

MELA *notes*

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE EDITOR

The first issue of MELA Notes is finally meeting from Washington, D.C. Many thanks go to all the contributors and others who sent information, provided technical information and expertise, not to mention moral support, which made possible the appearance of number 43.

Middle East librarians, this is your vehicle for communication about our field. Articles, book reviews (reference works only, please), news, job openings, and related information about the field of Middle East librarianship are welcome. Your participation and input are necessary to make the publication more interesting and useful for all of us.

Contributions

Due to space limitations, articles should be limited to 7 double-spaced pages. Book reviews should be no longer than 500-700 words. All submissions should be complete and ready for publication in a standard format, with footnotes clearly indicated. Submissions in WordPerfect format can be sent on 5-1/4" floppy diskette.

MELA notes is issued three times a year (Winter, Spring, and Fall). Contributions should be received by January for the Winter issue, April for the Spring issue, and August for the Fall issue. Please be sure to send all meeting notices well in advance so that members can be informed in a timely fashion.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the program or contributed to the discussions at our meeting in Baltimore last November.

I encourage MELA members to share their thoughts and experience with Ed Jajko, Vice-President and Program Chair, as he works toward assembling a program panel for the upcoming MELA meeting in Los Angeles. The status or positions of area specialists such as ourselves, in large academic libraries, the Islamic book, and the uses of microcomputers with non-roman library materials are all rich areas that could provide much of substance for a program.

I am hopeful for the success of the Middle East Microform Project and the proposed MELA-MESA periodicals union list.

MINUTES OF THE 1987 ANNUAL MEETING

Baltimore, Maryland
13 November 1987

David Partington (Harvard University), President, called the meeting to order at 2:30 in the Sheraton Hotel, Baltimore. He began by explaining that because of personal events this year, in particular the birth of his third daughter, he had been unable to accomplish as much as he had hoped to for MELA as president.

Fawzi Abdulrazak (Harvard), substituting for James Weinberger (Princeton University) as Secretary-Treasurer, read the minutes of last year's business meeting. He also read the financial report for 1986/87. Both were approved as read.

Basima Bezirgan (University of Chicago), MELA Notes editor, called on the members for more contributions to the Notes. She thanked Palmira Brummett (Chicago) for her continued and much valued assistance with editing the Notes. Bezirgan announced the end of her term as editor.

Partington called on the members present to thank Bezirgan for all her efforts during her term as editor. He next opened the floor for comments.

Abdulrazak pointed out that Secretary-Treasurer Weinberger had received a letter from Wolfgang Behn resigning from MELA because of the raise in dues for overseas members, which he considered unfair. Partington acknowledged Behn as a valuable member and asked for suggestions to correct this situation. Abdulrazak suggested reducing the dues since there are surplus funds in the budget at the present time. Bezirgan explained that the increase in dues was necessitated by the high cost of overseas postage. Abazar Sepehri (University of Texas) moved that dues for overseas members remain the same. Partington moved that the Secretary-Treasurer write to Behn, explaining why dues are higher for overseas members, and ask him to renew his membership. Both motions were seconded and passed.

Partington talked about Standing Committees, especially the Publication Committee. He apologized for not completing the publication of the Occasional Papers, nos. 2 and 3.

He also emphasized the need to create strong ties with faculty members and to solicit the assistance of MESA to strengthen such ties.

President Partington next presented the nominees for new officers. Nominated for Vice President/President-Elect and

Program Chair were Ruth Baucke (Middle East Institute) and Ed Jajko (Hoover Institution); Jajko was elected. For HELA Notes editor, Brenda Bickett (Georgetown University) was presented. Ragai Makar (University of Utah) nominated himself from the floor. Bickett was elected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

George Atiyeh (Library of Congress) reported on his recent visits to Jordan and Syria. He also announced the rehiring of Christopher Murphy as Turkish Specialist at the Library of Congress.

Chris Filstrup (Library of Congress) reported on the activities of the Overseas Operations Division and its African and Asian offices. He announced that the Division is seeking an assistant chief.

Sarah Ozturk (LC) reported on the year's output of cataloging records for Near Eastern language materials in LC.

Dona Straley (Ohio State University) reported on the work of the ALA/RTSD/CCS Committee on Cataloging of Asian and African materials.

Virginia Aksan (University of Toronto) announced the existence of several thousand duplicate Ottoman Turkish books and periodicals at the University of Toronto.

Lesley Wilkins (formerly Martha Lesley Dukas, Boston Public Library) announced a job opening at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

Andras Riedlmayer (Harvard) announced his bibliographic project and the existence of a Boston-area group interested in Arabic script software.

John Eilts (Research Library Group) and Fawzi Khoury (University of Washington) discussed the use of personal computers in their work, following up on papers presented in the program earlier in the day.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fawzi Abdulrazak

for James Weinberger, Secretary-Treasurer

A summary of the day's meeting and discussions appeared in Library of Congress Information Bulletin, vol. 47, no. 9 (29 Feb. 1988).

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Middle East Studies Association

The twenty-second annual meeting will be held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA from 2-5 November 1988. The Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA will host the meeting. For registration information, contact:

MESA Secretariat
Department of Oriental Studies
University of Arizona
Tucson AZ 85721
USA
602-621-5850

American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies

The Council's fifth annual meeting will take place at Villanova University on 20-21 May 1987. For further information, contact:

Michael Albin
5603 Ventnor Lane
Springfield, VA 22151
USA

Hafeez Malik
Exec. Director, ACSIS
138 Tolentine Hall
Villanova University
Villanova, PA 19085
USA
215-645-4738 or 4791

The Royal Irish Academy Consultative Committee on Biblical and Near Eastern Studies announces its upcoming conference The Role of the Book in the Civilisations of the Near East, to be held 29 June-1 July 1988, in Dublin, Ireland. For further information and registration, contact:

Conference Director
Royal Irish Academy
19 Dawson
Dublin 2
IRELAND

SIX MONTHS WITH PRINCETON'S ARABIC BACKLOG*

In 1987 the Arabic cataloging backlog at the Princeton University Library was a focus of administrative attention. Projects were undertaken to systematize and revitalize the treatment by cataloging staff. This paper describes two major efforts.

Uncataloged Arabic material at Princeton consisted of about 6900 volumes on June 30, 1987. Of these, 37% (primarily new receipts) were uncontrolled. Twenty percent were titles accessioned between 1977 and 1983 using a manual system. The remaining 43%, accessioned after late 1983, were under machine-readable control in the RLIN acquisitions system.

Half the Arabic backlog was two years old or older (most of this section was under manual control; an uncontrolled fraction was composed of recalcitrant lithographs). More than a third (about 2600) consisted of new receipts, uncontrolled because of lack of non-professional staff with language skills sufficient to create acquisitions records for them.

The relevant cataloging staff at Princeton consisted of three professionals who devoted, respectively, one-half, one-third and one-quarter of their time to Arabic -- the equivalent of one full-time position. These catalogers chose titles unsystematically from all parts of the backlog, controlled and uncontrolled, old and new. No priorities were enforced with respect to subjects which should receive preferential treatment. Although the backlog had not grown significantly for some years, it was clear that it would never shrink under such conditions, and there was concern that important materials might be being neglected.

In July of 1987 we decided to apply to Arabic a procedure which had recently been undertaken with the Cyrillic backlog, a body of material about half the size of the Arabic backlog but resembling it in content. This procedure was the establishment of a so-called "dead zone" consisting of material officially exempted from cataloging for an indefinite period. We chose to include all materials two years old or older in the Arabic "dead zone", since this point defined exactly half the backlog. We researched the future "dead zone" systematically and identified some forty shelves with machine-readable copy, almost all of which has now been cataloged. About 2000 volumes remained: the current "dead zone."

* This paper was originally presented at the 1987 MEIA annual conference, 13 November 1987.

After establishing the "dead zone", we began to systematize the cataloging of Arabic materials two years old or younger. On the first of every month we now "forward for cataloging" the titles accessioned in the same month two years previously, on the understanding that these will be cataloged during the calendar month. (A similar system has existed for many years at Princeton for all except Near Eastern materials!) It has been painful for the Arabic catalogers to lose their former free choice among all backlogged titles, but we are adjusting to the new system, and it is encouraging to see older material leaving the shelves in an orderly way.

We can predict that the system of forwarding may need modification in future, since the availability of non-professional staff with Arabic skills in late 1987 produced a flood of accessioned titles which will be up for cataloging in late 1989 -- 340 in October of that year, for example. Although our professional staff has also grown by one full-time Arabic position, we may eventually need to establish a titles-per-month quota instead of a purely chronological one. Unhappily that method would cancel out the joy of a month like February of 1989, when only twenty titles are due to be forwarded!

While the re-searching of the "dead zone" was getting underway in the summer of 1987, a project began which offers promise on another front -- in the area of "cooperative cataloging". The project, devised by Arno Kastner of New York University and Rick Schulz of Princeton, takes advantage of shared collecting patterns and the RLIN database. On the departure of NYU's Arabic cataloger for a year's leave, Princeton staff contracted to catalog a year's NYU production in Arabic titles held by both libraries. Jointly-held titles are identified by their RLIN acquisitions records. In effect Princeton produces cataloging copy expressly for NYU to derive from. The catalogers work at Princeton and mail printouts of complete records to NYU; they travel to NYU twice a month to complete the cataloging and do local authority work. Both institutions benefit: NYU gets timely, high-quality cataloging for its books, and Princeton catalogs books quickly which would otherwise have been held for months. Other members of cataloging networks might consider similar projects.

As of January 4, 1988, Princeton's Arabic backlog stood at 6150 volumes. Of these, 17% were uncontrolled, 22% manually controlled, and 61% RLIN-controlled. The professional Arabic cataloging staff had doubled (now two F.T.E.!). Regular progress in cataloging older material was being made, and inter-institutional cooperation was flourishing. Has the millenium arrived? Maybe not, but rays of hope are beginning to filter into the basement.

Joan Biella
Princeton University

THE LIBRARY AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY'S
JERUSALEM CENTER ON MT. SCOPUS*

Introduction

The Holy Land is the most sought after real estate in the entire world simply because it serves Earth as the center of the planet for three of the world's religions. Mormonism, another "people of the Book" with six million followers, has also felt an important part of the Holy Land's cosmological phenomenon. The tiny nation's dynamic diversity and proud past promises a rich future for those who would revere it as a physical symbol of religious presence.

During the 1970s Brigham Young University's Travel Study program saw a dramatic increase in interest in study programs to the Holy Land. These initial charter flights, which increased even after the Yom Kippur war in 1973, evolved into a Semester in Jerusalem program in 1974, followed by Mediterranean cruise programs in 1976 and "Lands of the Scriptures Workshops" in 1977. Throughout the 1970s Brigham Young University used small hotels and the Kibbutz Amat-Rachel south of the city for facilities. Following the Church's dedication of the Orson Hyde Memorial Garden in Jerusalem in 1979, plans to build a Jerusalem Center were announced. Arduous approval processes and bureaucratic trials followed the announcement, and even after construction began August 24, 1984, on Mt. Scopus, the ultra-Orthodox Jews began a campaign to have the project terminated. Negotiations between Jewish leaders both in the United States and the Holy Land finally solved the major problems, with the completion of the center occurring in October 1987. The 120,000 square foot center has dormitory facilities, auditoriums, classrooms, a cafeteria, offices, a museum, a commanding view of the Old City, and two libraries - one for non-circulating research and reference materials located near the visitor's center and the other for student curricular materials.

Purpose of the Libraries

The libraries will help in fulfilling the Center's several purposes. These include:

- 1) Providing BYU students, visiting scholars, and participants in Continuing Education study tours and programs a unique, memorable learning experience in the Holy Land. Both

* This paper was originally presented at the 1987 MELA annual conference, 13 November 1987.

undergraduate students in modern Near Eastern studies and graduate students in Ancient Near Eastern studies will be represented, and several have gone through the program in the Jerusalem Center while it was under construction.

2) Serving as a home for students participating in BYU's well-established Semester in Jerusalem program.

3) Instilling in all visitors, both tourists and nationals, a deepened appreciation for this sacred area, its history and people.

4) Establishing in Jerusalem an educational, cultural and research center that will promote understanding among all peoples.

The Jerusalem Center library would carry the name and academic standing of the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. This has been useful in relations with other institutions, particularly the nearby Hebrew University. The BYU library would provide a pool of trained librarians to assist in collection planning, acquisitions, cataloging, circulation and maintenance decisions, and to ensure the continuation of a professional and efficiently run library. To the latter end, Ms. Connie Lamb, Near Eastern Studies Librarian at BYU, is currently at the Center to initiate the library programs. (In addition to her MLS, she has an MA in modern Near Eastern Studies and is fluent in Arabic.) The Center is already connected to BITNET for electronic mail, and Connie and I both have been corresponding to the director of the Center by that means. The BYU library will also provide computer links to bibliographic information as soon as they can be implemented: BYU's Library Information Network, which is a campus-wide online catalog, RLIN (Research Library Information Network), and the telefacsimile transmission of journal articles.

Collection development

At present the Jerusalem Center has a collection of about 4000 volumes. It is projected that the main library eventually will reach a peak of 12,000 volumes, while the residence hall's study collection will have a final capacity not exceeding 5000 volumes. The Library is administered in coordination with, but independently of, other onsite instructional programs, models, exhibits, interactive video systems and individual learning stations. Taking into account the variety of patrons, the subjects to be emphasized in the library will be balanced between ancient and modern, Arabic and Jewish. The collection will include heavily used reference books, even if they duplicate Hebrew University holdings. A collection in early Christianity and New Testament Studies will be developed particularly, while

Center students will rely heavily on Hebrew University for Jewish and Old Testament Studies.

The teaching faculty in the areas of Near Eastern Studies, Asian and Near Eastern Languages and religion were heavily involved in the collection development process. About two years ago I interviewed eleven of these faculty members for input as to the make-up of the collection in the Jerusalem Center. All of them gave very helpful suggestions not only in collection development matters but also in matters of general policy and innovations. Some even sent me lists of specific items to be ordered for the Center, the most common item being Mircea Eliade's excellent Encyclopedia of religion. Two of these faculty members, in addition to Connie Lamb, our Associate Librarian in charge of Collection Development, and myself were then asked to serve on a Jerusalem Center Acquisitions Committee. This committee has met several times and has not only drawn up the Collection Development Policy statements for both libraries but has made decisions relative to library policy, circulation procedures, and staffing. A recent recommendation from S. Kent Brown, who is microfilming ancient manuscripts in Egypt and elsewhere under an NEH grant, has just come to the attention of the committee. Hebrew University is interested in the microfilming project and is hoping that copies of the microfilms will be placed in the Jerusalem Center. The Committee will need to meet to decide whether the recommendation should be implemented. If so, appropriate equipment and supplies would have to be allocated for the library.

Acquisitions

The BYU Library is acquiring items identified for purchase that are published anywhere in the world outside the Near East. This is advantageous for the Center due to the library's volume discounts and established procedures and avenues of acquisition. Materials published in the Near East would be more advantageously purchased directly by Jerusalem Center personnel. Connie Lamb is making contacts with booksellers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv during her initial stay in the Center.

Cataloging

Those items already in the Jerusalem Center Libraries and designated by me and others to remain in the collection will be cataloged online in Provo with appropriate information supplied electronically by BITNET, by mail, or by photocopies of title page and verso. Since a high percentage of the holdings are duplicate of volumes already held in Provo, the cataloging process will be simplified and pre-printed labels are being shipped for those items. A book or microfiche catalog will be

produced semi-annually for use by the Center. It will be divided into separate listings by author, title, and subject. In the future, the BYU library and the Jerusalem Center will be utilizing CD-ROM technology for a backup to its online catalog.

The Brigham Young University Library uses Library of Congress classification and AACR2, so the Jerusalem Center library would reflect these cataloging and classification schemes. Connie Lamb and I have also looked carefully at the ALEPH library information system that is in use at Hebrew University and other academic institutions in the Holy Land. It will probably be adopted for use by the Center, whether or not it is compatible with BYU's library information system, NOTIS.

Good neighbor relations

The Hebrew University has been very generous in sharing its facilities with the Jerusalem Center. Access to the BITNET node at the university has been made available through which modem connections can be established by BYU administrators and faculty, making possible immediate communication to Provo at virtually the cost of a local telephone call. Likewise, their excellent holdings in Near Eastern Studies have been made accessible to the Center. At the present time this is a one-way street; this very important academic contact is being nurtured. Connie and others are currently establishing a reciprocal agreement between the two institutions, so that BYU may offer desirable services from its resources to Hebrew University. The possibilities include teletransmission of journal holdings at BYU, some sort of access to online bibliographic data, the microfilming project or more traditional exchange programs, such as offering duplicate volumes.

Libraries throughout the United States will have access to the holdings of the Jerusalem Center libraries through RLIN and OCLC.

Problems

The challenge of the milieu in Jerusalem proves to be an ongoing difficulty that will need constant negotiation with the Knesset, Jewish leaders and a very supportive Attorney General. Detractors have accused the LDS Church (and therefore the Center) of being everything from Nazi sympathizers to carriers of AIDS. The ultra-Orthodox have accused us of building the Center primarily for proselytizing purposes, but Abba Eban (in his excellent editorial December 10, 1985, in The Jerusalem Post: "How doth the city sit solitary!") and others have appealed to all sects in the Holy Land for religious toleration and understanding.

On the library level, however, the problems are not so overwhelming. The most serious problems have to do with bureaucratic red tape and delays, along with people not in authority promising the world and ultimately delivering very little.

Conclusion

In the history of university education very few branch study centers have become the focal point for international political and interfaith religious discussion, but this is exactly what has sharpened with the Jerusalem Center. This will no doubt continue. The Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University is now faced with maintaining a branch in another country which is many miles away and a day away by plane. Fortunately electronic mail and other automated systems will ease the management and maintenance, but I am personally very curious to see what types of problems surface in future years.

Gary Gillum
Brigham Young University

CULTURAL LIBRARY DESTROYED BY FIRE

The Arab Cultural Library, organized by ACCESS -- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services -- to provide background cultural information on Arabs, Arab Americans, Islam, etc., to the general public, was destroyed by fire on 26 September 1987. In its first year of operation, a collection of 1500 volumes had been acquired by donation. To rebuild the collection, donations of appropriate materials - in English or Arabic - are requested. For further information, contact:

Sally Howell
Cultural Arts Director
ACCESS
2651 Saulino Ct.
Dearborn MI 48120
USA
313-842-7010

CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHICAL WORK: THE MIDDLE EAST*

My purpose in this brief presentation is to offer a summary of developments in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic bibliographic studies. Examples (and they are only examples of what is a widespread recognition of the importance of bibliography in the scholarly enterprise) are drawn from various fields of activity, from the immense Library of Congress to the efforts of a lone bibliographer at her PC in Denver. I have also tried to give an international flavor with an example of the important work being done in Istanbul. I have appended the names and addresses of the bibliographic projects to which I refer in this presentation.

The jewel in the crown, so to speak, of the bibliographic effort of the Library of Congress is The Near East National Union List, a catalog of Arabic, Persian and Turkish language books and serials in libraries in the United States and Canada. Briefly, NENUL is the automated and published compilation by Dorothy Stehle and George Atiyeh of thousands of catalog cards sent to the Library for approximately 80 years. This incomparable bibliographic tool was painstakingly edited by Dorothy Stehle under the direction of George Atiyeh, Head of the Near East Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division. The first volume of this multi-volume work covering the letter A (an important letter in Arabic onomastics) will be issued in 1988 by the Library. Further editorial and publication costs will be supported by grants to the Library of Congress.

Other publications of the Library include the third supplement to the popular work by George Selim entitled American doctoral dissertations on the Arab world covering 1982-1987. This important reference, taken in its entirety, will then cover the period from 1871 to the present. The third supplement is due out in 1988. Another work, currently in press, is Julian Witherell's Turkey: an American perspective: a guide to U.S. official documents and government sponsored publications. This reference, as well as Witherell's documentary study of Afghanistan that appeared in 1986 gives us a unique picture of U.S. diplomatic, economic and military relations with these countries. The work on Afghanistan is considered so important, in fact, that the documents it cites have been made available on microfiche by Congressional Information Service in its Academic Editions Series. Finally, another project reaching fruition is Christopher Murphy's list of Turkish and Armenian newspapers held in the Library of Congress. Part of the Mideast Directions

* Adapted from a report presented at the Association for the Bibliography of History/American Historical Association, Washington DC, 27 December 1987.

Series of the Near East Section, the list will cover newspapers produced in Turkey regardless of language.

In contrast to the large, institutional bibliographic work of the Library of Congress, we note an important private initiative on the bibliography of Morocco undertaken by Priscilla Roberts of Denver. Mrs. Roberts, from 1983-86, was curator of a private collection in Rabat. Upon her return to the U.S. she aimed to create a comprehensive bibliography of books published in western languages of Morocco covering the period from 1513, when the first European publication on the country appeared (a 5-page pamphlet in Latin reporting the conquest of Morocco by King Manoel I of Portugal) to the present day. Roberts' work, which is in its preliminary stage, is preceded by an extensive study of the present state of bibliography in Morocco. According to her findings, current bibliographies, including the excellent ones published in the bibliographic section of the Middle East Journal are inadequate. She says that the eleven leading bibliographies currently available to scholars cover less than half the works known to her to have been published in European languages. Furthermore, the top three bibliographies available to scholars in this country cover predominantly English-language works. Roberts says, "The fact is that there are far more publications dealing with Morocco in French and Spanish than in English. Most of the bibliographies are not strong in foreign languages. Collectively they list 730 of the 2,284 books I have identified in French, and 84 of the 485 in Spanish."

To what end is this bibliometric research directed? Mrs. Roberts asserts that the researcher is overlooking literally thousands of book titles in all of the disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. In history, for instance, Morocco has played an important part in the panorama of conquest, colonization and liberation which has characterized the southern littoral of the Mediterranean since Classical times and is therefore woven into the texture of European history. Scholars are just now becoming aware of Morocco's equally important role in Islamic times as an African and Muslim power whose force in military, artistic and theological affairs was felt far to the South. Finally, it should be noted that bibliographic research such as Roberts is conducting can reveal significant lacunae in the American research agenda. A conspicuous example of this is the fact, noted in Mrs. Roberts' research, that of the 165 doctoral dissertations on Morocco in American universities only one is devoted to Spanish Morocco during the decades in this century when Spain ruled much of the northern part of the country. The bibliography I have been describing is not yet completed, and it may be some time before it is published. Mrs. Roberts has been kind enough to share her preliminary bibliometric findings with us at this meeting.

The next bibliographic project I wish to consider is embodied in the publication Arabic literature in Africa, edited by John O. Hunwick and Rex O'Fahey. This ambitious program, essentially no less a one-person operation than Priscilla Roberts's bibliography on Morocco, sets out to provide for Africa the complete bibliographical reference that Carl Brockelmann and Fuat Sezgin provide in their respective Geschichte der arabischen Literatur and Geschichte des arabischen Schriftums. The project concentrates on the lands of sub-Saharan Africa, with special emphasis on West Africa and Nigeria. Although Arabic literature in Africa covers more than historical writing, it is of interest to both historians and Islamicists because it opens a new window on an important but little-known extension of Islamic civilization.

The major forum to date for communication of Hunwick's and O'Fahey's research is Arabic literature in Africa: a bulletin of biographical and bibliographical information (BALA). Three issues have appeared since January 1985, and the fourth is due in Spring 1988. To date BALA has covered the writings of Abd Alla Fudi, the first amir of Gwandu (+1766-7) and his successors and followers of the Sokoto region of Nigeria. O'Fahey has concentrated on writers of the 18th through 20th century Sudan. Sudan, in terms defined by Prof. O'Fahey, includes all the Sahelian territories to the Atlantic coast, comprising today's Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Ghana. In general, entries for each author include biographical matter of varying length, discussion of the textual complexities of the author's opera, and a bibliography of source materials used in establishing the bibliography. This preliminary work is followed by the bibliography itself. Because BALA is intended to be a working draft of the completed volumes to follow, the editors invite comment and corrections on the typescript text. The contact person is Prof. Hunwick at Northwestern University.

Finally, I would like to consider a group of publications from a Middle Eastern source, the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture. The center is housed in the beautifully restored Yildiz palace and grounds of the Beşiktaş quarter of Istanbul. It contains executive offices, ample office space for researchers and an excellent library. From its establishment in 1980, the Center set out to make a mark in the preparation of reference works in diverse fields of Islamic culture.

One of the Center's major publications is The Ottoman archives: a guide to documents preserved in the Prime Ministry's Ottoman archives in Istanbul. This work, published in 1986, is a major contribution to the study of Ottoman history because it contains, in addition to a history of the archives, a description of the classification system, a detailed account of the contents of one of the most formidable collections of primary historical research material to be found anywhere in the Islamic world. Another work

of importance to historians and other scholars working in Islamic studies is the Catalog of manuscripts in the Koprulu Library published in 1986. This collection was built up by the famous Koprulu family of vezirs and statesmen, and runs to 3,500 titles. The catalog covers works in the Quranic sciences, history, philosophy, natural science, mathematics and other fields. A third reference issued by the Center in 1986 is the World bibliography of translations of the meaning of the Holy Quran. Covering printed translations (there will be a followup volume of manuscript translations), the work contains citations to 551 complete translations of the Quran and 883 partial translations into 65 languages. Of particular interest to cultural historians is the index to translations by date of publication.

Before leaving the activities of the Center, I cannot forbear to note a major contribution to the history of science as well as to printing history written by the Center's director Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. His annotated bibliography of Turkish chemical works printed 1830-1928 and the development of modern chemistry to the foundation of the Turkish Republic, while published in Turkish, deserves mention as a remarkable effort to integrate bibliography with the study of the dissemination of modern science to the Islamic world through publication in Ottoman Turkish. As to the importance of the work in the context of intellectual history, I can do no better than quote the judgement of Prof. William Hickman in his review published in the 1986 issue of the Bulletin of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians. Prof. Hickman says of the book that "it could well serve as a standard for other specialized bibliographies," and more importantly: "I note with interest that İhsanoğlu has increased, by nearly twenty percent, the number of books known to have been printed on the subject of chemistry during the period in question. If this is any indication of the extent to which Özege's** work comprehends the field of Ottoman printing generally, bibliophiles may take pleasure in the expectation that perhaps one out of every six books published in the last Ottoman century still remains to be identified."

** Eski harflerle basılmış Türkçe eserler kataloğu.

ADDRESSES OF PROJECTS CITED

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ACQUISITIONS TRIP TO IRAQ*

The purpose of the trip to Baghdad was to acquire Iraqi publications for the Library of Congress and for Middle East Cooperative Acquisitions Program participants at the Baghdad Book Fair, which was held by the Iraqi Ministry of Information and Culture from 15-25 March 1987, as well as to make calls on Iraqi institutions which exchange materials with LC.

On 19 March I met with United States Information Service staff; I also met with Mr. Roberts from USIS-Amman, visiting Iraq to attend the Fair and to discuss with Iraqi officials and publishers the possibilities of publishing translations of American books into Arabic in Iraq. He wanted to discuss a USIS project to survey all Arabic translations of American books in the Arab world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; I explained the difficulties of such a project, due to the lack of bibliographic control.

I also visited the following LC exchange partners:

Markaz Ihya' al-Turath al-'Ilmi al-'Arabi (Centre of Revival of Arabic Scientific Heritage)

Director: Dr. Khalis Husni al-Ash'ab.

Its serial ceased after no. 3 (1977).

al-Maktabah al-Wataniyah (National Library)

Director-General: Dr. 'Abd al-Hamid al-'Alwaji.

Ittihad al-Mu'arrikhin al-'Arab (Union of Arab Historians)

President: Mr. Mustafa al-Najjar.

Publication: al-Mu'arrikh al-'Arabi (quarterly)

Majma' al-'Ilmi al-'Iraqi (Arabic Academy of Iraq)

Director: Dr. Salih Ahmad al-'Ali.

Mudiriyyat al-Athar al-'Ammah (General Directorate of Antiquities)

Director-General of Publishing: Dr. Qahtan Rashid Salih.

Publications: al-Maskukat, Sumar.

Iraq Book Fair

Organized by al-Dar al-Wataniyah lil-Nashr, Wizarat al-I'lam wa-

* This article is excerpted from a report made by George Courougenis on his March 1987 acquisitions trip to Iraq.

al-Thaqafah, the Iraq Book Fair (or Ma'arid al-Sharq al-Kabir) started in 1983. In 1987, the fair included 25,000 entries, from 500 publishing houses.

With the exception of Libya and Syria, all the Arab countries with substantial publishing activities participated in the Fair, except Syria and Libya, for political reasons. About 25 Egyptian publishers were represented and about 20 Lebanese publishers participated.

All Iraqi public and private sector publishers were represented:

Dar al-Ma'mun	Dar al-Hurriyah
Afaq Arabiyah	al-Idarah al-'Ammah lil-Athar
Wizarat al-Difa'	Wizarat al-Awqaf
Maktabat al-Nahdah	Manshurat Amal al-Zahawi
Dar al-Bayadir	al-Majma' al-'Ilmi al-'Iraqi
Dar al-Wataniyah lil-Nashr	
Maktabat al-Yaqzah al-'Arabiyah	
al-Ittihad al-Nisa'i al-'Iraqi	and others ...

In addition, all the Iraqi universities were represented: Baghdad, al-Mawsul, al-Basrah, al-Mustansiriyah. Other participants included ALECSO institutions headquartered in Baghdad, and the United Nations Economic and Social Committee for West Asia.

Exhibitions of Iraqi painters, Koranic manuscripts, and book covers, in addition to a daily seminar entitled "Kuttab wa-jumhur", in which an Iraqi writer discussed his works and technique, accompanied the book exhibits.

George Courogenis
Library of Congress
Cairo Field Office

SYRIAN NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

The Assad National Library of the Syrian Arab Republic announces the following publications are now available:

Syrian national bibliography for books published before 1984 (vol. 1)

Syrian national bibliography, 1984

Supplement to Syrian national bibliography, 1984

Syrian national bibliography, 1985

Analytical index to Syrian newspapers and periodicals, 3rd quarter 1985

Prices for the bibliographies are US\$40 per volume; the analytical index is US\$50.

For further information, contact:

Ghassan Lahham
Director-General
Assad National Library
P.O. Box 3639
Damascus
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
Telex 419143

ALA LIAISON

Dona Straley reports that the RASD Bibliography Committee of the American Library Association is concerned with providing specialist librarian feedback to publishers of ongoing abstracts and indexes in hopes that the result will be better products. If you are interested in evaluating abstracts and indexes, or have suggestions to this end, contact Straley.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Julian Witherell (Library of Congress) is the author of "Resources for the study of Africa and the Middle East: an overview", a contribution to International aspects of reference and information services (New York: Haworth Press, 1987), edited by Bill Katz and Ruth Fraley. The essays in this volume are also published in Reference Librarian, no. 17, Spring 1987.

James Maccaferri (UCLA) reports on his modification of an Apple font to provide characters necessary for transliterating Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Turkish, and describes other modified Macintosh fonts in Middle East Studies Association bulletin, vol. 21, 2 (Dec. 1987), p. 171.

Michael Albin (Library of Congress) will speak at the Royal Irish Academy's conference on The Role of the Book in the Civilisations of the Near East, to be held in Dublin, Ireland, 29 June-1 July 1988. He will also conduct research funded by the 1987 Nijhoff Study Grant, described in C&RL news, vol. 48, no. 9 (Oct. 1987), p. 561.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

If you have access to electronic modes of communication (BITNET, PROFS, etc.), please send the NOTES your electronic address. It will be listed under this heading and included in the next Roster of Members.

<u>Member name</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>I.D.</u>
Dona Straley	BITNET	OHSTVMA	TS5268
Amnon Zipin	BITNET	OHSTVMA	TS5268
John Eilts	BITNET	BL.JAE@RLGBITNET	
	RLG mail	BL.JAE	

LIBRARY COLLECTION FOR SALE

The Middle East Library of Alixa Naff contains an estimated 600 scholarly books and some journals in Arabic, English and French, focusing on the region's social history since the 18th century. A relatively large percentage of rare books - early and first editions, as well as out-of-print titles - are included.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Alixa Naff
2311 Pimmit Dr. #514
Falls Church VA 22043
USA

JOB OFFERINGS

TURKISH CATALOGING POSITION AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Columbia University Library announces that a part-time cataloging position is available. Responsibilities include performing original cataloging for monographs, serials and serial analytics in Turkish and catalog editing in area of assignments.

Requirements include a M.L.S. from an ALA-accredited institution; knowledge of cataloging principles and procedures, AACR2 and LC classification and subject headings; thorough reading knowledge of Turkish; knowledge of Turkish literature, history and civilization; working knowledge of bibliographical and other reference tools. Relevant cataloging experience in a research library may be substituted for the M.L.S. requirement.

The position is part-time, up to 10 hours per week; hours to be arranged.

No application deadline has been announced.

Send c.v. and the names of three references to:

Kathleen M. Wiltshire
Director, Personnel
Box 35
Butler Library
Columbia University
535 West 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
USA

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AFRICANA/MIDDLE EAST ACQUISITIONS POSITION

The position of Supervisory Librarian (Coordinator, African/Middle East Acquisitions Section) (GS-13) at the Library of Congress has been announced.

Duties: planning, directing and supervising a comprehensive program for acquiring the Library's collections, publications of West, Central, and Southern Africa, North Africa and Middle Eastern countries. The incumbent is an expert on policies and methods related to the acquisition of many kinds of governmental, institutional and commercial publications emanating from the countries covered by the section. Supervisory duties include organizing and directing the work of the Section staff, reviewing staff performance and recommending appointments, promotions, reassignments, and terminations. Technical duties include providing guidance on difficult problems involving interpretation and application of Library policies, reviewing and signing

correspondence prepared by other staff of the Section, consultation with other LC divisions involved with African and Middle Eastern acquisitions; making field trips, and, in general, coordinating exchange and purchase operations as they affect the countries covered by the Section.

Minimum qualifications: One year of specialized experience which must have been at the GS-12 level in the Federal service or at a comparable level of difficulty outside the Federal service. The specialized experience must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the acquisition of library materials from Africa and a familiarity with acquisitions related to the Middle East; ability to learn and apply a complex set of acquisitions guidelines; the ability to perform supervisory duties; the ability to work with others effectively; the ability to communicate effectively through correspondence, by telephone, and in person.

Educational requirement: M.L.S.; various substitutions are described in the Vacancy Announcement mentioned below.

Foreign language requirement: Proficiency in French sufficient to converse and draft correspondence easily and knowledge of two of the following languages sufficient to read for acquisitions purposes: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Portuguese, or modern Turkish.

Closing date: 27 April 1988 (may be extended)

Standard Form 171, Application for Federal Employment, must be submitted in application. More information and a Vacancy Announcement (#80118) may be obtained from:

The Library of Congress Employment Office
James Madison Memorial Building, LM107
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington DC 20540
USA
Telephone: 202-287-JOBS

LIBRARY/BOOK FELLOWS POSITION IN SANAA, NORTH YEMEN

The Library/Book Fellows program, jointly sponsored by the American Library Association and the United States Information Agency is now seeking applicants for a full calendar year or academic year position beginning September, 1988, at the Central Library of Sana'a University.

The University, established in 1975, has a collection of approximately 300,000 volumes, equally divided between Arabic and English. There is a faculty of 450 and a student body of 17,000.

The Central Library is located in a spacious modern building and, in addition, there are five branch libraries at the two campuses, housing books for liberal arts, science, education, commerce, and law students.

Incumbent would assist Western-trained library staff in the design and implementation of new operating procedures in all the technical services departments and in the development of the management skills for the library staff.

Applicants should have broad experience in all managerial and technical aspects of a small-to-medium sized university library. Proven record of improving library systems operations and staff productivity very desirable. Good management and interpersonal relations skills a must. Basic Arabic is required.

In addition to its challenging professional experience, the fellowship will give the candidate an opportunity to acquire Arabic language skills, learn about a unique culture, and travel in one of the most interesting and scenic countries in the Middle East.

Stipends for Library/Book Fellows are US\$23,000 per year. Travel expenses (fellow and one dependent) to and from the U.S., will be reimbursed, and health and life insurance are provided. The University will provide a furnished apartment in an on-campus faculty housing complex.

Eligibility requirements: U.S. citizenship; basic Arabic; education and experience in library or information science, with demonstrated competency as required. Persons who have lived abroad for a ten-year period immediately preceding application are not eligible.

If interested, send resume with cover letter briefly stating desired position, foreign-language skills, subject expertise and maximum placement service length. (No application forms are available.) Application deadline date for the 1988-89 positions is: 15 April 1988. For further information, contact: Robert P. Doyle, Director, Library/Book Fellows Program, American Library Association, 509 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 USA, 1-800-545-2433 (in Illinois: 1-800-545-2444).

For additional information on living and working conditions in Yemen, contact: Sylvia Mitchell, USIS Librarian, Sana'a, Department of State, Washington DC 20520 USA. International phone: 967-2-215-997.

LATE JOB NOTICES

Yale University - Head, Hebraica and Near East Cataloging Unit, Cataloging Dept., Sterling Memorial Library. Minimum rank: Librarian II. Salary: minimum \$24,500. Letter, resume and names of 3 references by 15 May 1988 to:

Maureen Sullivan
Head, Library Personnel Services
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 1603A
Yale Station
New Haven CT 06520
USA

Library of Congress - Administrative Librarian (Field Director, Karachi). Rank: GS-1410-15 (\$54,907-71,377). Vacancy Announcement #80213. Closing date: 23 May 1988 (may be extended). More information available from:

The Library of Congress
Employment Office
James Madison Memorial Building, LM107
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington DC 20540
USA
Telephone: 202-287-JOBS

NEAR EAST NATIONAL UNION LIST

The Near East Section of the Library of Congress announces the publication of the first volume of The Near East National Union List (NENUL), a guide to publications in Near Eastern languages that have been reported to the National Union Catalog by some 240 libraries in the United States and Canada. Before 1979 these records in Arabic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and modern Turkish were not included in the published NUC except in those cases where printed Library of Congress cards were available for them. Editorial work on the citations and their conversion to romanized form was accomplished by Dr. Dorothy Stehle and two assistants, Kay Ritchie and Sophie Rentz, under the direction of Dr. George N. Atiyeh, head, Near East Section. Financial support was provided by the Middle East Studies Association, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by the Hariri Foundation and Mobil Oil Corporation.

Volume one of NENUL, representing author and title entries beginning with the letter "A" and including samples from the other letters, contains about 13,000 records (approximately 13% of the pre-1979 union catalog cards). A title index with cross references to main entries has been included as an additional bibliographic tool.

The 867-page volume is available for sale from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402, USA, for \$47.00; in ordering, provide the stock number: 03-000-00198-2.

MELA Notes
c/o Brenda E. Bickett
Cataloging Dept.
Georgetown University Library
P.O. Box 37445
Washington, D.C. 20013
USA