

do anything about it." But I worked out how many books we needed to get from Asia, and Africa, and what they cost. (I'm just explaining my interest in this.) And then recently some figures were worked out for the Middle East and for other areas, and were given at a conference that was held in Morecambe last year, and this volume was printed and published Acquisition and provision of foreign books by national and university libraries in the United Kingdom; papers of the Morecambe Conference, 16 April 1972, comp. by B.C. Bloomfield. London, Mansell, 1972.. I don't remember the statistics there, but Derek Hopwood made a study of the Near and Middle East and has got some figures for that. But what I would like to say, and I think this is important, is that this exercise should be done again, and that people should work on Turkey and on the Arab countries and should really get hard figures to show what is coming out, and the percentage that is required in a research library, or if you like, in the totality of research libraries in the country, and what it costs. I think this would be a very useful thing to do, and would be a very good way to cooperate. I mean, each of your members could take one particular country, something of that sort, and work these figures out. They could be of practical value, I think, as well as of academic interest.

Cooper--And it all hinges on the problem of bibliographic control, so perhaps we'll continue discussion of that this afternoon.

I'm going to wind up the morning program with a paper I wrote. I was going to make some off-hand comments on the case for or against a consortium, and this turned out to be a proposal for a type of consortium. It's just grist for the mill, and I hope it will exercise all of you to think about what we might do in concrete terms when we get together tomorrow, and what we might follow up on in Ann Arbor next May.

The case for a consortium,

by Richard Cooper

One type of library cooperative venture that is becoming increasingly popular is the consortium, where several libraries formally join together to share doing some activity or activities that previously they had done separately. We have been investigating the subject to see if there are any features of the consortium arrangement which the MELA might profitably adopt as a program to sell to our constituent libraries. The need for some kind of cooperation among libraries collecting Middle East materials is so obvious I probably need not use many words in justifying it. To name the most visible, an acute shortage of money, both to pay for book materials and to hire the kind of skilled staff needed to process it.

Taking for granted that cooperation is needed, what form should it take? Once we decide on and adopt any formal arrangements, that is, one in which libraries or universities surrender some part of their autonomy, we have embarked on a consortium venture. So what then are the kinds of activity a consortium of libraries collecting Middle East materials might undertake, and what are the difficulties inherent in establishing these forms? In the remarks which follow, I want to acknowledge my indebtedness to one work in particular in the literature on the subject, R.J. Patrick's Guidelines for library cooperation Santa Monica, 1972..

Several years ago G. Flint Purdy "Interrelations among public school and academic libraries," pp. 52-65 in: University of Chicago, Graduate Library School, Library networks--promise and performance; the 33rd conference... July 29-31, 1968, Chicago. grouped all of the cooperative programs then in

effect in libraries into the following categories:

1. Union catalogs and lists.
2. Cooperative development of resources.
3. Sharing resources in terms of use.
4. Communication.
5. Centralized processing.
6. Cooperatively sponsored planning and surveys.
7. Cooperative computer center.

The most promising areas for Middle East librarianship are the first two, union catalogs and lists, and cooperative development of resources. MELA, through the efforts of our president, has already embarked on a union list, and cooperative development of resources is indeed the theme of this morning's session. The sharing of resources in terms of use is now adequately done through interlibrary lending, and we could take this area of cooperation for granted. Communication too is now provided for, through the agency of MELA, but effecting any of the other areas of cooperation will certainly call for more frequent and formal communication than we are now engaged in. The dissemination of timely data on North American library resources will be an area calling for greater MELA participation. As for centralized processing of Middle Eastern materials, it does not seem to be feasible on a national basis and is hardly likely to be appropriate on a regional basis unless it is a part of arrangements already existing in a wider library context, such as the Research Libraries Group. Cooperatively sponsored planning and surveys is again an area where MELA should and must take the lead. It will not come from elsewhere, and it will be necessary to persuade libraries to free their Middle Eastern specialists to engage in this activity on a continental level. We return to this subject again at the end of our remarks, for it touches on the preliminary and planning stages which must precede the establishment of any kind of consortium arrangement. Cooperative storage is probably unrealistic, and would not be needed in any case if materials are already allocated on a rational basis. A cooperative computer center is altogether another kettle of fish and I wish to divorce consideration of that possibility from this discussion. Another MELA group may wish to follow up on the proposals we heard from Professor Luther at last year's meeting and explore plugging into the Michigan bibliographic project, or ties with TERROC and IRANDOC.

Patrick characterizes successful cooperative ventures as relatively low-cost, high-benefit, and low-compromise activities. Let us look at some of the possibilities for Middle East library collections.

1. Union catalogs and lists. MELA has already begun such a project, currently funded by the Near East Center of the University of Michigan. We are speaking here of selective lists, that is, limited to Arabic and Persian imprints currently cataloged by Michigan, Chicago, Berkeley, Utah and whomever else participates. But there are some gnawing questions. What will happen when Michigan can no longer fund it? Will the participants contribute the time and money, will external funding be available, can the lists be sold? Will the lists be cumulated and how much will it all cost? MELA must immediately explore the future of this project and see if we have a low-cost high-benefit project which is "marketable."

If we do not have this union list, are there alternatives? One type of cooperative experience involves exchanging acquisition lists, catalog cards or bibliographies. It is my opinion that acquisition lists do not justify the costs of producing them. I question their benefit as a selection tool,

and although they might suggest titles other libraries may wish to avoid buying, because they are expensive or available elsewhere, there are more efficient ways of doing this, as I will mention shortly. Now exchanging catalog cards is certainly more useful than acquisition lists, but an even more efficient way of exchanging the same information is to produce a union list, since the labor is centralized and coordinated. My remarks suggest that we should explore all means for continuing the union list. A distinct advantage of this activity is that it requires very little formal organization between libraries, and can be undertaken solely as a MELA activity.

Another low-cost activity requiring a minimum of formal arrangement is an inventory of collection resources of libraries housing Middle Eastern materials. Several studies have already been undertaken and have been reported on at this workshop. It is much easier and cheaper, however, to produce a profile of a collection's strengths than to compile accessions lists giving every title, and such an inventory would be the first step in later deciding how to share collection responsibilities by specializing in specific subject areas. We would need to develop a standard evaluation form, far more sophisticated than those heretofore used, and using a fine breakdown of certain classes in the Library of Congress classification scheme. Along the same lines, an inventory of Middle Eastern selection policies in American libraries is a primary desiderata, and it should go into some detail in indicating the depth and breadth of collection responsibility. I strongly urge that MELA appoint a committee to immediately begin work on such a project.

2. Cooperative development of resources. This seems to be my favorite topic, and is the real reason we are having this panel today. Essentially what this means is that the members of the consortium assume specific subject assignments in their acquisitions policy, or that they consult on the purchase of costly materials, or that they purchase materials jointly. This is no easy objective to attain, given the wide geographical scatter of Middle East library holdings in North America. Before undertaking to build an area of specialization, each library would have to allocate sufficient resources to the core collection (this is a dangerous word--core collection!) of materials needed to support instructional programs, a difficult task because the library is only one component (and often not even that) in deciding what the academic goals of universities are. What can MELA do? We can begin inventorying North American collections to find areas of strength and gather together collection policy statements, as I mentioned before. We can analyze our programs, course offerings, faculty strengths and offer our library directors an assessment of our strengths, needs and future direction. We can begin convincing our colleagues in MESA that it is in their interests to involve their library specialists in the academic planning process, and to open channels of communication between faculty and library management through the intercession of the library specialist.

In summary, our goal needs to be a rational collecting policy for North America which meets all teaching and research needs and pools all resources for maximum effectiveness, and the type of cooperative activity which best promotes this goal is agreement on special collecting responsibilities. MELA can make the initial assessments of institutional strengths, and can survey the regional pattern of Middle Eastern holdings, so that additional regional arrangements can be made where it is geographically feasible either to share purchases or avoid duplication by prior consultation, or use these materials jointly.

If there is agreement here on pursuing further a consortium arrangement with the objectives we have identified, then I propose the following timetable. At our business meeting tomorrow, (Thursday 11-7-74) we should elect a 3-member committee which, by the time of our next workshop in May, will have:

- 1) identified potential consortium members;
- 2) made initial contact with them to generate their interest;
- 3) devised an evaluation form and solicited from interested libraries evaluations of their holdings, funding forecasts and descriptions of teaching programs (I have prepared one for Berkeley which can be used as a model);
- 4) begun to analyze regional patterns of holdings;
- 5) determined what kinds of formal arrangements can be made, and how these would fit into existing policies and cooperative arrangements of the larger units;
- 6) established contact with organizations, particularly MESA, government agencies and philanthropic bodies interested in the Middle East;
- 7) prepared a draft formal agreement.

The second phase would begin with our workshop in Ann Arbor next May. At that time we should determine the feasibility of establishing a consortium, and if it is found feasible:

- 1) determine if further study is needed and identify areas needing more exploration;
- 2) decide on the organizational structure, headquarters, leadership and potential membership;
- 3) adopt a formal statement of principles, organizational structure and bylaws;
- 4) empower a committee or the leadership to contact libraries and obtain formal commitments.

By November 1975 we should be ready to present our plan to MESA at a joint MELA/MESA meeting for that purpose, and subsequently finalize arrangements to be put into effect with the target date of January 1976.

I realize that this is an extremely optimistic target schedule. I also realize that the form of cooperation I have proposed could take place without formal arrangements, that is, by gentlemen's agreements rather than a consortium, but I feel that the stronger commitment of a consortium is the only way to force the issue of academic planning both on the local and national levels and will best serve the teaching and research needs of this and future generations of scholars.

Discussion: Cooper--Are there any questions or comments or discussions on the whole program that we've had this morning?

Atiyeh--I would like to comment a little bit about the union catalog. First of all I would like to describe the Union Catalog in the Near East Section of the Library of Congress. We have about 160,000 cards, I would say 90,000 of which are already filed, and about 70,000 are not filed. We have all the Persian, Turkish and Armenian material already filed. We have about 60,000 cards in Arabic filed, but the rest are not. I don't have anyone to work on the Union Catalog, and such a huge catalog really needs a person. I have been asking for a position for the last six years. Because the federal government is now reducing its force I have not been given this position.

Eilts--What we have done within MELA is in no way meant to be a replacement for what you have, which is the ultimate bibliographic tool. It's something to make do until we know that you can get organized. The greater task is yours to edit all of this information, which is no small task and will probably be a long-term project, and will take quite some amount of financing. If you're going to do it, I know you want to do it right.

Atiyeh--Exactly. I have contacted publishers to see if they would finance the project, but they thought it would cost too much. Eilts--I think that before something like this proposed auxiliary effort of MELA (?), the Library of Congress probably will not be able to do it. We will probably be able to bring in outside funding, and I'm sure the Library of Congress would not turn it down, if it came in sufficient quantities.

Atiyeh--Another area of cooperation also--I will start by describing our program--is that of microfilming newspapers. The Near East Section is microfilming about 55 titles in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Armenian on an annual basis. Of course we would like to keep doing that number. We would like other libraries also to take some of the burden. But now I understand it is difficult. We are ready to keep microfilming that number of newspapers. However, for one reason or another, we lack certain issues. I have been cooperating with Harvard and with Indiana and they have been very helpful in this respect .i.e., loaning of certain issues.. But I would like to call on other librarians to help me in this. We don't like to microfilm a newspaper unless we have a complete run of it, I mean a complete year, before sending it to be microfilmed. If anybody would like to cooperate with us in this area, I would be happy to discuss how we will do it.

Abazar Sepehri--I want to talk about Mr. Craig's comments on the Iranian publications. I think he omitted the government publications. I think I should draw some attention to government publications in Iran and some other countries in the Middle East, because they are not all really the kind of government documents we have here. They are maybe like trade publications, some of them at least, and for research without them I think it would be very difficult to do anything. So I would be interested in knowing the figures on government publications, and have a survey of them also.

Craig--Well, I didn't say that we shouldn't have them; I said it was difficult, given the statistics that we have to work with, to identify them. The statistics don't often make concrete distinctions between what we call trade books and things available outside the trade. Sepehri--One thing almost certain is that they are in great numbers compared to other publications. Maybe they count for half of the total figure, I would think.

End of morning panel discussion.

Cooperative bibliographic control

Panel and discussion, Margaret Anderson presiding

Introduction: Anderson--We heard this morning about problems of acquisitions, particularly with reference to the PL 480, and to some of the problems which exist in determining precisely the size, particularly, and the nature of the collections which are already in existence in North American libraries. The problems of bibliographic control, certainly, are familiar to librarians. How do you find out what exists and where it is? That is, how do you find out what materials are available, whether they have been published, or not been published, whether they are in monograph form, government documents, serials, or whatever they are? We were this morning put in possession of a proposal for a consortium of Middle East collections in--well--particularly the United States, but I would assume that, while it may not be planned to make Canada the 51st state, we will at least be invited to contribute to the consortium, in some fashion or other. Remember please, that we too have oil! We also have natural gas, and on occasion we have been known to part with hydro-electric power, reluctantly!

This afternoon's program will differ, perhaps, in nature from this morning's in two respects. First of all, it will not be a repetition of this morning; I suppose that is the most important respect! Secondly, it will be slightly more structured. There are three presentations. They are connected to the topic, and they are therefore connected to each other, but they are quite different in form. Martha Dukas of the Harvard Library will discuss the Harvard Serials Project, Professor Birnbaum of the University of Toronto's Department of Islamic Studies will discuss the problems of acquisition with respect to the bibliographic expertise or lack of it maintained by book dealers and publishers in the Near and Middle East, and Professor Pearson of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London will discuss "Universal Bibliographic Control," which he has chosen to interpret as "Total Bibliographic Control" with respect to Islamic studies. Now we noticed again this morning that Middle East collections should take two main forms or find two centers of focus, the traditional Islamic-Arabic language and literature focus that most of us librarians and bibliographers are used to, and also the more current social science-documents-government publications focus that has been made perhaps more important because of the events of the last five or six years. We will in the process of all three presentations this afternoon be addressing ourselves to both of these aspects in cooperation on bibliographic control. Now I'll let Martha begin with the first paper.

The Harvard Serials Project,

by Martha L. P. Dukas

Among the two and a half million volumes in Widener Library is a large and diverse collection of Middle Eastern serials--probably one of the best in North America--and we have embarked on a project to bring them under bibliographic control. The Serials Project is an attempt to recatalogue our Middle Eastern serials according to the recently-revised Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, to inventory our collection and construct accurate holdings records, and ultimately to publish a list of our holdings in a format that can be easily updated and might serve as a data base for a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials in this country. I hope that my description of this project today may help illustrate some of the problems that stand in the way of bibliographic control of the Middle Eastern serials in American libraries.

Furthering such bibliographic control is, of course, one of the professed aims of our Association. In my opinion, bibliographic control is the most important aspect of librarianship and the true underpinning of all cooperative activity. Until we know what we have, individually and collectively, we cannot divide acquisition or preservation responsibilities. Until we agree on standards and format, we cannot participate in shared cataloguing or listing projects. Even interlibrary loan--an activity taken for granted in the past but assuming increasing importance with the growth of networks--depends on good bibliographic control. As some members brought out in the discussion period at last year's meeting, we need to focus on cataloguing, in the 1970's, the kind of attention that was given to acquisitions in the 1960's. This shift in emphasis has already occurred at Harvard's Middle Eastern Department, and our Serials Project is a reflection of that change.

Serials have been important here because Widener Library has tried--at least until recently--to be a "library of record." Middle Eastern materials have been collected here since the 17th century, but the Middle Eastern Department has existed only since 1962. The first head of the Department, the late Labib Zuwiyya, was particularly interested in serials and actually began work on a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials, a project I shall refer to again later. After the onset of Mr. Zuwiyya's tragic illness, there was a certain amount of drift in the management of Arabic serials at Harvard: the quality of cataloguing declined, subscriptions were allowed to lapse, claiming practically ceased, and the important work of record-keeping and preparation for binding was left to inexperienced students. When David Partington became head of the Department in 1971, he recognized the neglected state into which our Arabic serials collection had fallen but decided to initiate a remedial project only after securing adequate support.

I was hired in 1972 with the simple instruction, "Do something about the serials mess!" Since that was only part of my job, ideas developed slowly. It gradually became clear that doing something about the serials mess would consist of five concurrent stages:

First, to develop a system, not just for the remedial work itself, but also for a permanent method of ordering, processing, claiming, and binding serials with competent staff.

Second, to identify the serial titles in our collection and conduct an inventory of our holdings--a task that is turning out to be much more difficult than we had first imagined.

Third, to carry out the remedial work itself, which consists of recataloguing, and in some cases reclassifying, older titles; cataloguing the backlog of new titles; constructing records; filling gaps; binding loose pieces; filming newspapers; and selling or discarding duplicates.

Fourth, to publicize our holdings by compiling a list for local use and possible sale to other institutions. We also anticipated participating in the national effort to construct a machine-readable serials data base and possibly a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials such as the one almost finished in England.

Fifth, to secure support for the Serials Project, and though I mention it last, it was actually the first stage accomplished.

Moral support was easy to come by. The sad state of our Arabic serials was easily demonstrated, and it was apparent that intelligent collection development, efficient processing, and future participation in cooperative ventures like the new Research Libraries Group (RLG) could not take place before our collection was set in order. New appointments in the higher levels of administration brought to Widener a group of librarians in favor of more standardization and a College Librarian who supported our request for budget increases at a time of general trimming. Over the last two fiscal years we were able to divide paraprofessional responsibilities and create two library assistant positions. Budget increases also enabled us to purchase additional equipment and double the number of visible files in our office. We decided against seeking outside support from the Council on Library Resources or similar groups because our Department had been understaffed and underequipped for some time and we felt it would be foolish to carry out our project unless the library were committed to maintaining good bibliographic control once the remedial work was over. Since we are dealing only with Arabic serials at present, the project staff consists of two people: a full-time library assistant and a part-time cataloguer. When we begin to include Armenian, Persian, Turkish, and Urdu, it will involve our whole Department. Alice Deyab, who has worked in the Department since 1964, was appointed Serials Assistant last July. She is here with me today to answer any questions you may have about our processing.

Returning now to the first stage of the project, I would like to point out that the system we developed was really a joint effort by David Partington, Alece Deyab, and me. We worked it out intermittently over a year and a half because none of us could devote full time to the project until very recently. Because we must work without transliterating, it is entirely manual and a flow chart has been made. In addition to charting a rational flow of work, it was necessary to design new forms and agree on standard symbols--little things that most of you can probably take for granted in your libraries. Some of our major objectives were to simplify yet improve record-keeping and to reduce the number of files. In the past, orders, claims, check-in sheets, binding titles, subscription renewals and payments, items sent to other library units, titles rejected, and volume counts were all listed in separate files for live serials; and most of this information did not exist for dead titles. These files are being replaced with one alphabetical file arranged by running title that lists all this information on an S-card. Different colored S-cards distinguish the live from the dead and items in microform have still another color. We decided to keep records for dead titles because so often partial runs come on the market or appear on exchange lists.

Once a system was worked out, we were able to begin the second stage of the project. To inventory our holdings we decided to proceed in shelflist order at the start, though new titles are to be processed as they come in. A peculiar feature of the Widener classification scheme is that Middle Eastern texts are grouped by language, and each language section has its own range

of numbers for periodicals. Unfortunately, not all serials have been classed in these ranges (which is why we don't yet know how many titles--much less volumes--we have) but the shelflist is as good a place as any to start. Ms. Deyab is checking our volumes fascicle by fascicle since the records which do exist are not accurate and some mistakes have occurred in binding. Another problem is the fact some titles were catalogued and classified two or even three different ways; through detective work we are pulling such titles together into one record. As old records are pulled, consolidated, and corrected, claims and purchase or exchange orders to fill gaps are sent and sets are bound, re-bound, or re-lettered uniformly as necessary. Duplicates are listed for sale or exchange. One of the first tasks was to sort through over sixteen cartons of unchecked serials; Ms. Deyab found many missing pieces and duplicates worth at least \$1800. In addition, a large number of newspapers were microfilmed here, while others were sent to the Center for Research Libraries or donated to the Library of Congress for its own filming program.

Concurrent with this work is the third stage of the project: recataloguing the collection according to the newly-revised AACR. We felt we had no choice because the inventory was turning up so many errors and most of the previous cataloguing had been in a non-standard style. Recataloguing presented two clusters of problems. First were those peculiar to our library. Because we must maintain a vernacular catalogue and employ Widener's own classification scheme and subject headings, most of the work has to be original cataloguing. Furthermore, Widener had not adhered to the AACR in cataloguing serials. We decided to unilaterally go ahead and switch to the standard style for our vernacular catalogue but make whatever western language cards were necessary for added title pages in the old format so we would not disturb the pattern of the western language catalogues. A few months after we started, however, the western serials cataloguing section decided to switch to AACR as of September 1, 1974, so it is no longer necessary to catalogue in this schizophrenic manner. Both vernacular and western card sets are now made in the standard format. The second cluster of problems concerned changes in the AACR themselves and in their application by the Library of Congress. I am referring first of all, to the 1971 decision to catalogue serial titles under successive entry, rather than latest or most enduring title; second, the cancellation of Rule 99 in May 1974, so that certain corporate bodies will now be entered under name instead of place; third, last summer's decision to record the title as it appears on the piece rather than just the generic word, in accordance with the deletion of Rule 162B; and finally, LC's decision to abandon superimposition for corporate bodies as of September 6, 1974. Widener has decided to adopt all of these changes, and our recatalogued serials will reflect the new style. These changes are, I believe, for the better. They actually are easier for both librarians and users and bring American practice closer to the new International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials (ISBDS). So far we have processed 135 titles in the manner described above and are enthusiastic about the switch.

All of this remedial activity, however, is not the main reason for our project. Our real goal is the fourth stage: to record the data so painfully acquired and produce a holdings list for the use of our own professors and students and possible use by other libraries as well. We could simply type up a holdings list, but that would not be easy to update. Serials just cannot be handled with the same static methods used for monographs; they require flexible records. Titles, frequencies, and formats change. Serials may

suspend publication, die, or be superseded or continued. Even dead serials cannot be safely interred: catalogue and holdings records must be altered whenever one fills gaps or converts pieces to microform. Flexible record-keeping led us to think of computers, and we decided that our serials list should be printed after our cataloguing and holdings data were recorded in the MARC Serials Format. Naturally, we cannot supply data for all the possible fields, but we felt that what we did gather should go into a standard format so that other librarians could add data or fill in the records without having to re-do our work. This evidently is the same conclusion reached by the Library of Congress. In the last few months we have received depository cards for a half dozen or so Arabic titles printed from data recorded in the MARC Serials Format. As far as I know, no other American libraries or cataloguing consortia such as OCLC are trying to encode data for Arabic serials in this format. Of the 22 fixed length data elements, we thought we could attempt to supply the following 15:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1-date entered on file | 9-physical medium designator |
| 2-publication status designator | 10-form of reproduction code |
| 3-beginning date of publication | 11-form of content (type of material and nature of contents) |
| 4-ending date of publication | 12-government publication designator |
| 5-country of publication code | 13-conference publication designator |
| 6-frequency | 14-language of the serial |
| 7-regularity | 15-modified record designator |
| 8-type of serial designator | |

Of the variable fields, we hope to supply another 15:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1-overseas acquisition number | 9-imprint |
| 2-local system number | 10-collation |
| 3-languages | 11-frequency |
| 4-main entry - personal name | 12-dates and volume designations |
| 5-main entry - corporate name | 13-general notes |
| 6-full title | 14-note for explanation of dates, volumes, etc. |
| 7-varying forms of title | 15-holdings |
| 8-former titles or title variations | |

I have coded a few titles on worksheets supplied by our Data Processing Division but regret that we have not yet produced a sample printout. It was our intention to have one ready by the end of the summer, but the systems librarian working on this project is also Harvard's representative on the RLG Serials Task Force and it was impossible for him to arrange a trial run before this meeting. I will continue to report on our progress because I believe that the data we are gathering in this format may be of use to all of us ultimately. Because of the size of our collection and the standardization of our records, our data base might form the nucleus of a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials in America.

To the best of my knowledge, the first effort to compile such a union list in this country was made by Mohamed El-Hadi in 1964. In Appendix IV of his doctoral dissertation, Arabic Library Resources in the United States, he attempted to supply a check-list of 236 "mid-twentieth century" Arabic periodicals held in 15 American libraries. The second such effort was Labib Zuwiyya's plan for a cooperatively-produced union catalogue of Middle

Eastern serials. Around 1966, he submitted to about 20 libraries a checklist of Harvard's Middle Eastern serials, against which they were to compare and add their holdings. In the Department's files we have found replies from 15 libraries and letters of encouragement from some librarians who are here today. Mr. Zuwiyya's fatal illness prevented him from completing this project and the information he gathered is now, of course, outdated. At the Ann Arbor workshop we ought to consider whether we need such a union list of Middle Eastern serials and, if we decide that we do, we ought to determine what it should cover and how it can be produced.

Our colleagues in Great Britain have made some progress in this direction. Paul Auchterlonie, who is Assistant Librarian for Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Lancaster, is editing a Union Catalogue of Arabic Periodicals in British Libraries. At my request, he sent a brief description of this project that I could share with you today. His description follows:

Soon after the formation of MELCOM, it became apparent that there was a serious lack of information regarding the distribution and location of Arabic periodicals in this country. Accordingly, the British Academy was asked to support the compilation of a Union Catalogue and it responded with a generous grant. At first, it was hoped to appoint an editor, who would visit the major libraries concerned, and compile the material himself. This scheme, however, proved impracticable and in 1973, the major academic and national libraries with Arabic collections were circulated and asked to compile lists of their periodical holdings to be collated by an overall editor.

The response to this appeal was most heartwarming, especially since the definition of Arabic periodical was extended to cover all serials written even partially in Arabic. Twenty-five libraries indicated their willingness to cooperate and most of their holdings (to date - Sept. 1974 - totalling approximately 650 titles) have already been edited...

The ultimate aim of the catalogue is to list, giving all locations, every periodical available in this country, which is written entirely in Arabic, and to give at least one location for all those written partly in Arabic...

To my knowledge, no such venture has yet been undertaken in Western Europe or North America, and it is therefore hoped that eventually this project will not only provide an important finding tool for all those interested in Arabic and Middle Eastern studies, but will also prove to be a useful reference work for professional bibliographers and librarians...

The final format of the Union List has still to be decided, but I do not think it will vary greatly from the sample sent herewith. Probable additions are dates of publication, dates of title change and name of founding or major editor where this is important. We will also be including a title index in Arabic script.

We have kept fairly close to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, but have changed them, where a different arrangement seemed more helpful...

Because of such divergences from standard practice... I doubt whether our end-product will be compatible with your MARC II records. Apart from our different layout, we have also been working on too low a budget to think of automation...

As you say, however, the British Library will be setting up its National Data Centre using MARC/MASS, the British variation of the MARC format, and it is not impossible that, given a favourable economic climate, a subsequent edition of our Union List could prove adaptable to international standards...

Mr. Auchterlonie reports that the British list will probably be published in mid-1976. We have not set a target date for publication of the Harvard list, but I doubt it could be ready before 1976 either.

I do hope that my report on the Harvard Serials Project and Mr. Auchterlonie's on the British Union List of Arabic Periodicals will stimulate some discussion today of MELA's possible contribution to the expansion of bibliographic control, particularly of serials. There is a lot we can do.

(Note: Harvard's list of duplicate Middle Eastern serials for sale can be checked over by anyone interested. Write to Alice Deyab, Middle East Department, Harvard College Library, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.)

Discussion: Cooper--What did you have in mind...?

Dukas--One of the things I am concerned about is whether this project would conflict with the one at Michigan for a union catalog; and it seems to me if it would we don't need two projects like this. I was proposing ours as a data base that we might all use for this. As far as an actual center for compiling a union list of Middle Eastern serials, I don't know how far Harvard could go in providing the staff for this kind of thing. At one point I believe David started negotiations with Mr. Atiyeh at LC about this, and I don't think we've gotten much further than the beginning stage of that. At one point it was thought that we might merge our list with LC's on holdings as a start.

I think these also are some of the kinds of things we have to be concerned about: in coding these serials, for example, I'm using the standard codes worked out at LC, and there are a few problems in the codes for languages and the codes for countries--Middle Eastern languages and Middle Eastern countries--where I think that MELA should try to act as some sort of advisory body for these kinds of things. I think these codes are being set up by people who maybe don't know much about these matters, and I was kind of concerned about that.

As far as an over-all project--and I think this is the kind of thing that does need to be worked out at Ann Arbor--I don't know, for example, whether MELA should ask for an outside grant for this, or whether one of our institutions, perhaps Harvard, should ask for a grant for this, or what, and I wanted today to try and get some discussion going on this.

Cooper (?)--Right now, Martha, there's not a capacity, even for the diacritics, on the letters--is that correct? Dukas--I'm not a computer person, but our systems librarian said that that's not a problem, that with photocomposition you can reproduce the standard LC transliteration of Arabic, with diacritic marks. John James--The ALA "Print-train" has provisions for diacritics, for all of the diacritics. We are using them in the general union list that we are producing at the University of Massachusetts, and it should be no problem.

McGowan--Did you say that Arabic titles have appeared on the MARC tape format? Dukas--Yes, we've had about a half-dozen or so depository cards that say at the lower right hand corner "MARC Serials." McGowan--Arabic language serials? Dukas--Yes. Anderson--Are the cards entirely in Arabic script? Dukas--No, they're the usual kind where the filing element is in transliteration, but then the rest is Arabic. Atiyeh--It must have gone in by mistake! Eilts--Then there's also some, for the Hebrew script. They've been slipping a few in every now and again, very quietly, without telling anybody. Dukas--I was wondering--do you know, Mr. Atiyeh, whether they've planned to do this? Atiyeh--Not in the serials program; I don't think they have done more than English and French now, and later on they will include German, Italian--later on other languages. As far as I know, they are only including English and French. Dukas--I was surprised when I saw them. Anderson--Would it be possible that these five or six, either the Arabic titles or the Hebrew titles, might also have English or French title pages, and have come in that way? Dukas--No, these weren't; it wasn't that. Martin Davis--The same thing happened with Bulgarian. We were told at the technical processing (?) librarians meeting Saturday that they appeared on the tapes in romanization, although the Library of Congress was producing the cards in Cyrillic and Roman alphabets. Eilts--There is a statement, from John Rather at the Library of Congress saying that by 1979 everything should be on MARC including all non-Roman script materials. Fawzi Khoury--Before I left Seattle I met a Mrs. Henriette D., Avram Chief MARC Development Office, from the Library of Congress and she gave me (?), the idea of about ten years or even more before (?), they start touching non-Roman alphabets.

Anderson--I don't think that I will quite repeat Richard's exercise of this morning and ask how many of the selectors would like to see the Harvard Serials List before 1976, but I think most certainly that the beginnings of a union serials list and eventually the expansion of the Harvard base into as much of a total union serials list as it is possible to achieve in North America is something that both the Middle East librarians and probably many of the librarians in other area study programs are also looking forward to. It might be interesting to speculate once you have prepared the list of titles, how long will it take before we can arrive at access to the contents as well?

Cooper (?)--Could I ask a clarification of one thing? I was going to ask whether the Michigan project, the union list, that is, that MELA has produced, and the Harvard list is going to overlap? Could I ask John if the serials are now included in that union catalog? Eilts--Yes. It's not necessarily holdings though, as much as cataloging information, which was the primary intent of the starting of the thing. Anderson--The difference would be, in the case of the Michigan project, that you would list serials with bibliographic entry and probably the date at which publication began, but not necessarily an indication of whether the material was held from the beginning or from some part of the intervening period. Eilts--That's not our intention, anyway, at this point, because that means a lot of updating and... Tape

changes...reproducing them and sending them back to participants and other interested parties, just to get the information around as to who has what, and perhaps to cut out some of the duplication. As you can see on the sample I have on the microfiche reader, you'll see that three libraries have cataloged the same thing, and this happens a lot. We're duplicating each other's efforts, and the primary purpose of this project was solely to cut out this duplication. It was not meant to be anything like a National Union Catalog; it can't be. It's unedited; it's to take very little time, to try to keep the costs down, to get the information around. And we welcome suggestions on that.

The reason I brought microfiche--I couldn't get copies of it made in a hurry, and I just have the negative there--we're trying microfiche as some libraries indicated that this would be easier for them to reproduce printable copy from a fiche than it would from the first sample we sent around that was printed. The printed sheet was a 67 percent reduction; or the reduction was 67 percent of normal size. And it made it a little bit difficult to read some of the typescript on the typewritten cards. With microfiche, this can be blown back to larger than regular size if necessary, whatever size you happen to need, and we want to get comments on this. It's also cheaper to produce. We can produce many more copies, and our money will go a little bit farther on it; it is, at about .4 of a cent per card, we figure, whereas it was about a penny a card for the printed format.

Cooper--I would like to make a comment, and perhaps partially answer Martha's question, pointing out that the Harvard project as it looks now, is something which can be continually manipulated; whereas unless we make some provision to cumulate this union list that we've started, we're going to end up with something that is going to be like the PL 480 Accessions List. We have to have some date as a handle to know where to look, and you're still going to be looking, as years go on, at a number of cumulations--or rather a number of issues, hoping that you're going to find catalog copy, so it does seem that we need both. Eilts--Definitely, on that! Actually another reason for microfiche format is that it's cheaper to get out a cumulation again--refiling the cards, throwing away the old ones and coming out with new ones.

Atiyeh--At the Library of Congress we have a serial record for Arabic in the Near East Section, for Arabic, Persian and Armenian. We don't have one for Turkish because it's in Roman letters, and it's kept in the Serial Record Division. Our visible file contains all our holdings in serials, but I would say about 1000 titles are not cataloged. We have plans to put all these titles with the basic information on IBM cards. We are working on that plan. So we would give a printout, let us say, on subjects or areas or record date (?), listed very, very easily, but this would take some time. Dukas--You see there are important things we can't contribute--like LC call numbers or subject headings because we don't use them. And so, when this or that one becomes a list, we would have to have input from LC.

Anderson--We will move on to the next paper...The problem that Professor Birnbaum is going to address himself to in a moment is the problem primarily of acquisition of non-Egyptian materials in the Middle East. The problem of acquisition of such materials of course is two-fold: first of all, all of us regardless of our library situation are facing budget cuts, and we are discussing and have been discussing among ourselves,

and will be discussing again at the workshop in May the notion of perhaps regional or area development in collections. But the problem is that one cannot select materials properly in the best professional librarian fashion unless one knows what the field of publication is. One needs up-to-date national and trade bibliographies. One has in our discipline problems enough getting up-to-date bibliographies and catalogs in North America and Western Europe. The problem in the Near and Middle East for many of us has been to find bookdealers who can supply us with lists which reflect current publication, if they don't encompass its totality, and which also reflect current availability. Professor Birnbaum has some suggestions with regard to these problems.

Training Middle Eastern booksellers to service North American libraries,
by Eleazar Birnbaum

Well, the problems are manifold. Many of them apply across the board to more than (?). Middle Eastern booksellers and the book publishing industry I have seen from North American contacts. Some of them have regional variations. I shall run through the more obvious ones of these just to refresh your memories, and will then go on to say something about palliatives that presently are in use, ways in which we try to get around these problems or make them less acute, and then I'll come finally to some suggestions on how to solve, at least to a much greater extent than is being done now, the difficulties which arise from the fact that the Middle Eastern booksellers are not on the same wave-length as their North American customers.

A. Problems--General. To take the general problems first, obviously booksellers in the Middle East are with very rare exceptions not geared to give the service which North American--Western--libraries take for granted. One of the reasons is perhaps, certainly as it is viewed from the Middle East, the over-organization of North American libraries. We have in most cases a whole series of departments which deal with a single title between first searching for selection down to the final processing and shelving. There is, the fact that these departments are staffed most of the way along the line by people who are ignorant of the languages, scripts, local traditions and conventions of the Middle East. There is, the fact that the Middle East book trade is little organized or coordinated, even within each country, still less on a regional basis. Then there is the problem of the inadequacy or in many cases the total lack of bibliographical tools which we in other spheres would take for granted. There are in some of these countries national bibliographies or things that approximate to them, but in nearly every case they are running years behind and they are very often incomplete in coverage. For some reason, the national library or whoever is doing the national bibliography just doesn't get anything like all the things that are being published, especially if they are being published outside the capital, or by smaller publishers.

A further problem, the transliteration (one of my pet themes as some of you know) by Middle Eastern booksellers into Latin script is often wild and uncoordinated, and doesn't conform to anything in particular. The receiving libraries need somebody to translate them back into the original script, Arabic, Hebrew or Persian, which will then provide a base to start searching. There is, the fact that title rather than author entry is more the rule than the exception, which is contrary to what most of our libraries do. A further

very big problem is the inconsistency of the forms of authors' names. I'm not talking now about the transliteration, but which element of a four or five part or even two or three part name should be used as the entry word even if you have agreed on what transliteration you're going to use. Middle East booklists diverge widely on that.

Another thing that we constantly run into is the failure by booksellers to keep proper records, and when we come to serials this becomes even more striking. We may find some difficulty ourselves in deciding what serials are; certainly our would-be suppliers can't fail to be astonished at the different terms we use--monograph series, multi-volume works published in sequence, etc.--all variations of the serial idea. We can't expect them by some form of osmosis to know what to report! There is much more often than not a failure to have any consistent way of reporting further numbers of serials and series and so on, to Western libraries that want the information.

In general I've found that perhaps the biggest problem when you're dealing with non-current books in the Middle East is to get booksellers to be willing to search. Some of it can be put down to pure laziness. Also, I don't know whether we give enough weight to the fact that there are massive problems of getting books out of the Middle East in many cases--the question of licenses, in some countries the need to bribe officials even to do their jobs when there is no question of a license. You can pay people, something which has to be put down as "service charges," just so they won't "bug you" in the post office. A further complication is the slow payment by the bureaucracies which are all-powerful in our North American library administrations, and this discourages booksellers from bothering to export if they have to wait for months and months to get their payment. They also have the difficulty in many cases when they've finally got their check of getting their local finance ministries to put through the checks in the form of local currency. In some countries there has been quite a lot of theft of checks on the way.

There is a lack of any definition in many cases between what is a publisher and what is a bookseller. Very often a bookseller-come-publisher will publish a catalog which contains not only his own publications but very often other people's publications which he thinks or thought he could have access to, and then when you want some titles he doesn't come up with them. A major lack in the Middle East book trade is the absence of any real jobbers in the North American or European sense. Everybody is a jobber, and therefore everybody is inefficient. In the nineteenth century Irish novel Handy Andy by Samuel Lover, the local squire interviews young Andy for work: "What can you do, my boy?" Andy: "Anything, your honour!" Squire: "Anything? 'Anything' means nothing!"

Government publications are usually outside the book trade, and this means that it is very difficult for anybody to get a complete set of these even if you try to set up your own arrangements by going to ministries and public bodies. It's not worth anybody's while to go and collect them so far, and anything you see in bookshops is a spotty, accidental selection. Books published outside the capital or one or two very big cities are almost always very poorly covered in the book trade, although they may often be of great research importance.

I think we are often hamstrung in our dealing with Middle Eastern booksellers by our insistence on the use of North American library forms and terminology. We mentioned before the difficulty between serials and

series. Most people just are not aware, even in the book trade, if they haven't been educated in a western library school, of things like monograph series, periodicals, search, formal orders, pro forma invoices, reports and others--e.g., RQ's and MOF's, perhaps informally used initialisms that could not be deciphered by the Editor and local colleagues from handbooks. They get lost and rightly so. I've seen a number of booksellers which I visited in the Middle East who have piles of letters from American libraries, and they say, "Please translate this." They've got a dictionary but they can't make sense of it. All these things don't correspond with Middle East concepts of general business terminology, and we have to take it seriously.

We are worried often by haphazard local invoicing procedures. A man who will be perfectly willing to sell you a whole box of books when you come in to his bookstore, won't want to go to all the paperwork for you if he sees that is the only way he is going to be paid. Further, the fact that things are so inadequate means that libraries on this continent tend to have too much of their funds tied up in abortive orders. There are various schemes that have been devised to try to get rid of this, self-canceling orders which are not really canceled, and so on.

B. Problems--Regional. On the regional level we have a different situation in each place. All these general points that I was making don't apply with equal force to all places. We shall glance at the local situation in various places. Material following is the author's summary outline.

1. Arab lands: a) Egypt--PL 480 lists from Cairo omit many books, even when published in Cairo, and a high proportion of others published elsewhere.

b) Beirut--The best centre in the Arab world, but incomplete, especially in Egyptian publications, and also in many publications from other places, above all official publications.

c) North Africa--(Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya) No central place for acquisition. Paris and Beirut often serve as distribution points.

d) Iraq--Mainly from Muthanna in Baghdad, and from Najaf for Shi'ite material. Always incomplete. Poor follow-up. Some obtainable from Beirut.

e) Syria, Arabian Peninsula, Sudan--Erratic, but best access is via Beirut.

2. Israel: Established booksellers provide reasonable service, and often follow Western procedures, to service North American libraries. Follow-up sometimes sloppy, but OK on the whole.

3. Iran: Plenty of problems--a) TEBROC/IRANDOC seems to be having difficulty implementing its ambitious centralized plans. b) Certain of the older firms, all at different times more or less methodical and business-like have become inefficient and careless with refusal to follow up. c) The best organized firm at present, still is often slow, and certainly incomplete. d) Another dealer is reasonably efficient for the narrow range of traditional Shi'ite religious material which he sells. e) Azeri language publications never appear in catalogues, although a few are available erratically in Tehran bookshops. More can be found in Tabriz, where most are published. But no central effort. f) Bibliographical publications: Rahnama-yi Kitab and Kitabha-yi Iran are doing a fair job, but it is partial and incomplete in coverage and lacks indexing. Much is out of print by the time the notices in these periodicals are printed. (TEBROC's Books catalogued has been very much behind, sometimes years, is very incomplete and is apparently foundering.

4. Turkey: a) National bibliography, Türkiye bibliyografyası, regular but years late; fairly decent coverage in most areas. b) Yeni Yayınlar, not bad but spotty. c) "One of the dealers, has been busy with western libraries and is the best organized for modern and recent; even does DSO (Dealer selection orders) and has a useful catalogue of recent works once a year. But government and regional publications very inadequately given. Expensive service charges are noted."

5. Afghanistan: Dead loss. Several bookshops, but small stock and doubtful efficiency. Perhaps one could enlist help of director of German Archaeological Institute in Kabul, who gets books for (e.g.) American Institute of Iranian Studies in Tehran on an exchange basis. Also perhaps via University of Kabul Library.

C. Palliatives presently in use:

1. Via European dealers like Harrassowitz, Steiner, Rohmer and Thornton. Expensive, often no better than one's own library can do itself, except that it adds a link to the chain, and is therefore perhaps worse.

2. Private correspondence network with Middle East dealers, by librarian preceding the placing of formal orders. Often doubtful legally, but achieves some results.

3. Exchange schemes with Middle East institutions/libraries. Inefficient, very spotty. Only as a last resort.

D. Suggested solution to problems of library acquisitions from the Middle East,

1. Bookseller training.

Now I've spent most of my time telling you what the problem is; you all knew some or all of these things. What do we do about it? I think we are used to the idea of libraries in the West translating budding librarians from the various Middle East countries. People are sent to library school here, and go through a standard MALS course. My suggestion is that we should not merely do this, train librarians. We must give thought to training booksellers, Middle Easterners who wish to set up in a bookselling career, but who are willing to be trained in the West in the methods which will make them able to service North American libraries. It's rather unlikely that North American libraries, if we judge by past performance, are going to change their cumbersome methods to suit the local Middle Eastern trade. So, we have to think about it the other way around. I'm suggesting that a group like MELA could sponsor the training of a few selected young Middle Easterners as booksellers catering especially to the foreign trade. And I'm sure that apart from any money they make, any way in which they ease the lives of librarians here, they'd also, when they went back, liven up the local domestic trade by changes in method... and in general by putting on a rational basis many of the practices which have been going on for a long time unchecked.

In the West, this kind of thing is not uncommon. For example, some years ago I visited the Kraus firm in Liechtenstein, and there I met the son-in-law of Mr. Kraus, who was a Harvard graduate if I remember rightly, and who was being trained by academic courses as well as in practice and by service in one or two big American libraries to "know how the thing works." In his case of course there was no question of the money involved or incentive; it was done by the man himself. The sons of booksellers become booksellers in Europe in some degree as a matter of course, and they will learn the trade from the bottom up. They will go through library schools, but

with their family bookselling interests in mind, and it makes possible a marriage of the needs of bookseller and the needs of librarian.

Some of you will probably know a young man named Mohammed Sulaiman who's now in business in Beirut, a bookseller. I regard his case as something illustrative of the thing I am advocating, except that he did it himself. He was taking some degree, I've forgotten in what--political science or something--at the University of Michigan, when I got to know him. He came for a part-time job typing Arabic catalog cards at the University of Michigan library. After that he got so interested in library things that he went off to library school, and when he finished that he got a job at the American University of Beirut as a librarian. And, "moon-lighting," he began to supply books that I particularly wanted for the University of Michigan, and then later on he began making his own lists. Other libraries got to know this in the United States and elsewhere, and gradually he built a good clientele, and he has given up being a librarian at the American University of Beirut and is now a full-time bookseller.

Now, I tell this story because, essentially he has proved something, a contention that I hold that if somebody operates in the way that American libraries find convenient, American libraries will patronize them, and there is much to be gained on both sides. All the procedures are geared to his market, and he knows it from the inside. The results of this I hope can be used as a paradigm--as a model--for others. He sends out regular lists selected to meet known academic requirements. Entries conform to LC essentially. He is prompt and knowledgeable, and keeps accurate files; and the keeping of accurate files is a boon.

It doesn't always work out that way however. Other cases cited..

2. Bookseller training course requirements.

Finally I come to what should be the requirements for the trainees that MELA might sponsor. It seems to me that they should include, a good liberal arts education, with specialist qualification in the local classical language and in local history, the Arabic or Persian wherever it is, and a stay perhaps of two years in North America in which the person would take courses in Middle Eastern history and literature, but in a North American academic context. I think that it is very important for the requirements to be understood from the context. They will appreciate it in a way which cannot be if they have been only an experience in the Middle East.

After that I suggest, a period in library school taking selected courses, but not necessarily those leading to a degree, followed by a period of in-service training in one or two major North American university libraries, with a short service in several key departments such as acquisitions with spells in searching, selection, ordering, and so on, and a period in technical services and serials. And the final stages would be apprenticeship to a middle-sized North American academic bookseller, so that all these theories can be seen to work in practice.

3. Financing and funding.

Now there is only one little problem left after all these things have been achieved and accomplished, and that is where the money is coming from. Of course, Oh I'm sure that a lot of people in this room have...access to lots of money, or if they haven't, to people who have! Now there are the foundations, AID, and the oil shaykhs--I think there are subventions that might be made. The necessary money could quite easily be gotten from oil shaykhs, or possibly Persian oil companies and American oil companies doing business with the Middle East governments; or a Head of State, can I think be persuaded if one gets the right intermediary.

So, in brief, I'm putting forward the suggestion that beginning on a small scale with three or four people, we develop a series of alternatives to the book trade, who will then become part of the book trade.

Discussion: Anderson--When he was describing his paper to me in Toronto Professor Birnbaum, began on a smaller scale than that. He was willing to start with two, and I see that the number has been raised now to three or four. Short intermission taken. Dr. Atiyeh just informed some of us--me by accident and other people deliberately--that he has a very, very reliable bookdealer--a cook-book dealer--in Afghanistan. Now he did not say anything about any of the other places where Professor Birnbaum said bookdealers were not as reliable as one might like, but in Afghanistan Dr. Atiyeh can provide you with information as to a bookdealer who is good. Now without wishing to downgrade Professor Birnbaum's suggestion on the training of prospective Middle Eastern bookdealers in North American universities and library schools, you may be interested in knowing that the October 28th (1974) issue of the Library Journal/SLJ Hot Line ...indicates that a baccalaureate library degree will be offered in Iran along with the master's degree that is already being offered at the University of Teheran. In Lebanon, there is projected, at the urgence of the Lebanese Library Association, a degree course at the Lebanese University, although this is not yet in operation, and it is also projected that a School of Information and Library Science will be opened in Morocco. Now, given that funding is a problem, and that bibliographic control of Middle Eastern materials is a problem, because bibliographies tend not to be up-to-date and that even trade bibliographies tend not to reflect the current picture as accurately as we might like, organizations like MELA, and MELA perhaps in particular, might concern themselves over time with the possibility of urging some of these Middle Eastern or North African library schools to open courses for book dealers in the bibliographic methods and procedures required by North American libraries, which do spend a considerable amount of money there. Possibly MELA members, some few of them, might be interested in eventually arranging for the presentation of such courses in such schools. Whether this would be feasible in the near future is not perhaps too likely, but it is an aspect of our long-range planning that some of us or all of us might want to consider.

Cooper--I can think of other ideal solutions that I think are important to libraries--writing textbooks, if anyone can produce them. The fact is we don't have that kind of funding, and it doesn't look as if it is going to be around for awhile. And looking at the reality, and looking at what we need immediately, really the situation in the book market hasn't changed since Professor Pearson described it in Oriental and Asian Bibliography London, 1966. And I believe that he also published a list of dealers. I think the problem is we don't have any kind of trade journal that gives us intelligence about what is going on in the Middle Eastern book market. Communication consists of coming to these meetings, and after the first drink we confidentially ask across the table, "By the way, who's your blanket order dealer in such and such?" I would like to suggest that you, Professor Birnbaum, submit to our Editor... a list of dealers and your experiences with them, and that we have this as an ongoing kind of feature in the MELA Notes where we can contribute notes about our experiences with book dealers and what we find out on trips to the Middle East and so on.

Birnbaum--I might comment on that. I think that is a palliative that helps the situation just for the time being. But I have been dealing with this kind of palliative now for twenty-two years, and I think the "band-aid" approach is fine when we haven't got anything else, but I'd like to see something beyond that. There is a hadith, which never existed except in the West, which says that the mountain won't come to Muhammad; Muhammad must go to the mountain. Well, I think that this does apply here; and while it can make life a little easier to know that somebody or other is better than somebody else in this or that, and another man is good for something else, the general problem still remains; we are merely tinkering with it. And while I think tinkering is wonderful, I much prefer to have something more radical now, because I and many others have been tinkering long enough.

Atiyeh--I agree with many of the points that you have raised. But I don't really present a picture as bleak as the one you just gave us. There are many problems, but also there are many bright spots lately. For example, I think you should have mentioned the fact that in Egypt they are publishing a list of books in print, for the last two years. With the Iranians for example, the Iranian Book Publishers Association is publishing a trade list which also has come for two years now. Birnbaum--It is incomplete.

Atiyeh--Yes, I agree with you, the picture is bleak, but it is not that bleak. In Beirut you have many bookstores, like al-Thaqafah. If you take the trade list of al-Thaqafah, you get the general idea. It's not complete, I agree with you completely on this, but really it provides you with a general view of what's being published in most of the Arab countries except in North Africa. In North Africa, except for the Algerian bibliography, it's very hard to know what's coming out there. But you have besides, for example, Librairie Orientale in Beirut, it puts out lists for the Catholic Press publications and some of the Lebanese universities publications. You have also Librairie du Liban, also they put out good book lists, mostly of their publications. I mean from these together, if you take them together, you might be able to get a fairly good picture of what's going on in the Arab world. Certainly Sulaiman's list is, comparatively speaking, very good because he gives you publications not only in Lebanon but in Syria and in Saudi Arabia, in Libya, and in Iraq. I would say his lists of Lebanese, Syrian, and Libyan publications are fairly good. For the commercial transactions, it's a different question.

Pearson--I wanted to say something about Professor Birnbaum's paper. And while I accept what George has said, I think that there's a distinction to be drawn between the experience of the big national libraries and between other libraries. Because the authorities in what used to be called the British Museum Library were always convinced that they had the answer to this problem, and they didn't have any difficulties. And one gathers too that the Library of Congress has no problems about getting books from the Middle East. And I think this is true. These are famous institutions, they are national libraries; everybody's heard of them. It's much more difficult for the "University of West Wyoming" or the "University College of Mid-Wales" to get books from these places. And I don't know why this is; booksellers have heard of them. I think too, that it's perhaps because they LC et al. haven't got an academic constituency pushing them all the time to get books, whereas all of us who work in universities do have this. But I've heard much the same sort of thing said at MELCOM meetings by representatives from the British Museum. I think that their problems are not like ours.

I think there's another possibility that would be worthy of investigation for getting better service from Middle Eastern booksellers. In African studies the problems are very much the same; if anything they are rather worse, than getting books from the Middle East. In African studies there is a gentleman who lives in either Massachusetts or Connecticut, or perhaps in New York State, I've forgotten his name I'm afraid, and he set up in business as a supplier of books from Africa. And in Chad and Gabon, the Central African Republic, there aren't any booksellers anyway; I'm not sure there are any books! This man has built up a wonderful service whereby he uses the wives of American diplomats and other agents to look around for the sake of earning a bit of pin money, and buy up these books, and send them to him. And he's built up a wonderful network. As I understand it, you give him your profile, I believe it's called, of the sort of books that you want, and he gets them for you, sends them to you. And if you don't like them you can send them back; moreover, you don't have to pay for them if you don't want them. Well, I wonder if it isn't worthwhile investigating doing that sort of thing in the Near and Middle East, if he shouldn't be contacted, invited to give his experience, and to say whether he could do the same sort of thing in those parts of the Middle East where there isn't any Public Law 480 service. What do you think?

Birnbaum--Well, on that, Jim, I think the idea has its immediate attractions, particularly of course providing pin money for these unfortunate ladies! But on the more practical level, I think we are faced by a difference in degree. There is a question of alphabets; there is a question of a kind of intensive coverage which makes it far less practical. If you have a little town where you have a diplomat and there are 20 or 30 books being published, that's new books, it may be practical. Where you have hundreds of titles involved you need a training period to select or even to know the difference between one and the other. It seems that we need more than an accidental presence for possibly a short time if we're to get any real mileage out of it.

Fawzi Tadros--There is an article by Mohammed Aman in the CRL concerning the bibliographic trade in the Arab countries. Birnbaum--Yes, it is rather out of date by now. Tadros--1970. Birnbaum--Yes, I remember the article, but I still think the problems are not greatly eased. The bright light is still Sulaiman. My ideal is to have a Sulaiman in each place; not Sulaiman, another person, but doing approximately similarly. And if only I could think of a method other than the complicated scheme I've suggested! If I might be allowed this very final comment, the reason I'm suggesting it should be a bookseller who's going to make money on it is that it seems to me that realities of human nature are such that if a man is liable to earn money on it he'll put his heart into it. If he's merely going to be a public official attached to some state institution, or let's say national library, he will tend to be much less diligent and push himself much less, where he's on a 9 to 5 basis. Where it's his job, and his earnings are in direct relation to his effort we may get a good coverage.

Anderson--And now we'll go on to our final paper. Professor Pearson's paper is titled "Toward total bibliographic control of Islamic studies," and if he can show us the way to proceed in that direction we may have taken care of some of the problems that Professor Birnbaum has encountered as he chases book dealers across the Middle East.

Towards Total Bibliographic Control of Islamic Studies,

by J. D. Pearson

Universal bibliographic control. I'd like to say a few words first on Universal bibliographic control. I first heard of this some time last year when for the IFLA Conference in Grenoble, 1973, I was invited to contribute a paper on "Universal bibliographic control of Asian and African publications." Not knowing quite what that meant I had reference to an article in the UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries (XXV, no. 5 (Sept.-Oct. 1971) item no. 329, pp. 252-59) where F. G. Kaltwasser had discussed "Universal bibliographic control (UBC)" in three aspects - sources of bibliographical data, problems of standardization to achieve compatibility of bibliographical data, and problems of organization. He defined UBC succinctly as "the provision of information on books as quickly and accurately as possible, in the country of origin by the national bibliographies, to be made available in machine-readable form."

The problems requiring solution seemed to me to be astronomical. The multiplicity of scripts other than the Roman would entail world agreement on transliteration; the non-existence of national bibliographies in many under-developed countries and the lack of facilities for producing compatible machine-readable data would all need to be tackled. Sumner Spalding's declaration that by 1979 MARC tapes will be available for books in all languages seems to me to stem from an incurable optimism.

But I was not able to go to Grenoble - my paper was read by someone else - and I have no knowledge of what went on there or of developments since. In fact, it is not UBC that this paper is concerned with, but TBC - total bibliographic control - of Islamic studies in a broad sense, a topic to which I have devoted much thought since my translation from librarian to professor, when I have been engaged largely on two particular projects, which for short might be labelled 'Besterman' and 'Gabrieli'. And while these are not entirely relevant to this afternoon's paper I thought I would like to tell you about these particular projects because they do, especially the Gabrieli one, illustrate a form of cooperation between librarians and others that you might like to consider.

Besterman. Theodore Besterman's World Bibliography of Bibliographies in its fourth edition, published in 1965-6 and reprinted in 1971, contains a staggering total of 117,187 "separately collated volumes of bibliography" in some forty languages and dialects, classified under 15,829 headings and sub-headings. And I think every librarian is convinced of the usefulness of this magnificent work. Happily, Besterman is still with us, and I think he may well claim the title of the greatest bibliographer in our day. It is unlikely that any individual person will bring out a fifth edition (Besterman himself certainly has no intention of doing so), but in 1972 the myriads of entries were rearranged in broad subject divisions, in a series of compact volumes entitled "The Besterman world bibliographies" and issued by Rowman and Littlefield of Totowa, New Jersey.

On hearing of the intention to do this, I offered to pick out the entries for Asia and Africa to be published in similar volumes, but the publisher invited me to bring up to date the Besterman entries for these two continents. After a great deal of travail and travel, lists of bibliographies published...from Leon Pinelo's oriental bibliography in 1629 'Leon Pinelo, Antonio Rodriguez de. Epitome de la biblioteca oriental i occidental, nautica i geografica. Madrid, 1629. up to the end of 1973

and relating to Asia, Africa and Oceania have been completed and are now with the printer.

Of Besterman's 117,187 volumes of bibliography, 2,987 titles related to Asia and Oceania and 653 to Africa. To these I have added details of almost as many works again (1,013 for Africa and 2,267 for Asia). So that would seem to point to the fact that since 1963 as many bibliographies on Asia and Africa were published as were between, well, 1456 and 1963. And I have modified some 150 of Besterman's bibliographies, bringing up-to-date those stated to be in progress.

For the Near and Middle East, Besterman noted 1,126 bibliographies (divided roughly equally in three parts, one Ancient and Pre-Islamic, another Arab, and a third Iranian, Turkish and Central Asian); to these I have added 806, so that what I'm going to call the West Asia section of the new volume will contain slightly under 2,000 titles. I'm rather inclined to think that we should give up the name "Near East" or "Middle East" because to a lot of people it isn't the Near and Middle East. If you're in Australia it's nonsense to call it Near East when you mean the Arab world, Iran and Turkey. So I'm going to call it West Asia from now on. (But I don't suggest that you start calling yourselves WALA! That's already been preempted for the West African Library Association.)

Gabrieli. The Manuale di bibliografia musulmana by Giuseppe Gabrieli, v. 1 published in Rome, 1916, has been my Bible for longer than I care to remember. Since 1961, when I first started to give courses in Islamic bibliography, I have cherished the ambition of bringing Gabrieli's work up-to-date, completing it (because the first volume only was ever published), and publishing it in English (and perhaps getting someone to translate it into Arabic as well). One of my earliest students, Ahmad 'Abd al-Halim, a Sudanese, compiled as an exercise for the Diploma in Librarianship a bibliography of Arab Islamic bibliographies which was awarded the prize for the best bibliography of the year. (Ahmad is now I think President of the House or Houses of Parliament of the Sudan. He was formerly Secretary of the Sudanese Socialist Party, so he is away and out the most distinguished student I ever had, though I don't claim that his early training in Islamic bibliography had any effect on his political advancement.)

Well, we have now revised Gabrieli and it's been brought up-to-date, and it was done by the various members of MELCOM, many of whom agreed to contribute a new chapter or part of a new chapter. These contributions were then presented and discussed at a series of seminars held by MELCOM, and the authors of the various chapters then revised them in the light of the discussions. The seminars were, without exception, interesting and profitable, and demonstrated how reference books may be compiled by a group of interested persons. In this re-incarnation, Gabrieli is now well on the way to the printer.

The number of bibliographies included in it is 830, a number which does not take account of lists of periodicals, reference books other than bibliographies, catalogues of manuscripts and catalogues of library collections which appear in other sections of the work. Unlike Besterman, however, the new Gabrieli will include bibliographies which form part of other works, and also bibliographies published in Oriental languages, which Besterman reasonably enough had to leave out.

Total Bibliography. So as I have said, the phrase "universal bibliography" having been pre-empted for a different process, I have decided to call this thing that I am interested in "total bibliography." That may be defined as

the complete bibliography of everything ever printed and published, about Islam, from the invention of printing until our day. The bibliography of this literature may be conveniently divided into a dichotomy of separately-published or independent works, which are habitually entered into the catalogues of all great libraries, and dependent works forming part of another publication, be it a periodical, a Festschrift, proceedings of a conference, symposium or volume of essays, which do not normally get analytical treatment by our cataloguers.

Each of these categories may be further sub-divided into works in Western languages and works in the languages of the Middle East. All of these latter may, with reason, be left to cataloguers, librarians and bibliographers in the countries concerned, who will, it is hoped, provide in due course continuations of Sarkis for Arabic, Khānbāba Moshār for Persian, and so on. I am informed that a continuation of Sarkis for 1926-1940 has indeed been published already, by 'Aida Nusayr, (but it seems this is only for books published in Egypt) and a further one for 1941-1955 is under preparation at the American University of Cairo.

For dependent literature in Persian, we already have an Index Iranicus. An Index Arabicus, cataloguing the total contents of 50 Arabic periodicals and compiled at various reprises in SOAS, has been taken over by MELCOM and is now with the printer in Beirut. Substantial progress, I am told has been made with an Index Turcicus. Surely somewhere in Israel, an Index Hebraicus must be in progress.

How many books? "How many books have been published on Islam since the invention of printing?" is the question which I ask myself, and this I think can fairly easily be computed. Schnurrer Schnurrer, Christian F. von. Bibliotheca arabica. Amsterdam, 1968 reprint. and Chauvin. Chauvin, Victor C. Bibliographie des ouvrages arabes ou relatifs aux Arabes publiés dans l'Europe chrétienne de 1810 à 1885. 12 pts. Liege, 1892-1932. Listed some 10,000 titles published up to 1886; these, or course, related only to the Arabs or were about the Arabic language. From 1887 to 1911 an annual average of some 200 books on Islam was recorded in the Orientalische Bibliographie, which I think we may safely take as a reasonable guide for the production of that time. After 1911, the best figures are obtainable from the "Kritische Bibliographie" published by Der Islam for 1913-33, and Abstracta Islamica has flourished since 1927. Books in English on Islam published in two decades of the twentieth century were listed by two Sudanese students in exercises performed for the Diploma in Librarianship in the University of London.

Thus we may, perhaps, compute our total figure on the basis of 250 a year for 1911-45 and 300 a year for the period since the end of the Second World War. This makes a total of 26,250 as shown below.

To 1886	5000 (Iranian, Turkish etc. only)
1887-1911	5000
1911-1945	8750
1946-1974	7500
	<u>26250</u>

•To 1886 ?+ 10000 Would not Schnurrer's and Chauvin's 10000 titles on Arabic civilization only be added also? Ed. query.

How many periodical articles? The Orientalische Bibliographie for 1888 listed 297 articles on Islam; for 1905 the figure was 265. If we assume from these minimal soundings, a figure of 300 titles a year on an average for the years 1823 to 1905, we might not be very wide of the mark. That makes a total of 24,900 articles for the whole period; if to this we add a figure of

1000 titles for the years 1665-1822, we arrive at a sum total of about 26,000 titles. I chose the year 1823 because that was the date when the great national orientalist societies began to be founded. The Journal Asiatique started in that year, and the Royal Asiatic Society was not far behind, nor was the American Oriental Society. And so we may take it I think from that time on there was a regular production of articles on Islamic subjects. And 1905 is the year before Index Islamicus covers it. It would not surprise me greatly to learn that the figure for articles published from the beginnings of the periodical down to the time when the specializing Islamic journals started to appear should be roughly the same as that for articles produced in the next fifty years, which are recorded in Index Islamicus. Well, I don't want to bore you with all these figures but I reckon that about 26,000 articles were published on Islam before 1906. It would seem that, on first sight, as many articles on Islam were published from 1906 to 1955, as from 1665, I think it was when the first article on Islam appeared in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, to 1905. That may well represent a reasonable growth figure, because after all it was in 1906 that we got the first substantial journals devoted solely to Islam.

How long would it take? The question "How long would it take to compile such bibliographies?" is a difficult one to answer. The 26,000 + articles recorded in Index Islamicus took about five years to collect, by myself working in such time as other commitments allowed, with the assistance of occasional paid or volunteer helpers. My guess, and it can only be a very speculative one, is that, with two full-time workers, both Index Islamicus 1665-1905 and what might be called Index librorum islamicorum could be compiled also within five years.

By using the method at present used for the compilation of Index Islamicus there could be generated for both of these works cards to form the basis for reproduction by photographic processes of the completed works. The publisher of Index Islamicus would be willing to publish and distribute these volumes, if they could be produced, at his own risk.

The cost, too, is difficult to assess. The two full-time workers might share £10,000 a year, thus making £50,000 the total cost of the project. This vast sum, however, might perhaps be reduced by as much as one-half if an editor and coordinator could be appointed who could attract contributions, in the way of listing the titles in a number of volumes of one or another periodical, more or less the choice of the volunteer, by members of MELA and members of MELCOM. MELCOM members have shown themselves capable of cooperating in the production of reference works of this kind. Might it not be possible that individual members of MELA would be prepared to look through fifty volumes of a particular periodical on a subject that they are interested in and list the titles in the way I've suggested, which would then go to the publisher for typing and later be put into volumes, and at his expense? I would go even further than that and say that perhaps members of MESA and BRISMES might also be persuaded to do something of this kind. For instance, of the periodical titles surveyed for Index Islamicus 1906-1955, a total of 4500 volumes had been published before the commencing date up to 1905. By sharing out these titles between the members of the associations mentioned, a substantial contribution could be made to the list of periodical articles. A similar division of labour could doubtless be worked out for the list of books. And I see no reason why, if this work were undertaken in the way I've suggested, a portion of the profits payable

as royalties could not accrue to MELCOM and to MELA, which could be used for similarly valuable undertakings. MELCOM to some extent has enjoyed small resources of this kind from the volume which was edited by Derek Hopwood and produced in a similar sort of way.

Is it worth it? You may well ask yourselves, would these things be worth doing, even assuming we could get £50,000 or £25,000 and a lot of willing but not very well paid assistance from members of the various Islamic library groups or academic groups? Index Islamicus has enjoyed a reasonable success and, to judge from comments received and from the sales figures, seems to have met a real need. Although Islamic journals started in 1906, which is the terminus a quo for Index Islamicus, much important material, including, for example, publication and translation of texts in Arabic and the other Islamic languages, was issued in the form of periodical articles before that date, as you will readily see if you will consult the bibliographies added to the articles in the new Encyclopaedia of Islam. Many books too, were written in the 19th century or even earlier, which are still the standard works in their field. Suffice it to mention, in my own special field of interest, such articles as: Des Guignes, "Essai historique sur l'origine des caractères orientaux de l'Imprimerie royale," Notices et extraits 1 (1787), pp. ix-cii, or "Notice sur le dictionnaire bibliographique arabe, persan et turc, de Hadji-Khalfa," read before a meeting of the Société Asiatique by Reinaud and published in its Journal in 1859.

So although as we know, some older articles tend to be quoted time after time, and the substance of them incorporated in someone else's book, so that they become more and more dispensable, this doesn't by any means happen to all the articles, and there are many editions of short texts, for instance, or translations of these, which are still useful and which may be forgotten. And who knows but that somewhere, lurking away, there might be an article in that obscure periodical that would have as much effect on the world as did that celebrated article by Malthus.

(End of paper.)

Well, that's all I wanted to say. I think cooperation is very much in the air now. I'm delighted about this, to learn that North American librarians are thinking along these lines. We certainly are thinking along them in Britain, if I may say so, and we've thought along these lines for longer than you have for sheer economic necessity. But I look forward to the day, perhaps not in my time, when there might be a joint meeting between the two associations. I don't know where we could hold it half way between the two places, Bermuda perhaps, or the Azores, or something like that. But shouldn't we look forward possibly to such a meeting? Wouldn't it make sense if the two associations were to get together? They don't all speak the same language--not quite the same language anyway--but I'm sure each of them could learn from the other one. And I think if we could only inaugurate an operation of this sort, where the two associations together were working on an important reference book, then that would be a good step in the right direction.

Discussion: Cooper--Regarding the Index librorum islamicorum, I could think of a number of problems, and I would like to get your thoughts about them. Aside from the problem of names of entry, whether Library of Congress, British Museum, India Office, and so on, I think there is a greater problem in titles, even if we should go to title entry. Looking at early Arabic

printing which emulates the manuscript tradition, we don't have title pages. Where are you going to take the title from--the "incipit," or the colophon or elsewhere in the text? Are you going to set up uniform titles? I also have a feeling after having cataloged a number of these works that there is no such thing as a duplicate. They are very much the same problems that are dealt with in incunables, and it's always necessary to give "incipits" and "excipits" for identification of these texts, very much as you would for cataloging manuscripts. I wondered if you had thought about these problems and what you had thought about them.

Pearson--Well, I obviously didn't make it clear that I wasn't contemplating listing books in Arabic and other languages. I'm in favor of leaving this to the Arabs and the Persians and the Turks. My scheme is just for listing books in Western languages on Islam, and I agree with what you say, there are these problems. There are also possibilities in early printed works and manuscripts too, but that's really another lecture.

Anderson--If there are no further questions or comments, we will close the day's workshop.

End of afternoon panel discussion.

LIBRARY TOURS, LOOK-INS AND NOTICES

All of MELA Notes' readers are advised that two familiar and important designations in Library of Congress terminology have been recently up-dated. The LC publication PL-480 Newsletter has been superseded as of August, 1974, by the Foreign Acquisitions Program Newsletter. This comes out semi-annually, and, Frank McGowan writes, "It is the best (and only) review of program developments and problems addressed specifically to participants." Being a new title, readers (like the Editor) may not recognize it at first as something we have looked over and put in our files. Acquisition and Cataloging officers of interested libraries should see it, as well as MELA members.

The LC Information Bulletin (v.34, no.2(Jan.10,1975)p.A-7) reports the other change. It states "...the use of PL 480 as a designation for the over-all Program encompassing Egypt, India, Pakistan and Poland is no longer completely accurate. The term Special Foreign Currency Program is being used instead."

Insertion of the following notice was requested:

CATALOGER with reading knowledge of Arabic and Persian to catalog books dealing with Middle Eastern subjects, both in the above languages and in major European languages. MLS from accredited library school. 2-3 years cataloging experience preferred. Salary commensurate with experience, minimum \$9,000. Instructor rank with 12 months contract (25 days vacation). Applications accepted through April 15. Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes with 3 references to: Winnifred Margetts, Libraries Personnel Officer, 328 Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112.

Advertisements noted in more frequently published serials of our trade have included Middle East cataloging positions at Georgetown and Arizona, and the Middle East Librarian (or, Bibliographer) positions at Ohio State and Utah. Our Secretary, now on maternity leave, endeavors informally to coordinate information on position vacancies between libraries and librarians.

IAOL. The International Association of Orientalist Librarians, organized at the 27th International Congress of Orientalists in Ann Arbor, 1967, invites you to enroll as a member and participate in its activities. IAOL, which played a vital role in the organization of the Library Seminars of 28 ICO (Canberra, 1971) and 29 ICO (Paris, 1973), is expected to prepare a similar program for 30 ICO to be convened in Mexico City in the summer of 1976.

The Newsletter of the Association is sent free to all members.

New members are invited to join, and lapsed members are urged to renew their subscriptions, by sending their dues to Dr. G. E. Marrison, Secretary/Treasurer, International Association of Orientalist Librarians, Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, The British Library, Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG, Great Britain.

The annual individual subscription rate is U.S. \$3.00, and the institutional subscription is U.S. \$10.00, payable to Dr. G. E. Marrison. Additional donations to meet printing and other costs are welcomed.

Berkeley - A New Program in Near Eastern Librarianship.

A new Graduate Concurrent Degree Program in Near Eastern Studies and Librarianship has been instituted at UC Berkeley. It is a two-year course of study leading to the M.A. degree in Near Eastern Studies, and the M.L.S. with two possible specializations, 1) Islamic Bibliography, 2) Jewish Bibliography. The Program's objective is to train librarians, combining competence in Near Eastern languages and area studies with training in professional librarianship; and it was instituted to meet the demand for Near Eastern librarians who can handle the voluminous acquisitions in research libraries in California and throughout the U.S. Opportunities for employment in the Near East are also envisioned for graduates of this new program.

For further information on this new program write to CNES Educational Project Director, Department of Near Eastern Studies, or to the School of Librarianship, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

ACRL Directory of Librarians in Asian and African Studies.

A directory of librarians who specialize in African or Asian studies is being compiled for publication under the auspices of the Asian and African Section, Association of College and Research Libraries. Colleagues who wish to be listed (or who would particularly object to being listed), are invited to communicate with Henry Scholberg, Librarian, Ames Library of South Asia, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn., 55455. The information asked for is: name, title, office address (including ZIP), office telephone no., and area interest (Asia, East Asia, Middle East, etc., or a particular country or countries).

Short Commercial: Mansell Information/Publishing Ltd. of London now distributes its publications in North America c/o International Scholarly Book Services, Inc., P.O.B. 4347, Portland, Oregon 97208. J.D. Pearson mentioned the Papers of the Morecambe Conference in a discussion. It is fully titled: Acquisition and provision of foreign books by national and university libraries in the United Kingdom; papers..., ed. by B.C. Bloomfield. (\$7.50) Pearson's A bibliography of pre-Islamic Persia is listed. \$27.00. Wolfgang Behn reported for us (MELA Notes 2, p. 22-23) on the League of European Research Libraries seminar at Brighton, held in 1973: Acquisitions from the Third World; Papers of the LIBER seminar..., ed. by D.A. Clarke is also listed. \$15.00.