Library); (2) Sabre Foundation and book donations to Iraqi libraries; (3) the broader situation of Iraqi academic libraries; (4) the present status and new developments at the INLA (Iraq National Library and Archive); and (5) the status and prospects for seized Iraqi documents, in which matter Dr. Saad Eskander, Director General of the INLA, has been deeply involved.

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1. Iraq Virtual Science Library (IVSL)[1]
I owe particular thanks to Kamran Naim of the Middle East & North Africa Programs (MENA) of the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF) for information on the present status of IVSL. CRDF became responsible for the IVSL from the American end in the summer of 2006 at the request of the Department of State, and remained so until the IVSL was formally transferred to Iraqi control and financial responsibility in mid-2010, but remains actively involved in a consultative capacity, contracting expressly to manage the transition to Iraqi administration (the first actual contract between the CRDF and the Iraqis). The public notification of transfer may be found at the following link:
http://www.crdf.org/events/events_show.htm?doc_id=1262002

This event marked the transfer of responsibility for paying for the service to the Iraqi government. According to a brief prepared by Kamran Naim for the benefit of this report, the funding for the IVSL has been as follows:

Total U.S. Funding: $1.98 million
2004/2005/2006: $350K DOD (DTRA) through DOS and US National Academies of Science
2006: $50K CRDF UNA
2007: $350K DOS (ISN/CTR)
2008/2009: $1.2 million DOS (IRRF), $30K DOE
2010: $450K Government of Iraq (Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Water Resources)

When management of the IVSL was transferred to Iraqi control, inactive accounts were purged, resulting in a sharp initial decline from the numbers participating in comparison with those in the 2009 report; however, that drop was soon countered by the great interest in this service in Iraq. Therefore, as of November 2010, the number of registered members totals 8,933 active users (plus 656 awaiting approval) from all 25 public universities in Iraq, as well as 9 Iraqi ministries and the Iraqi National Academy of Sciences. Subscribers continue to be added at the rate of approximately 300 per month.

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[1] IVSL website: http://www.ivsl.org/

Protocols remain the same for an Iraqi to establish an account. He or she must go to the website, and register, establishing a user name and password. The new membership will be activated when the responsible party at each participating institution signs off on the application, declaring that person to be a member of faculty, staff, or student body at the institution in question. Then they may access the IVSL from any computer with internet access.

Statistics on availability and range of journals accessible through IVSL have not altered significantly since the 2009 report, the number remaining somewhat over 6,500. The content continues to focus on Basic Sciences and Engineering, although the expansion in 2009 has added titles in the Social Sciences and Humanities to the collection, as noted in the 2009 report.

The following are direct quotes from Kamran Naim:

"On average, more than 31,000 articles are downloaded each month. Over 1.2 million articles have been downloaded since the IVSL began. The value of the downloaded articles, if purchased for full cost would be $ 9–18 million.

"Approximate value received from IVSL: $48 million (~$12 million per year based on list price of content provided through commercial and academic publishers).

"Prior to the IVSL, Iraqi scientists published around 100 research articles in international journals. They now publish almost 300 articles per year: an increase of more than 200%." (Already noted in 2009.)

"Preliminary results from an analysis of the research output of the country demonstrates that the majority of articles published in international journals by Iraqi scientists have citations to content provided to them from the IVSL. Initial results from the study also show increasing internationalization—with increasing trends towards co-authorship with scientists from around the world." [This information is based upon output indexed in Thomson Reuters Web of Science].

More information on the functionality of the IVSL system: the IVSL has adopted the "one window" search interface, by virtue of which any name or term can be employed to search all of the metadata, including abstracts, for articles in all of the journals in the system, all at once. This is based upon the Lund University Open Search Protocols. The software is called LibHub (formerly called ELIN—Electronic Library Information Navigator). LibHub was developed by Salam Baker Shanawa, formerly the technical

developer for Lund University Libraries in Sweden (also the developer and host of the Directory of Open Access Journals at Lund[2]), who has now started his own company called SemperTool, which is the provider of LibHub.

The Iraqis contract directly with SemperTool for provision of the service, which involves collecting all of the relevant metadata and converting it to OAI (Open Archive Initiative) format. This is all hosted on a single server to which the IVSL is connected, obviating the necessity of searching a multitude of separate databases.

This single, unified indexical system is faster and more efficient. It also permits clicking on a particular author's name, thus creating a new result set of all articles written by him or her. It also has a "my collection" function.

I must also thank Dr. Bahaa Kazem, professor at the University of Baghdad, and Iraqi academic point man for IVSL. His view of the new phase under Iraqi management is that Iraqi goals should be to increase Iraqi experience in the top management of e-resources, increase the number of users through developing the awareness of Iraqi students and faculty members by direct training, and improve the content of the databases available at IVSL. Dr Kazem sees the main problem that the project faces as a bureaucratic system that is not ready to work with new publishing systems and technology. With the shift in support and responsibility, consulting actors at CRDF now communicate directly with high-level individuals at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Regarding stability of the costs, a critical factor to insure the willingness of the Iraqi government to support the project, Dr. Kazem states that some publishers have asked to increase the fees, but in general the costs remain within the specified budget of the project as originally accepted by Iraqi government. This is no small matter, since Mr. Naim has informed me that the similar project he developed for Pakistan, which was the model for the IVSL, has recently been defunded by the Pakistani government, and that the senior academic figure overseeing scientific development within the Pakistani academia was shoved out in favor of a crony of the prime minister. These are the sorts of problems bedeviling those trying to accomplish good work in many places.

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[2] See Lund University, DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals): http://www.doaj.org/

In response to a question concerning how many Iraqi students actually have internet access, Dr. Kazem stated that about 30–40% of Iraqi students at universities can readily access the internet on a daily basis at internet cafes or from their homes, and that computers are available now for 40–50% of students on campus, especially at those specializing in the sciences.

It is perhaps worth noting that CRDF is presently engaged in the early stages of developing the equivalent of the IVSL for the Maghrib (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia).

2. Sabre Foundation and Donations to Iraqi Libraries

The work mentioned in 2009 concerning OpenCourseWare by the MIT-based group of graduate students who volunteer at Sabre, ASPIRE (American Students Promoting IRaqi Education), has not achieved concrete results so far. Sabre's other activities regarding Iraq have proceeded apace. The following shipments have been made since the 2009 report: two to Dohuk University (including the College of Education in Zakho, which is part of Dohuk U.), and two to Baghdad (the receiving NGO partner being the Iraq Health Aid Organization, headed up by a very dynamic woman, Hala Sarraf). These recently donated books were distributed to Baghdad, Kufa, Muthana, Wasit, Missan, and Thi Qar Universities, and the private Yarmouk University in Baghdad. Furthermore, 225 medical books were presented to the District Hospital of Twaerege in Karbala Governorate. It is worth noting that these are all books of the highest quality, and up-to-date, this shipment having included large quantities of medical titles. Thus the Baghdad University and Kufa University donations went to their medical school libraries, and a further donation was sent to a school of nursing in Najaf associated with Kufa University. One destination is known: 826 titles by the publisher Eisenbrauns (dedicated to Ancient Near East and Biblical studies), destined for the Iraq Museum and facilitated by Prof. Elizabeth Stone of Stonybrook University, went out in the 18 December 2009 shipment to Baghdad. It should be noted that these shipments to Iraq have been 40-foot containers. The numbers of books in the latest shipments ranged from a low of 14,271 to 17,095. The total Sabre shipments sent to date comprise twenty-three 40-foot containers sent by sea and three other smaller ones sent via airfreight or APO.

The second shipment to the INLA is only partially constituted, and has yet to be prepared for shipping. Whereas the core of the first

shipment comprised books selected from the lists of Harvard, MIT, and Yale presses, the second is expected to include books from Princeton and California. Similarly, three more important sets of books related to archaeology and Assyriology brought together by Prof. Elizabeth Stone of Stonybrook University (and mentioned in the 2009 report) now reside in Sabre's warehouse awaiting shipment: (1) the rest of the collection of books for the library of the Iraq Museum underwritten by the long defunct USAID-HEAD project, which included the material from Eisenbrauns mentioned above, and also 30 boxes from David Brown Book Co.; (2) the private scholarly library of Professor Ralph Solecki of Columbia University (in 42 boxes), also destined for the Iraq Museum; and (3) a set of books similar to the first (9 boxes from the David Brown Book Co., 9 from The Scholars Choice), destined for the Mosul Museum (whose looting never got the coverage of its more famous sister institution in Baghdad). Private libraries developed over decades in academia are superb donations, especially to libraries in need of construction from the ground up, since they can provide a critical core upon which to build.

From the point of view of this writer, the most astonishing piece of news on this front was received as a personal communication from Prof. McGuire Gibson of the University of Chicago in April to the effect that the Museum's library had been packed away and survived intact the despoliation of the institution. Consequently, with its prospective additions, it will be the best specialized library, and certainly the most coherent one, in Iraq.

3. The Broader Situation of Iraqi Academic Libraries
At the MELA meeting in Boston in 2009, one idea discussed by the Committee on Iraqi Libraries was a survey of conditions in the libraries of the 25 public universities (and, perhaps, a couple of the more prominent private ones). Nothing has come of it, as yet.

In lieu of such work, William Kopycki, committee member and field director for the Library of Congress' overseas office in Cairo, Egypt, traveled to Iraq in April 2010. Joining him was Michael Neubert, Supervisory Digital Projects Specialist for the Library of Congress in Washington, and Caryn Anderson, Public Affairs Officer of the US Embassy in Baghdad, who supported this trip, along with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Erbil. For two solid weeks the three used a variety of modes of transportation, including armored car, plane, and helicopter, to visit a number of

libraries throughout the country, delivering presentations and lectures to librarians there.[3]

The trip was divided into two parts: Baghdad, where they conducted an intense 3-day workshop on digital conversion for 12 select librarians from Baghdad and elsewhere; and Iraqi Kurdistan, where they gave one-day, scaled-down versions of the 3-day workshop to include more general library topics according to audience needs in the cities of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Dohuk. The visit to Iraqi Kurdistan was important for being the first such visit from LC to this region.

Among the accomplishments:

(1) Direct improvement of knowledge and capacity for dozens of librarians in modern library practices (many expressing commitments to engage in projects immediately).

(2) Survey of selected libraries and institutions: Iraqi National Library and Archives, Ari Baban Public Library in Sulaymaniyah, Zaytun Public Library and University of Kurdistan-Hawler in Erbil, and Dohuk University in Dohuk.

(3) Collection development for LC from visits to the 5th Erbil Book Fair[4] and visits to libraries where books were received as gifts for LC's collections.

(4) Direct follow up-and expansion of relations with the Iraq National Library and Archives, both in terms of digital projects and engagement with the World Digital Library.

(5) Encouragement and hope provided to over 200 librarians from seven cities.

(6) Overall goodwill with universities, governorates, libraries, and cultural institutions.

William noted some general observations from this trip. In no particular order, these are:

(1) The accomplishments of Dr. Eskander at the INLA continue to be amazing.

(2) The situation of academic libraries in the "lower 15 provinces" remains quite bad, with a lack of adequate furniture, equipment, and internet connectivity.

(3) In efforts to develop capacity, William emphasized in all meetings and training sessions the virtue of employing open-source

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[3] Article in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin, May 2010: http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/1005/iraq.html

[4] William at the Erbil book fair: http://www.non14.net/display.php?id=8325

software such as Koha for library automation, since there is an Arabic version.

(4) The libraries in Kurdistan are blank slates in need of development from the ground up. Although some staff members are good and committed, they are professionally far behind their colleagues in Baghdad.

(5) Infrastructure and effective upper-level management are critical issues almost everywhere.

(6) The traditional fear of taking initiative and being perceived to buck the hierarchy in any way still widely governs behavior.

(7) There remains the problem of "convincing Iraqis that libraries are important parts of their own societies," deserving of support.

(8) Water and electricity: the gross deficits that bedevil life in Iraq at all levels.

William is endeavoring to arrange for continued training for Iraqi librarians in Cairo.

4. Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA)
The work accomplished by Dr. Saad Eskander and his staff at the INLA continues to be impressive, especially considering that the drastic cuts to his non-staff salary budget of the previous two years have not been restored.[5] As briefly noted above, it is remarkable that the INLA has succeeded in satisfying many of their continuing needs for furniture, equipment, and materials that had been itemized in the needs assessment spreadsheet of 2007–2008. For all these successes, the INLA needs 35mm film for the microfilm department, and Japanese paper for the restoration lab. These supplies are the sort that outside parties should be able to provide.

Equipment and Materials:
(1) Alongside the overhead scanner mentioned in the 2009 report, two advanced PCs were donated by the Library of Congress.

(2) Two flat A3 transparency scanners were donated by the Italian NGO un ponte per, which has been generous to the INLA in

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[5] "Saad Eskander, Iraq National Library and Archives Director: An Audio Interview from Baghdad" (submitted by Greg Landgraf on Fri, 10/01/2010–13:16):
http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/al_focus/saad-eskander-iraq-national-library-and-archives-director-audio-interview-baghdad

the past. They are being used to make digital copies of the microfiche collections. So far they have been able to digitize 5% of their microfiche collections.

In that regard, the INLA has an ongoing project with un ponte per. The project is funded by the European Commission and supervised by the National Library of Florence. The project will provide the INLA with a total of four flat A3 transparency scanners (worth $17,000). Four staff members will go to Florence in late November for further training in digitization and web-site management. As a part of the project, and in return, the INLA has undertaken to train 100 librarians in digital library and web-management. These librarians will come from different institutions in Baghdad and the other provinces.

(3) Two flat A3 scanners from UNESCO (worth $7,500). They have been used recently to digitize the archives of the Ministry of the Interior.

(4) Members of the INLA's staff were able to repair two reader-printers badly damaged during April 2003. So they have now three reader-printers, which are sufficient.

(5) The INLA has been able to put aside funds each year that have enabled it to purchase 20 to 25 PCs every year since 2008. Its budget has similarly covered necessary purchases of standard photocopiers.

(6) Competent staff at the INLA made the binding tools they needed, and they use traditional methods to bind their publications.

Internet access:

(7) The INLA does not face any problems anymore regarding internet access, as it renews its agreement with the service provider (i.e., the Ministry of Industry) every year. The INLA's budget covers the internet subscription fee.

Collections:

(8) Alongside book donations from Britain, the US, and including from Iraq, and despite the continued severe budgetary limitations, the INLA has been able to purchase thousands of new publications. Of course, says Dr. Eskander, the INLA welcomes more book donations to strengthen their English and Arabic book collections.

Collection Management and Development, Especially Digital:

(9) Microfilm and restoration labs do their usual tasks (filming documents and restoring damaged documents).

(10) In cooperation with the National Centre for Information (NCI), the INLA has put more than 40 old periodicals and hundreds of historical records on the internet free of charge. The NCI is linked to the Prime Minister's office and administered by one of his advisors. Thus the point of access is independent of the INLA itself, at: http://www.nmc.gov.iq/

(11) The digitization process of the archival collections has begun. The aim is to put everything on the internet so that everybody in the world can have direct and free access to it.

(12) The pace of the work on making digital copies of the INLA's old microfiche collections (i.e., film copies of historical documents) has increased. Now, readers can study the digitized records on-site. In the future, when funds are available, these will be put on the internet as well.

(13) Work continues on making digital copies of hundreds of Islamic manuscripts in coordination with Kashef al-Gheta Institute in the holy city of Najaf. Its manuscripts are separate from those of Imam 'Ali's Shrine, which are very rich. A future project?

(14) At present, Dr. Eskander is focusing on digitizing historical documents, especially those which deal with issues of naturalization and de-naturalization, once used as a quasi-legal means to oppress the minorities, Jews, Faily Kurds, and Christians.

Staff Development:

(15) Aside from the un ponte per training mentioned above, two members of the IT staff were sent to London where they received training in digital preservation.

(16) The INLA is the only cultural institution of the government that presses for the hiring of more staff, as its projects are increasing every year.

Outreach/Training:

(17) The INLA's staff has continued to train the staff of other ministries, universities, and institutions regarding documentation, preservation, restoration, and digital library development, etc.

Publications:

(18) As mentioned in the 2009 report, paper publishing at the INLA was forced to cease due to cutbacks. Nevertheless, it still publishes three e-journals and several bibliographies, specifically: national; Ph.D. and M.A. theses; children's books; women's.

Use:

(19) The monthly average for the number of INLA's readers has reached 1500. It is the highest in the history of the INLA since its establishment in 1961.

Construction of the New Archives Building, and the Generation Library:

(20) Construction work is proceeding on the new headquarters of the Archives building, and the second building, first designated as the "Pioneer Library" (see reports of 2008 and 2009), but now as the "Generation Library," to be dedicated to primary and secondary school students (ages 3 to 17). The Archives building will be completed by the end of this year or early next year, whereas the children's library will be completed late in 2011. Dr. Eskander states, "The construction of the two buildings is going really well, despite the closure of most of the roads leading to the INLA. We have been using one, and the rear gate of the building, for the past few months."

(21) 600 linear meters of stacks and shelves have been acquired for the Archives building. The needed metal storage cabinets have also been added.

(22) Regarding the "Generation Library," the Swedish embassy has agreed to donate children's books that have been translated from Swedish into Arabic. Dr. Eskander is seeking special funding within Iraq, and making an approach to UNESCO. Since support for the functions of this new institution are not covered by his normal budget, he will need it to come from elsewhere. This development opens up new potential sources of support, including the donation of titles aimed at primary and secondary school students through Sabre.

(23) Dr. Eskander is closely and daily monitoring the construction work at the architectural, technical, and financial levels, so that he can prevent all types of corruption, which he describes as "the main enemy in Iraq nowadays. It is a big headache, as it has forced me to expose all sorts of malpractices."

Special Events:

(24) The INLA held an exhibition of historical maps and photographs as well as of publications donated by the British Library and other British institutions. The British ambassador to Baghdad and the representative of the British Council opened the exhibition, which was very successful. Dr. Eskander has provided images. They, and others, could possibly be placed on the MELA website.

International Relations and Consultations:

(25) Dr. Eskander's engagement with Europe has principally been with the United Kingdom, Italy, the Czech Republic, and, to a lesser extent, France. Now he has been invited by the German government to visit several important archives (28 Nov.–5 Dec.), such as the archives of the former Ministry of State Security of the former GDR, the Political Archives of the German Foreign Office, the Federal Archives, German Historical Museum, the Museum of the History of National Socialism, the Museum of Contemporary History of the FRG, and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. He will also visit several other German institutions and organizations dealing with the issue of transitional justice, and will meet with some German officials and experts, including the Federal Commissioner for Stasi Records and the Director General for Culture and Communication at the German Foreign Office.

Challenges:

(26) The INLA continues to face the kinds of challenges unimaginable to those of us in more favored environments, physical and political. Those challenges include the fact that the INLA lost its usual allotment of power (2 hours per day) for nearly three weeks in the height of summer, leaving it with the 2 hours it can afford to supply daily from its own generators (the cost of oil precluding use for longer periods).

(27) On Sunday, 5 September, a ferocious attack was launched against a long line of police recruits, with terrible losses. The event was reported in the US; however, the proximity to the INLA was not remarked upon. Dr. Eskander's report to me described the attack by six terrorists against the old headquarters of the ministry of defense, opposite the INLA, at 10:35 a.m. He said that the intense exchange of fire lasted for four hours while he and his staff were all trapped inside the building for two hours, although they were able to evacuate at 1:00 p.m.

Luckily, the injuries among his staff were not serious. Dr. Eskander's corner office was the most damaged, all of the windows smashed. Fortunately for him, his staff, and family and friends, he was on the second floor, where he was able to watch the attack and the series of bomb explosions through a small window.

The material losses: 207 windows were broken, the frames of 40 windows and 35 metal doors were dislocated, 10 wooden doors were badly damaged, 155 ceiling units were smashed, 20 pieces of ventilation equipment were broken, 18 curtains were badly damaged, and 65 light units were broken, along with other, minor damages. Dr. Eskander said that he "managed to form an army of experts on all sort of repairing works, including air-conditioning technicians, electricians, carpenters, car and equipment technicians, and mechanists." He has managed to replace some broken items and undertake other repairs and temporary fixes, but continues to await major assistance from the Ministry of Culture to complete the restoration. With characteristic determination, Dr. Eskander kept the INLA open.

(28) One INLA staff member was killed in bomb explosion early this year, while another was the victim of another bomb attack, which left both of her legs considerably damaged.

5. Seized Documents: Status of Current Controversies

(1) I presented a paper in April of this year, "Devastation and Controversy: Consequences of the US Invasion for Iraqi Archives and Archival Documents since 2003," at UCLA's Center for Near East Studies, and at The University of Chicago, sponsored by its Center for Middle East Studies and The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII). In it, I attempted to sum up the history, issues, and controversies concerning all types of seized Iraqi documents up to that date, which I have addressed in previous reports. In my last communication with Dr. Eskander before departing on this speaking tour, he had been uncertain whether the Iraqi delegation that had been slated to go to Washington to address these issues would be getting off the ground. As it happened, it did. A podcast of my talk may be found at:
http://www.international.ucla.edu/cnes/events/showevent.asp?eventid=8058

(2) The Iraqi delegation's April visits to Washington and Stanford addressed various categories of seized documents, including the vast number still held by the US military, those once in the possession of Kanan Makiya's Iraq Memory Foundation (IMF),

and now most controversially in the hands of the Hoover Institution (hence the trip to Stanford), and the so-called Iraqi Jewish Archive (addressed in previous annual reports). Subsequently, Dr. Eskander sent me a report on those events, asking me first to edit it, and then send it to the IraqCrisis listserv, which I did on 19 May. I attach it as the first appendix. As the point person for the delegation, he made a return trip for further talks on 20 June. Upon his return to Baghdad, Dr. Eskander held another meeting with a number of the US embassy's officials in his office. Although they agreed on several points, little has been accomplished since.

During his visit to Paris for the UNESCO meeting, Dr. Eskander talked to the director of the Culture Heritage Centre at the Department of State, whom he has known for several years. He explained to her Iraqi official resentment concerning what are perceived to be delay tactics by US officials. He suggested that, if they were continually thwarted by US foot-dragging and inaction, the Iraqis were inclined to adopt a more hard line position.

(3) Anfal documents: Also in June, I contacted the relevant parties at the library of the University of Colorado at Boulder concerning the status of the Anfal documents seized in Kurdistan from Iraqi administrative buildings in 1991.[6]

In the second appendix, I include the texts of the correspondence between Bruce P. Montgomery, Faculty Director of Archives, and myself on said topic (less my brief initial query). Dr. Eskander has stated that he would not object, on principle, to the Anfal documents being housed in Iraqi Kurdistan under the appropriate auspices.

(4) In late September, Dr. Eskander represented Iraq at UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Properties to their Original Countries, a body to which he was elected early this year, and which he is using as an important platform for advocating the return of all types of Iraqi cultural properties looted or seized by foreign countries.

(5) Dr. Eskander aims to form an international committee/group that can offer its advice and support to the project, addressing collections management, digitization, and protocols of access concerning Iraqi documents held in the Archives. Eskander believes that this will strengthen his position when dealing with his own government, as well as reassuring all the concerned parties about his

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[6] "Iraqi Secret Police Files Seized by the Kurds during the 1991 Gulf War" http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/archives/collections/international.htm

and the INLA's intentions, specifically that the recovered records would not be abused by those who control the government. In this regard, Eskander met with the German ambassador in Baghdad in June, when he proposed that German experts assist his efforts to implement a new project concerning the records of the former regime. He is seeking their legal expertise and technical assistance. Conversations are ongoing.

APPENDIX I:
A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IRAQI DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 2010, ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF SEIZED IRAQI ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS

As is now well known, the long-expected Iraqi delegation arrived in the US this April, and made significant progress in achieving an understanding with representatives of the US Department of State, Department of Defense, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and the Hoover Institution. Publicity still largely focuses on the Iraqi Jewish Archive (addressed by me briefly on IraqCrisis recently); however, the primary question, of enormous significance, is the repatriation of the vast numbers of documents seized by the US Armed Forces in 2003, and those acquired at the same time by the Iraq Memory Foundation, spirited out of Baghdad by the US military in 2005, and now held at the Hoover Institution.

What you will find below is a preliminary report sent to me by Dr. Saad Eskander, Director-General of the Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA), one of the three members of the Iraqi delegation, as adapted by me for this purpose. The Iraqis are eager to receive the support of archivists, librarians, and other interested parties the world over.

I have added the most recent news article on this topic, from Reuters, based on an interview with Dr. Eskander, but revealing many of the limitations of the journalistic approach.

Report on the Activities of the Iraqi Delegation, April 2010
Dr. Saad Eskander

The First Talk at the Department of State (2 hours and 30 minutes):
The first meeting was with an American negotiation team consisting of two officials from the Departement of Defense (DoD) (one of them a legal adviser), and seven officials from the Department of State (DoS) (four of them also legal advisers). The Iraqi three-member delegation was headed by the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Culture. The assistant director of the Iraq Office for Political and Military Affairs at DoS headed the American team.

The Iraqi delegates emphasized the following points: Seized records are Iraqi property. American cooperation and assistance is sought not only for their return to Iraq, but also in implementing a pioneer project that will make Iraq an exceptional example in the

Middle East by placing the records of the former regime in the service of justice, national reconciliation, national unity, democratization, peace, and order.

The atmosphere was quite friendly. The American team expressed interest and surprise at the manner in which the Iraqis approached the issue. They promised to study the request and to give a full response. They also promise to provide legal and technical assistance to the INLA. Initial steps were taken to secure mutual trust.

Regarding the mechanism of communication between the two sides, it was suggested that Dr. Eskander and the head of the American team serve as points of contact, and that they should continue discussion of the issues at hand, and organize future discussions of the wider group.

Note: an initial question was how to frame the various documents that had been removed from Iraqi national control as of April 2003. An Iraqi diplomat extrinsic to the delegation wished to use "stolen," whereas the American preferred "taken." It was resolved that the documents were to be termed "seized" thenceforth.

Second Meeting at the State Department (1 hour and 30 minutes):
The American team was headed by the assistant to the deputy secretary and included some cultural experts (including John Russell, well known to members of the IraqCrisis listserv), and other officials from the DoS. The discussion revolved around the protection of Iraqi archaeological sites, the preservation of Iraq's cultural heritage, and the way in which DoS has been helping Iraq especially in creating the Conservation Institute in Erbil. The delegation invited the Americans to open an American culture center in Baghdad, and to increase their cultural activities generally.

Third Meeting (whole day):
The delegation met with the staff of NARA and two officials from DoS in a cordial atmosphere.

NARA officials, particularly Dr. Doris Hamburg, Director of Preservation Programs, updated the delegation about the present status of the Iraqi Jewish Archive, and what was required financially and technically to restore the entire archives. As has been reported by JBS elsewhere,[7] and in two NARA reports, its experts stabilized,

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[7] See addendum at the end of this appendix.

cleaned, and prepared a database for the archives. For reasons explained in these reports, no actual restoration work has been done.

The Iraqis explained that Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA) had the facilities, and its staff had the technical training, to restore the damaged Iraqi Jewish Archive and that NARA could participate in an INLA project to digitize the archives and post it on the internet, making its contents available to all. Cooperation between NARA and the INLA was discussed pending appropriate and sufficient support from the DoS.

The Fourth Talk (2 hours and 30 minutes):
The Iraqi delegation flew to San Francisco to meet the director of the archives and the library of the Hoover Institution. The discussion was constructive. The Iraqis emphasized that millions of documents presently held by Hoover were Iraqi property and that the Hoover-Iraq Memory Foundation (IMF) agreement is illegal, as the IMF is not presently registered in Iraq. The Iraqis also stated that the confidentiality of the terms of the agreement constitutes a gross violation of Iraq's sovereignty. The Iraqis invited Hoover to work with INLA on future projects, such as preservation and digitization. At the end of the meeting both sides were in agreement that:

(1) The Ba'ath Party archives is the property of the Iraqi people.
(2) The elected government of Iraq represents the Iraqi people.
(3) The Hoover and the INLA undertake to preserve the archives for future generations.
(4) The Hoover will seek the advice and the involvement of DoS in future negotiations with the Iraqi side, as the Ba'ath Party archives is part of a general issue, i.e., the seized Iraqi records.
(5) The return of the seized Iraqi records is vital for national reconciliation, democratization, justice, and rule of law in Iraq.
(6) The Hoover and the INLA can work together in the field of conservation, digitization, and in creating a database for Iraqi records.

The delegation's report of the visit has been sent to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

The delegation held a press conference in Baghdad. Many foreign and Iraqi journalists attended it. The issue of the records has become now a national one.

The exchange of e-mails has already started. Dr. Eskander is in contact with Dr. Doris Hamburg (NARA), Stephen Epstein (head of the DoS negotiation team), and Dr. Sousa (Hoover Institution). Dr. Eskander expects to meet with them in the second half of June in DC, where he will participate in the annual meeting of the World Digital Library at the Library of Congress.

ADDENDUM:

SAFE symposium at the Metropolitan Museum, April 2008
http://www.savingantiquities.org/event.php?eventID=121
www.savingantiquities.org/pdf/jeffspurr.pdf

IACIS conference, July 2008:
www.iraqistudies.org/English/conferences/2008/papers/Spurr.pdf

Yahoo News:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100519/lf_nm_life/us_iraq_usa_archives
"Iraq asks U.S. to return millions of archive documents"
    By Aseel Kami Wed May 19, 8:32 am ET
    BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq's national archive has asked the United States to return millions of historical documents seized by U.S. troops in the mayhem that followed the U.S. invasion in 2003, along with its Jewish archive.
    The papers include intelligence reports on Iraqis kept by Saddam Hussein's dreaded secret police, detailed plans for massacres of his regime's enemies and information on weapons arsenals, said Saad Eskander, director of the Iraqi national library and archives.
    The Jewish archive, found soaked in sewage in the basement of Saddam's intelligence service headquarters in Baghdad, was taken to the United States for restoration under an agreement between the two countries and will be returned to Iraq.
    Iraqi and U.S. officials met recently in California for talks on the documents.
    "This was the first time that Iraq presented an official demand to retrieve all the documents, not only the Jewish archive," Eskander told Reuters in an interview this week.
    The documents include historical, political and legal papers, some of which may be needed to solve crimes and charge suspects, he said.

"These documents are sensitive . . . no less important than the antiquities, if not more important," Eskander said.

The archive documenting Jewish history in predominantly Muslim Iraq contains books, documents and a codex of the Torah.

"In 2003 it was discovered by the U.S. forces. It was submerged in sewage water," Eskander said. "This is why they decided to take it to the United States to preserve and maintain it."

Thousands of Jews once lived in Iraq but the formation of Israel in 1948 prompted an aggressive government campaign to displace them as Arab nationalism swept the Middle East. Iraqi sociologists say only a few Jews remain in the country.

Eskander said Iraq plans to preserve the Jewish archive, 75 percent of which is written in Hebrew, and put it on display on the Internet.

"This is to show that Iraq is an open country, not a fanatic or closed country," he said. "Our purpose is not to hide the Jewish archive. On the contrary, Iraq wants to show the world that there was a Jewish archive in Iraq and Iraq does not hide this side of its history."

Iraqi officials still need to figure out how to move the delicate papers to avoid damage, and how to store them in controlled conditions once they are returned, he added.

Eskander said Saddam's Baath Party archive is stored at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, the Jewish archive is at the National Archives in Washington and other papers are held by the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency.

(Editing by Jim Loney and Michael Taylor)

APPENDIX II:

(1)
20 June 2010
Dr. Bruce P. Montgomery, Faculty Director
David M. Hays Archives
University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries
184 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0184

Dear Dr. Montgomery,

I am writing regarding the digital files of the Anfal documents that you had in your possession until you repatriated them to Iraqi Kurdistan some time ago, as explained on your website. Before I address the express purpose of this letter, I should introduce myself. I am the head of the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) Committee on Iraqi Libraries, and was on Harvard University's Committee on Iraqi Libraries while it continued to function. From early 1996 through September 2005, I managed the Bosnia Library Project, dedicated to assisting in the restoration of destroyed and devastated Bosnian academic library collections, principally in Sarajevo.

Needless to say, I was appalled at the fate of Iraqi libraries and archives (indeed all significant institutions) after the US' reckless invasion and failure to immediately impose a necessary authority after toppling the Saddam Hussein regime. I immediately set about assembling all available information on the Iraq National Library and Archive, and all other major archives and university libraries. This information was included in two reports, one of May 2005, the other of July 2007. Please note that I have put the relevant links in the accompanying e-mail message.

While I have provided annual updates to meetings of MELA, I have also given talks at various conferences and institutions. I have latterly devoted a great deal of attention to the vicissitudes of Iraqi Archives, and controversies concerning various sets of seized Iraqi documents, subjects that I either didn't or couldn't address in my 2007 report. The Anfal documents are not directly related to these other matters, which include over 100 million documents seized by the US military, 11 million documents that came under the control of the Iraq Memory Foundation, now notoriously housed at the Hoover

Institution, and the so-called Iraqi Jewish Archive. Dr. Saad Eskander, Director-General of the Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA) is presently in Washington for the second time since April addressing these questions with relevant parties in the Department of State, Department of Defense, and NARA (National Archives and Records Administration.

I noted that the statement on your website explicitly rejected the option of returning the Anfal documents to the INLA. That is arguable, but it is not my purpose to do so here. I am writing on behalf of Dr. Eskander, a great colleague and friend, to broach the question of the INLA acquiring copies of your digital records of the Anfal documents. I expect that this is an issue you will need to discuss with the director of the university's library; however, I believe a compelling case can be made for the propriety of such a donation. I sincerely hope that you will read the relevant section of my 2007 report concerning the INLA, and Dr. Eskander's role in renewing and utterly reforming it. It is an extraordinary story, and he is an extraordinary man. I also hope that you will read the text of my paper delivered in April at UCLA's Center for Near East Studies, and at the University of Chicago, sponsored by their Center for Middle East Studies, the Oriental Institute, and The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII). You will find the text attached to the e-mail message. Finally, I am attaching my recent update to the IraqCrisis listserv on the first, April visit of the Iraqi delegation addressing issues of seized documents. It contains links to texts of other talks I have given, including that devoted to the Iraqi Jewish Archive.

I look forward to further communications with you, and trust that the time will come when it will be appropriate for you to correspond directly with Dr. Eskander.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Spurr

(2)
From: Bruce P Montgomery <Bruce.Montgomery@Colorado.EDU>
Subject: Re: contact
To: "Jeff Spurr" <jbspurr@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Jun 2010 15:16:26 -0600 (MDT)

Dear Jeff,

Thanks very much for your note and attachments. I found them quite interesting. As to your request on behalf of Mr. Saad Eskander, whose dedication in rebuilding the Iraqi National Archive and Library is known to many, I'm afraid we must defer to the Kurdish political parties who were responsible for capturing the Anfal documents in 1991 and subsequently agreed to have the archive transferred to the U.S. with the understanding that it would remain their property. This deal was brokered by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee; we feel that we have a responsibility to honor it.

As you might imagine, we have particular concerns that the Anfal secret police records, which include numerous informant files, could be reused against the Kurds if returned to Iraq at this time given the unstable political situation and amid increasing tensions between the current Shiite majority government and Iraqi Kurdistan. As such, we believe such a decision is better left in the hands of Kurdish authorities.

I have attached a recent article that I have published on this matter. Although you may find it of interest, I suspect that you will find much to disagree with. In my view, the question is not whether all the Hussein-related documents should be returned to Iraq (clearly they should be), but when and under what political circumstances that would guarantee against their misuse.

As you know, the U.S. government has not claimed ownership over the 100 millions pages of files in its possession, which it seized under the international rules of war in the 2003 invasion. American authorities intend to repatriate the documents, but I suspect it could take some time. I doubt, for example, that they will allow the return of files detailing Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons efforts and other WMD programs, as well as other sensitive files. Indeed, just as the U.S. did not return all of the Nazi documents to West Germany that it captured during World War II, I believe it's problematic that

all of Hussein's records will be returned to Iraq. At any rate, I'm currently writing another article on this issue.

Although we may differing opinions on some of these issues, I hope we may continue our exchange of views.

Kind Regards,

Bruce P. Montgomery
Faculty Director of Archives
Archives
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(3)
28 June 2010
Dear Bruce,

Thank you for your message, disappointing though I find it. I trust you will note the irony that the University of Colorado is deemed (by its representatives) to be an appropriate place to hold the digital files of the Anfal campaign, and capable of discriminating what should be made available to researchers and what not, but somehow the Iraqi National Archive is not despite its extraordinary record of high standards and achievement under Dr. Eskander's management. Dr. Eskander is himself a Faili (variously spelled) Kurd, whose community (Shiite) of all the Kurdish communities of Iraq was the most completely devastated under Saddam Hussein, that in Baghdad where Dr. Eskander grew up during his first eighteen years eliminated as ruthlessly as the Jewish populations of Iraq's cities, and with far greater percentage of murders as opposed to expulsions. He has close links with Kurdistan although he is an enlightened person not in sympathy with the coarser expressions of nationalist tendencies in any group. There is simply no doubt that the regime he has established at the Iraq National Library and Archive is one suitable for the holding of sensitive records of all sorts, many millions of which are already present there.

I will propose that Dr. Eskander seek the cooperation of the authorities in Iraqi Kurdistan. This was never a move to go behind their backs in any case. I assume that, if they should give the green light, you would transfer copies of the digital images in your possession.

Thank you for the text of your paper. I look forward to reading it, and I do hope that we will have occasion for future communications.

Kind regards,
Jeff

Digitization of Near East Materials
From a Curatorial Point of View

SIMON SAMOEIL
YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The goal of the Arabic and Middle East Electronic Library project
(AMEEL) was to build an electronic database of Middle Eastern
journals, essential for scholarship and international in scope. Because
most of the relevant materials were Middle Eastern in origin, the
project had to seek cooperation and support within the region.

Kinds of Materials Selected
Journals selected for inclusion in the AMEEL database were in the
fields of the humanities and social sciences, and available in Yale
University Library's Near East Collection. The journals selected
were issued by universities in the following countries: Egypt,
Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. Among
the notable academic journals included are *Journal for the History of
Arabic Science* (University of Aleppo); *International Studies*
(Tunis); *Journal of King Abdulaziz University: Arts and Humanities;*
and *Language and Literature* (University of Algiers).

These materials are governed by copyright, with the rights
owned by various entities, sometimes academic (universities) and
sometimes not. Communications were conducted with university
personnel who are in charge of the publications and who have the
authority to grant copyright permission. In some cases I had to meet
with them in person during my acquisition trips to the Middle East
and North Africa. The curator in a project like this thus becomes not
only a selector but also a persuader, calling on editors, deans, and
even presidents of universities to address their concerns and to urge
their cooperation.

Private non-profit organizations also publish important materials. For AMEEL, materials were selected from publications by Mu'assasat al-Mar'ah wa-al-Dhakirah (Women & Memory Forum), Cairo; Institut des hautes études (Institute of Higher Studies), Tunis; and Études internationals (Association des études internationals), Tunis. These three non-profit organizations were selected because they specialize in gender, historical, and international studies. They cooperated with us because they understood the intellectual objectives of the project and also because we took into consideration their interests and concerns—we requested permission to digitize their publications only from the first issue until the year 2000. I explained to them that their publications would thus reach a wider audience, free of charge, potentially attracting new subscribers for issues published after the year 2000.

My strategy was always to have an alternative list from the targeted universities and organizations in case I wasn't able to obtain the copyright permission directly. In most cases, this strategy worked and the copyright permission was secured from the universities and from private non-profit organizations. It is our hope that when AMEEL has become well established and the advantages of inclusion apparent, even more holders of copyright will want their journals to be included.

Some Benefits of Digitization (a Reminder)
1. Digitizing the selected materials will make them readily accessible and available free of charge for scholars and researchers in the United States and worldwide via the Internet.

2. Some of these materials are out of print and cannot be obtained by libraries that want to add them to their collections. When digitized, these materials will be available to these libraries and their users.

3. The digitized materials will be preserved in an accessible medium. In some cases there will be no need for de-acidification and other preservation and conservation processes. In many publications the paper used in the nineteenth century was acidic. But the paper copies of the digitized materials will be maintained and housed in special locations for consultation purposes.

A Further Project

Because many older materials in American libraries are available without copyright restrictions, pre-1923 publications related to Middle East Studies should be considered for possible digitization projects.

From a curatorial point of view, materials published before 1923 need to be considered because, in addition to being readily accessible, they are in the public domain. Permission to digitize them—a complicated and time-consuming process to obtain—is not needed. Such materials, however, should still be in demand by scholars and researchers for their intellectual value, and their content should constitute a coherent core. Important examples would include:

- Medieval bibliographical and bio-bibliographical sources
- Medieval Arabic literary encyclopedias
- Treatises on Arabic language, grammar, and rhetoric
- Arabic lexicons
- Historical texts, etc.
- Historical maps

REVIEWS

Syria and Saudi Arabia: collaboration and conflicts in the oil era.
By Sonoko Sunayama. London: Tauris Academic Studies, 2007.
Pp. viii, 269, with bibliographical references and index. $94.50
(hardcover). ISBN: 1845113020.

Inter-Arab relations are a pivotal subject in the quest to understand the Arab Middle East and the factors that foment and dissuade these relations. A quick survey of literature on inter-Arab relations through WorldCat demonstrates the need for further scholarship looking into specific states' relations, such as the two discussed in Sonoko Sunayama's *Syria and Saudi Arabia: collaboration and conflicts in the oil era* (2007).

Sunayama's monograph is compelling in explaining and analyzing Syria and Saudi Arabia's relationship, specifically between the beginning of the Camp David Peace Accords in 1978 and the Gulf War of 1990. This period is framed within a historical context beginning with the 1948 war and the creation of the state of Israel. The book excels at demonstrating not only the intricate relations between Syria and Saudi Arabia but also those international factors that impacted these relations.

Beginning with the Camp David peace accord between Egypt and Israel Sunayama details this tumultuous period in inter-Arab relations, making certain the reader is aware of the different restraints, constraints, and difficulties each nation and leader faced. Sunayama does well in focusing this on Saudi and Syrian relations as well as the external factors that led these two nation-states, whose historical trajectory in previous decades demonstrated a lack of trust, to remain close despite their various disputes and lack of trust. Sunayama notes some of the reasons for this closeness despite both states' demonstrated willingness to interfere internally with each others' state apparatuses. The reasons range from shared identities (Arabism and Islamism) to competing ideologies for supremacy in Arab Middle East affairs. However, whatever the reasons outlined it is clear that these two states need each other in order to maintain (or salvage) civil society in the broadest sense.

The chapter on Camp David further elucidates the competing ideas and ideals of Islamism between these two states. Where Saudi Arabia willingly aided and abetted the military campaign against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, Syria, at least in word if not deed, felt compelled to foment closer relations with the Soviet Union despite their attack on a fellow Muslim country because of the need for a superpower friend to combat America's increasing role in the Arab Middle East. The competing ideas pertaining to Afghanistan and the internationalization of the Lebanese civil war (1975–1989) illustrate the willingness to work together while also working against each other, an ambiguity noted by Sunayama: "[b]urdened by their weaknesses, Syria and Saudi Arabia, instead of opting for open competition, chose to continue to work with each other, albeit uneasily—an option available to them largely because their sources of power . . . were more complementary than competing" (pp. 87–88).

The most compelling analysis throughout the book is Sunayama's overarching theme of identity and the multiple identities that make up both Syria and Saudi Arabia. These identities further contribute to understanding the need and want for each nation to have (strong) relations with the other. However, as compelling as the arguments are, there is a lack of evidence demonstrating an overall and continuous shared identity. The identity of both states is often conflicting with one another, as evidenced by their often contrasting foreign policies. The discussion throughout the book of the turmoil surrounding the identities of Syria and Saudi Arabia, however, does provide another avenue for scholarship to take and further elaborate upon.

The sources of this monograph are well documented and a thorough selection of materials was used to craft this work. The bibliography offers a wide selection of monographs, theses, dissertations, and newspapers, mostly in English though some Arabic works are noted. Moreover, a notes section follows each chapter providing additional insight into ideas or sources used, and a detailed index ends the monograph. The one drawback of this monograph is the lack of maps and charts or tables to outline the finances between these two countries, which are discussed throughout the book without giving total sums. However, this monograph excels at demonstrating over and over again that Syria and Saudi Arabia "succeeded in maintaining a working relationship . . . because their

chief sources of legitimacy, or their priority identities" were complementary, not confrontational (p. 9).

This monograph is ideal for students studying political science of or about the Arab Middle East. The detail and knowledge of this work make it ideal for advanced undergraduates and master's students, especially considering the extensive bibliography.

SEAN SWANICK

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Does the land remember me?: a memoir of Palestine. By Aziz
　　Shihab. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2007.
　　Pp xxiii, 149. ISBN: 0815608624.

Aziz Shihab, who died in October 2007 at the age of 80, wrote this volume perhaps as way to explore his complicated relationship with his homeland of Palestine. Shihab, who immigrated to the United States in 1950 after his family lost their home in Jerusalem, became a prominent journalist, and in 1998 founded the Arabic newspaper *The Arab Star* that was published for some five years in Richardson, Texas.

An arresting poem by Shihab's daughter (the well-known poet Naomi Shihab Nye) entitled "Jerusalem" opens the text. In the forward, Persis M. Karim describes the work as an example of the important stories from the Palestinian diaspora that help this uprooted people to "affirm and support the connection that remains between the people and the land of Palestine" (p. xiii).

The story begins with notice from his brother that his aged mother is dying, whereupon Shihab decides to return to Palestine to visit her for the last time. He recalls how she wanted him to build a red stone house on land he had purchased in their village. She dreamt that he plants tears—trees—and that the land will remember him even when he is not there, as a link to his past. The interplay of the journey to spend time at his mother's side with other previous visits to Palestine, and with Shihab's life in America, is woven throughout the work.

There is a recurring theme in Shihab's story of the importance of owning land and the connection between land and its owner. On the other hand, Shihab relates his experience of feeling disconnected to the world three significant times: when he escaped with his family from their Jerusalem home in 1949; when many relatives sacrificed to bid him farewell a year later when he left for America; and when he said goodbye to his cousin Aref in Jordan on his way to the West Bank during this latest trip to visit his family and piece of land.

The author also writes of remembering sometimes forgotten cultural customs related to weddings, dowries, and the favoring of some relatives over others when interacting with his extended family and Palestinians he meets. He is matter-of-fact in relating both his own difficult, sometimes humiliating experiences with the Israeli border guards, even as an American citizen, and describing life endured by Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

This memoir, as a fairly rare example of writing in English about Palestinian daily life, is a recommended addition to public and academic library collections. The title is published by Syracuse University Press as part of its Arab American Writing series.

KRISTEN KERN

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Contemporary Iraqi fiction: an anthology. Edited and translated by Shakir Mustafa. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2008. Pp 202, with glossary. ISBN: 9780815609025.

Shakir Mustafa, a scholar of literature and Arabic language in the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature at Boston University, has published works on Jewish Americans, literary translation, and Irish drama. This anthology might be considered an introduction to contemporary Iraqi writings in Arabic from various authors and their socio-political perspectives on Iraq: past, present, and in some cases future. He chose authors with different ethnic backgrounds (e.g., Turkmen, Christians, Jews, and Muslims), all writing in Arabic and having a common culture rooted

in Iraq. The stories are not only by known major authors but also by women or the younger generation, to draw the readers' attention to the differences in writing styles which have happened over time. The authors mainly reside outside Iraq yet are aware of what their people and country have gone through during the twentieth century in the course of wars, such as the Iran-Iraq war between 1980 and 1988 and the Gulf wars in 1991 and 2003, economic and political struggles, censorship under Baathist rule, the collapse of the Baath regime, and the interference of foreign countries. The short stories in this book present collective contemporary Iraqi fiction with different themes and mainly concentrating on the characters of the story.

Muhammad Khodayyir's narratives are actually a combination of his own past, present, and the future of which he dreams. He describes a utopia with a free land of publishing after war. The main theme of some of his stories is childhood in Arab culture and families.

Lutfiya al-Dulaimi, a famous prolific author, emphasizes socio-political issues of women in Iraq and the Arab world, showing her female characters either trying to subdue the pressure on their lives, or enjoying it despite the war and embargo and adapting it to a social norm. One of her main characters, "Shaharzad," travels from the past to the present reconnecting history and cultural customs.

Mahdi al-Saqr with a dense emotional imagination points to the war and denial in accepting the loss of beloved ones. He also concentrates on human values and the soothing justice his character applies.

Mayselun Hadi, a famous writer over the past two decades, deals with the war and its psychological effects and the fear that Iraqi society is experiencing. She portrays time as a dominant force in our lives, showing how one could get lost in time when life is under a traumatic stress.

Abdul Rahman Majeed al-Rubaie, a prolific author with a journalistic career, presents one of his ironic works written under the dictatorial Saddam regime, which was never published in Iraq. He portrays poverty as a dominant power in a typical family's relationship while also touching on women's issues in Arab culture.

Samira Al-Mana's works have common ground with other stories about issues of exile, but are a bit different when addressing the struggle and the challenges of relations when couples are under the pressure of a regime or in exile. While she presents the different

generations' interactions and the differences in feelings and judgments between the couples in exile, she also addresses the difficulties in managing a foreign language and expressing oneself while trying to interpret others.

Abdul Sattar Nasir, having been held in solitary confinement for a year in Iraq, portrays the sad relief of leaving his homeland behind and breaking all his ties with his country. He is narrating the political oppression he experienced and from which he ran away.

Jalil al-Qaisi, originally from Kirkuk, plots the movement of the people against dogmatic regimes while expressing the effect of a nurturing female character on men's lives, a reason for which to live or die in an oppressive political atmosphere.

Samir Naqqash's works are mainly on Jewish life in Iraq, where he lived the first thirteen years of his life. He delivers the stories from childhood and nourishes the current generation while also reviewing the ethnic relations between Jews and Muslims and the ambiguities in discrimination against Arab Jews.

Salima Salih gives an example of cultural clashes, the adaptability and attitudes of each individual toward Western countries within their adopted values and cultures in her stories. She also gives perspectives of parents monitoring the behavioral changes of their children in exile.

Samuel Simon's narratives as a Christian in an Arabic society involve a diverse ethnic and religious group in Iraq, showing the connection of a natural and basic life to Western style.

Mahmoud Saeed, imprisoned between 1969 and 1980 under Saddam Hussein's regime, portrays the psychological horror and the shocking economic aspects of the embargo on people's lives.

Nasrat Mardan demonstrates the conflict of interest between religions and government, and shows that the faith religious groups have in their religion is strong enough to undermine the power of the government and its political tactics.

Ibtisam Abdullah, a journalist and a TV figure, deals with a blend of feminist concerns and issues from the Iran and Iraq war. She also portrays the "hunger" that families have gone through during the embargo and its psychological aftermath.

Ibrahim Ahmed uses sharp language to represent the Iraqi's tendency to suppress political adversity with humor.

Shmuel Moreh's story revolves around a Muslim woman dancer in exile who talks to a Jewish man about her experiences of the

social standards related to gender in Iraq during her childhood through adulthood, while mentioning something about the life of a minority group (Jews) within Islamic world.

In general, this anthology would be a good book to read for those who want to improve their understanding of contemporary Iraqi writing and the effects that war and embargo have had on the writing styles of Iraqi authors. The fact that their lives have been touched by tragedies over the past three decades has helped them to be bold in choosing more socio-political subjects and addressing more public issues than they used to do in the past, and this has made the stories more attractive and engaging for worldwide readers.

SHAHRZAD KHOSROWPOUR
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY—PUEBLO

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Turkey's modernization: refugees from Nazism and Atatürk's vision.
    By Arnold Reisman. Washington, DC: New Academia
    Publishing, 2006. Pp. xxvii + 571, with illustrations, notes,
    bibliography, and index. ISBN: 0977790886.

This is the first major study in English on refugees from Nazism, mainly Jewish academics, who found refuge in Turkey in the 1930s and 1940s and how they contributed to Turkey's higher education and cultural life. The study is based on numerous publications, mostly in English, German, and Turkish, including many websites, as well as interviews with former refugees and their family members. The book includes an introduction, fourteen chapters, concluding remarks, and an epilogue, as well as three appendixes: the mission statements of the original three Turkish universities; list of the émigré professors and their disciplines; and a quantitative cross-country comparison. Notes, photographs, bibliography, and index are included.

Following the Turkish revolution and the establishment of the Turkish republic in 1923, its founder and first president, Kemal Atatürk, took vigorous steps in order to modernize and Westernize the country. In the early 1930s he took advantage of the plight of

victims of Nazism who were experts in certain scholarly, scientific, and cultural fields and enabled them to hold senior positions in Turkey in order to advance the new republic. As a result, their lives were saved, they could continue working in their areas of expertise, and could simultaneously develop these fields in Turkey. All in all, some 350 individuals and their families stayed in Turkey for various periods of time. Most of these refugees later settled in Europe and the USA, some reaching senior and exalted positions.

The first chapter deals with Atatürk's "University reform" of 1933 which enabled this process. It is followed by a general examination of the whole group of émigrés with special chapters dealing with specific fields to which they contributed: architecture and city planning, archeology, music and visual arts, business economics and management, medicine, dentistry and public health, and science. Each chapter describes individuals and their contribution in their specific field and how they modernized that area in Turkey. The following chapters examine the problems the refugees encountered in Turkey, mainly due to language barriers, lack of appropriate equipment and space, and the envy of Turks who were pushed aside to make room for the émigrés or received poorer material compensation. Another chapter deals with attempts of the refugees to immigrate to the USA as a result of the aforementioned problems and the fact that their contract was temporary and not always given to renewal. Interviews, correspondence, and materials kept in US national and university archives show that academic grounds were not always the reason for denying these scholars a university position, and that anti-Semitism sometimes played a decisive role. The study ends with an examination of the refugees' contribution to Turkey's modernization and to what an extent Turkey could have benefited even more.

Reisman brings forth important information on these refugee scholars and artists, and Turkey's role in saving them and their families while greatly advancing its own higher education, health system, public administration, and the arts. He highlights Turkey's role in saving Jews as well as some political enemies of Nazism during the Holocaust—a topic that is little known among scholars of the Holocaust and of the modernization of Turkey. Among these refugees were some renowned figures: the literary historian Eric Auerbach, who during his stay in Turkey, with a poor library to rely on, wrote his famous book *Mimesis* on the genesis of the novel, the archeologist Hans Güterbock, the composer Paul Hindemith, the

economist Ernst Reuter who became the mayor of Berlin, and the Turcologist Andreas Tietze.

The book could have benefited from more rigorous editing. It includes lengthy citations from correspondence and interviews and has numerous repetitions. Not being a historian of Turkey himself (Reisman is an engineer), there are also some historical inaccuracies. For example, while Atatürk was an active military officer during the Young Turk period, the republic which he founded was not part of the Young Turk regime. Moreover, Reisman attributes a citation (p. 454) to "a Turkish social commentator" "in the late 1950s" when citing from a book published in an English translation in 1959, without realizing that its original author, Zia Gökalp, was a well-known nineteenth-century scholar. The index has two separate entries for the *Verlik vergisi* (wealth tax): one under its Turkish name and with different pages for the English term, and İsmail Sahip Efendi appears in the index as "Efendi, I. S." In the list of émigrés, the discipline of Erich Auerbach is referred to as chemistry (p. 474). Thus, the book includes much data on an important and under-researched topic, but should be consulted with great care.

RACHEL SIMON

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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Love, death, and exile: poems translated from Arabic. By Abdul Wahab al-Bayati; translated by Bassam K. Frangieh. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2004. Pp 314. $21.95 (paperback). ISBN: 1589010043.

This book was first published by Georgetown Press in 1990 as a bilingual text. The present edition is by and large, then, a reprint. There seem to be only two minor modifications to the text. The first is the absence of a forward present in the first printing by the Dean of the School of Languages and Linguistics, which explained that it sponsored the first printing and was encouraged to do so after an Arabic Poetry Gala in 1989 at Georgetown University, which included al-Bayati as one of several featured poets. The second

modification is that the preface contains a new paragraph at its end explaining the translator's delight that the vital work of al-Bayati will be preserved and dispersed all the wider.

This is not a collection published in Arabic by al-Bayati in this format, but rather a selection of al-Bayati's poems from eight different collections published between 1969 and 1989. Bassam Frangieh, a friend and confidant of al-Bayati's for many years, presents his translations of poems he selected according to three main themes that recur throughout al-Bayati's career and that were close to the poet's own heart; thus the title *Love, death, and exile*. Al-Bayati wrote hundreds of poems and published twenty-five collections of poetry between 1950 and 1998, so choosing just 51 to present must have been a challenge. There is some slight favoring of later poems from the 1989 collection, *Aisha's orchard,* over much earlier ones, but there are a sufficient number of them all to shed light on the life and work of the poet from the 1960s to the 1980s.

The structure of this anthology is chronological inasmuch as the poems are presented according to the collections in which they first appeared. The themes of love, death, and exile then are scattered throughout and not used as a structure for this compilation. Because many of the poems touch on more than one of these themes, it would have been impossible to divide the anthology along these themes anyway. The second poem in the book, "The City" (pp. 17–19), exemplifies this. It is both a romantic poem about the city metaphorically portrayed as a naked woman and a poem of exile—remembering the city and one's love-hate/relationship or allure and revulsion for it all at once.

The collection is best digested slowly. Each poem deserves a conscious reading and time for contemplation. This is not frivolous poetry or poetry of light fancy. The poems are dense despite the fact that al-Bayati has a habit of dividing his poems into six to sixteen Roman numeral stanzas, the first of which is often written more like a paragraph of short statements than lined poetry. Read the poems too quickly or too many at one sitting and you risk lessening their impact and thus value. When read together too, one may be distracted by al-Bayati's style, which recalls in different poems the same or similar phrases, signs, and symbols. Recurring images include rain, snow, night and day, the Polar star, Aisha, and birth, to name just a few.

The collection is of use to a number of different audiences. It is first, a good example of modern Arabic poetry by a renowned poet and as such fine as pleasure reading for any reader, academic or not. Second, it is useful to students of both the Arabic language and Arabic literature due to the fact it is a bilingual text that exhibits the challenge of rendering Arabic poetry into English, and it contains poems on various themes, some inspired by events occurring in various decades in the Middle East, including the deaths of other significant poets such as Rafael Alberti (pp. 160–167) and Khalil Hawi (pp. 266–269). This same rootedness in either history as fact or history as lived by al-Bayati renders the book useful as a text in Arabic literature classes that touch on literary trends such as committed, avant-garde, or stream of consciousness literature.

Libraries that failed to purchase the first edition are here offered a second chance to obtain a collection of some of al-Bayati's best material. Libraries that did purchase the first edition may be hard pressed to justify the purchase of this very similar text as a second copy in these difficult economic times, but if the first copy has gone missing or is in poor condition, this is a perfect replacement. Overall, then the work is meaningful, useful, and entertaining. And it is especially so when savored one poem at a time.

CHRISTINE DYKGRAAF
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Rituals of memory: in contemporary Arab women's writing. By Brinda Mehta. Gender, culture and politics of the Middle East. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2007. Pp. x, 303, with bibliography and index. $45.00 (hardcover). ISBN: 9780815631354.

Brinda Mehta, Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Mills College, Oakland, California, has published a groundbreaking new book entitled *Rituals of memory in contemporary Arab women's writing*. Three Arab writers inspired Mehta because of their courage, strength, and wisdom: Nawal El-Saadawi, Evelyne Accad, and Liana

Badr. Nawal El-Saadawi, president of Arab Women's Solidarity Association, comments that this book will provide a true understanding of the complexities of Arab women's lives through literature.

The book starts with acknowledgments and an introduction, followed by six chapters:

1. Palestinian women and the problematic of survival
2. Spatial impositions, circularity, and memory
3. The politics of the female body
4. Creative dissidence and religious contentions
5. Cities under siege and the language of survival
6. The semiology of food

The book finishes with the conclusion, includes bibliographical references (pp. 269–280), and has an excellent index(pp. 281–303).

Mehta examines the significance of memory rituals in women's writings, such as the importance of purification rites in Islam, and how these play out in the women's space of the Turkish bath. The author demonstrates how sensory experiences bind Arab women to their past. She raises awareness about the experiences of Palestinian women in exile and under occupation, Bedouin and desert rituals, and women's views on the conflict in Iraq. Mehta's book applies new thinking to the timely field of modern Arab women's writing and criticism, and her writing is both provocative and enlightening.

In *Rituals of memory*, Mehta tries to counter misconceptions of the role women play in Arab society. She explains feminism in an Islamic context by examining contemporary Arab women's literature—such as Fatima Mernissi's—to show how women form links to their past through the use of rituals and memory. She raises awareness about the compatibility between Islam and feminism by describing Quranic practices in which women play significant roles.

Every academic library should acquire this book. The section of "Works Cited" makes a good bibliography. Chapters are very well written and organized. It has a solid and sturdy binding.

Ritual of memory is the first theoretical study that draws on examples from not only Arab, but also from French and English writers and therefore, creates a sense of transnationalism within the body of Arab women's literature. It is a sensitive, creative, and brilliant analysis of Arab women's memory writing.

Dr. Nawal El-Saadawi was invited to the Institute of Islamic Studies of McGill University in 1986. She delivered an excellent lecture entitled "Challenges Facing Arab Women in the 1980s." She stated that Arab women have to organize politically and have to be independent economically. She stressed that women's issues are not voiced because they do not have political power. Women's issues have come a long way since then.

SALWA FERAHIAN

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

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Representing the Unpresentable. By Negar Mottahedeh. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2008. Pp. 264, with bibliographical references and index. ISBN: 9780815631798.

The topic of nationalism and modernity in Iran under the Qajar dynasty has received a great deal of attention in recent years and scholars have broken new ground in diverse subjects ranging from poetry to gender studies to early photography. The black and white images of the era have entranced scholars with their subjects who seem both innocent and knowing, posed yet caught off guard by the new technology. Indeed, the inaugural issue of *The Journal of the International Qajar Studies Association,* published in 2001, had photography as its guiding theme. Whereas many previous studies have dealt with the issue of Qajar imagery from the perspective of historical or archival studies, Negar Mottahedeh seeks a post-modern approach in *Representing the Unpresentable,* drawing on historiography, psychology, film, and gender studies to investigate Iranian reactions to the appearance of the Bab (a nineteenth-century claimant to the mantle of Shi'ite Islam's messianic figure, the Mahdi, and the precursor of the Baha'i religion) and how these same themes carry over into modern cinema, eventually being echoed in the revolution of 1979. While photography informs her study, she deals on a more esoteric level, deconstructing traditional narrative accounts to reveal conflicting perspectives and intersecting "lines of sight" within and between the chronicles documenting the rise of the

Bab. Her ultimate goal is to establish a new foundation for the study of Iranian modernity, replacing models based on preconceptions of European progress or hampered by the limitations of the historical discipline.

Scholars of Qajar Iran will be familiar with the charge of *Babi*, leveled at reformers, supporters of the Constitution, and anyone who appeared to oppose the traditional order. The accusation implied both religious heresy and the abandonment of Iranian culture in favor of European modernity. Though examples are prevalent, Mottahedeh's work is the first to examine in-depth the connection between the rise of Babism and the seismic shift of Iran's burgeoning modernity. In jargon-laden language which at times threatens to obscure her thesis, she probes a fascinating connection between the internal narrative of the Babi faith and the *ta'ziyah,* the Shi'ite passion play commemorating the martyrdom of the Imam Husayn on the fields of Karbala. She convincingly demonstrates how the *ta'ziyah* operated as a vehicle for protest and change in Iranian society, allowing the participants to enact the traditional tale while simultaneously expressing their relationship with modern society. Mottahedeh also takes on the long-overdue task of casting a critical eye over the works of the renowned Edward G. Browne, a famed scholar of Persian literature and the first Western academic to study the subject of Babism. Mottahedeh demonstrates how Browne's translations have forced the field to approach the topic within the strictures of traditional historiography and contrasts his method with the *ta'ziyah* model, which "bore an urgent relevance to the conditions of the time." Browne's work is fundamental to much of Western Iranian scholarship, particularly in the literary and religious fields, and it is refreshing to see his influence both acknowledged and criticized.

At times the work wanders into areas which seem tangential and do not carry the weight of the aforementioned arguments. The application of Freud's account of the fetish, though interesting, seems an attempt to stretch individual psychological theory to cover a sort of national consciousness, an idea which does not seem far removed from old-fashioned generalizations about "the Persian mind." The final chapter shifts abruptly from the topic of Babism to discuss film, and though connections to the preceding chapters are drawn, the transition seems forced and the subject matter somewhat gratuitous. Intriguing similarities between the rise of the Bab, the social impact of the *ta'ziyah,* and the Ayatollah Khomeini's rise to

power are hinted at throughout, yet never explored fully. Further elucidation of these relationships would be most welcome.

Presentation is impeccable throughout and the work includes a thorough index and bibliography. The transliteration is uniform if somewhat idiosyncratic; there is no introductory explanation of the system used. Illustrations are sparse, especially given the theme of visual imagery. As a work of post-modern theory, it is aimed squarely at an academic audience with a background in Iranian studies.

In sum, Mottahedeh's text is a welcome complement to studies in modern Iranian history and the Qajar dynasty and should be included alongside works by Afsaneh Najmabadi, Mohamad Tavakoli Targhi, and Firoozeh Kashani Sabet in any student's reading. Collections with a strong component of Iranian history and sociology will find it a useful addition.

MATTHEW C. SMITH

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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Advanced Media Arabic. By El Mustapha Lahlali. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2008. Pp. xii, 292, with glossary, answer key, transcripts, and sample test. $34.95 (paperback). ISBN: 9781589012202.

Enrollments in Arabic-languages classes in the United States have increased dramatically since the events of September 11, 2001, and student interest in reading and listening to Arab media sources is probably higher than at any time in the past. In response to this demand, El Mustapha Lahlali, of the University of Leeds, has written *Advanced Media Arabic,* which addresses the need for a media-focused textbook.

Advanced Media Arabic consists of ten chapters or "modules," each of which focuses on a particular theme commonly encountered in the Arab media, such as diplomacy, elections, economics, etc. These thematic modules are broken into units built around a media text and exercises which focus on a variety of language skills. The

layout of the book is clearly outlined in the author's introduction, where he briefly describes each module and provides a table showing the modules' contents.

A typical unit begins with several broad questions about a text, which serve to activate students' background knowledge about the topic under discussion and help guide their reading of the text. The text is supplemented by a glossary of selected terms. The student is then presented with multiple-choice and short-answer comprehension questions and is asked to complete a variety of activities, such as outlining the text, working with its vocabulary, paraphrasing the text, or providing synonyms for words encountered. These comprehension drills are generally followed by exercises which work with grammatical and stylistic constructions highlighted by the text; these exercises help build students' familiarity with verb and preposition usage, idioms, contextual meanings, and the like. Most units also ask students to translate passages both from Arabic into English and vice versa. Some units include a writing section where students read an Arabic text and summarize or respond to it using vocabulary introduced in the unit. A number of units also include listening-comprehension activities based on a series of broadcast texts that are available for download free at the publisher's website (www.press.georgetown.edu).

The appendices include a well-chosen bilingual glossary of words organized around six of the book's nine themes. This is followed by an answer key covering most of the exercises in the book. The appendix also contains transcripts of the web-based audio texts and concludes with a sample test composed by the author.

Advanced Media Arabic does an admirable job of addressing the goals the author sets for it. The book is well conceived and produced. The author has chosen up-to-date texts from a variety of print and internet sources. The thematic topics are likewise well chosen and represent a sampling that most students of international affairs will find of interest. The book is, as its title implies, geared toward advanced students. Students below the ACTFL intermediate-high level in reading and listening will probably find the book too challenging.

The book's exercises are well designed to thoroughly engage students with the texts. The translating and paraphrasing exercises, in particular, extend students' work with topics well beyond comprehension of the key texts; translation exercises also provide

students practice in a skill that many of them will wish to hone. Although mastery of media Arabic primarily relies on reading and listening skills, a strength of *Advanced Media Arabic* is that it includes writing and speaking exercises, which serve to reinforce the vocabulary and structures encountered in a given unit.

Perhaps the foremost feature of *Advanced Media Arabic* is its use of audio texts. Aural comprehension of authentic Arabic speech is the most difficult skill for many students to master; thus, the 60 minutes of broadcast texts and their transcripts will be invaluable learning tools. The audio texts themselves are clearly recorded in individual files, with the unit and exercise number stated in English at the beginning of each file so that students will have no trouble identifying them. The audio files feature a variety of speakers, both male and female.

Advanced Media Arabic provides a wealth of materials and exercises and will permit considerable flexibility in assigning material. A teacher could easily adapt the texts and exercises to his or her own lesson plan and the book's modular design will allow it to be used in whole or part, in any thematic order, and in conjunction with other teaching materials.

There are a few minor editing problems which should be corrected in a subsequent edition: the use of underlining, bold, and italics is not always systematic (e.g., pp. 4, 5, 41), exercise instructions mix up columns on p. 142, and the English fonts change for no apparent reason on p. 143. Also, the transcripts and audio texts for Units 35 and 36 do not quite match: the transcript for Unit 35 is longer than its corresponding recorded text, while the audio text for Unit 36 contains more speech than is transcribed. None of these issues affect the book's usefulness.

There are two substantive areas in which the book might be improved. First, the final module of the book, "Arabic TV Extracts," includes two useful television texts, but the relevant files are audio only; audio-video clips would be more authentic and instructive for students. Second, the book's appeal could be widened by the inclusion of modules touching on a broader set of issues, including, for example, texts on cultural or religious issues or on literature and the arts.

Although *Advanced Media Arabic* is a textbook, it would be a useful addition to library and language-center collections at any institution that offers Arabic. This is true even of programs that do

not ordinarily offer courses at the advanced level. The design of the book, with its web resources and answer key, make it quite practical for self-study and, thus, it would be a useful resource for students who wish to expand their facility with media Arabic. The book will also be a valuable resource for language instructors: even if they do not wish to build an entire class around the book, they will find much in it that will benefit them in their teaching.

GREGORY J. BELL

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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Managing Egypt's poor and the politics of benevolence, 1800–1952. By Mine Ener. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003. Pp. xxx, 195, with bibliographical references and index. $52.00 (hardback). ISBN: 0691113785/ISBN13: 9780691113784.

The late Mine Ener provides a detailed study of charity and philanthropy in the Middle East. The "poor," a segment of society often neglected by scholarship, are discussed and researched in a manner that offers new avenues of understanding Egyptian (political) society in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. In particular, Ener investigates Egyptian domestic state policies and structures and how they acted and reacted to the poor.

While the book claims to provide insight into Egypt's poor 1800–1952, the truth of the matter is that this work concentrates more on the reign of Muhammad Ali Pasha (1805–1849). The twentieth century is sparsely covered, especially for the key period of King Farouq's rule (1936–1952). Moreover, the book concentrates almost exclusively on Cairo, as is obvious from the location of the most vivid description of the poor of Egypt, Takiyyat Tulun, one of the two main shelters discussed by Ener. These, however are not criticisms so much as points of reference. Ener weaves between anecdotal tales from nineteenth- and twentieth-century European travelers documenting their experiences and personalities met during their travels, and Egyptian, Ottoman, and British archival sources. This unique treatment of the sources on this topic and period of

history, further compounded by the scarcity of scholarship in the field of charity and philanthropy in the Middle East, provides the researcher and student of the Middle East with another means of understanding Egyptian society, culture, and political development.

Ener asserts that Egyptian society functions under an Islamic rubric in which "*ihsan* (beneficence, generosity) and *sadaqa* (almsgiving) are core features" (p. 1). Moreover, while Islamic charity is at work, Ener also investigates the changing ideas concerning public health. These two forces are brought together through Egypt's modernization processes that entailed a shifting of patterns from social structures to the state, i.e., bureaucratic structures meant to regulate in a new fashion the fabric of Egyptian society. All of this is interestingly woven within the community, family, and kin networks that support most Egyptians. It is this segment of society, the segment with little or no social security stemming from family or kin ties, that constitutes the poor. These persons range from women, children, and men to the sick, maimed, disabled, and beggars.

Ener elucidates state policy toward the poor by noting the state's concern with maintaining order in the public space. Thus, we learn that Egypt's policies attempted to "distinguish between able-bodied and the deserving poor" in striving to relieve Cairo and Alexandria of the burdens of beggars and poverty in the public eye. Ali forced conscription and mandated forced labor on many able-bodied men. Initially there was resistance to these invasive policies of managing the poor; at times the resistance led to acts of sabotage which resulted in state penalties. The attempts made by Egyptian authorities to manage the poor led to forcing the poor into shelters such as Mahall al-Fuqara' (Place of the Poor) and Takiyyat Tulun in Cairo. The state's exclusionary policies of relegating its citizens away from public affairs are noteworthy because of the changing concepts of public health, which mandated that the poor be removed from the public eye. In this Ener notes a separation between state and citizen, in which "[a]lthough these new public health programs met secular needs . . . a discourse of religious obligations pervaded requests for medical assistance and infant care. On the surface, the practice of administering poor relief had become bureaucratized (with the ruler never having direct contact with the people who received his benevolence)" (p. 45).

The modernization of Egypt is an important topic to discuss and understand, especially in our current climate. This academic work provides insights unknown before into a segment of society often neglected by historians, anthropologists, and ethnographers. This social history provides for the student, researcher, and academic alike a new framework in which to pursue our understanding of Egypt during this time.

SEAN SWANICK

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

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Muslims in Western politics. Edited by Abdulkader H. Sinno. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2009. Pp. 320, with notes, references, figures, and index. $24.95 (paperback). ISBN: 9780253220240.

Originally initiated as a conference in 2005 with the same title, *Muslims in Western politics* is a compilation of essays by authors who discuss the effects of Western institutions on Muslim minorities. The editor, Dr. Abdulkader H. Sinno, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at Indiana University, and his contributors peruse governments, parliaments, courts, the media, political parties, churches, and law enforcement. Spain, Germany, France, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States are examined, with references to Belgium, Greece, Italy, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

This book is separated into four parts with three chapters in each and a notes and references section after each chapter. Transliteration follows the system of the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. The index is fairly detailed. Chapter 1 begins with an overview of the book's purpose.

Part One, Western Muslims and Established State-Religion Relations, Chapter 2, "Claiming Space in America's Pluralism: Muslims Enter the Political Maelstrom," shows how the 9/11 acts have reduced the number of Muslims running for political office because of negative biases. To remedy the negative perceptions,

some Muslim scholars publicly discuss the concept of "Progressive Islam" and its ideas of "justice, gender equality, and pluralism." Chapter 3, "The Practice of Their Faith: Muslims and the State in Britain, France, and Germany," compares the government policies of each country and their affect on Muslims' religious rights in public institutions. It argues that secularism might prevail in Western Europe, since the attacks by Muslims in Madrid, London, and Amsterdam were evidence that European Muslims' religious practices belonged in the public domain. Chapter 4, "Religion, Muslims, and the State in Britain and France: From Westphalia to 9/11," contrasts France's "assimilationist" model to the "integrationist" model of the United Kingdom and reveals a comparison of both models towards Muslims.

Part Two, Western Muslims and Political Institutions, Chapter 5, "Muslim Underrepresentation in American Politics," demonstrates that although the United States perceives Muslims more positively, ironically there are more Muslim politicians in some European countries (Belgium, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands) than in the U.S. This underrepresentation is mainly attributed to large electoral districts with small numbers of potential Muslim voters and also public bias against Muslim candidates from the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, Evangelical churches, and conservatives. Chapter 6, "Muslims Representing Muslims in Europe: Parties and Associations After 9/11," interviews three hundred European Muslim politicians and civic leaders to determine whether religion and identity played a role when implementing public policies. The leaders included "parliamentarians, city councilors, leaders, and spokespeople from civic associations, advocacy groups, and local and national umbrella organizations of mosque councils and interfaith groups, and also some . . . leading imams and Islamic scholars" from Western Europe. Muslim leaders stated that their faith did not determine their political party and that integration of Muslims with the West was necessary. Chapter 7, "Muslims in UK Institutions: Effective Representation or Tokenism?" discusses the fact that generally, Muslim councilors believed they could better serve Muslim minorities because of cultural similarities. But no matter what positions Muslims belonged to; nevertheless, all felt limited in certain ways for advocating the rights of Muslim minorities.

Part Three, <u>Institutional Underpinnings of Perceptions of Western Muslims</u>, Chapter 8, "How Europe and Its Muslim Populations See Each Other," shows that Germans and Spaniards view Muslims and Arabs more negatively compared to the French, British, and Americans. But most European Muslims favor Christians and Westerners more than Middle Eastern Muslims do. In France, Muslims consider nationality before religion, while the opposite is true in Great Britain. Chapter 9, "Public Opinion toward Muslim Americans: Civil Liberties and the Role of Religiosity, Ideology, and Media Use," discusses changes in public opinion towards Muslims by Americans since 9/11. The authors attribute the Americans' support of restrictions on Muslims to television news, entertainment, and Christian conservatives. Chapter 10, "The Racialization of Muslim Americans," claims that Muslims are "racialized" based on their religion and culture. These stereotypes initiate the support of civil rights infringements; with more women than men, more conservatives, and more Protestants supporting this law. However, more Americans are gaining knowledge about Islam and engaging in dialogue exchange.

In Part Four, <u>Western Muslims, Civil Rights, and Legal Institutions</u>, Chapter 11, "Canadian National Security Policy and Canadian Muslim Communities," Canada's "Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001" (C-36 Bill) is described, as are the amendments made to it under pressure from Muslim organizations because it singled out Muslims. Also, the chapter discusses Canada's other methods of dealing with terrorism, such as security certificates, new immigration laws, and cross-cultural roundtables for dialogue. Chapter 12, "Counterterrorism and the Civil Rights of Muslim Minorities in the European Union," introduces the European Union's counterterrorism efforts since 9/11, such as to "intensify police, intelligence, and legal cooperation." However, critics argue that civil rights are compromised by this law, and other laws must be implemented to prevent anti-Muslim discrimination. Chapter 13, "The Preventive Paradigm and the Rule of Law: How Not to Fight Terrorism," argues that the Bush administration's "preventive paradigm" contradicts the "rule of law." Moreover, the U.S.'s preventive paradigm as a means to acquire information is reprehended because it is argued that it has not made us safer.

In Chapter 14, "Recommendations for Western Policy Makers and Muslim Organizations," Dr. Sinno recommends that Western

institutions should end discrimination against Muslims from all directions, avoid "changing Islam," have dialogue with Islamic scholars, encourage Muslims towards political office, and follow proper foreign policy procedures. For Muslim organizations, Sinno recommends: lobbying for their rights, transparency, accepting liberal values, and engaging in roundtables on security and civil rights.

Muslims in Western politics introduces a unique look at how Western institutions have affected the rights of Muslim minorities historically and since 9/11. This book is mainly directed towards political science and Middle East studies students. However, I recommend all libraries acquire this highly informative book.

NANCY BEYGIJANIAN
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

I am you: a novel of lesbian desire in the Middle East. By Elham
    Mansour. Translated and edited with an introduction by Samar
    Habib. Youngstown, New York: Cambria Press, 2008. Pp.
    229. $99.95 (hardcover). ISBN: 9781604975024.

At first, Elham Mansour's novel seems like a stereotyped story of a Lebanese student who falls in love and has an affair with a young French woman in Paris. Siham is torn between her lover, who is openly lesbian, and her disapproving mother—both of whom are pressuring her. In short, female homosexuality seems to be identified with Western culture in opposition to Lebanese society. Siham takes a cowardly path at this point, and is in denial about her sexual identity.

When the scene shifts to war-torn Beirut, a variety of eye-opening female homosexual encounters are revealed. These are ironic critiques of Middle Eastern society's assumptions about female sexuality and lifestyle. A single woman, a feminist, who lives alone and seems to have a "manly" appearance is assumed to be a lesbian by a young woman who is attracted to her and regarded as a danger by the husband of a neighbor. In fact, this daring feminist

rejects lesbian sexual advances and suggests standard "cures" for the young woman's "problem." A married woman with children is assumed to be "proper," but in fact she is having a homosexual affair in her apartment when her husband is out, and exploits her husband's trips for lesbian encounters. Ironically, the husband is a caring partner, not the stereotypical Middle Eastern male tyrant, but his wife is attracted to women, not to men. A widow with children is praised by the husband as a model of reliability for not remarrying after her husband's death, but she uses her freedom to seek out female homosexual affairs. As one woman puts it: "Men are stupid, they don't suspect relationships between women; they're always reassured as long as no other man enters the picture" (p. 153). Moreover, women go to a gay night club partnered with homosexual men, and once inside, each goes his or her own way.

In the process of describing these relationships, a variety of "reasons" are voiced to explain women's sexual attraction to other women. One young woman was attracted to her primary school teacher, and another to her female university lecturer. Another opines that God made her abnormal. One female lesbian was raped by her drunken father and this resulted in her hatred of men. Sexual attraction among women is also described as a natural inclination, and some women are just born that way. Also, women communicate better with each other and there is more pleasure in these relationships. On the other hand, attraction to women is termed a psychological disorder. In the course of the novel, we discover that one lesbian was exposed to her mother's appalling description of sex with a man, and the mother turns out to be a lesbian herself. Intellectualization of the subject is referred to when we hear of a planned series of readings around the subject of homosexuality, and of Freud and Fleiss's writings. Finally, it is implied that a woman turns to other woman because she is bored, and perhaps should try experimenting with some other diversion, like reading.

Mansour's message seems to be that in Lebanese society the usual array of attitudes towards lesbianism may be found. Even the seemingly unique aspects of Middle Eastern society, such as the expected behavior of women, may actually be manipulated to permit female homosexuality. But in the last analysis, this novel is about lesbian desire—as the title implies—not a lesbian lifestyle.

Mansour's novel is not great literature or even a good read. But it does raise some interesting directions for thought about Lebanese society. In that respect, it may be more useful for Middle East studies

than for Gay and Lesbian studies. The price, however, makes this book prohibitively expensive.

RUTH RODED

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

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Civilizations of ancient Iraq. By Benjamin R. Foster and Karen Polinger Foster. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2009. Pp. 297, with bibliography and index. $26.96 (hardcover).

As tourists return to Iraq they will need a guide to its rich history. Benjamin and Karen Foster provide just the right mix of erudition and crisp writing that these pioneer travelers require.

Dark humor aside, this is an ambitious book, not in length and detail, like an academic monograph, but a superb review of what today's scholarship reveals about Mesopotamian civilization. It is a quick read in the best sense; an elegantly written summary by two scholars who take us through thousands of years of civilization and four hundred years of archaeological and philological research. The work represents two lifetimes of study, packaged in an attractive and most readable form.

In a mere one hundred ninety pages of compact, evocative writing Assyriologists Benjamin and Karen Foster cover the sweep of history from geologic times until the end of the Sassanians. Informative pages at the end cover the age of discovery and decipherment, with comment on the tragedy of the Iraq Museum.

It's in the nature of Iraq's ancient history to provoke speculation rather than certitude and the authors are admirably humble before this prospect as they approach the question of "why was civilization born here on these alluvial plains, so far in advance of all other places in the world?" They conclude that "There are at once many answers and no answer to this simple question."

Of particular fascination is the coverage of King Nabonidus, who came to the Babylonian throne in 555 B.C. By turns as Quixotic as Qaddafi (he once took a notion to move his capital to the central Arabian deserts) and as erudite as Frederick II, he participated in and

pushed forward the traditions of the scholarly class. In the final chapter, the Fosters continue their exploration of scholarship, this time linking it to the European scramble for museum pieces. Our knowledge of the ancients began with the correct identification of Babylon by Pietro della Valle in the early seventeenth century. From that time begins the succession of great names of research that Middle Eastern librarians may modestly claim as progenitors.

The Fosters do not shy away from the debates current in the field of ancient Mesopotamian studies between the text-based Assyriolgists and the dig- and context-focused archaeologists. They lament that that there is little concord between the two sides and conclude "Assyriologists are still in general agreement with [Henry] Rawlinson's insistence on the primacy of cuneiform tablets for advancing knowledge without regard to how and where they are obtained." This disciplinary problem escalates to the ethical level, as when Assyriologists edit, translate, and publish texts of "unknown or dubious provenance." With widespread looting and smuggling of artifacts from Iraq the ethical and legal puzzles become ever more complex. Of the dubiously acquired material the authors wonder not only about the propriety of publishing the text, but also about what's implied after publication: "What are the ethics," they ask, "of using it in secondary studies? And what are the legal risks for individuals and institutions under current laws and practices?" Perfect scrupulosity as to these points would make it impossible for the Fosters to write this book or for me to review it.

There are numerous, clearly reproduced illustrations and informative captions which often contain information about the unhappy fate of the object or its current condition. Figure 22 shows the stele of the Gilgamesh text disfigured many years ago by the axe of a heedless digger. It is a heartbreaking reminder that desecration began a long time before Saddam Hussein, and is by now all too firmly entrenched in native commercial practice.

I have one or two elaborating comments. First, the caption to Figure 10 is misleading when it states, "In 2003, an American military installation was constructed in the vicinity encroaching on the ruin." The installation was in fact constructed by Saddam Hussein and the archeological site has been protected since 2003 by American, Romanian, Italian, and Iraqi forces, all under the watchful eye of Anna Proust of the Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team based in the shadow of the Ziggurat. Indeed, Dr. Proust has done

much to save the allies' bacon after the disgraces of Baghdad and Babylon.

Ur Ziggurat.Nov.18–20, 2008. Baghdad's Mud House Players perform "Not for Sale," a one-act play. For the first time in a generation the public of neighboring Nasiriyah was permitted to enter the vast site, which is fenced and guarded by Iraqi and international forces.

The Fosters tell of the efforts of scholars in 2003 to inform the invasion forces of the importance of archaeological sites. They supplied geographic coordinates for 5,000 of them. The U. S. Army immediately slapped a "secret" classification on them, making no effort to circulate them to commanders. Again in 2008, as part of an effort to raise awareness, another set of the coordinates was supplied. Once more the alert came to nothing.

Second, the Museum disaster, while the most publicized loss of the current war, is not the only cultural tragedy. In 2003, a Library of Congress assessment team reported on the torching of Baathist and

government records at Iraq's national archives.[1] If we start adding the dismantling of the Antiquites Service, the Faculty of Archaeology at Baghdad University and other universities, the export of Jewish documents, the explosions at living cultural relics like the al-ʿAskari Mosque at Samarra, the dispersal of the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, not to mention the loss to death and emigration of an entire generation of cultural and academic leaders, we will never come to the end of the list. The single bright spot is the rescue of over 50,000 (not 40,000 as mentioned by the authors) priceless Islamic manuscripts and their preservation in a bomb shelter in al-Mansur district.

The text is comprehensively sourced. The bibliography alone is worth the price of the volume. In addition to bringing the reader up to date on research in English, there are numerous citations in European languages. Although the authors laud the scholarship of their Iraqi colleagues, the bibliography contains only one Arabic title, Khalid Nashef's 2004 book on the looting of the Museum.

I have not noticed this book at Borders or Barnes & Noble. It should be there, attracting a wide readership from the general public, the undergraduate in her Western Civ. class, the scholar and last but assuredly not least the Army and USAID, who can and should contribute a great deal to restoration and protection efforts.

At $26.95 no library has an excuse for not acquiring this work. .

MICHAEL W. ALBIN

SPRINGFIELD, VA.

The state and the subaltern: modernization, society and the state in Turkey and Iran. Edited by Touraj Atabaki. London, New York: I. B. Tauris, 2007. Pp. 256, with illustrations.

Derived from the second of two workshops—the first being the 1999 workshop at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam which addressed modernization in Turkey and Iran from "above" and resulted in the volume *Men of order: authoritarian*

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[1] See the report at http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/iraqreport/iraqreport.html

modernization in Turkey and Iran (London: I. B. Taurus, 2004)—
this work, edited by Touraj Atabaki, Professor of History of the
Middle East and Central Asia at Leiden University and Senior
Research Fellow at the International Institute of Social History,
addresses modernization in Turkey and Iran from "below." The
intriguing commonality between the articles found in this text is that,
while themselves examining the subaltern in Turkey and Iran, they
clearly state the need for more research and call for more work to be
done on the subject.

The first chapter, which was authored by Touraj Atabaki and
provides a nice link between the experience of modernization in
Turkey and Iran, does a comparative analysis of the modernization of
time, including government policies in both countries toward "the
clock and the timetable," instruments which represent a tangible
experience of modernity (p. 1) due to the fact that a prerequisite for
modernity was a secular, objective, measurable unit of time. Atabaki
finds that while neither Persians nor Turks had an aversion to the
new style of timekeeping, and that many elites in fact believed that
through adopting the clock and timetable their countries would
become modernized, they did resent the striking clock, "which for
them was nothing less than an icon of Christianity" (p. 15).

As the rest of the articles focus on one of the two countries, I
will address the articles concerning Turkey first and then move on to
those that discuss Iran.

Erick Zürcher discusses Kemal's nation-building efforts.
Population losses due to the Balkan Wars, population exchanges, and
deaths due to war, epidemics, and starvation meant that Turkey had,
for the first time in its history, a Turkish majority and as a result
Anatolia was culturally "a completely different place" from 1913 (p.
99). These differences allowed Mustafa Kemal to institute a nation-
building project based on "Turkish" identity with a focus on
territorial and linguistic criteria.

Donald Quataert analyzes nineteenth-century state/labor
relations in the Ottoman Empire. He demonstrates that key to
understanding labor relations are two events: the destruction of the
Janissaries in 1826, and the labor strikes that followed the Young
Turk Revolution of 1908. In both events there was significant worker
involvement. Quataert holds the Janissaries to be "a national militia
attached to the immediate interests of the people" (p. 23). The post-
1908 strikes, however, were of a different nature. Since the workers
no longer had military support, the strikes were much less

confrontational than the events of 1826. The government acquiesced in wage demands but imposed anti-strike legislation.

Vangelis Kechriotis discusses the elimination of privileges *(imtiyazlar),* such as *millet* control over educational and religious matters, with the Ottoman constitution of 1908. State incursion into Greek autonomy over education and religion had already begun during the Tanzimat period, but the constitutional elimination was much more final. These privileges were a particular area of tension between the Ottoman state and the Greek Orthodox community up until the republican period. ". . . [T]he abolition of the privileges" concludes Kechriotis "challenged not only the 'Ottoman character' of the non-Turkish communities of the empire, but also, more importantly, the 'Ottoman character' of the 'Ottoman state' itself" (p. 69).

In the next chapter, Hülya Küçük gives "the whole story" of Kemal's change of attitude towards Sufis, with whom he had initially cooperated in the initial stages of the nation-building project, to a sense of conflict that led to his abolishing of Sufi groups in 1925. The crux of the conflict was the Kemalist emphasis on the individual versus the Sufi emphasis on the collective. Küçük gives a very thorough analysis of the reaction (both support and opposition) to Kemal's modernization project; one of the events that receives special attention from Küçük is the Menemen Incident.

The Menemen Incident is the main focus of the next chapter by Umut Azak, who addresses the reasons for this incident and the figure of Kubilay, the unfortunate officer who was beheaded in the event, becoming icons of Kemalist secularism. Azak holds that the government's rendition of events is a repetitive and one-sided message that praises Kubilay as a hero of modern Turkey and derides the "Islamist fanatics" who killed him as drug-using, false Muslims.

In the final chapter, Nicole A. N. M. van Os discusses the prevalent idea that holds that with the secularization of the legal system beginning with the *Tanzimat,* through the *Mecelle,* through the 1917 Decree on Family Law, to the adopting of the Swiss-influenced Turkish Civil Code of 1926 came increased emancipation of women. Van Os ultimately refutes this by showing that despite all these efforts, polygamy has not yet been eradicated in Turkey.

On the subject of modernization in Iran, Afsaneh Najmabadi discusses women's activism in Iran during the 1920s and 1930s. The government's efforts to counter opposition was to circumscribe their external, perceptible differences. This, of course, is most easily done

by implementing strict dress codes. Najmabadi shows that while the state under Reza Shah and the Shi'ite clergy "constructed each others' domains of authority," and in so doing, marginalized women, or in Najmabadi's words: ". . . produced Islam and feminism as mutually exclusive" (p. 176).

Atabaki follows with his second chapter with a look at Iranian migrants in Russia in the nineteenth century. Atabaki illustrates the terrible conditions of the Iranian worker in Russia and addresses the development from social organization, which occurred in cultural clubs, to political organization.

Stephanie Cronin, next, discusses subaltern opposition to the modernizing reforms of the Pahlavi period in Iran. She demonstrates that the opposition to the reforms was directed more toward the methods of reform (examples include dress laws and mandatory conscription) than the actual idea of reform itself.

Kaveh Bayat discusses the implications of the "long and arduous confrontation" between the Iranian government and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (p. 111). The government, fearing Bolshevik influence, forcefully suppressed a labor strike in Abadan (May of 1929). Bayat demonstrates that this suppression had two implications: (1) it weakened the Iranian oil workers, and (2) it also suppressed nascent Iranian nationalism.

This is an excellent work that utilizes reliable primary and secondary sources in Turkish, Persian, Greek, Russian, Azeri, English, and French. With contributions from some of the most important scholars in Turkish and Iranian history, *The state and the subaltern* deserves a place in university libraries and any libraries that focus on the Middle East.

DAVID MASON

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

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One family's response to terrorism: a daughter's memoir. By Susan
 Kerr van de Ven. Contemporary issues in the Middle East.
 Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2008. Pp. xvi,
 183, with bibliography and index. $22.95 (hardcover). ISBN:
 9780815608738.

Susan Kerr van de Ven's thoughtful, timely memoir offers its
reader a novel perspective on terrorism, contemplating the act
beyond its immediate reaction and instead considering the greater
social context in which it occurs. The author's father, Malcolm Kerr,
a political science scholar of the Middle East, was assassinated while
leaving his office building during the beginning of his tenure as
president of the American University in Beirut in 1984.
Understandably, in their subsequent grief and the tumultuous
political environment of the time, the Kerr family did not
immediately seek out those responsible for the act, or to obtain some
sort of retribution. However, after many years, and for various
reasons, the family came to the difficult decision to utilize the
American "Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996,"
seeking not only to identify the perpetrators of the crime, but more
difficultly, the reasons behind the attack. In reference to her father as
well as her personal struggles in compiling such a memoir, she
writes, "He was an extraordinary victim of terrorism because he
could have helped us to understand, better than almost anyone, what
happened to him and why. I have tried to do that without him" (p.
145).

The book contains a prologue, six chapters, epilogue, and 16
photographs, as well as two maps. The chapters introduce the reader
to the assassination and immediate reactions from the family and
press, review the legal options available to the Kerr family, and
describe the painstaking decision the family collectively made to act
on these options. The slow information gathering processes are
discussed, as well as their frustrations with actually utilizing the
Freedom of Information Act. Van de Ven offers thoughtful
treatments of matters within the United States legal system which are
often taken for granted, namely questioning the worth of punitive
damages in a case such that of Malcolm Kerr.

Her last chapter is entitled "Words Remembered," and offers the
reader a personal and profound look at Malcolm Kerr's
correspondence over the years prior to his assassination. The letters

are offered as a way to provide a context for his assassination beyond the political mood of the time, and to delve into Dr. Kerr's personal encounters within Beirut before his assassination. In addition, the photographs provided of the Kerr family at various points in their lives allow for the further personalization of the author's account.

Interwoven with her personal story are assessments of the "war on terror," which seems only to view terrorism as having "to do with the intentions of specific individuals, rather than with a deep-seated set of values and perceptions pitting whole cultures against each other" (p. 63). While her ruminations are based on a particular political situation in a particular time, her perspective is a valuable tool for thinking about the effects of terrorism in a number of contexts.

Van de Ven has effectively used sources available to her and fluidly links them with her personal experience to produce a contextualization and relevancy to the response of her family to her father's untimely death. Her offering of historical information as well as a presentation of religious dynamics at the time of her father's death is useful in reaching a greater audience than the memoir would have been without these descriptions. She communicates an understanding of the culture and history of the region. One does not necessarily expect an extensive bibliography and index in a memoir, but Van de Ven amply provides both. She cites all intelligence material obtained in the investigation of her father's murder, and accurately places these events in cultural, political, and historical context gained from years of living in the Middle East as both a child and adult as well as her own scholarly study.

This book would be a useful addition to both academic and public libraries. The highly topical nature of this work and its modest price make it a constructive addition to Humanities, Middle Eastern, Law, or public libraries. It may find an approving audience from readers already well established in this field, just beginning, or undergraduate and high school students seeking a personal account of terrorism and its effects, coupled with an examination of the legal system surrounding this issue.

Recently, works seeking to interpret terrorism and its effects beyond a singular, immediate act have developed. Acts of terror often evoke grotesque images, making it difficult to engage in critical and frank discussions about the topic. Van de Ven joins

those, such as Talal Asad in his recent *On Suicide Bombing,* seeking to explore, expose, and understand terrorism in new ways. Susan Kerr van de Ven provides the reader with an emotional and personal, yet realistic, look at terrorism and its practical effects on those it impacts.

CANDACE MIXON

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

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Building on Desert Tides: Traditional Architecture of the Arabian Gulf. By Ronald Hawker. Southampton, England: WIT Press, 2008. Pp. xix, 235, with illustrations and maps. ISBN: 9781845641351.

The book *Building on Desert Tides: Traditional Architecture of the Arabian Gulf* is a grand and exhaustive guide to the architecture of a unique climatic area of the world. The book was obviously a labor of love for the author, a Canadian who holds a Ph.D. in native and North American art from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The author spent eleven years in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates, where he taught in the School of Architecture and Design at the American University of Sharjah and in the Department of Art and Design at Zayed University in Dubai. In addition to his teaching, he travelled to other Gulf countries and Iran, and his work at the Gulf universities incorporated a multi-disciplinary approach in which he combined material and social history, ethnography, and new design media.

Although the author looks at architecture in the Gulf from its beginnings and includes fascinating accounts of the building of the palm huts so ubiquitous and so utilitarian to the scorched Gulf region, the book also looks at the way in which twentieth-century colonialism changed the way buildings were built. First, it demonstrates the way in which architecture changed after the expulsion of the Portuguese in the early 1860s and then it shows how Portuguese trade routes influenced fortified architecture, examples of which can still be found all over Oman. The book then demonstrates

how the arrival of the British Empire changed Gulf architecture and how architectural designers and builders absorbed these influences.

The book is divided into eight chapters and is illustrated throughout with fascinating archival pictures, diagrams, and maps. The eight chapters cover the entire Gulf region ranging from Oman in the south to Kuwait and Iraq in the north to Iran in the east.

The first chapter is an absorbing account of the very beginnings of architecture in the Gulf ranging from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age and continues to the arrival of the Greeks, then Islam, the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates, the late medieval period to the arrival of the Portuguese, and then the eighteenth century, which includes a discussion of Persia, the Omani empire, and the Wahhabi movement in Saudi Arabia. The second chapter extends the historical treatment to a discussion of trade and empire in the Arabian Gulf. This discussion, of course, necessarily includes the British Empire. Chapter three then discusses the mosques, houses, markets, and forts that dot the Gulf, and includes an interesting discussion of domestic houses including courtyard houses, masonry houses, and the vernacular house, a section which includes such simple edifices as the palm frond house, woolen tents, and stone houses. The rest of the chapter is devoted to a discussion of mosques and other religious buildings, including mausoleums and Hindu temples, and then a discussion of the building of markets. The final chapter of this section includes another interesting discussion of building with the local materials of beach stone and palm fronds from early times to the later period and discusses the Indian influence on Persian architecture and the various local types of materials—masonry, plaster, wood, palm frond, and stone (including gypsum), as well as imported materials—used in building.

The next four chapters all discuss architecture on a regional basis, and this separation according to area is particularly useful for distinguishing the various architectural styles by region, an important distinction since each region had its own materials, influences, and trading partners. Oman, for example, was able to import wood from its colonies in East Africa and this wood was less likely to be infested by insects than the native palm. Other areas imported hardwood from India.

Chapter five is devoted to the Upper Gulf (the "bridge between two empires") and discusses architecture in Basra, Iraq (sometimes compared to Venice because of its various waterways and its Ottoman architectural buildings built upon the water), Kuwait, and

the Persian cities of Muhammareh and Bushehr. Chapter six describes the architecture of the central Gulf, or Bahrain and Qatar, whose economy depended to a large degree on the pearling industry and the date industry. The discussion of the pearling industry is particularly interesting. Chapter seven delineates the Lower Gulf which includes the Persian coastal towns of Bandar Abbas and Qeshm Island as well as what is today the United Arab Emirates, which is divided into sections on Abu Dhabi (including Liwa and the al-Ain Oasis), Dubai (including the smaller emirates of Umm al-Qaiwan and Ajman), the northern emirates of Ras-al-Khaimah, Sharjah, and Farjairah, and the East Coast. The final chapter is devoted to Oman, the "gateway to the Gulf," which in some ways had the most distinctive architectural style due to its more varied geography, its empire, and also the Portuguese influence which left many examples of forts. In addition, this section is divided into the Sultanate of Oman, closer to the coast, and Inner Oman, which is mountainous. At this point, and this is a small quibble, one notices that there is no attention paid to the Saudi Gulf in such places as Dhamam, which is odd since the Saudi Gulf coast is no less part of the Gulf than the other regions. In an otherwise fine book, the omission of a discussion of Saudi Gulf architecture is perplexing and missed, especially since the chapters devoted to the other regions are so well-documented.

In the end, however, this book is an authoritative account of Gulf architecture up to the modern period before the arrival of the chrome and glass monolithic skyscrapers that give so much of the region a feeling of modernity devoid of history. Hawker's book does an admirable job in telling us that the region does indeed have an architectural history and his book deserves a well-earned place in all libraries devoted to Middle Eastern studies, history, or architecture. In the end, the reader is left hoping that the author will write a sequel to the present volume and discuss the wonders of modern architecture of the Gulf.

BLAIR KUNTZ

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Islamic radicalism and global jihad. By Devin R. Springer, James L. Regens, and David N. Edger. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2009. Pp. 320. $49.95 (hardcover). ISBN: 9781589012523. $26.95 (paperback). ISBN: 9781589012530.

In the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001, on the United States, there has been a plethora of studies on such hot-button topics as Islamic fundamentalism, jihad, and what has become termed as the "clash of civilizations." In comparison to most books on the topic, *Islamic radicalism and global jihad* comes as a breath of fresh air. The authors, all from the University of Oklahoma, state that: "Our motivation for writing this book grew out of our desire to understand the inherent complexity of Islamic radicalism and the global jihad."[1] Accordingly:

> We seek to analyze systematically the actions and statements of the jihadists in order to understand their doctrines, strategies, and tactics. In essence, we have attempted to engage in rigorous and dispassionate analysis of the jihadist movement.[2]

The work begins with an introduction to jihadist ideology, briefly outlining some of its motivating factors, and giving a very concise history of the rise of Islamic radicalism in the world, including organizations such as al-Qaʿidah and its ancillaries. It then investigates the philosophical foundations for the movement, analyzing some of the most important influences on global jihadist movements today. The authors do not limit themselves merely to examining the modern influences such Ayman al-Zawahiri, Abu al-ʿAlaʾ al-Mawdudi, and ʿAbd al-Salam Farag; rather, they attempt to trace the philosophical foundations of the movement as far back as Ibn Taymiyah (1263–1328 C.E.) and include such important early influences as Muhammad ibn ʿAbd al-Wahhab, Sayyid Qutb, and Rashid Rida. While this chapter provides a useful, albeit brief, introduction to the founding fathers of the jihadist movement from the authors' perspective, they devote comparatively very little attention—barely a paragraph—to Rashid Rida, whose influence and stature certainly cannot be underestimated.

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[1] P. xi.
[2] Ibid.

In the second chapter, the work outlines the jihadists' strategic vision, based on the statements and writings of some of its most prominent leaders such as Ayman al-Zawahiri, Abu Musʿab al-Suri, and Abu Bakr Naji, among others. Here, the authors offer some very lucid and engaging analyses of some of the most important, basic tenets of the jihadist movement, such as *al-takfir wa-al-hijrah,* al-*walaʾ wa-al-baraʾ,* and the "near and far enemy" concepts, all of which are essential to understanding not only what motivates these groups and their members, but also how they perceive and are received by mainstream Muslim society. The authors also discuss, using the arguments of the jihadist leaders and thinkers themselves, how these concepts and their application resulted in many of these groups' failures in places such as Algeria, for example, due to their alienation of the general populace.

In the third chapter, the authors examine the movement's organizational dynamics and the evolutions in structure that different jihadist groups have undergone in various parts of the world, and provide an interesting analysis and overview of the jihadists' recruitment techniques. The fourth chapter tackles the operation and tactics of the jihadist movement, investigating the various schisms among the groups themselves regarding the use of certain techniques, and examining how particular leaders sought to alter some of these techniques according to lessons learned from failed experiences in other regions.

In the fifth chapter, the authors discuss the future directions of the jihadist movement, analyzing the different types of jihadists, which they divide into four main categories: religious fundamentalists, geopolitical strategists, national insurgents, and hard-core terrorists. They then go on to discuss the willingness, adaptability, and diversification of these types and groups considering the changes in counter-terrorist strategies and the international state of affairs. The sixth chapter offers a short analysis of the challenges that face the intelligence community in gathering credible intelligence on these groups today. It examines the situation prior to 9/11, its evolution following the invasions of Iraq in particular and Afghanistan, and the difficulties inherent therein.

Finally, in their concluding chapter, the authors present a sober analysis of the situation at present and offer a set of four "elements" needed to combat the challenge of "global jihad" in our world today. These are: moving beyond rhetoric; understanding jihadist

vulnerabilities; understanding our own vulnerabilities; and, effective use of national security resources.

On the whole, the authors provide a very objective, thoughtful, and fairly thorough analysis of the modern jihadist movement and its goals. They demonstrate how the jihadists do not constitute a single monolithic movement, but rather a number of different groups that have expanded in various parts of the globe; united, in many cases, by similar goals and objectives, and divided by unique schisms which are specific to the regions and circumstances under which they are operating. The study provides a balanced approach to understanding the jihadist mindset: what motivates these groups, how they manage to recruit new members, and what causes them to gain or lose popularity among the masses upon whom they rely for support. In addition to using primary sources such as the actual writings of jihadist thinkers and leaders, as well as interviews, declarations, webcasts, and other statements by these groups, the authors are effective in their use of internet sites for their primary sources.

Although the authors rightly acknowledge that knowledge of Arabic is not "synonymous with being a terrorism expert,"[3] there are instances where it would have been helpful for them to include the Arabic phrases in addition to their own interpretation of them, not only for the benefit of the reader who does in fact know Arabic, but also as means of clarifying their point further.[4] The system of transliteration of Arabic the authors use is sufficient for their purposes, but they could have relied on more standard academic and library systems.

Islamic radicalism and global jihad is a highly readable, balanced study of the modern jihadist movement. The authors present convincing arguments to establish their conclusions supported effectively with facts, charts, tables, and figures which are comprehensible to both specialist and non-specialist alike. The book

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[3] Ibid.

[4] One such example occurs with their analysis of the strategy of beheadings in Iraq where they state: "Initially, on videotaped executions al-Zarqawi and other jihadists used the Arabic word meaning "beheading," but later they began to use the word for "slaughter." This same word is normally used to describe the act of slaughtering a lamb for the Hajj, implying that the victims are themselves animals, since the Arabic word for beheading implies that the victim was human" (p. 192).

is appropriate for any academic or public library serving researchers of modern Middle Eastern studies, political science, international relations, and of course, terrorism.

MUHANNAD SALHI

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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A reference grammar of Egyptian Arabic. Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics. By Ernest T. Abdel-Massih, Zaki N. Abdel-Malek, and El-Said M. Badawi, with Ernest M. McCarus. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2009. Pp. 337, with index and bibliography. $29.95 (paperback). ISBN: 9781589012608.

First published in 1979 by the University of Michigan's Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, *A reference grammar of Egyptian Arabic* appeared as one of four volumes in an integrated series entitled *A comprehensive study of Egyptian Arabic,* the other volumes being devoted to conversation and culture, proverbs, and vocabulary. Thirty years after its original publication, this new edition in the series Georgetown Classics in Arabic Language and Linguistics stands on its own as a true classic in the field of Arabic dialectology. The idea to compile a reference grammar of Egyptian Arabic was first conceived by Richard Harrell while conducting field research in the 1960s. His ambitious plan was to edit a series of reference works and teaching materials on four varieties of spoken Arabic: Egyptian, Iraqi, Moroccan, and Syrian. After his untimely death in 1964, the series was only partially realized, but fortunately the gap left in Egyptian Arabic grammar was soon filled by Abdel-Massih, Abdel-Malek, and Badawi.

Not intended for beginners, *A reference grammar of Egyptian Arabic* is aimed instead at students who already possess a basic knowledge of the pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and usage of Egyptian Arabic. Arranged in a dictionary format, it contains an alphabetical entry of grammatical terms and concepts, from "A" (for "Active Participles") to "W" (for "Writing System"). Grammatical

headings are given mostly in English (with exceptions for "ḥaal," "Maṣdar," and "Nisba adjectives"). Each entry includes an explanation of the term, examples with English translations, and rule exceptions. Broad grammatical topics such as "Verb" or "Imperative" are broken into sub-sections, all filed under the broader term (e.g., Verb—Aspect, Imperative—Formation).

Students of Arabic are faced from the start with the need to learn two parallel forms of the language: Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) for formal and written communication, and one of the colloquial Arabic dialects for informal conversation. Not only do spoken varieties of Arabic differ significantly from MSA, but regional differences can render dialects spoken in the Maghreb, the Levant, the Arabian Peninsula, or Iraq mutually unintelligible. Egyptian Arabic has the advantage of being almost universally understood throughout the Arabic-speaking world, thanks to the popularity and dominance of the Egyptian film industry throughout the twentieth century. The importance of Cairo as a leading center for Arabic and Middle Eastern studies has further served to increase the popularity of Egyptian Arabic among non-Arab speakers.

Although spoken forms of Arabic sometimes appear in writing (in cartoons, advertisements, plays, poems, fiction), the lack of a standard orthography (cf. "معليش" vs. "معلهش" for "maʕaleesh") has led to the use of phonetic transcription systems in educational materials. Such systems—used to record spoken sounds—should not be confused with transliteration systems, used to convert written language from one script to another. For example, in the sentence: "aho ṭṭaalib innabiih" (here is the intelligent student), the "al-" of the definite article (which would normally appear in a transliteration of written Arabic) is missing from the phonetic transcription, which records a doubled initial consonant as it is assimilated in speech.

This departure from transliteration (commonly used in citing Arabic in Western publications) may cause some confusion at first, though the system of transcription employed in the present work is straightforward and easy to learn. A phonetic transcription key is included in the new edition (though lacking in the original), as well as a vowel chart indicating the place and manner of articulation. Long vowels are represented by a doubling of the vowel letter (aa, uu, ii); emphatic consonants are indicated by a dot below the letter (ḍ, ṭ, ṣ, ẓ); other distinctive Arabic sounds are represented by

internationally-recognized special symbols or diacritic marks added to Latin characters (ʕ for ع, ɣ for غ, ħ for ح, š for ش, etc.). Given recent developments in typographic standards that facilitate publishing in non-Latin scripts, the complete lack of Arabic script in this work may come as a surprise, until it is remembered that this is essentially a reprint of a work from 1979.

The new Georgetown Classics edition includes a foreword by Elizabeth M. Bergman, as well as the introduction to the original edition by W. D. Schorger. An index allows for look-up by topic, although faster searching might have been achieved by the insertion of page-headers with alphabetically-coded markers. The book is printed on acid-free paper and is more compact in size (25 cm.) than the original volume.

Given the importance of Egyptian Arabic in the field of Middle Eastern studies, it remains, surprisingly, the only comprehensive reference grammar available in English. Manfred Woidich's *Das Kairenisch-Arabische, eine Grammatik* (Harrassowitz, 2006) is comparable in scope, though currently available only in German. Of interest primarily to serious students and scholars of Arabic language and dialects, *A reference grammar of Egyptian Arabic* is a must-have for the collection of any academic library aiming to support programs in Arabic language and linguistics.

REBECCA ROUTH

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

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All the Pasha's men: Mehmed Ali, his army, and the making of modern Egypt. By Khaled Fahmy. Cairo: American University of Cairo Press, 2002. Pp. xviii, 334, with bibliographical references and index. $29.50 (paperback). ISBN: 9774246969.

This work challenges and contests early Egypt nationalist scholarship claiming that the Pasha Mehmed Ali was the re-generator of Egypt through modernisation and being the father of Egyptian nationalism. These ideas are investigated by means of

offering an alternative view of Mehmed Ali as well as his reformist tendencies while keeping Egypt an Ottoman province.

The premise of the book rests on the army that was created during the time of Mehmed Ali and the origins of conscription therein. Unlike previous works on this matter, Fahmy does not portray Mehmed Ali's thought process and subsequent state evolution as being linear or inherently derived from a singular notion of creating a state independent of the Sublime Porte. Rather, Fahmy demonstrates that Ali wished to remain within the Ottoman Empire but with a special place, one akin to being a nation within a country. In describing Ali's striving to achieve this, Fahmy elucidates the effects of army conscription and subsequently the new discipline this entailed on the populace in general.

The introduction and execution of the new concepts were not entirely the workings or genius of Ali but rather "it appears to have been the product of a discursive shift that had taken place in the nature and meaning of power" (p. 159). In this we may surmise that what took place was the founding of modernity, and all that that entails, within the state of Egypt. The modern state was developed, according to Fahmy, through regulations and policies developed at least in part for the army of Mehmed Ali. Interestingly Fahmy chooses not to assert a chronological tale of the military campaigns of Ali or his successors but draws much of his assertions from the Syrian campaign carried out by his son, Ibrahim. The analysis of this campaign, lasting from 1831 to 1838, is told in part through anecdotal stories of the soldiers and the conditions of their camps. In so doing, Fahmy has recreated as much as possible the mood of their condition as well as the attempts at applying order and discipline to the predominantly fellahin soldiers. Introducing this construct Fahmy excels in analysing a seeming dichotomy between peasantry and the newly-constructed bureaucracy, which as one may imagine is not simply a black and white issue. Fahmy excels in his analysis as the work blooms into an anthropological and historical study seeking to offer an alternative examination of the creation of modern Egypt and how Mehmed Ali was able to attain and maintain control through breaking with tradition and the previous Mamluk rule.

The drawback to this work is the lengthy and wordy historiography and literature review that consumes the better part of the first 50 pages. In fact, after concluding the introduction to the work, Fahmy returns to his literature review in attempting to situate the reader, again. This is the major distraction of this important

work; Fahmy is uncertain of his audience and for whom he wishes to write. Moreover, it would have been useful to have at least one map of the area(s) about which Fahmy is writing. The omission of maps further highlights Fahmy's inability to select the audience for which he wishes to write. However, despite this the work draws on excellent resources from Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, English, and French. It is also obvious that Fahmy has completed considerable research in crafting this work. He draws on many different primary sources, including extensive use of Egyptian archival materials as well as the Public Records Office in London. The bibliography is well devised between primary and secondary sources and provides many resources for further research.

All the Pasha's men is an important work for the changes and developments that took place in Egypt in the nineteenth century. Furthermore it stimulates debate on questions revolving around state-building, Egyptian nationalism, and modernization.

SEAN SWANICK

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Gender and class in the Egyptian women's movement, 1929–1935: changing perspectives. By Cathlyn Mariscotti. Middle East studies beyond dominant paradigms. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2008. Pp. 184, with bibliography and index. $24.95. ISBN: 9780815631705.

Mariscotti's exploration of gender and class in the Egyptian women's movement is not for newcomers to the study of women in the Middle East. Drawing on previous work in the field, Mariscotti uses her book to begin a dialogue about how we write the past and about how class interests shape the discourse of feminism. In an insightful engagement with existing literature on Egyptian women's movements between 1929 and 1935 Mariscotti offers new insights on a traditional narrative.

She uses the political and economic complexities of the interwar period to illustrate the differences and divergences amongst the

women who shaped this period in Egypt's feminist history. Mariscotti achieves her aim by revisiting well-established sources for Egyptian women's histories, women's journals, and memoires, and by allowing them to "speak for themselves." Her intention is not to offer wholly new data; rather it is to present a fresh historical argument for the existing data, to uncover the "complexities of ruling class and managerial class Egyptian women's struggles over issues crucial to [them] during this period in Egyptian history" (p. 18). Her contribution to the field lies in revealing the complexities involved in women's struggles and the "dynamic interplay" of issues and personalities involved in the framing of an "institutional feminism" (p. 27).

Mariscotti takes as her point of departure the conviction that gender cannot be assumed as a constant across class lines. Thus she begins by setting out the differences between elite or ruling class women and professional or managerial class women. She avoids a reductive analysis of class by questioning "the nature of class" (p. 27) and how class difference works. She shows how women "on one side or another of the struggle, did not necessarily come from the side that they supported" and how women drew class alliances on some issues but remained conflicted along class lines on other issues (p. 27). Separating out Egyptian women's interests along these class lines, Mariscotti highlights the different ways in which elite and professional women framed their struggle for women's rights; she investigates their agendas, motivations, and interests and shows how they worked to shape different feminist ideals. As elite women moved their private harem sphere into public space, they impacted directly on women from other classes who already controlled this space but who also sought access to the public sphere, i.e., the political sphere.

Having set up the framework for her analysis, Mariscotti begins by examining elite women's construct of women. She describes this construct as a cultural feminism which relied on separate spheres for men and women and which promoted a cult of domesticity and housewifization (p. 63). It promoted the notion that charm, romance, intuition, and nurturing were ideally feminine traits (p. 66) and that women's education should promote the realization of "womanly responsibilities" (p. 67). According to Mariscotti, this construct "became and remains the hegemonic and culturally intelligible ideal of womanhood for all Egyptian females" (p. 45).

Her next step is to investigate how professional women constructed women and to search out differences between the two class constructs. The complexity of the women's movement and of class that Mariscotti is trying to capture in her study is reflected in how she goes about showing class differences. The realities of class dynamics mean that Mariscotti cannot address class difference without first addressing class alliance. Her analysis reveals an "uneasy" but functional alliance between elite women and professional women. Ruling class women sought alliances with professional class women to implement their agendas, i.e., to remake and control public spaces to which managerial women already had access (p. 88). As professional women developed their professional networks, new publications, and their professional reach, ruling class women relied on them to disseminate their message. In response, professional women "consented to the elite's agenda" and sought them out for patronage and other help. Their "inferior economic, political and social position in Egyptian society" (p. 94) led professional women to ally with elite women to establish and promote their publications and their own agendas. The alliance was cemented by recognition of mutual interdependence.

Not surprisingly, the alliance was not seamless and managerial or professional class women established constructs of women which challenged ruling class women's constructs. They argued against the definition of women through biology and offered alternative analyses of women's roles and of the home as part of the public sphere. During difficult economic times they allied with other waged workers, including peasant women (p. 102). They subverted elite women's romanticized constructs of peasant women and challenged their philanthropy with calls for social justice. Their primary identity was a professional identity, not that of mother and wife. They sought an active role in politics and advocated for women to enter Parliament. Mariscotti describes the relationship between professional and elite class women as convoluted (p. 108). While "elite women tried to influence the public space and the public sphere from the privacy of their homes, managerial class women continued to work directly in the public space and the public sphere or chose to remain in private space with the spheres blurred" (p. 112).

Nationalism is the dominant paradigm of analysis for the early women's movements in Egypt. Thus, Mariscotti's contribution lies

firstly in how she broadens the traditional analytic frame and in how she locates ruling class women, managerial women, and their feminism in the context of the broader political and economic climates. Secondly, she uses a framework of "collusion and conflict," which she draws from the study of popular regimes in Latin America, to analyze the Egyptian women's movement. She supports her analysis by making distinctions between private space and private sphere and public space and public sphere. Within this framework she shows how Egyptian women moved expertly and at times fluidly amongst these locations in order to extend their ideological reach.

Embedded in the text is a critique of feminism in its many forms. However, while Mariscotti analyses the feminism of elite women clearly and thoroughly her analysis of the feminism of managerial women is less clearly defined. Thus I found Mariscotti's analysis of feminism at times reductive. Her feminist analysis was scattered about the text, occasionally slotted in between practical examples and generally difficult to pin down. Nonetheless, she makes a justifiable critique of postulates such as the unity of women and of "gender" as a category of analysis. In this regard she echoes the themes of postcolonial feminists and African feminists in particular. Curiously, however, she fails to draw on the analytic tools that have emerged out of these newer feminisms to analyze the class hegemonies that she highlights here.

She sketches the links ruling class women made between their struggles and Egypt's pharaonic history and the links managerial class women made with Islamic history; however, she tells us very little about how religion played into class divisions, intra-class divisions, or constructs of women. The impact of contestations on Muslim personal law could also have been investigated beyond an association of rights with civil law and responsibilities with Islamic law. Though the division is not irrefutable her analysis of it is superficial. Her insights on class may have been bolstered by an analysis of how these legal systems constructed women and how those constructs effected the constructs of women produced by elite and managerial class women.

This book will be a valuable addition to existing collections on women in the Middle East, women's movements, and feminist history. Mariscotti's obvious intention has been to provide complexity, nuance, and sophistication to the Western analysis of the

women's movement in the Middle East. Whereas the majority of work on women's movements in the Middle East tend to take a celebratory tone and laud the liberatory effects of nationalism and modernity on women in the Middle East, Mariscotti sets out to offer a more materially grounded and critically engaged analysis, and she succeeds.

FATIMA SEEDAT

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Books Received for Review
in *MELA Notes*
December 2010[*]

Alem, Raja, and Tom McDonough. ***My thousand & one nights: a novel of Mecca***. **Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2007.**

Abisaab, Malek. *Militant women of a fragile nation*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2010.

Altoma, Salih J. *Iraq's modern Arabic literature: a guide to English translations since 1950*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2010.

Assaad, Ragui, ed. *The Egyptian labor market in an era of reform*. Cairo: AUC Press, 2002.

Bassiouney, Reem. *Arabic sociolinguistics: Topics in diglossia, gender, identity and politics*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2009.

Baylouny, Anne Marie. *Privatizing welfare in the Middle East: Kin mutual aid associations in Jordan and Lebanon*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010.

Charfi, Mohamed. *Islam and liberty: the historical misunderstanding*. New York: Zed Books, 2005.

Economic Trends in the MENA Region, 2002. Cairo: AUC Press, 2002.

Eisenberg, Laura Zittrain, and Neil Caplan. *Negotiating Arab-Israeli peace: patterns, problems, possibilities*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.

El Habre, Simon. *The one man village*. Lebanon, 2008. [video]

El-Mikawy, Noha, and Heba Handoussa, eds. *Institutional reform & economic development in Egypt*. Cairo: AUC Press, 2002.

Euben, Roxana L., and Muhammad Qasim Zaman, eds. *Princeton readings in Islamic thought: Texts and contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.

Halman, Talat S. *Popular Turkish love lyrics & folk legends*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2009.

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[*] This list includes books not previously listed which have been received to date and are awaiting review.

Handoussa, Heba, and Zafiris Tzannatos, eds. *Employment creation and social protection in the Middle East and North Africa.* Cairo: AUC Press, 2002.

Lippman, Thomas W. *Arabian knight: Colonel Bill Eddy USMC and the rise of American power in the Middle East.* Vista, CA: Selwa Press, 2008.

Marr, Phebe,ed. *Egypt at the crossroads: domestic stability and regional role.* Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 1999.

Mir, Munastir. *Iqbal.* London: I. B. Tauris, 2006.

Musbahi, Hasunah. *Hikayah Tunisiyah.* Dubai: Kalim Books, 2008.

Natali, Denise. *The Kurdish quasi-state: development and dependency in post Gulf War Iraq.* Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2010.

Shryock, Andrew, ed. *Islamophobia/Islamophilia: beyond the politics of enemy and friend.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010.

Sirageldin, Ismail, ed. *Human capital: Population economics in the Middle East.* Cairo: AUC Press, 2002.

JONATHAN RODGERS RECEIVES PARTINGTON AWARD FOR 2009

CAMBRIDGE, MA (Nov. 20)–Amidst an audience of colleagues and well-wishers, Jonathan Rodgers, Head of the Near East Division at Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan received the 2009 David H. Partington Award. The award was presented at the Middle East Librarians Association's (MELA) 38th annual conference held this month in Cambridge.

The David H. Partington Award was established to recognize MELA members who have displayed a high standard of excellence and accomplishments in and contributions to the field of Middle East librarianship, librarianship in general, and scholarship, and who have given outstanding service to MELA itself.

Jonathan Rodgers serves as Head of the Near East Division and Coordinator of Area Programs at Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan. Previously, he was Head Librarian of the Near East Division of the Catalogue Department at Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University; Assistant Librarian and Head of Special Collections and Conservation, and Judaica Librarian at Hebrew Union College Library, Cincinnati.

Jonathan earned a Diploma in Arabic from the Defense Language Institute and a B.A. in Semitic Languages from Harpur College of the State University of New York at Binghamton. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures by Yale University. He then completed an MSLS at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Rodgers has been an active member of MELA for over 20 years. In particular, he has given diligent and outstanding service as Editor of *MELA Notes* from 1997 to 2007. While serving in that capacity, he was instrumental in initiatives to digitize *MELA Notes*, as well as MELA Occasional Papers in Middle Eastern Librarianship and the MELA Guides series, which he also worked to revive.

Jonathan's contributions to Middle East Studies and Middle East Librarianship extend beyond MELA. He has served on the Executive Board of MEMP (Middle East Microform Project) as secretary since 2000. He is a member of the AOS (American Oriental Society) and has served as its Secretary or Secretary-Treasurer for over 20 years. He got his start in the field as a translator in Arabic for the US Army and then as a translator of Arabic for the Joint Publication Research Service. He has been a contributor/advisor to the "Arab Culture and Civilization" project of The National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education and has served in the same capacity to the "The Arab World: Introduction to the Bibliographic Resources," al-Musharaka Seminar (ACRL Annual Meeting 2003).

Jonathan translated Wolfdietrich Fischer's *Grammatik des klassischen Arabisch,* which was published by Yale University Press as *Grammar of Classical Arabic* in 2001. He has published extensively on Arabic and Semitic linguistics and Middle Eastern bibliographical studies in *MELA Notes, IJMES, JAOS*, and *Studies in Bibliography and Booklore*. He has actively participated in the annual meetings of MELA , the AOS, NACAL (North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics), MESA, and the AJL (Association of Jewish Libraries) as a presenter or panelist.

In the words of Jonathan's references, he "shows his serious commitment to the advancement of research and learning across the field of contemporary Middle Eastern and ancient Near Eastern Studies. His office is always open for students and faculty to come and consult on matters of research." "There is a long list of students who have benefited from Jonathan's deep knowledge." "He is a model librarian and is a most deserving recipient of the David H. Partington Award."

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MS. KATHERINE SYDENHAM:
GEORGE N. ATIYEH AWARD WINNER
FOR 2009

(NOV. 5, 2009): The George Atiyeh Prize Committee—composed of Christine Dykgraaf, Akram Khabibullaev, and Jonathan Rogers—is pleased to announce the George N. Atiyeh Award Winner for 2009.

This year's recipient, Ms. Katherine Sydenham, is currently enrolled in the MLS program at St. John's University Department of Library & Information Science in Jamaica, New York.

Ms. Sydenham's interest in the Middle East preceded her interest in library science. While studying Religion and Women's Studies at Swarthmore College she also studied the Arabic language. This included a semester of study abroad in Damascus, Syria, where her interest in the Middle East solidified. After graduation from Swarthmore, Katherine took up a position in Yemen as a program officer at the Yemen Language Center in Sanaʿa, arranging travel, housing and other accommodations for international students.

As for practical library experience, Ms. Sydenham worked while in college at Swarthmore's Humanities Library as a page and reserves desk employee. An Andrew W. Mellon Foundation internship and then a Mellon grant in successive summers afforded Katherine the opportunity to explore additional library tasks such as archiving, developing library friends' materials, reference work, and material reclamation and preservation after a fire in the St. Mark's Library at General Theological Seminary. Having discovered the possibility of combining her interest in both fields in the form of area librarianship, Katherine began to pursue a Library Science Master's degree and currently works part-time at New York University copy-cataloguing Arabic language items. Whenever possible Katherine has included projects or side work in her internships and positions that focus on Arabic materials and collections.

Katherine wishes to use her newly combined interests and eventual degrees in Yemen developing its library systems and increasing literacy among the homeless youth and adults alike. If she ends up working in the U.S., she would be happy working in a public library system that serves Middle Eastern minorities or at a university library where she could collaborate on projects jointly with Middle Eastern, and again especially Yemeni, librarians in ways that enhance and expand the use of libraries in the Middle East and cooperation with U.S. libraries as well.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
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George N. Atiyeh Award Essay

KATHERINE SYDENHAM

I would like to thank the Middle East Librarians Association for offering me the opportunity to attend November's annual conference in Boston through the George N. Atiyeh Award. The variety of topics covered during the meeting offered a practical overview of the field that has since helped to ground my studies. For example, learning about the Stanford University and Berkeley University partnership in the face of budget cutbacks gave me an example of a creative and functional partnership to consider when discussing institutional partnerships and exchanges in my courses.

Additionally, the meeting introduced me to Middle East resources that have been useful to my studies and which I plan to use in my career, such as the Sabre Foundation, the HathiTrust, the weblog aggregator Global Voices, and the World Digital Library, among others. I am particularly interested in the variety of electronic resources available on the Internet that we as librarians have brought within our curatorial scope with digital library, digital preservation, and indexing projects.

The most rewarding part of attending the Middle East Librarians Association meeting was the sense I got of being part of a community of professionals engaged in a common topic. Before the conference I had had little contact with librarians working with international materials and foreign languages, and it was gratifying to speak with librarians who are involved in the Middle East in particular, and with non-English collections in general. I was particularly interested in the Committee on Cataloguing meeting where members debated the logic of using translated, English, script, or Romanized abbreviations in MARC records. It was exciting to watch policy being developed, especially on a topic that affects my work as a copy-cataloguer for Arabic materials. I also enjoyed meeting many of the librarians who contribute to discussions through the MELA listserv; putting faces to names has helped me contextualize inquiries, institutions and projects that show up in my inbox via MELANET.

Attending the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference reinforced my appreciation of the work carried out at MELA and by MELA members. Nowhere is it more apparent how integral and subtle the library's influence is upon scholarship and our collective knowledge than at an academic conference such as MESA. A glance at the panel topics demonstrates the areas of research that are more fully supported by library collections in the U.S., the usefulness of indexing and thoughtfully compiled digital collections on the Internet, and the history of archiving and preservation in the countries under study. Some countries receive more attention, and some deeper attention, based on the availability of information here and in the Middle East. This influence appears to go fairly unnoticed (or at least unmentioned) by those conducting research, which I think is a testament to how thoroughly integrated our services are in academia.

In addition to viewing some films and purchasing a Farsi dictionary at the book sale, I attended as many panel presentations as possible, some on the following topics: slavery, state repression, Yemen, elections, leisure and media, homosexuality in literature, women in religion, taxation of Qat, and Islamic sects. Listening to students present their research reinvigorated my interest in the information gathering process, and has led me to consider how to become more involved in public services and outreach in my career.

Becoming a subscriber of the MESA journal, which is included as part of the Atiyeh award, has helped extend the conference experience throughout the year. The most recent edition contained pensees on trends in Middle East Studies in the past five years, each of which offered insightful perspectives on the field and which, perhaps, serve as predictors of trends that librarians can use to their benefit in their collection development initiatives.

Thank you again for offering the Atiyeh award to library students interested in Middle East Librarianship. Attending the conference did a great deal toward introducing me to the field, the libraries and librarians involved in Middle East Studies, and many of the issues that Middle East librarians must consider as a group. I look forward to being involved in the association in the future.

Annual Meeting 2009 Cambridge, MA

MELA Business Meeting
November 20, 2009
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MELA MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Johnny Bahbah, Hassan Bakhti, Rifat Bali, Joyce Bell, Brenda Bickett, Joan Biella, Ali Boutaqmanti, Jared Camins-Esakov, Kaoukab Chebaro, Leonard Chiarelli, Krikor Chobanian, Iman Dagher, Saeed Damadi, Jan Diggs, Hirad Dinavari, Robin Dougherty, Lamia Eid, John Eilts, Muhammad al-Faruque, George Fawzi, Christof Galli, Meryle Gaston, Walid Ghali, David Giovacchini, Michael Grossman, Shadia el-Hanafy, AbdulAhed Hannawi, Ali Bakr Hassan, Ruth Ann Hay, Anchi Hoh, Michael Hopper, Nada Hussein, Mozhgan Jalalzadeh, Akram Khabibullaev, Omar Khalidi, Shayee Khanaka, William J. Kopycki, Eve Lauria, Peter Magierski, Yahya Melhem, Mark Muehlhaeusler, Christopher Murphy, Behzad Nouban, Mehdi Rahimzadeh, Andras Riedlmayer, Jonathan Rodgers, Juliet Sabouri, Marlis Saleh, Simon Samoeil, Shahira el-Sawy, Stefan Seeger, Rachel Simon, Ismail Soliman, Jeff Spurr, Katherine Sydenham, Soussan Teymouri, James Weinberger

MINUTES
The meeting began at approximately 9:00 am and began with introductions from all present. President Omar Khalidi thanked the corporate sponsors of this year's meeting, which included IranFarhang, Leila Books, Ferdosi International, KitapLibra, EastView, and OCLC.

OFFICER REPORTS
PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Omar reported that the Executive Board has kept itself busy over the past year despite the bleak economic times. The biggest challenge has been motivating members to be involved in activities, and a great deal of time was spent figuring out who is serving on which committees. The committee composition is now clear, though not all committees have reported any activities. He echoed what previous presidents have said before, that committees should either be active

or dissolved if not. In 2009, the Atiyeh Award, Cataloging, Education, Nominating, Reference and Research, Iraqi Libraries, and Wilkins Award committees all reported activity. Omar expressed his gratitude to those who have volunteered to chair or serve on these committees and thanked his own institution, MIT, for giving him time to carry out his duties as president. He also thanked his colleagues Yahya Melhem for his support in preparing for this meeting, and Jolene DeVirges for preparing the "Tomes and Domes" exhibit which many MELA members toured. He also thanked William Kopycki for his efforts as treasurer and providing records, comments, and suggestions as needed by the Executive Board over the past year. Omar also thanked Kristen Wilson for her tremendous work in migrating MELANET from Cornell servers to Google Groups; to Marlis Saleh for her work on *MELA Notes,* and to Webmaster Robin Dougherty for her work on the MELA web site.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Vice-President Anchi Hoh thanked all the speakers and attendees for a successful program from the previous day. She will work with Robin to obtain the Powerpoint presentations and any other notes which will then be posted on the MELA web site. She gave thanks to the program committee for their work in preparing this year's program. The program committee for this year included John Eilts, Michael Hopper, William Kopycki, Tara Lannen-Stanton, Jeff Spurr, Judith van Raalten, and Stephen Wiles. Anchi also found the information compiled by Past President Ali Houissa for the MELA Officer's Manual to be very helpful in understanding the duties of her office and how to carry them out. She then handed out a program evaluation form to solicit feedback and to help plan for next year.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:
Secretary-Treasurer William Kopycki called for the approval of last year's minutes, which were posted in final draft form on MELANET, November 18, 2009. These were approved and will be published in the next issue of *MELA Notes*. [The full text of his report supplements these minutes]. He added that this year's meeting is costing the organization more than usual because of the last-minute change in venue. For next year's meeting in San Diego, the association will have to try to find some local hosts or be prepared to pay conference hotel fees. He thanked everyone for continuing to

register and pay dues in advance, and mentioned his appreciation for the generosity of the vendors for supporting this year's meeting.

MELA NOTES *EDITOR'S REPORT:*
Editor Marlis Saleh reported that issue number 82 for 2009 is forthcoming, in print and electronic format, and contains the following articles: "A Descriptive analysis of the manuscripts in forty private libraries in northern Yemen" by David Hollenberg; "Teach yourself Arabic in Yiddish" by Rachel Simon; eleven book reviews, a list of books received for review, and the minutes and reports of the business meeting from 2008. She announced that the executive board approved the creation of MELA Notepad [http://mela.us/mela_notepad], a blog where book reviews could also be posted to provide wider exposure and enable librarians to make selection decisions. Webmaster Robin Dougherty is now the de facto "blog master" who will post such reviews. Marlis encouraged everyone to submit their completed reviews to Rachel, who will in turn send them to Marlis and Robin for publishing in the blog and in *MELA Notes*. [Text below.]

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR'S REPORT:
Book Review Editor Rachel Simon reminded everyone that the association will not be able to receive books if reviewers do not send their reviews in a reasonable amount of time, which is six months to a year. Responsibility for doing the reviews does not end with receiving the book. She thanked those who turned in their reviews.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT:
Robin Dougherty reported that she has been working on search engine optimization for the MELA website so that it appears at the top of Google searches. There are many sites using the term "MELA" which are not obviously part of the association. She has been using a tool called "Webgrader" to compare the MELA website to other sites. She compared MELA to the Association of Jewish Libraries and SALALM [Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials] websites, and found that MELA graded at 71/100, same as SALALM, while AJL graded 90/100. MELA's Google page rank is 6 out of 10, meaning that "the website is considered to be authoritative and many authoritative pages link to it."

Robin added that she is focusing more on "structure" rather than "appearance," as this will improve search engine optimization and long-term organization. There are more directories and re-named files which will improve this. She reminded everyone that if there are any problems with the pages to use the "Contact Webmaster" link at the bottom of each page to report. MELA pages hosted on "foreign" servers, such as those of the Committee on Cataloging and the Iraqi Libraries Committee will be migrated over to MELA's servers. Both of these committees have complex file structures for their websites, so it will take time to do this. Chuck Jones has agreed to edit the Iraqi Libraries Committee to include the new directory paths after which Robin will copy the code onto new pages located on the MELA server.

Robin encouraged everyone who has a professional page to link to MELA's website. This will make it easier to find MELA and the site will rank higher.

Robin gave a quick demonstration of the MELA Notepad [http://mela.us/mela_notepad/]. So far the entries are mostly book reviews. She encouraged contributors to send content that might be appropriate. She is trying to create a mechanism to channel information posted on MELANET to also be posted on the blog and attribute it to the original poster. Each entry contains subject tags for ease of discovery. Keeping a blog interesting requires frequent postings; Robin encouraged members to contribute content.

Mozhgan Jalalzadeh asked if MELA could have a Facebook page. Robin said she has advocated for this in the past, and many present [twenty by a show of hands] indicated they are active Facebook users. Robin will go ahead and create a MELA Facebook page, and asked those users to become a "friend" of MELA.

Ali Boutaqmanti asked if a balance could be stuck between the website and the blog; the latter being more attractive and easier to use. He also asked as chair of MELA's mentoring program if there could be web space available and if something could be published in MELA Notes about the program. Robin responded that the blog links to the web site and vice-versa; but as she gets to tackling design issues she will examine this further. Next year the page will hopefully look "prettier".

MELANET-L LISTSERV MANAGER'S REPORT:
Kristen Wilson was unable to attend. Omar asked those present to contact Kristen for any issues or technical problems related to the MELANET listserv.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
COMMITTEE ON CATALOGING: Joyce Bell (Chair) reported that this year was relatively quiet for the committee although it made progress in a number of long-term projects. She reported that the Persian Cataloging Manual's editorial board has developed initial content that will be posted on the MELA website shortly. She thanked the board, whose term expires, for their efforts. The board consisted of Akram Khabibullaev, Zoya Nazari, and Farideh Tehrani, with Juliet Sabouri as chair. Michael Chyet was also very generous in providing content for the Manual. The Committee will be discussing how best to proceed in further developing the Manual; comments and suggestion can be made to cataloging@mela.us.

The Committee has completed a draft of best practices for original script; discussion has started to take place on MIDEASTCAT and will be discussed at the cataloging workshop tomorrow. The Committee intends to have open discussion on the draft for a set period of time, following which it will present a final set of documents/web pages as MELA's best practices. She thanked Shahrzad Khosrowpour, Shadia el-Hanafy, David Giovacchini, Mark Muehlhaeusler, and Laila Salibi-Cripe for their work gathering data for consideration, with special thanks to Joan Biella in preparing the final draft documents.

SACO: Joyce reported that the MELA SACO Funnel was not particularly active this year. There were six subjects submitted, all of which have been accepted, and all submitted by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. She exhorted MELA libraries, especially those in the US, to participate.

Syriac romanization table: Joyce reported that some progress has been made on the proposed Syriac romanization table; there are still unresolved issues. The scholars working on this project hold differing opinions, and it isn't clear how a resolution will be reached.

Persian NACO Funnel: MELA members have expressed sufficient interest to start a Persian NACO Funnel, and the Committee has received permission from LC to do so. The Committee has not yet gotten organized to start the Funnel but plans to do so this year.

Cataloging Workshop: Topics for the cataloging workshop this year are a report on original script in authority records, an introduction to the Persian Cataloging Manual, a report on the work by the ALA romanization task force, and a discussion of the draft of best practices.

Hirad Dinavari commented that LC created an internal aid comparing Romanized Persian among three different writing scripts—Arabic, Cyrillic (Tajik), and Hebrew (Judeo-Persian). [Following the meeting, it was determined that LC has not yet made this document publicly available.]

REFERENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE: Christof Galli (Chair) reported that the committee has reformulated itself and will start a wiki to be linked to the MELA site after it has been created.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: John Eilts (Chair) reported that the committee had a very active meeting last night with a number of new members. Ali Boutaqmanti will be the new chair; he is currently spearheading the mentorship program. The committee also discussed resuming work with the WISE Consortium for education in Middle East librarianship throughout library schools.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Omar Khalidi, reporting for chair Connie Lamb, extended his thanks to the committee for their work. He announced the winners of the 2009 elections: Michael Hopper is the new Vice-President/Program Chair and Andras Riedlmayer will be the new Member-at-Large.

ATIYEH AWARD COMMITTEE: Jonathan Rogers, reporting on behalf of chair Christine Dykgraaf, announced this year's George N. Atiyeh Award Winner for 2009, Ms. Katherine Sydenham. Ms. Sydenham is currently enrolled in the MLS program at St. John's University Department of Library & Information Science in Jamaica, New York. She studied Religion and Women's Studies at Swarthmore College, where she began her study of the Arabic language. After graduation from Swarthmore, Katherine took up a position in Yemen as a program officer at the Yemen Language Center in Sanʿa, arranging travel, housing, and other accommodations for international students. She currently works part-time at New York University copy-cataloguing Arabic language items. Katherine

expressed her thanks to MELA for the opportunity to be here at her first-ever MELA meeting, and hoped she can participate more in the future.

PARTINGTON AWARD COMMITTEE: Meryle Gaston (chair) presented this year's winner, Jonathan Rodgers. Jonathan Rodgers serves as head of the Near East Division and coordinator of Area Programs at Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan. Previously, he was head librarian of the Near East Division of the Catalogue Department at Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University; assistant librarian and head of Special Collections and Conservation, and Judaica librarian at Hebrew Union College Library, Cincinnati.

Jonathan earned a Diploma in Arabic from the Defense Language Institute and a B.A. in Semitic Languages from Harpur College of the State University of New York at Binghamton. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures by Yale University. He then completed an MSLS at the University of Kentucky. In particular, he has given diligent and outstanding service as Editor of *MELA Notes* from 1997 to 2007. While serving in that capacity, he was instrumental in initiatives to digitize *MELA Notes,* as well as MELA Occasional Papers in Middle Eastern Librarianship and the MELA Guides series, which he also worked to revive.

Jonathan's contributions to Middle East studies and Middle East librarianship extend beyond MELA. He has served on the Executive Board of MEMP (Middle East Microform Project) as secretary since 2000. He is a member of the AOS (American Oriental Society) and has served as its secretary or secretary-treasurer for over 20 years. He got his start in the field as a translator in Arabic for the US Army and then as a translator of Arabic for the Joint Publication Research Service. As Meryle explained "he is a model librarian and most deserving recipient of this award."

On accepting the award, Jonathan remarked: "I'm humbled to be in the presence of John [Eilts], Geoffrey Roper, Abazar [Sepehri], James Pollock and Dona Straley. These really were the important people over the history of MELA and to find myself in that company is a just little bit awesome for me . . . thank you very much."

WILKINS AWARD COMMITTEE: John Eilts (Chair) announced that the fund has had some generous gifts over the past year. Those who contributed $75.00 or more in the past month were being invited to a

special reception held at Dar al-Mahjar. John explained that in this past year the association felt the loss of another member, Frank Unlandherm; as such the committee is also looking at ways to remember others. John is discussing with a potential corporate sponsor to create a travel award in Frank's name which would help supplement librarian travel to the region.

Otherwise, William and John have been discussing how to create an investment fund which will help generate interest to create the Wilkins Award. This award does not have to be given out every year; as such it may be possible that a $10,000 investment would generate enough interest to pay out an award when the occasion calls for it.

LESLEY WILKINS EDUCATION AWARD: John Eilts announced that the association is two-thirds of the way towards its goal of $10,000 to establish the Wilkins Fund. He encouraged members to donate as the tax year ends.

OTHER REPORTS:
MEMP: Newly-elected MEMP Chair Shayee Khanaka gave the report, which stemmed from the general meeting held the previous day. Following yesterday's voting, the MEMP Executive Board now comprises Robin Dougherty, Jonathan Rodgers, Shayee Khanaka, Akram Khabibullaev, Michael Hopper, and Brenda Bickett. Several projects are underway or are in the process of being vetted, including a project to film Iraqi newspapers *(al-ʿAdalah, al-Daʿwah, al-Zaman)* along with *Sirwan* and *Ittihad al-Shaʿb*. Todd Bludeau sent MEMP a list of titles of newspapers on microfilm from the Centre for Islamic Studies and the Turkish Religious Foundation (Istanbul) which were microfilmed by the British Library. MEMP will consider purchase if other institutions do not already have them. Further discussion will have to take place next year.

The board discussed the prospects of digitization as a means of preservation and will be looking at the LAMP guidelines for possible adaptation and adoption by MEMP. Library of Congress and LC-Cairo will be providing updated lists of what they are currently microfilming.

MEMP Executive board will have a conference call in April and again in July/August to save the expense of meeting in person.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REPORT: MIDDLE EAST SECTION (ACQUISITIONS AND CATALOGING): Joan Biella presented the report on behalf of Sarah Özturk, who was unable to attend this year. The section is now at the end of the first full year of reorganization which combined acquisitions and cataloging functions. Things have begun to settle down. Since the end of August section members are now all located in one room rather than spread over 5 locations on 2 floors.

The Section now acquires and catalogs material in all formats from the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, Armenia, and Georgia. The primary languages handled by the section are Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Central Asian languages, Georgian, Kurdish, Persian, and Turkish. Considerable material in English, other western languages, and Russian published in the geographic area covered by the section is also handled, as well as lesser amounts of languages such as Abkhazian, Amharic, and Ottoman Turkish.

There are currently 11 members on staff, having lost a part-time contractor for Central Asian acquisitions. Interviews for the Turkish/Central Asian Librarian position have been completed and the section hopes to announce very soon that the position has been filled.

In terms of FY09 statistics, ca. 16,000 pieces were acquired via the section. Cataloging statistics are as follows: receipts 9,133; completions, 9,820; name authorities created or modified, 3,516; subject headings proposed or modified, 110; classification proposals made, 133 [a handout was distributed with these].

LC is preparing a survey of libraries which have contributed non-Latin references to authority headings, and on the basis of responses to this survey will eventually propose some guidelines for constructing and evaluating such references—including such policy decisions as including roman qualifiers in non-Latin roman strings, etc. This survey is likely to be delayed until after the upcoming RDA test project, which will probably monopolize the attention of the Policy and Support Division for most of next year.

Joan Biella is taking the lead for the Division on the issue of non-Latin references in authority records. She will discuss this in more detail at the Cataloging Committee meeting.

The Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) has moved to beta phase and is available for all to search at: http://viaf.org/. A copy of the announcement which was issued to PCC members is included among the handouts.

In addition to the VIAF sheet, handouts include lists of some of the subject headings and classification proposals created by the section this year which may be of interest. Also in the handouts is a list of 8 items of interest cataloged this year which show the range of material cataloged in the section.

[The meeting paused for a 15-minute break]

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REPORT: NEAR EAST SECTION: Chris Murphy reported that Muhannad Salhi completed his first year in the section and will be permanent; he is working on a couple of special projects, including one for acquiring manuscripts in digital or film format. Chris is trying to hire a third technician, an important position as technicians are the ones who get the materials in the hands of the researchers. The Turkish position remains vacant. Collection development continues in the normal manner and funding is stable. The fall of the dollar, however, means that purchasing power is somewhat reduced. The section has increased its microfilming activities; normally 420 thousand pages per year are completed, but this figure is expected to double in the next year. This is in addition to the materials LC-Cairo sends to New Delhi for filming. In spite of this activity, the section is still behind in filming everything it received and will be looking at ways to increase capacity in the near future. Chris reminded everyone that anything LC has filmed itself is available for lending. Film purchased from commercial source is not, however, available for loan. Chris asked that those trying to obtain materials from LC's interlibrary loan office should alert the request to his attention; in this way materials can be made ready when the interlibrary loan office is able to process the request.

In the area of digitization, LC's activity falls within the context of the World Digital Library, whose prototype was launched in April. LC supplied the Iraqi National Library with an overhead scanner on permanent loan with Google funding, and brought staff to Washington for training. So far the Iraqi National Library has digitized the women's magazine *Layla* and will be digitizing other Iraqi periodicals in the future.

The Section is working with National Library of Egypt to get the scientific manuscripts Web page posted, while a memorandum of understanding has been made with St. Mark's Coptic Cultural Center (Egypt) to digitize icons and manuscripts. Discussions are currently

underway with the Holy Spirit University (Kasalik, Lebanon) and Haydar Ali Institute in Azerbaijan. With the help of a representative from Minnesota, the library is working to acquire Eastern Christian manuscripts in various languages, in digital format. Much of the World Digital Library content is in fact Library of Congress material in public domain. Chris hoped that more libraries around the world would start mounting additional content for the project.

The Section held four international conferences this year, one on Kyrgyz author Chingiz Aitmatov, another on Iranian Jews in Iran, Central Asia, and the diaspora, one on the current development needs of Iraq, and finally, in cooperation with the Law Library, a conference on Shariʿah and Jewish traditional law. At least two conferences are being planned for next year, funding pending: one on Taha Husayn, and another on Rizaetdin Fakhretdinov. The Division has greatly increased the number of conferences and lectures it offers as part of its Congress-directed mandate, this past year numbering twenty-two; these are all videotaped and made available on the Division's Web site.

Major stack work is taking place within the Section, with some 40,000 volumes being shipped to offsite storage over the past year, making a total of 100,000 volumes stored offsite and 300,000 on Capitol Hill. Other shifts and adjustments are taking place to increase shelf capacity.

NEW BUSINESS:

FRANK UNLANDHERM MEMORIAL FUND: Omar reported that he received a number of requests to establish a fund in Frank's honor. He said that while the idea is a good one, the Executive Board needs to know the purpose of the fund and what kind of activities it would support, adding that the fund needs financial backing and people to take charge of the fundraising. Joan Biella suggested offering a "Unlandherm/Maltese prize" to be awarded to the librarian demonstrating he or she had dealt with the most Maltese publications in a single year. This would be a way to memorialize Frank's special interest in this country. She said she would personally start the fundraising with $100 per year, and welcomed others to contribute. Robin Dougherty suggested that a general MELA memorial fund where donations could be given in the name of individuals be established; this might be a more practical approach to remembering future departed colleagues. John Eilts reiterated that a potential

donor exists who is willing to discuss setting up a specific fund in Frank's name. Copies of some fundraising materials have been sent to the Executive Board for consideration.

Omar reported that the Executive Board discussed having a "memorial lecture series" which would be supported by this, or another, fund. Rachel Simon agreed with the idea of establishing a general fund. William Kopycki pointed out that in the past, surviving friends or relatives of deceased MELA members indicated a charity to which donations could be made in that person's name; in this case we have no indications. And while the Executive Board has received requests that a fund be established, these requests did not come with any indication that there would be support. Kaoukab Chebaro said that MELA can decide what they think is the best way to memorialize Frank and she will be happy to take the matter up to Columbia University's administration for possible support. Shayee Khanaka suggested that limiting the award to Maltese publications may be too narrow, and suggested including other small languages and communities that Frank expressed interest in collecting. Joan agreed that there is merit in having a more general fund, but she would like to suggest that awards could be offered in a different person's name depending on the theme of the year. Simon Samoeil mentioned that Nassif Youssef, who passed away last year, is also worth memorializing and offered to support any general memorial fund established in honor of all late MELA members. Muhammad al-Faruque spoke in support of a general fund which could be offered in alternate years in a specific person's name. William pointed out that this all requires a committee. Kaoukab Chebaro, Lamia Eid, Juliet Sabouri, John Eilts, and Muhammad al-Faruque all volunteered to serve on this [as yet-unnamed] committee.

Action item: Executive board to follow up with Joan's suggestions; contact volunteers to issue charge.

MELA TRAVEL AWARD PROPOSAL: Prior to the meeting EastView suggested to the Executive Board that it may be interested in helping to sponsor some sort of "travel award" to assist MELA members who would not otherwise be able to travel to the annual meeting. William and Omar suggested that MELA should consider this offer and discuss with EastView the best ways to approach this topic. Andras Riedlmayer mentioned that ARLIS [Art Libraries Society of

North America] has a long-standing first-time attendance award which members of that community can apply for, and agreed that in light of the current economic situation, MELA should pursue this opportunity.

Action item: Executive Board to follow up with EastView.

MELA ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: William discussed the MELA Online Membership Directory and pointed out that MELA does not have access to the proprietary software that ran this directory. He proposed removing the current links and making the directory available on demand only. There were no objections to this action.

Action item: Remove current links to directory from website and update instructions on how to obtain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Omar once again thanked MELA's corporate sponsors for their generosity in supporting this year's meeting.

Anchi requested everyone to submit evaluation forms for the previous day's program if they had not already done so. This will help in improving next year's program.

Robin Dougherty announced she will be chairing a double-panel at MESA this year under the title "Consuming leisure: producing desire in the Arab world," and invited everyone to attend.

Shayee Khanaka announced that she has been selected to be the president of the Kurdish Studies Association, and that William Kopycki is serving as secretary. She invited those interested to attend the meetings and sponsored panel, "State formation in the Middle East: the Kurdish question."

With that, the business meeting concluded at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Kopycki
Secretary-Treasurer

Secretary-Treasurer's Report
As of November 15, 2009

INCOME

Atiyeh Award contribution	$25.00
Dues, subscriptions, meeting registration (remainder of 08 + 09 to date)	8,707.60
Mailing list rental	100.00
Wilkins Fund contributions	7,559.00
"Founder's" fund (to be named)	50.00
Vendor contributions (remainder of 08 + 09 to date)	2,279.35
Bank interest	16.33
TOTAL INCOME	**$18,737.28**

EXPENSES

MELA Meeting expenses 2008 (remainder)	$43.56
MELA Notes #81 printing	1,224.82
Web hosting renewal for www.mela.us	118.80
Partington award cash	100.00
Postage and supplies	78.45
Bank charges (unassisted check view online)	6.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$1,571.63**

PNC Bank Checking account balance as of November 15th, 2009 $38,254.12

PNC Bank Savings account balance as of November 15th, 2009 $5,423.61

TOTAL **$43,677.73**

Wilkins Fund to date (included in the above total) [$14,137.00]

As of November 15, 2009, we have 95 members who are paid up through 2008/2009, with 58 paid up through 2010. Twenty-four new members have been added since November 2008.

As of November 15, 2009, we have 28 library subscriptions to *MELA Notes,* with 17 subscriptions being handled through vendors.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

This past year, specifically in April, the seat of the secretariat moved from Philadelphia to Cairo, Egypt. From the service side of things, aside from the change of address it has been relatively easy to receive and process checks which are sent to the APO address in Cairo. Most fiscal transactions have been received by PayPal, while payments are made using the MELA bank card by phone or fax. Communications from institutions and vendors such as Swets and EBSCO are still being received by snail mail. As your secretary gets settled in, other processes behind-the-scenes will operate more efficiently.

The MELA Archives still remains at University of Pennsylvania until a new home can be found. These are 3 condensed boxes. This includes what I would call the "founder's archives" from the earliest times, including correspondence, records, minutes of meetings, memos, etc. It is a rich repository of historical information about the Association. It also includes all audio recordings (two meetings from the 1970s, cassettes from the 1990s, and all audio starting from the time I first assumed this post). It is easy to say "find any home for these," but if they cannot stay at Pennsylvania then they should be moved to another established MELA institution where someone from within our Association can curate them as needed by future users.

The Wilkins Fund has now reached its original goal, and hopefully during this year's meeting we will be able to take the steps to formally create the fund and use it as planned. The Executive Board is grateful to John Eilts for his ceaseless effort to make this fund a reality, and thanks go to all the contributors who continue to remember Lesley Wilkins for her contributions to the Association.

Our expenses have thankfully been low this year because the previous year's meeting at Library of Congress was paid nearly all in advance. We have not yet been billed for this year's meeting, which will be higher than was originally budgeted for. Fortunately we can weather the costs, thanks to our outstanding vendors for their contributions this year.

Next year our meeting is scheduled to be held in San Diego. Unless there are MELA-friendly institutions in the area, we will probably have to be prepared to utilize MESA (i.e., conference hotel) facilities, which are never cheap. Concrete solutions with timely follow up are welcome from anyone willing to play host or who can volunteer someone else to do so.

As always, if there are questions/comments/suggestions as to anything involving this office, please feel free to let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Kopycki
Secretary-Treasurer

Editor's Report, November 2009

During the year 2008–9, one annual issue of *MELA Notes,* number 82 (2009), will be published in print and will be distributed to the membership and subscribers. The issue will appear electronically at http://www.mela.us/MELANotes/MELANotesIntro.html.

The current issue consists of the following items:

- ❖ "A Descriptive Analysis of the Manuscripts in Forty Private Libraries of Northern Yemen," by David Hollenberg, James Madison University
- ❖ "Teach Yourself Arabic—In Yiddish!" by Rachel Simon, Princeton University
- ❖ 11 Book Reviews
- ❖ Books Received for Review 2008–09
- ❖ MELA Business Meeting 2008 Minutes and Reports

At the 2008 meeting, the Executive Committee decided that prior and in addition to publishing book reviews in MELA Notes, we should post them on the web in order to provide useful information for those purchasing materials for libraries in a more timely manner. Our new blog, MELA Notepad (http://mela.us/mela_notepad/), has already published a number of book reviews and I plan to submit future reviews to our webmistress and blog master for posting on a rolling basis as they come in.

This will be my second issue of *MELA Notes* and I am enjoying the challenge of continuing the project that was carried on so ably for ten years by Jonathan Rodgers. I am extremely grateful for Jonathan's ongoing and future assistance in this endeavor, as well as that of my very helpful colleagues, our book review editor, Rachel

Simon, our webmistress, Robin Dougherty, and our secretary-treasurer, William Kopycki.

As always, I urge the membership to submit articles and to encourage colleagues to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlis J. Saleh, Editor