

MELA *notes*

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 46

WINTER, 1989

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER LIST 2010

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

EDWARD A. JAJKO Hoover Institution	President 1987
MERYLE GASTON New York University	Vice-President & Program Chair 1989
JAMES WEINBERGER Princeton University	Secretary- Treasurer 1987-1989
BRENDA E. BICKETT Georgetown University	Editor 1988-1990

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Many of our members list no organizational affiliation in the Membership Roster entries. It seems that this would be useful, particularly if one is looking for an unknown name at a specific institution. The membership list has previously been used primarily for mailing purposes, but, with the wonders of word processing, it is no longer necessary to restrict ourselves to this. If you would like to include your position and organization in your listing, please send me the correct information, along with any other corrections. Electronic addresses are also welcome.

Response to requests for contributions to the MELA Notes has been excellent, so good that the next issue is fully booked. This does not mean that you should not send along your news, articles and thoughts; longer issues can certainly be explored. Hopefully, this also indicates that a more substantial publication, such as Ed Jajko's suggestion for a Journal of Middle East Librarianship, could be undertaken. I would be interested in your thoughts on a journal, as well as a demonstration of support for such a publication.

This issue contains reports of the 1988 annual meeting in Los Angeles and issues that came out of that gathering. If you were at the meeting, these reports and updates will perhaps spur you on to further action; if you were unable to meet with us in November, you will read about one of the most dynamic MELA gatherings. I hope some of that energy will last throughout the year and that we can make the organization more useful to us all.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to begin this president's message with most sincere thanks to all who made the 1988 MELA meeting in Los Angeles not only the biggest and most successful meeting to date on the West Coast, but one of the biggest and best in the history of MELA.

The 1988 meeting in Los Angeles was our 18th, counting the founding meeting at Binghamton in 1971 as the first. It was certainly a highly successful meeting in every way. There were sixty-three names on the printed list of registered participants, and several more people showed up for the meeting. This is outstanding participation. The speakers who enlightened, informed, and most definitely entertained us deserve much of the credit for the success of the meeting. Some volunteered, others readily agreed to speak when they were asked, and we learned from them all. When I was putting the program together, I was concerned that I was unable to come up with the grand unifying theme I had originally planned on. But as I listened to speaker after speaker, I heard them expressing common themes--problems presented by computerization, local solutions to problems with wider applicability, difficulties of bibliographic access, the business and pleasure of book collecting and the problems of providing readers and researchers information about and access to the materials.

MELA owes a great debt of thanks to Dunning Wilson, who handled all local arrangements, getting us a very comfortable meeting room in the UCLA Faculty Center and persuading various offices at UCLA to provide us a most enjoyable lunch.

At the Los Angeles meeting, MELA members voted to require me to send a letter to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington concerning LC's Middle East cataloging production, which was felt to be low. You will find a copy of that letter printed elsewhere in this issue of MELA notes. As of this writing (5 January 1989) there has been no response from Dr. Billington or the Library of Congress.

In addition, I wrote Mike Bonine, MESA secretary/treasurer, with copies to MESA board members, concerning the need for increased representation of MELA and librarian members of MESA in the activities and running of the Middle East Studies Association, with special reference to MESA's proposed joint venture with MELA to seek grant funding to prepare a union list of Middle East serials in the US. Again, as of this writing, there has been no response from Dr. Bonine, although one member of the board wrote acknowledging receipt of the letter and promising full consideration of the complaint.

I will convey substantive responses from Dr. Billington and the MESA board to the MELA membership by whatever means may be appropriate.

Those who were at the meeting in Los Angeles ("down South" to us here in Northern California) will recall that a committee was set up to formulate concrete proposals for a projected (or was it "projections for a proposed"?) MELA reference book award. Committee members are Dona Straley, Fawzi Abdalrazak, and Edward Jajko. Please send your comments, suggestions, recommendations, advice, etc. about the proposed reference book award to any member of the committee. For their addresses, please see the membership list printed in this issue.

Another topic that came up at the November meeting was the need for greater grass-roots involvement among MELA members through active participation in special interest groups, focus groups, task forces, and the like. There is a great need for us to keep alive the sharing of information and experience that blossoms during our annual meeting and seems to wither away afterwards. Special interest groups can trade ideas and information, keep each other and the general membership informed about topics of importance, and can prepare publications, panels, state of the art sessions, and workshops. Topics that might be covered by such groups include computers, cataloging, classification, subject headings, technical services, acquisitions, collection development, management--in short, everything and anything that is the business of Middle East librarians. In accordance with the discussion at the meeting in Los Angeles, I hereby call on the members of MELA to form special interest or focus groups. Send me your ideas about the topics you may be interested in, the sort of groups you would like to participate in, etc. I will compile the information, will put people of similar interests in touch with each other, and will look for people to head the groups. Please think about and respond to this call. It is in your best interest to do so; there is a lot we can learn from each other. Active participation in such a group can also be of use to you when you apply for funds to travel to MELA/MESA meetings.

I would like to close with an invitation to any and all who may be interested in join a specific focus group or task force. After 18 annual meetings, with a wealth of expertise among the members of MELA as well as among our colleagues around the world, I think it is time for a full-fledged international journal of Middle East librarianship. Let me know if you would like to join in trying to start one up.

Edward A. Jajko
Hoover Institution

MINUTES OF THE 1988 ANNUAL MEETING
Los Angeles, California
Wednesday, 2 November 1988

Janet Heineck (University of Washington), President, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. in the California Room of the UCLA Faculty Center. It was determined that the quorum of professional members necessary for the election of officers was present.

Reports

James Weinberger (Princeton University), Secretary-Treasurer, read the minutes of last year's business meeting and the financial report for 1987/88. Both were approved as read.

Branda Bickett (Georgetown University), MELA notes Editor, thanked the members for their contributions to the Notes and encouraged still greater participation. She also announced that issue number 45 of the Notes was published and available to the members. She also reported learning that there were a number of Middle Eastern countries with no MELA members. She announced that the Executive Board had approved sending selected librarians in the Middle East a year's free MELA notes subscription to encourage the recipient and his/her colleagues to join MELA. She will follow up on it during the coming year.

Edward Jajko (Hoover Institution), Vice-President/President-elect and Program Chair, formally thanked the participants in the 1988 MELA program and extended official thanks to Dunning Wilson (UCLA) for undertaking the local arrangements for this year's meeting.

David Partington (Harvard University) offered his regrets that again this year Occasional Papers numbers 2 and 3 had not been completed. He announced that progress was being made and he promised that they would be completed soon.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Elections

Janet Heineck presented the nominees for the position of Vice President/President-elect and Program Chair. The nominees were Meryle Gaston (New York University) and Jonathan Rogers (University of Michigan). There were no additional nominees suggested from the floor and Meryle Gaston was elected.

possible successor to the PL-480 program. This is the so-called Debt for Development Program which would allow American banks holding large foreign debt to convert some portion of this debt into gifts to the Library of Congress which could be then used to acquire publications on local markets. This will be applied first to latin America but has obvious implications for the Middle East.

On behalf of Michael Albin, Chris Filstrup also announced the creation of an African/Middle East Acquisition and Collection Development Section of the Library of Congress and also the creation of two new Field Officer positions, one for West Africa and the other for Central America.

MEMP

David Partington reported on the MEMP meeting which was held on the UCLA campus Tuesday, November 1, 1988. He announced that MEMP was off to a very good start having collected \$17,000 for immediate use in filming several already-identified and approved projects. He added thanks to John Eilts for vigorously stewarding this new organization into existence. [Ed. note: See minutes of MEMP meetings elsewhere in this issue.]

RLG/RLIN

John Eilts (RLG) announced that there are now some 9,000-10,000 records in Hebrew in the RLIN database and that the Hebrew enhancements now available in RLIN are currently being used at LC, New York Public Library, NYU Law Library, New York Historical Society, Michigan, Stanford and Brandeis. He also announced that the RLG Governing Board has approved special membership for Hebrew for Yeshiva University, for the three American campuses of Hebrew Union College, and for Jewish Theological Seminary. He noted that the NYPL has abandoned ANSI romanization in favor of RLIN's system. There are now 25,000 romanized records in the database, and it is anticipated that an additional 18,000, more or less, in the Hebrew script will be added as the old NYPL book catalog is converted. Eilts also anticipated that Harvard's Judaica records, which are totally romanized, will be added to the RLIN database as soon as Harvard sends the tapes to RLG. It is possible that Yale, Brown, and Johns Hopkins will soon begin using the RLIN Hebrew enhancements as well. Eilts also announced that RLG is currently writing a design document for Arabic script enhancements that would extend Arabic script to include Persian, Turkish, etc. He expected that the design document would be formalized within the next two months and that in about twelve to eighteen months RLG would have an operational system. At RLG, a program groups in Judaic and Near Eastern Studies has been formed which is a mechanism to allow non-members to use the RLIN system on a program basis.

Union List of Periodicals

John Eilts reported on behalf of himself and Lesley Wilkins (Boston Public Library) that MESA has proposed the creation of a union list of serials on the Middle East held in Middle Eastern collection in North America.

ALA

Basima Bezirgan reported on matters of Middle East interest at the New Orleans meeting of the American Library Association. At the Committee on Cataloging of Asian and African Materials, Ben Tucker announced LC's plan to create a list of normalized romanizations for certain problematic Arabic words for uniform cataloging. The College and Research Libraries Division of ALA presented a panel on preservation at the New Orleans meeting. Among several papers delivered on the Middle East, Michael Albin spoke about manuscript material, MEMP, and preservation. At the ALA meeting in Dallas in June, 1989, Chris Filstrup will speak on a panel on the history of libraries in Asia and Africa.

MELCOM

Ed Jajko and Andras Riedlmayer reported on the April MELCOM meeting held in Paris at the Institut du Monde Arabe. A number of papers concerning libraries, manuscripts and computerization were delivered. At this meeting it was announced that MELCOM would reorganize itself as MELCOM International. Anyone interested in joining MELCOM International should direct inquiry to Derek Hopwood, St. Antony's College, Oxford University, Oxford, England. The next meeting will be held in July, 1989, at Durham, England.

Preservation Microfilming of Arabic at Princeton

James Weinberger announced that Princeton University was attempting to gain funding for a major microfilming project of Arabic printed books. The project now under proposal would last for three years and target some 9,000 embrittled Arabic books for microfilming. This project is seen as the first stage of a multi-phased project which will result in the filming of all embrittled Arabic material at Princeton. He requested information from MELA members regarding any comparable project that currently might be ongoing or in planning.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Weinberger
Secretary-Treasurer

MELA Letter to Librarian of Congress Billington

9 December 1988

Dr. James H. Billington
Librarian of Congress
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Dr. Billington,

I have the honor of writing you in my capacity as President of the Middle East Librarians Association. At our recent annual meeting held in Los Angeles on 2 November 1988, the assembled members of the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) heard a report on the year's Middle East activities of the Library of Congress, presented by LC staffers who are also members of MELA. The report on Library of Congress cataloging in Middle Eastern languages gave rise to considerable dismay and discussion, the result of which was a unanimous vote of the assembled membership to charge me with the responsibility of writing you to express the distress of the members of the Middle East Librarians Association over LC's low cataloging output in Middle Eastern languages, and to suggest cooperative efforts to improve the situation.

At our meeting, it was reported that in FY 1988 Library of Congress catalogers produced the following:

Arabic:	800 titles
Persian:	130 titles
Tajik:	1 title
Turkish:	400 titles
Hebrew:	1,100 titles
TOTAL:	2,431 titles

Concern about these statistics--which we understood to be for completed cataloging--and in particular those for Arabic, Persian, and Turkish, and the resulting discussion were such that the LC report, which usually lasts about 20 minutes, took up more than an hour of the MELA business meeting. The statistics as reported reflected a situation already well known to Middle East librarians, that LC's cataloging output has sagged badly.

The members of the Middle East Librarians association are deeply concerned about LC's relatively small output of Middle East vernacular cataloging for a number of reasons, among them the following:

As librarians, we are dependent on LC for cataloging copy and ~~perhaps more~~ importantly for indications of LC cataloging ~~politics and practices~~ as expressed in LC cataloging output. ~~Without that output,~~ we have no guidance from LC for our own

cataloging.

Further, given our specific concern about the figures for cataloging of materials in the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages (Hebrew, at 1,100 titles, is reasonably well served), we are distressed by the fact that if but 800 titles in Arabic, 130 in Persian, and 400 in Turkish were cataloged in FY 1988, many hundreds more books and serials in those languages were added to the thousands that are already in LC's uncataloged backlogs. Surely LC, as the Library of the Congress of the United States and our de facto national library, cannot be fulfilling its mission if thousands of volumes published in the Middle East languish in cataloging arrearages.

In addition, as citizens of the Republic, and as specialist and experts in Middle Eastern languages and Middle East studies, we are deeply concerned that information from and about an area of the world that is vital to the interests of the United States and to world peace is not being made available to policy makers, scholars, and researchers.

It is useful to compare LC's cataloging statistics against those of other American research libraries. One library submitted the following figures for FY 1988:

Arabic:	653 titles
Persian:	488 titles
Central Asian:	242 titles
Armenian:	190 titles

The 653 titles in Arabic and 488 in Persian were cataloged by two half-time assistants who also have other duties. The Armenian books were also cataloged by part-time staff. The same library reported an additional "954 Arabic titles cataloged since December of 1987 by a full-time cataloger hired under a special program to attack the library's backlogs."

By way of another outstanding example, in the library of an American university with a world-renowned collection on the Middle East, during fiscal 1987-1988 three full-time professional catalogers (doing Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew), of whom the equivalent of approximately 1.6 people devoted their work to Arabic, cataloged 5,976 titles. Of these about 51% or 3,025 titles were in Arabic. Out of the total of 5,976 titles cataloged, about 62% (approximately 3,700 titles) were originally cataloged (98.5% full LC/RLIN standard and 1.5% a local version of upgraded minimal level cataloging); 25% were modified from RLIN member copy; and 13% were cataloged using LC copy.

MELA members who look to LC for leadership and guidance, who are required to rely on LC as the source of cataloging information, wonder why an American university library staff of three can catalog 5,976 titles, of which about 3,700 are original cataloging, in one year, while the LC staff of seven, plus an unknown number of catalogers for Hebraica, plus preliminary

catalogers, subject catalogers, and shelflisters, produce 2,431 titles in a fiscal year.

Many other examples of outstanding productivity in Middle East cataloging have been submitted to me; I would be happy to share them with you.

The members of the Middle East Librarians Association have the greatest possible respect and admiration for their friends and colleagues who work as catalogers and in other positions in the Library of Congress. We are all friends and associates of long standing, and those of us outside LC have a keen awareness of the profound contribution our colleagues within LC have made and continue to make to Middle East librarianship, librarianship in general, and to the world of scholarship. At the same time, however, we are deeply concerned about the decline of LC's leadership in the cataloging of Middle East materials.

Recent history has repeatedly shown us as a nation that we need greater understanding and knowledge of the Middle East. We cannot have either if thousands of significant books and serials remain uncataloged and unavailable to scholars, researchers, policy makers, and the citizens of the Republic. In addition, we Middle East librarians, who are obligated to follow LC's methods, are continually frustrated in our own work as catalogers because the lack of cataloging output prevents us from learning from LC.

Our intent is not to criticize, but to bring a critical problem to your attention, and to offer you our advice, suggestions, assistance, and collective and individual expertise to help solve it. Experienced catalogers and other members of the Middle East Librarians Association work in numerous, Middle East collections in colleges, universities, and research libraries throughout the country. The members of the Middle East Librarians Association are ready to join with you in working out solutions to this serious problem, so that the vast number of Middle Eastern vernacular materials hidden in the backlogs of our national library, and consequently in many other libraries as well, may be cataloged and available to researchers.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Jajko
Middle East Bibliographer

President, Middle East Librarians
Association

tel. 415-723-2050

MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM PROJECT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
1 November 1988

Present: George Atiyeh (Library of Congress), Ray Boylan (Center for Research Libraries), Ed Jajko (Hoover Institution), Fawzi Khoury (University of Washington), David Partington (Harvard University), Dona Straley (Ohio State University), Todd Thompson (New York Public Library)

Absent: Janet Heineck (University of Washington), Dennis Hyde (University of Pennsylvania), Nassif Youssif (University of Minnesota)

David Partington called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. in Room 20 of the North Campus Commons, UCLA.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of May 20, 1988, were accepted.

Ray Boylan reviewed the financial statement (see attached). The statement was accepted.

Several member institutions have expressed a willingness to volunteer cataloging expertise for materials purchased by MEMP which cannot be cataloged by CRL.

Partington reviewed efforts to publicize the Project and to solicit members. He sent letters to all Middle East Center directors and library directors of institutions which had not yet joined MEMP. Notices were also placed in the Africana newsletter, the MESA newsletter, the MESA bulletin, and the LC information bulletin. He will be contacting Canadian institutions this winter. He reviewed the responses to his letters, and Boylan distributed an updated membership list (see attached). Current membership stands at 20 institutions. Hebrew Union College enquired about less than full membership; the Executive Committee agreed that there should be only full membership in the Project.

Partington presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees for the three positions on the Executive Committee will consist of Brenda Bickett (Georgetown University), Dennis Hyde (University of Pennsylvania), and Abazar Sepeshri (University of Texas at Austin). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the membership meeting, as provided in the by-laws.

Partington reviewed the discussion at the Executive Committee's spring meeting concerning the confusion of the terms Executive Committee and MEMP Committee. He suggested using Executive Board and MEMP Council. Boylan reviewed the history of these terms as used in other microform projects. No conclusions were reached during the ensuing discussion. The matter will be presented to the MEMP Committee.

Fawzi Khoury reported that the database project has begun slowly but that he will be actively soliciting contributions in the new year. He confirmed that the database will consist of finding aids and sources, not individual microform titles.

Ed Jajko asked who was responsible for checking holdings of titles suggested for purchase. Boylan reviewed the balloting procedures for purchases, which can be either a simple yes or no, or consist of a ranking system. Khoury will distribute the database bibliography periodically to all members for consultation. Concern was expressed over determining if something has been filmed non-commercially. It was felt that this must depend on individuals' knowledge of collections and their conditions.

Khoury raised the question of trying to microform materials in the Middle East which are in danger of disappearing, and whether any pressure can be exerted in order to achieve this. Boylan reviewed projects done by SAMP and CAMP, and passed out a list of CRL holdings on the Middle East. He commented on types of materials suitable for suggestion for CRL purchase rather than for MEMP purchase. The discussion continued on general directions MEMP should consider for the future.

Boylan reviewed the list of Jordanian newspapers which was sent out for voting by the membership. He explained how he had chosen the ones from a long list provided by George Atiyeh. He discussed the results of the voting and some objections raised on some of the ballots. The following title were approved for purchase: al-Jāmi'ah al-'Arabīyah, al-Jāmi'ah al-Misrīyah, al-Lata'if, al-Manār, and Minerfā.

Boylan asked that someone knowledgeable look at the remainder of the Jordan list and choose other important titles for a ballot. Khoury volunteered his assistant, Don Cioeta, to annotate the list. Cioeta's Ph.D. dissertation concerned the press in Syria during the early twentieth century.

The question of teaching faculty involvement in MEMP and their serving as representatives on the MEMP Committee was raised. Partington will urge all MEMP Committee members to contact their faculty, discuss MEMP with them, and to solicit suggestions from them.

The Executive Committee re-elected Partington as chair and Straley as secretary for the next year.

Partington asked for suggestions on strengthening MEMP's relationship with MESA. It was suggested that the MEMP Committee meeting be held during MESA so that anyone could attend. Partington will raise the question at the MEMP Committee meeting and will talk to MESA about scheduling possibilities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Partington thanked Dunning Wilson (UCLA) for providing the meeting room, refreshments, and information for both the Executive Committee and MEMP Committee meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona S. Straley

MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM PROJECT
COMMITTEE MEETING
1 November 1989

Attendance roster attached.

David Partington called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. in Room 20 of the North Campus Commons, UCLA. He thanked Dunning Wilson for working to provide the meeting room, refreshments and information to members.

Ray Boylan presented the financial report (see attached) which was accepted by the Committee. He also handed out copies of an updated membership list (see attached).

Partington reported on activities designed to gain publicity and members for MEMP (see Executive Committee minutes for details).

Partington reported that the Executive Committee had re-elected himself as chair and Dona Straley as secretary for the coming year.

Dunning Wilson reported that the Nominating Committee had nominated Brenda Bickett (Georgetown University), Dennis Hyde (University of Pennsylvania), and Abazar Sepehri (University of Texas at Austin) to run for the three vacant positions on the Executive Committee. He called for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed. The procedure for voting for Executive Committee members was reviewed.

Partington asked the Committee to consider whether the terms "Executive Committee" and "MEMP Committee" were confusing and should be replaced. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the current terms be retained.

Partington reviewed the general criteria for selection of materials for MEMP as affirmed by the Executive Committee at its spring meeting. General discussion followed. Government documents and manuscripts were suggested as types of materials which should be considered for high priority. It was decided that any individuals may propose a title for purchase or a project for microforming; the proposer will be responsible for coordinating the project.

Fawzi Khoury reported on the database of finding aids and sources which he is creating. Committee members expressed urgent need of a union list of microforms held in North American libraries. Khoury will create such a list based on individual institutions reporting their holdings to him. The bibliography of finding aids and sources will be compiled by Hamid Mahamedi. Partington suggested that a union list of microform holdings would be of great interest to MESA. Khoury will issue cumulative quarterly issues of the union list.

Partington suggested that a committee be appointed to study long-term projects. Boylan reported that CAMP may well be interested in joint projects. He passed out to members a list of CRL holdings in microform on the Middle East. Individual projects were discussed. Chris Murphy will check on LC holdings of Turkish defters. Partington will look in to the costs of filming Takvim-i vekayi and will submit the information for a mail ballot.

Partington reported on the results of the mail ballot on Jordanian newspapers (see Executive Committee minutes).

Todd Thompson reported that NYPL had been offered subscriptions to 18 Sudanese newspapers which LC had decided not to purchase. the titles are produced by a variety of minor and splinter political parties. The MEMP Committee agreed that these titles should be sent directly to CRL, who will film them every year as a MEMP project.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona S. Straley

MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM PROJECT

MEMBERSHIP LIST

June 1988

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Columbia University	Frank Uniandherm
Georgetown University	Brenda E. Bickett
Harvard University	David Partington*
Hoover Institution	Edward A. Jajko*
Indiana University	Mark Day
Library of Congress	George Atiyeh*
New York Public Library	Todd Thompson*
Ohio State University	Dona Straley*
UCLA	D. S. Wilson
University of California- Berkeley	Hamid Mahamedi
University of Chicago	Bruce Craig
University of Illinois	Narindar K. Aggarwal
University of Massachusetts- Amherst	Siegfried Feller
University of Minnesota	Nassif Youssif*
University of Pennsylvania	J. Dennis Hyde*
Princeton University	James Weinberger
University of Texas-Austin	Abazar Sepehri
University of Washington	Fawzi Khoury
Washington University- St. Louis	William Olbrich
University of Wisconsin-Madison	David P. Henige
Yale University	Michail Keller

* Executive Committee

**MEMP COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE ROSTER
1 November 1988**

George Atiyeh	Library of Congress
Brenda Bickett	Georgetown University
Ray Boylan	Center for Research Libraries
Janet Heineck	University of Washington
Ed Jajko	Hoover Institution
Fawzi Khoury	University of Washington
Hamid Mahamedi	University of Calif., Berkeley
Chris Murphy	Library of Congress
David Partington	Harvard University
Abazar Sepehri	University of Texas, Austin
Dona Straley	Ohio State University
Todd Thompson	New York Public Library
Frank Unlandherm	Columbia University
James Weinberger	Princeton University
Dunning Wilson	UCLA
Julian Witherell	Library of Congress

MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM PROJECT
PROJECT FINANCIAL STATEMENT
October 27, 1988

	CLOSING FY 1988	October YTD (2)
FUND BALANCE/JULY 1, 1987	\$0.00	\$ 8,362.74
REVENUES		
Membership Fees	\$9,000.00	\$10,000.00
Income from sales	.00	.00 (4)
	-----	-----
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,000.00	\$10,000.00
EXPENSES		
	\$.00	\$.00 (4)
Cost of sales	.00	.00
Acquisitions	.00	.00
Business expenses	.00	.00
Publications	.00	.00
Travel	637.26	.00
Personnel		
Processing Fees	.00	.00
Cataloging	.00	.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$637.26	\$.00
REVENUES LESS EXPENSES	\$8,362.74	\$10,000.00
COMMITMENTS (3)		
Materials on order	\$.00	\$.00
Materials approved	.00	.00
Non-material expenses	.00	750.00 (5)
	-----	-----
TOTAL COMMITMENTS	\$.00	\$750.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$8,362.74	\$17,612.74

NOTES:

1. The FUND BALANCE, REVENUES, and EXPENSES shown under each complete quarter are taken from the Center's accounting records. Each column shows cumulative figures for the year.
2. The REVENUES and EXPENSES shown in the YTD (year to date) column combine the official Center accounting records and check vouchers issued up to the date of the statement. The column shows cumulative figures for the year.
3. The COMMITMENTS are taken from the records of the Acquisitions Department and the project coordinator are intended to reflect the projected costs of past decisions by the MEMP Committee and ongoing operations.
4. Income from sales and cost of sales reflect pass through funds, with a small profit expected. Income from sales may reflect profit payments.
5. Travel to meeting

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

George N. Atiyeh (Library of Congress) authored an article on recorded readings of 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature winner Naguib Mahfouz at LC, which appeared on p. 509 of the 19 December 1988 Library of Congress Information Bulletin. Part of LC's Archives of World Literature on Tape (LWD-12,022), readings from al-Maraya and al-Jarimah were taped in 1977.

Ragai N. Makar has compiled the volume on Egypt in the Clio Press World Bibliographical Series (no. 86). Egypt was published in 1988.

James Joseph Sanchez has recently published The Index to the Tower Commission report and The Index to the Iran-Contra hearings summary report. He completed his Ph.D. in May, 1988, with a dissertation entitled "Soviet Azerbaijan and comparative institutional development in the Soviet southern tier", and is currently working to bring online the Asian Pacific Database with DIALOG in Pal Alto. Dr. Sanchez is the designer of the database, which will include detailed coverage of the Middle East and South Asia, as well as Pacific Basin economies.

ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

Name	Network	Address	ID
Janet Heineck	BITNET	UWACDC	

FUTURE CONFERENCES

MELCOM INTERNATIONAL

The 1989 annual meeting of MELCOM International, our European counterpart, will be held in Durham, England, on 6-8 July 1989. This meeting will be in conjunction with the annual conference of BRISMES, in Durham, England, on 9-12 July 1989.

Accommodation can be arranged in the colleges at the University of Durham.

For further information, contact the MELCOM secretariat:

Mme. Genevieve Joly
Societe Asiatique
3, rue Mazarine (Palais de l'Institut)
75006 Paris
FRANCE

MELA

The next annual meeting will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 14(?) November 1989. Meryle Gaston, Vice-President and Program Chair, is planning the program; ideas and suggestions can be directed to her. The exact date(s) and venues will be announced as soon as possible, to give you plenty of lead time to apply for funding and prepare your presentation!

MESA advance information draws attention to the fact that Toronto, "referred to as the Paris of North America, is a special city that you won't want to miss." Room rates at the Sheraton Centre are \$100 (Canadian) single (=US\$77) and \$120 (Canadian) double (=US\$92).

MESA also advises that everyone will have to pass through Canadian Customs. All American citizens must show proof of citizenship (birth certificate, passport, "green card"). Citizens of countries other than the U.S. should check with the Canadian Embassy or nearest Consulate before their departure.

MESA

The twenty-third Annual Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 15-18 November 1989; it will be hosted by the Department of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Toronto. The reception will be held at the Royal Ontario Museum, where there will be an exhibit of Oriental carpets and an exhibitions of Persian drawings from the 14th and 15th centuries loaned by the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin. See under MELA above for further information.

TORONTO OTTOMAN/MODERN TURKISH DUPLICATES FOR SALE

The University of Toronto Library has a large collection of Ottoman and modern Turkish duplicates available for sale, as announced at MELA 1987, which it prefers to sell as a collection, rather than by individual title, or on consignment. Approximately 2,100 volumes, of which one-third are periodical volumes, are included. Most of the major historians are represented. The collection is probably half Ottoman and half modern Turkish. The modern Turkish portion includes publications of the 1940s and the 1950s, from reputable institutes and publishing houses, such as Turk Tarih Kurumu, etc.

A representative sampling is listed below:

Sadeddin, Taj ul-tevarih, 2 v. (1279)

Tarih vesikaları, v. 1-12

Tanzimat, v. 1

Evliya Çelebi Seyahatnamesi (1314) 6 v.

Tarih-i Naima, 5 v. (1864)

Ayvansarayî, Hadikat ül-cevâmî

Ismail Hakki Brusevi, Şerh ül-mesnevi, 2 v. (1870)

Mehmed Said Feraizade, Tarih-i qülsen-i ma'arif, 2 v.

(1252)

Esad, Üss-i zafer, (1243)

La Turquie kemaliste, 1-49

Bağdatlı Ismail Paşa, Hadiyat el-arifin, 2 v. and Keşf el-zunun zeyli

Piri Reis, Kitabi bahriye (1935)

Kutadgu bilig, T.T.K. 7 v.

Türk Tarih Encümeni mecmuası & Belleten

Price: US \$ 50,000, excluding shipping.

This is a unique opportunity to acquire an excellent scholarly collection which would take decades to develop through the antiquarian trade, at a far higher price.

For further information, call or write:

Virginia H. Aksan
Cataloguing Dept., Robarts Library
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1
CANADA

416-978-4839 (work, 9 am-2 pm)

416-653-7881 (home)

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Ed Jajko (Hoover Institution) sends the following:

I am addressing this request for information to all readers of MELA Notes. I would like to identify and catalog an Arabic book that is in the backlog of the Hoover Institution Middle East Collection. The book lacks title page, original cover, and an information that I can use for purposes of identification, given the limited bibliographic resources available to me here. I have only what is either the title or half-title and a presumed date of publication. The item was not found on RLIN (FIN TP MALAMIH MIN). I would greatly appreciate it if colleagues could check if the information given below matches anything in their catalogs.

Description:

Title or half-title (on p. [1], recto of page preceding dedication page):

Malāmiḥ min shakḥīyat al-bilād al-ʿArabīyah al-muqaddasah

Introd. dated: 83-12-30

63-4-24

Introd. begins (p. [5]): Kullumā kutiba fī hādḥā al-kitāb, innamā kutiba bi-ilḥāḥ min al-fikrah kamā anna ṭabʿahu wa-ikhrājahu, innamā tamma bi-ilḥāḥ min baʿd al-qurrāʾ, ʾammā al-muʾallif fa-lam yakun dawruhu fī dhālika illā dawr al-mustajīb.

Pagination (starting from title/half-title as p. [1]) and size: [8], 425, [6] p. ; 20 cm.

Chapter or section heading on p. 1: al-Laḥn al-dāʾ.

Please send whatever information you may be able to find about this book to:

Edward A. Jajko
Middle East Bibliographer
Hoover Institution
Stanford CA 94305-6010

LC ARABIC ROMANIZATION POLICY : AN UPDATE

Ben Tucker, Chief, Office for Descriptive Cataloging Policy, LC, writes:

'As you are probably aware, there are many problems in romanizing Arabic. A particular problem relates to the "correct" romanization of Arabic personal names. Not only may different forms in romanization be arrived at by different speakers of the language, but also the expressions of a name may appear in non-Arabic publications (e.g., French or English books) already romanized, but in various non-systematic ways. On the basis of one or more of the factors suggested by the preceding statement, the Library of Congress too often receives queries recommending a more "correct" heading than the one we have provided. We would like to give the tenor of our answers wider distribution for the benefit of anyone interested in Arabic headings...

Due to a number of queries received at the Library of Congress about the romanization of Arabic personal names, we would like to clarify our policy as follows: Generally, we are reluctant to say that one form of romanization is more correct than another when there are two likely forms. Due to the nature of the language and the wide regional variation in its pronunciation, more than one spelling in romanization may appear for a name. Consequently, we prefer to treat variants of an established heading as cross references, as opposed to updating the name authority record and any associated bibliographic records -- whenever the variant is justified only by such evidence as a vocalized title page or by an added title page in a roman language. The addition of a cross reference will guarantee access as we wait for more substantial evidence. With more substantial evidence in hand (e.g., explicit information from the author), we of course shall make the necessary changes.'

At the ALA Midwinter 1989 meeting of the Committee on Cataloging of Asian and African Materials in January, 1989, it was announced that LC plans to serially publish chapters of the projected Arabic cataloging manual (on the lines of Hebraica cataloging: a guide to ALA/LC romanization and descriptive cataloging, 1987), in future issues of Cataloging services bulletin. A draft of the first installment, on romanization, which is to supplement the LC romanization scheme and to provide clarifying examples, was distributed at the above-mentioned meeting; publication is scheduled for the summer 1989 issue of CSB.

THE ANCIENT Sijill OF GAYRAWAN

The publication by Ibrāhīm Shabbūh of the ancient list of books preserved in the Gayrawān Mosque brought to light not only the titles of these books but the terminology used for their description.¹ Behind this terminology is hidden an interesting picture of book production of that day. The Sijill gives us a good insight into many aspects of early practices in the making of manuscript codices.

Although copied in Jumādā al-Ūlā 693 A.H./1294 A.D., the list is based on the exemplar going back to at least the period before 295/907 or 908, i.e., the time when the Aghlabids completed the Great Mosque.² The Sijill is the earliest known catalogue of an Arabic book collection. It contains 125 entries, over 50 percent of which are copies of the Qur'ān. The remainder constitute titles of early books on Tafsir, Ḥadīth, Fiqh and other disciplines. The Qur'ān is referred to as al-Kitāb al-ʿazīz and a complete copy of it is called khatmah (pl. khitam), with the honorific mubārakah. Depending on the size of the hand, manuscripts were transcribed in one or a number of volumes (tajzi'ah, French: tome). Thus, for example, "khamsat ajzā' min khatmat Qur'ān tajzi'at sab'ah" (no. 24) refers to five volumes of a set of seven. The word juz' is predominantly used in connection with the Qur'ān. The words sifr (pl. asfār, from the Hebrew sefer), a synonym of juz', and daftar (pl. dafātir, originally meaning a register and later a notebook or booklet) are used for manuscripts other than Qur'āns. Furthermore, sifr seems to be used in the sense of a bound volume (most probably using paste-boards, since the lawh, that is a wooden board, is not mentioned), as opposed to daftar, which can be of different thickness but is usually unbound. In two cases (nos. 86 and 105), the daftar is covered with parchment (ʿalayhi raqq, mughshāh bi-al-raqq). The word mujallad (bound) is not used in these two cases and, therefore, one can assume that the parchment covering acted as a limp cover, a kind of wrapper. Most of the dafātir consist of parchment leaves, though paper leaves are also reported (e.g., no. 113). Daftar, as opposed to kurrāsah (quire, gathering), has an independent existence.³

The codices described in the Sijill come in three different formats (qālib, jirm, ṭabaq): small (latīf), median (wasaf) and large (kabīr). The word ṭabaq (pl. aṭbāq, lit. tray, plate, but also basket) refers to a mold and consequently the size of the original sheet.⁴ Thus, niṣf al-ṭabaq (one-half of the sheet) would mean a format obtained by folding the original sheet once (giving two leaves) and rub' al-ṭabaq (one-quarter of the sheet) by folding it twice (giving four leaves). Al-ṭabaq, also mentioned as al-ṭabaq al-kabīrah (!) (no. 3), niṣf al-ṭabaq and rub' al-ṭabaq indicate large, median and small formats.⁵

The codices are composed of gatherings (kurrās, kurrāsah, pl. karārīs). Each quire has a number of folios (leaves) referred to as waraq, waraqah (pl. awraq). Each folio consists of two pages

called *ṣafḥah* (pl. *ṣafāḥāt*). On each page, depending on the size of the hand, there is a set of lines called *miṣṭarah*, e.g. *miṣṭarat ṣabʿah*, meaning seven lines to the page, or *mukhtalifat al-miṣṭarah*, with a varying number of lines to the page.⁶

The writing surfaces are of two types: parchment (*raqq*, *riqq*) and paper (*kāghad*). Dark blue parchment (*raqq akḥal*) is mentioned on one occasion (no. 1), and so is black ink (*ḥibr*, no. 2). Among the paper *al-kāghad al-sharqī* (no. 2), that is paper manufactured in the eastern part of the Islamic lands, is mentioned. Other inks include gold (*dhahab*), silver (*fiddah*), red (*aḥmar*), yellow (*aṣḥar*), green (*akḥḍar*), and lapis-lazuli (*lāziward*). All Qurʾānic codices are richly illuminated in gold (*tahdhīb*, *idhnāb*). The first and last folios (*awāʾil*, *awākhir*), chapter headings (*tasmīyat al-suwar*) are often described as having a rich layer of gilt decoration (*mudhahhab bi-al-idhnāb al-kabīr*). Gold and color illumination also applies to numbers and marks indicating the division of the Qurʾān into *ḥizb* (pl. *ḥizāb*), *ʿashr* (pl. *aʿshār*), *khamṣ* (pl. *akḥmās*) and *sajdah* (pl. *sajadāt*). The letters are also vocalized (*qabṭ*) in a variety of colors. We read on one occasion (no. 45): *wa-dubīṭa al-naṣb bi-al-dhahab wa-dubīṭa al-raʿ minḥā bi-al-aḥmar wa-dubīṭa al-khaḍʾ minḥā bi-al-lāziward wa-al-aḥmar* (the accusative case is indicated in gold, the nominative in red and the genitive in lapis-lazuli and red).⁷

The different scripts (*khaṭṭ*, *qalam*) are indicated as *kūfī* (nos. 1 and 16), *kūfī rayḥānī* (no. 8), *rayḥānī* (no. 40), *sharqī* (most probably referring to the Oriental hand, popularly known as *naskḥī*) (no. 2), *nabʿī* (of Nabarah, central part of Tripoli) (no. 12) and *ṣiqillī* (of Sicily) (no. 103).⁸

Most but not all of the Qurʾānic codices enumerated in the *Siḥill* are bound (*mujallad*). Some, like no. 57, exist in gatherings. Those bound are covered (*mughshan*) in leather (*jild*) or parchment (*raqq*) over wooden boards (*ʿūd*, *lawḥ*). Some manuscripts, however, are covered with silk (*muwajjah bi-al-ḥarīr*) over boards or with silk over leather over boards (nos. 3 and 8). The leather is often red (*aḥmar*) or dark blue (*akḥal*) and is tooled (*manqūsh*). The tooling is indicated on one occasion (no. 2) as being effected with a pallet (*ḡirs*, lit. molar tooth) to create a pattern of interlace.⁹ This item is of great interest for it is a single volume which is closed by means of a locking device (*qufl*), made of glazed gold (*dhahab muzajjaḥ*) and enclosed in a box-like structure (*fī bayt ʿūd laṭīf*). This type of binding (if it was indeed a binding and not a separate box) whereby the edges of the book are protected by rigid sides, is supposed to be the earliest form of Islamic binding.¹⁰ For doubleures (*biṭānah*, pl. *baṭāʾin*) silk and leather are used. The *Siḥill* mentions the following types of silk: green (*akḥḍar*), blue (*azraq*) and silk-brocade (*ḥarīr mudabbaj*).

The various volumes are kept in wooden boxes or chests (*bayt*, pl. *buyūt*; *rabʿah*, pl. *rabaʿāt*; *tābūt*, pl. *tawābīt*).¹¹ Some of these

boxes are covered in leather and divided into compartments (buyūt). They have lids (ghitā', pl. aghṭīyah) and their knobs (miqbāḍ, pl. maqābiḍ) and corners (rukn, pl. arkān) are made of copper (nuḥās). The copper decoration is sometimes overlaid with gold (mamūh bi-al-dhahab, no. 1). Some of the boxes were huge, for we read in no. 51: fa-kāna jumlat ma ḥaṣala fī hādhihi al-rab'ah min al-ajzā' ithnān wa-arba'ūn juz'an (altogether there are in this chest forty-two volumes). We also learn that the decoration on the lid can consist of arabesque (ma'a awraq, no. 17) or a pattern of small tools (silsilah min ḥadīd, no. 41). Another element of decoration in this area is a silver nail (mismar min fiddah, no. 34).

Adam Gacek
Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University

1. "Sijill qadīm li-Maktabat Jāmi' Qayrawān", Majallat Ma'had al-Makhtūtāt al-'Arabīyah, 2 (1956), pp. 339-372.
2. This information is based on a bequest-note (taḥbīs).
3. Ibn Sīd al-Baṭalyawsi (d. 521/1127) tells us that it became common to use the word sifr for bound books, whereas daftar could have been used for both the bound and unbound volumes (see his al-Iqtidāb fī sharh adab al-kuttāb, Beirut, 1973, p. 96). It is also of interest to note here that there was a script called qalam al-dafatir used by al-Ḥasan ibn 'Alī ibn Muqlah, the brother of Abū 'Alī, the Wazīr (Yāqūt, Mu'jam al-udabā', Cairo, 1927, vol. 3, p. 130). For more information about daftar see Encyclopedia of Islam, new ed., vol. 2, p. 77-81.
4. The word ṭabaq is mentioned by J. von Karabaček as being a sheet of paper used for the making of a scroll (darj, pl. durūj) ("Das arabische Papier", Mitteilungen aus der Sammlung der Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer, vol. 2-3, 1887, p. 144).
5. Another word for format is qat' and taqṭī' (see al-Qalqashandī, Subḥ al-a'shā, vol. 2, p. 487-488, and vol. 6, p. 189-196). al-Zarnūjī in his Ta'lim al-muta'allim tarīq al-ta'allum (Beirut, 1981, p. 85) says that the book should be square in format (yanbaghī an yakūna taqṭī' al-kitāb murabba'an) because it was the format used by Abū Ḥanīfah (d. 150/767) and it is easier to handle such a book. Khālid al-Naqshabandī in his Daftar kutub (to be published by J.J. Witkam in Manuscripts of the Middle East) mentions the following formats: qat' al-kāmil, qat' al-nisf, qat' al-rub' and qat' al-thumn. These formats are reminiscent of the European folio, quarto, octavo and duodecimo.
6. The word miṣṭarah apart from signifying the number of lines per page, also means a ruler or straight-edge and a device in the shape of a frame with silk threads on a cardboard (see e.g. J. Sadan, "Nouveaux documents sur scribes et copistes", Revue des études islamiques, 45 (1977), p. 33, n. 66, and M. Dukan, "De la

difficulté à reconnaître des instruments de réglure: planche à régler (mastara) et cadre-patron", Scriptorium XL, 2 (1986), pp. 257-261).

7. For the use of different colors in pointing (naqt) and vocalization (shakl) of the text see, for example, al-Qalqashandī, Subh al-a^ṣṣā, vol. 3, p. 149-167.

8. As regards kūfī rayḥānī and rayhani, Shabbūḥ is not altogether sure about the reading of this word. He says that it could be read as dahānī or ramānī (?). According to N. Abbott (see The Rise of the North Arabic script and its Kur'ānic development, Chicago, 1939, p. 36), a script called rihānī was "invented" by Ḥilī ibn Ubaydah al-Rihānī (sic) who died in 219/834. If the reading of kūfī rayḥānī is correct, and this script was indeed associated with the person of al-Rayḥānī, which is very likely because of the early period in which he flourished, we would have to accept that the definition of rihānī, given by Abbott (op. cit.), as being a variation of thuluth and naskhī, is inaccurate. If kūfī rayḥānī did exist, it is likely to have been the script often referred to as "Qarmatian" or "Eastern Kufic".

9. The word in the text reads ṭirs (sic). On this and other aspects of tooling see my "Arabic bookmaking and terminology as portrayed by Bakr al-Ishbīlī in his 'Kitāb al-taysīr fī sinā'at al-tasfīr'", Manuscripts of the Middle East, 5 (1990-forthcoming).

10. This type of binding is illustrated in G. Marcais and L. Poinssot, Objets kairouanais. IXe au Xlle siècles (Tunis, 1948), p. 14. The assertion that such a form of binding existed has been contested by G. Bosch and G. Petherbridge on the basis of inconclusive evidence (see Islamic bindings and bookmaking, Chicago, 1981, pp. 55-56).

11. Rab'ah is a box or chest (ṣandūq, ṣundūq) of square shape, made of wood and covered with leather. The larger boxes were divided into compartments. This word also applies to a copy of the Qur'an (rab'ah sharīfah), irrespective of the number of volumes it contains. See R. Dozy, Supplément aux dictionnaires arabes, Jeme' ed. (Paris, 1967), vol. 1, p. 503, and Muḥammad al-Manūnī, "Tārīkh al-Muṣḥaf al-Sharīf bi-al-Maghrib", Majallat Maḥad al-Makhtūtāt al-'Arabīyah, 15 (1969), p. 15.

FOREIGN FRUSTRATION, OR, THE SAGA OF THE JINXED BOOKS

When I decided to spend part of my vacation in Tunisia, I planned to visit ALECSO (Arab League Education, Cultural and Scientific Organization) to revive Columbia University's previous exchange with them. On my first day in Tunis, after a one week tour of the country, I received a phone call inviting me to a meeting on the following Monday morning.

On the appointed day, I took a taxi out to the ALECSO office where I met Dr. Mohamed Khafagi, Director of the Information Data Processing Department. He was extremely gracious and quite interested in reviving the exchange agreement. He had copies of all their current publications brought to his office and I was encouraged to select any that Columbia University Library might use. I selected quite a few of the many interesting titles. Dr. Khafagi explained, that if I took the books to the USIS Office, the L.C. representative could arrange for their shipment to New York. He also kindly explained how to find the office, which was quite near my hotel. After serving me Arab coffee, he had the books packed in a carton, had a taxi called, and then had one of his staff carry the box of books down to the waiting taxi.

I took the box, which weighed about 45 pounds, back to my hotel room. That afternoon I went to the USIS office and explained my problem. The regional librarian, to whom I had been directed by Dr. Khafagi, had just left for Morocco and I was passed along to various people until I got to the director who happily explained that they never got involved in shipping books for individuals and had no facilities for doing so. She did, however, have one of her Tunisian employees give me directions to the nearest post office. I decided to walk there and check it out. I found that I had been directed to the Post Office Telephone center. Not much use to me.

There, I asked directions to the Parcel Post and was told I would have to go out to the airport. Then I asked a policeman who directed me to a post office not too far away. I went there and asked about shipping a parcel to the USA and was told that I could. However, there was no one there to wrap parcels. (In Morocco, where I frequently buy books, outside each parcel post office are men who gain their livelihood wrapping parcels for shipment.)

Back at the hotel, I spoke to the concierge and he got me a couple of smaller boxes, some string and some scotch tape. I made up the smaller of the boxes, which held about a third of the books and returned to the post office. No problem until she told me the cost. For this one small parcel it would cost over \$71.00, over \$210.00 for all of the books. I decided not to ship it.

Later, at CEMAT (Centre d'Études Maghrebines à Tunis), I told my story to Jeanne Mrad, the Center director. She said that all

visiting scholars had exactly the same problem and that most of them wound up taking their books with them, mailing them from somewhere else. I decided to do likewise.

Then I had to repack all the books in the large box and secure it. For this I needed some tape, so I went from store to store in Tunis, trying to explain in my fractured French what I was looking for. I finally found it and learned the word "adhesif". I firmly secured the box in bright blue tape and had only the usual trouble getting to the airport with my own two cases and this box of books. As I had juggled my baggage so that all the heavy stuff was in a carry-on bag, I only had to pay excess baggage fees on 10 kilos, about \$28.00. Of course I didn't have this much in Tunisian currency, so I had to run to the bank to change enough dollars to pay the charge.

The flight from Tunis to Casablanca was fine, but then we landed and my problems started again. I managed to get my bags and the box to Customs and explained that the box held only books, a gift to Columbia from the Arab League. No good! I had to open the box that I had so carefully wrapped in blue tape and the Customs agent and his supervisor had to examine the books. Of course they passed the books, but now the box was permanently open.

I had left Tunis on a Saturday, the day before the big Muslim holiday, 'Id al-Kabir. After leaving Customs, I got the bus from the airport into the city. The bus station was in chaos--everyone was trying to get home for the holiday. Here was I, carrying two cases and the box of books, trying to leave it at the Left Luggage, while thousands of Moroccans were trying to get their baggage registered for their buses at the same counter. Finally, I was able to leave it and go to my hotel, to collapse.

I thought that I would leave the package at the bus station until Monday, the day after 'Id. However, it turned out that the holiday was a day later in Morocco than in Tunisia, i.e. on Monday. I had planned to catch an early morning train to Tangier on Tuesday, but could not because of the box of books. Imagine how I felt on Tuesday when I learned that, although the stores reopened, banks and government offices, including post offices, were closed for another day. Since I had to leave that day, I retrieved the box from the bus station and carried it to my hotel, where I asked them to store it for a couple of weeks until my return.

Upon my return to Casablanca, I found the box safe and sound, the post office re-opened. I decided to finally rid myself of the books the following morning. First thing next morning, I got the box and asked the taxi driver to go to the "Colis Postaux". He took me to a different branch than I normally used, but no problem. I showed the books to the Customs official, filled out the forms, and had the books wrapped in four neat parcels. Then I took the parcels to the mail counter. The clerk asked why I had had the parcels wrapped in four parcels. I said that I

understood that book post had to be under 5 kilos. He explained that they did not handle book post there and that if I wanted the reduced rate I must go to the "Paket Post", which is the branch I normally went to.

Then I loaded the four parcels back into the box and staggered out into the street, to find a taxi to take me to the other post office. After some time, I was able to get a taxi and to arrive at the other post office. There I had to start all over again with Customs. I was sure at this point that he would make me undo each parcel so that he could see that they were indeed books, but when I explained what had happened and showed him the customs forms I had filled out previously, he was extremely helpful and the parcels were stamped and sent on their way. The cost of mailing the 45 pounds of books in Morocco: about \$24.00. As I saw the parcels disappear into the hopper in the post office, I vowed never, never to accept a gift of books again in Tunisia.

Frank H. Unlandherm
Columbia University Library

LIBRARY/BOOK FELLOW POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR 1989-90

Applications are now being accepted for the 1989-90 Library/Book Fellows Program. The joint program of the American Library Association (ALA) and the United States Information Agency (USIA) will place approximately ten U.S. citizens overseas beginning in September, 1989.

The position of most interest to MELA members:

Damascus, Syria - Asad National Library. Full year preferred. Fluency in Arabic desired, but library will provide full-time translator if necessary. Train 12 library employees in cataloging book and nonbook materials. If possible, advise on preservation and restoration of library materials.

Other positions include:

- University of Swaziland
- University Library, University of Dar es Salaam
- University of the West Indies, Dept. of Library Studies
- Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, School of Library Science
- General Archives of Central America
- Beijing Foreign Studies University
- National Central Library
- University of the Philippines, University and Archives Records Center
- Norwegian School of Library and Information Sciences
- University College Dublin Library
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Punjab Dept. of Education
- American Studies Research Centre

Stipends are US\$23,690 per year. Travel expenses to and from will be reimbursed and health and life insurance coverage are provided. Some hosts will assist with housing. Eligibility requirements: U.S. citizenship; command of the language of the host country is desired; education and experience in library or information science, publishing or other fields directly related to the interest and needs of specific projects, 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 a cover letter briefly stating desired position, foreign language skills, subject expertise and maximum placement service length. NO application forms are available. application deadline for the 1989-90 positions is 15 April 1989. Contact: Robert P. Doyle, Director, Library/Book Fellows Program, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; tel. 1-800-545-2433 (in Illinois: 1-800-545-2444).

NEAR EAST CATALOG LIBRARIAN

Catalog Department, Sterling Memorial Library.

MINIMUM RANK: Librarian I. Has primary responsibility for original cataloging of monographs and serials in Arabic and other Near Eastern languages. With training, will also catalog Hebrew materials. Depending upon qualifications, may assist in collection development activities for Arabic materials.

QUALIFICATIONS: MLS from an ALA-accredited library school. Reading knowledge of Arabic and Hebrew. Knowledge of current cataloging code; Library of Congress subject and classification practices. Educational background in NEar Eastern studies. Familiarity with MARC format and content designation desirable. Reading knowledge of other Near Eastern languages desirable. Previous cataloging experience desirable. Salary and rank dependent on qualifications; from a minimum of \$25,000.

Application deadline: Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Please send letter of application, resume, and names of 3 references to:

Maureen Sullivan, Head, Library Personnel Services, Yale University Library, P. O. Box 1603A, Yale Station, New Haven CT 06520. An EEO/AA employer.

MCGILL CATALOGING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

McGill University Libraries invites applications for two cataloging positions:

1) A 2-year sessional librarian to provide cataloging and selection duties for Indonesian material. Duties include transliteration, searching, use of AACR2, LC subject headings and classification, authority work plus assessment and development of existing collections. Excellent knowledge of Bahasa Indonesian and the Jawi script of Arabic, and of the literature and book trade of Indonesia is essential. Knowledge of standard Arabic and Dutch is desirable. A degree in Library Science is required.

2) A part-time/sessional cataloger for Urdu material. Duties include transliteration, searching, use of AACR2, LC subject headings and classification, authority work and prioritizing of material. Excellent knowledge of Urdu language and literature and a degree in Library Science are required.

For both positions salary will be according to qualifications.

Send application plus resume and references to Joanna Andrews, Coordinator of Technical Services, McGill University Libraries, 3459 McTavish St., Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1Y1.

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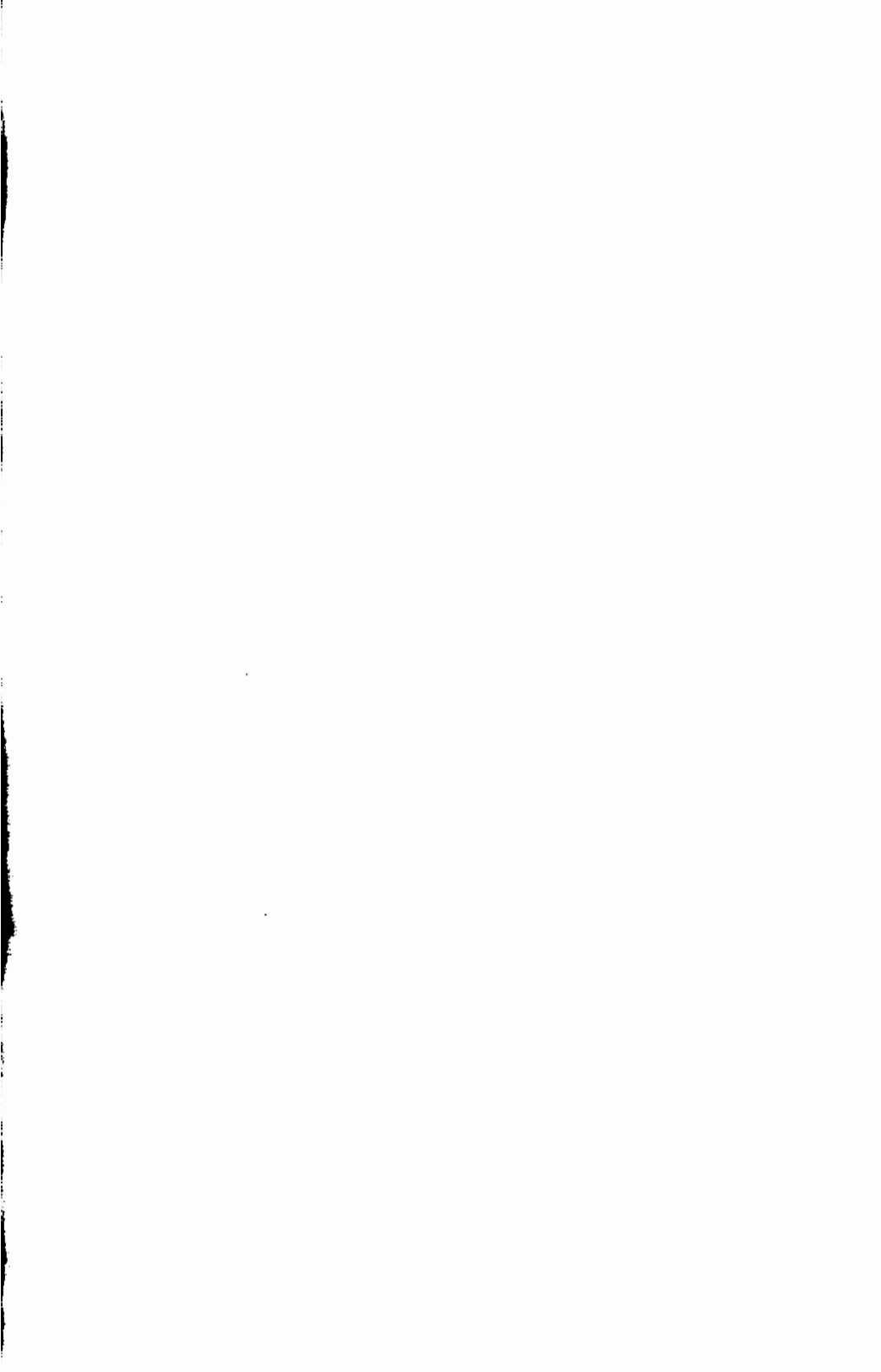
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