

MELA Notes

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 58-59

WINTER-SPRING 1993

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE	2
---------------------	---

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Minutes of the 1992 Annual Meeting.....	3
---	---

Revised By-Laws.....	6
----------------------	---

Report of CC:AAM.....	14
-----------------------	----

GENERAL NEWS

Announcements	16
---------------------	----

Positions Available	18
---------------------------	----

REVIEWS.....	22
--------------	----

<i>Index Islamicus</i>	22
------------------------------	----

Laskier, Michael M. <i>The Jews of Egypt, 1920-1970</i>	25
--	----

Shaw, Stanford J. <i>The Jews of the Ottoman Empire & the Turkish Republic</i>	25
--	----

MELA NOTES

ISSN 0364-2410

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

Magda el-Sherbini	President 1993-94
Ohio State University	
Brenda Bickett	Vice-President
Georgetown University	& Program Chair
Christopher Murphy	Past President
Library of Congress	
András Riedlmayer	Secretary-Treasurer,
Harvard University	1992-1995
John Eilts	Editor 1991-1993
Research Libraries Group	

MELA Notes

Editor	John Eilts, Research Libraries Group
Review Editor	Edward Jajko, Hoover Institution

MELA Notes is published three times a year, in winter, spring, and fall. It is distributed to members of the Association and to nonmember subscribers.

Membership dues of US\$10.00 for North American addresses or US\$15.00 for addresses outside North America bring the Notes and other mailings. Subscriptions are US\$10.00 (US\$15.00 outside North America) per calendar year, or US\$4.00 per issue for most back numbers.

Address correspondence regarding subscriptions, dues, or membership information to: András Riedlmayer, Secretary-Treasurer MELA, Aga Khan Program, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University, 25 Prescott Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Contributions to the Notes can be sent to: John Eilts, Editor MELA Notes, RLG, Inc., 1200 Villa Street, Mountain View, California 94041-1100 USA. Contributions may be sent in printed form, but electronic form is preferred. Contributions via electronic mail should be sent to: BLJAE@RLG.BITNET. We can also accept contributions on diskettes, (DOS or Macintosh, 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 inch) mailed to the above address.

MELA Notes

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 58-59

WINTER-SPRING

1993

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Minutes of the 1992 Annual Meeting.....	3
Revised By-Laws	6
Report of CC:AAM	14

GENERAL NEWS

Announcements	16
---------------------	----

REVIEWS

Index Islamicus	22
The Jews of Egypt, 1920-1970.	
The Jews of the Ottoman Empire & the Turkish Republic	25

Editor's Note

Once again you have before you a tardy issue (double no less) of *MELA Notes*. The requirements of my job have taken precedence over my duties to MELA and the Notes have suffered. In the process I have let you, my friends and colleagues, down.

I sincerely apologize for this failure. This in spite of the fact that I had the assistance of Ed Jajko tackling the tremendous task of getting books from publishers and finding reviewers for them, then editing them for publication. I want to thank Ed for this assistance.

For the above reasons, I have chosen not to run for re-election as your editor. I think that there are others in the organization who can take this vital method of communication and improve on it.

Please be kind to the new editor, it does take a number of months to make the transition from one editor to the other. Also, please remember to send items for publication to the editor. Of interest to your colleagues may be the reports from your acquisitions trips, reports from other association meetings, and other short items of news. We are all relatively isolated geographically and *MELA Notes* is vital to keeping in touch with our profession.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

MINUTES OF THE 1992 ANNUAL MEETING October 28, 1992

Chris Murphy (Library of Congress), President of the Middle East Librarians' Association 1992, called the annual meeting of the Association to order at 9:45 A.M. on Wednesday, October 28, 1992 at 338 Smith Memorial Center, Vanport Room, Portland State University. A quorum of professional members was established.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Michael Hopper (University of California, Santa Barbara), Secretary/Treasurer, asked for any changes to the minutes of the 1991 annual meeting (distributed at the annual meeting and later published in *MELA Notes* 55). There being no emendations or additions, the minutes were approved as presented. **Hopper** then gave a brief report on the state of membership and summarized the treasurer's report for 1992 which had been distributed to members at the meeting (published separately in *MELA Notes* 56/57). The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Revision of MELA By-Laws

Hopper presented the revisions of the MELA By-Laws as approved by the Executive Board at its meeting in Chicago at the Center for Research Libraries on May 1, 1992 and which were subsequently distributed to the membership before the annual meeting. Each revision was discussed separately and then a vote was taken as whether to vote on the revisions article-by-article or as a whole. Those choosing to vote on the entire set of revisions prevailed and the revisions to the MELA By-Laws were approved (the revised set of By-Laws appears elsewhere in this issue). Among the notable changes to the By-Laws were the following: change of term of membership to run from annual meeting to annual meeting, change in the term of office of President to two years, change in the office of Vice-President with no succession to the office of President, the addition of two Members-at-Large to the Executive Board one of which is elected at each annual meeting, the provision that the membership fee is due thirty days before the annual meeting, and the stipulation that the Membership be notified sixty days in advance of the annual meeting of candidates for vacant offices in the Association.

Other Reports

Jutta Reed-Scott (Association of Research Libraries : ARL) addressed the Membership about the ARL Foreign Acquisitions Project began in 1991. ARL is currently conducting a three-year study funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of all aspects of acquisitions of foreign language and area studies materials in the United States and Canadian research libraries. The purpose of the project is to mobilize major segments of the higher education community, including research libraries, in developing effective strategies and the resources needed to address scholars' foreign information needs. She asked for assistance from MELA in preparing the Middle East section of the report.

In the discussion which followed **Reed-Scott's** presentation **Dona Straley** (Ohio State University) suggested that one person serve as overall coordinator for a task force on the issue and that there be four section coordinators: one to gather information on collection development patterns, one to compile book publishing statistics from the Middle East from 1986-1991 and acquisition statistics by research libraries of those volumes, one to chart book price information from each country, and one to write a section on scholarly research trends in the field. The Membership voted to establish said task force and **Murphy** volunteered to serve as overall coordinator. **John Elits** (Research Libraries Group) offered to provide statistics on acquisitions, while **Will Tuchrello** (Library of Congress, Cairo Office) said that he could provide statistics on publishing. **Brenda Bickett** (Georgetown University) and **Basima Bezirgan** (University of Chicago) volunteered to work on scholarly research trends in Middle East Studies.

Election of Officers

For the office of Vice-President there were two nominees: **Johnny Bahbah** (Princeton University) and **Brenda Bickett**. **Bickett** was elected. She will be the first Vice-President who will not succeed to the office of President according to the new MELA By-Laws.

For the office of Secretary/Treasurer there were two nominees: **Ali Houissa** (Cornell University), and **András Riedlmayer** (Harvard University). **Riedlmayer** was elected.

For the new offices of Member-at-Large of the Executive Board there were 3 nominees: **Hedi Ben Aicha** (Princeton University), **Mary Ann**

Danner-Fadae (Indiana University), and **Ed Jajko** (Hoover Institution). **Ben Aicha** was elected to a one-year term and **Danner-Fadae** was elected to a two-year term.

Library of Congress Report

Kay Elsasser (Library of Congress) presented the annual report of the Middle East/North Africa Team at the Library of Congress for fiscal year 1992. That report is included elsewhere in this issue. **Elsasser** announced the imminent publication of the LC law classes KL-KWX, law of the Middle East. She noted that these classification tables do not include Islamic Law. **Elsasser** also announced the vacancy of the two Arabic language whole book cataloging positions at LC. She distributed copies of the Middle East/North Africa Team's Strategic Plan and Action Plan both dated September 9, 1992 and a sample issue of its Monthly Report dated September 1992.

Special Report

Shaista Wahab (University of Nebraska at Omaha) spoke briefly about the Arthur Paul Afghanistan Collection at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and distributed a brochure with information on the collection.

The Business Meeting of the Association was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND NATURE

Section 1. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Middle East Librarians Association.

Section 2. Nature

The Association shall be a private, non-profit, non-political organization of librarians and others interested in those aspects of librarianship which support the study of or dissemination of information about the Middle East. The area signified shall be considered to include those countries from Morocco through Pakistan as well as other areas formerly included in the Arab, Ottoman or Mughal empires.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of the Middle East Librarians Association to facilitate communication among Members through meetings and publications; to improve the quality of area librarianship through the development of standards for the profession and education of Middle East library specialists; to compile and disseminate information concerning Middle East libraries and collections and to represent the judgment of the Members in matters affecting them; to encourage cooperation among Members and Middle East Libraries, especially in the acquisition of materials and the development of bibliographic control; to cooperate with other library and area organizations in projects of mutual concern and benefit; to promote research in and development of indexing and automated techniques as applied to Middle East materials.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership and Subscribers

A. Any person who is employed by an institution to service Middle East library materials in a professional capacity (selection, acquisition, cataloging, reference work, administration, and/or preparation of research tools) or any person interested in Middle East library materials

(selection, acquisition, cataloging, reference work, administration, and/or preparation of research tools) shall be eligible for Membership.

B. Organizations and institutions may subscribe to the official organ of the Association.

Section 2. Application to Membership

Prospective members shall apply for Membership to the Secretary-Treasurer. Membership becomes active upon payment of dues.

Section 3. Privileges of Members

A. Members may attend all meetings of the Association and participate in discussions and programs. Members may attend committee meetings not designated as closed. Only Committee Members may vote in committee deliberations. Members in good standing shall be eligible to serve on committees.

B. Members shall be entitled to receive all publications of the Association, including:

1. minutes of meetings
2. Notice of meetings
3. Agenda of meetings
4. Roster of Members and Committee Members
5. By-laws and amendments
6. All official organs

Subscribers shall be entitled to receive only the official organ of the Association.

C. Members in good standing may serve as officers of the Association and vote in elections and meetings.

Section 4. Dues

Members may be required to pay such annual dues as voted by a majority of the Members in person or by mail. The annual Membership fee shall be due thirty days before the annual meeting.

Section 5. Terms of Membership

Membership shall be continuous unless resigned by the Member or revoked in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 6. The Membership year begins at the time of the annual meeting.

Section 6. Resignations or Removal of Members

A. Any member may resign at any time, forfeiting dues paid for the balance of the year.

B. A Membership may be revoked by:

1. A majority vote of the Members present at any business session, in which case dues would be returned; or
2. The Secretary-Treasurer if the Member is more than twelve months in arrears of dues.

C. Any Member who has resigned from or has been removed from Membership and whose dues are in arrears and has continued to receive the benefits of Membership shall pay their back dues before being reinstated as a Member.

ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Association shall consist of the following:

A. President, whose duties shall include:

1. Chairing the meetings of the Association and Executive Board
2. Representing the Organization on appropriate occasions or in correspondence as necessary.

B. Vice-President, whose duties shall include:

1. Chairing the meetings of the Association in the absence of the President
2. Conducting the Program portion of the annual meeting
3. Chairing the Program Committee
4. Carrying out all and any other duties delegated by the President.

C. Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties shall include:

1. Recording and submitting to all Members, by mail, the minutes of the annual meeting and any other meeting of the membership or of the Executive Board
2. Notify all Members of the date, time, place, and agenda for all meetings of the Association
3. Publishing the list of Members and the rosters of committees within the Association at least once a year
4. Carrying on the correspondence of the Association excepting that requiring the signature of the President
5. Collecting from each Member the dues as are voted by the membership and notifying Members in arrears
6. Revoking the Membership of any Member more than twelve months in arrears of dues
7. Paying all invoices charged to the Association
8. Submitting annually an account of the finances of the Association, either at the annual meeting or by mail, to all Members
9. Collecting the revenues from non-Member subscribers to the publications of the Association.

D. Editor, whose duties shall include:

1. Gathering and disseminating news of Members and news of interest to Members
2. Selecting articles of interest to Members submitted by Members or others
3. Publishing the aforementioned items and articles at least annually in the official organ
4. Publishing and editing all other official publications of the Association, unless the President appoints an editor for selected publications of the Association
5. Maintaining subscription files.

Section 2. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor, and two Members elected at large from the Membership. It shall meet prior to each business meeting of the Association to prepare the agenda and act on any necessary business, and at any other time at the call of the President or by a majority of members of the Board. Such meetings may be in person or via correspondence. Two-thirds of the Executive Board shall constitute a

quorum. the Executive Board shall make appointments to all committees not otherwise provided for in these by-laws and appoint interim officers to fill vacancies.

The immediate past President of the Association shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Election of Officers

Election to all Offices shall be held at the annual meeting. Officers shall be elected from among the Members in good standing by a majority of the Members present. Members shall be notified of the candidates for each vacancy sixty days before the annual meeting. The election shall be by secret ballot from a list of two or more candidates for each vacancy, provided by the Nominating Committee with provision for additional nominations from the Membership by mail or during the annual meeting. All ballots will be preserved for a period of sixty days to allow for a recount if called for. After this period, ballots will be destroyed.

Section 4. Terms of Office.

The term of office for the President shall be two years. The term of office for the Vice-President shall be one year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for a term of three years and may not serve in that position for more than two successive terms. The Editor shall serve for a term of three years and may not serve in that position for more than two successive terms. The two Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee shall serve for two years with one being elected at each annual meeting.

Section 5. Compensation.

Officers serving voluntarily shall not receive compensation for their services. They may request from the Secretary-Treasurer reimbursement of expenses they incur on behalf of the Association. The Secretary-Treasurer may approve amounts up to \$100. Expenses beyond that amount must be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 6. Resignation of Officers.

Any Officer may resign at any time. The Executive Board may appoint any Member in good standing to serve the remaining portion of a vacant

erm. If a vacancy occurs in the Office of the President, the Vice-President will assume the office of the President immediately and serve the unfilled portion of the vacated term. The vacancy in the Vice-President's position will be filled by the appointment of an interim Vice-President who shall serve until a new Vice-President is elected at the next meeting of the Association. This appointment will be made by the Executive Board.

Section 7. Additional Officers.

The Members may elect such additional officers or appoint such agents or employees, and determine their term of office and compensation, if any, as they may deem advisable.

Section 8. Committees

A. Program Committee.

The Program Committee shall be a permanent standing committee, composed of the Vice-President, as chair, and at least two members appointed for a term of one year by the Vice-President. A Member may serve no more than two terms in succession on the Program Committee. The Committee for the following year shall be appointed at the annual meeting.

B. Nominating Committee.

The Executive Board shall constitute the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present to the Membership at least sixty days before the annual meeting a minimum of two candidates for each vacancy to be filled, either through the Association official organ or through an Association mailing.

C. Other committees.

The Executive Board in session or by correspondence or the Members in any business session may constitute such other committees with such functions, powers and duties as the constituting body shall provide. Each such committee shall enact rules and regulations for its government. The names of the Members of each committee and the terms of office shall be made known to the Members of the Association at least annually by the Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Frequency of meetings.

The Members shall meet at least once each year at such places and times as designed by the Executive Board. If possible, the annual meeting shall be concurrent with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc.

Section 2. Form of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall normally consist of two parts: a business session and a program.

A. Business Session.

The business session shall be under the chairmanship of the President, or the Vice-President in the absence of the former. All Members of the Association present at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum. Other observers may attend this session but may not vote in the business session.

B. Program.

The program shall be under the chairmanship of the Vice-President, or any Member of the Program Committee in the absence of the former. The program shall be open to all interested persons.

C. Discussion Groups.

Discussion groups may be scheduled at the time of the annual meeting whenever a topic meriting discussion by the members is proposed by the Executive Board or by petition to the Executive Board by five or more Members. Discussion groups will normally be confined to topics concerning the practical aspects of Middle East librarianship. Such discussion groups will be open to all interested parties, Members and non-Members, unless designated otherwise.

Section 3. Additional Meetings.

If necessary, additional meetings may be held on dates and at places determined by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings.

Notices of all meetings shall be mailed to all Members at least thirty days prior to meetings.

ARTICLE VI. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The conduct of all meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Proposal of Amendments.

Amendments of these by-laws may be proposed by:

- A. The Executive Board in session or by correspondence.
- B. Petition signed by one-fifth of all the Members.

Section 2. Discussion of Amendments.

Discussion of amendments shall be placed on the agenda and discussed at the first annual meeting following their proposal, provided the Members have received copies of the proposed amendments at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Adoption of Amendments.

After discussion, all proposed amendments must be submitted to the Members for approval. They shall be considered adopted if a simple majority of the total Membership approves:

- A. in person at the annual meeting; or
- B. on a ballot, submitted by mail by the Secretary-Treasurer, who shall allow sixty days for returns.

Section 4. Effective Date of Amendments.

Amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise provided for at the time of voting.

Report of the summer 1993 meeting of ALCTS Cataloging and Classification Section Asian & African Materials (CC:AAM) Committee:

The group met in New Orleans on the morning of 27 June and the afternoon of 28 June 1993.

Topics discussed which are of interest to Middle East librarians included:

- o drafts of romanization tables for Azerbaijani and Kirmanji Kurdish are under review by experts in the field. LC requests responses by 31 August 1993.
- o drafts of Dewey Decimal Classification schedules for both Judaism (296) and Islam and Bahai faiths (297) are under review at this time. The MELA membership was invited to comment on 297 via MELANET-L; there were 5 responses. Comments on the drafts will be discussed with LC in September.
- o Louise Leonard, Univ. of Florida, has proposed that a directory (possible online, if a host can be found) of people with expertise in lesser-known languages (primarily, but not limited to, librarians) be developed. AAM supports the idea. If you are interested in this project, contact Louise.

Report on ACRL Asian & African Studies Section:

This group met in the afternoon of 27 June 1993, after a lunch with our AAM colleagues and friends at a wonderful Cajun restaurant.

Topics of interest to Middle east librarians:

- o section name change: it is now the Asian, African and Middle East Studies (AAMES) section.
- o Revisions for Sheehy's Guide to Reference Books, 11th ed., were discussed by Donald Clay Johnson, editor for the Asian section. (The Middle East and North Africa are split: Middle East with Asia, North Africa in the African section, which is edited by Al Hagen and Phyllis Bischoff). The number of entries on Asia & Africa doubled in the 11th edition, due to be completed by January 1994, and published soon thereafter. [Don has made available a list of the titles on Asia to be included in the 11th ed.; if you would like a copy, please contact me. Note that, due to the tight deadline, it is too late to make changes or additions for this edition; however, we should begin planning for improved coverage of the Middle East and North Africa in the 12th ed., for which preparations will probably begin in late 1994 -- anyone out there interested in forming a MELA committee to work on this???

o AAMES is preparing a list of literary prizes and awards in Africa and Asia. Requests for information on the awards and lists of prize winners in each region will go out to the area studies organizations [that's us, folks] early in the fall, 1993, so gather your suggestions for prizes and awards in our area. This list will be published and periodically updated, possibly in C&RL News.

If you have any questions about the above or would like further information, please contact me.

Brenda E. Bickett
Georgetown University

Announcements

Amnon Zipin 1946-1993

[ed. note: The following is extracted from a memorial sheet form the Ohio State University Libraries]

Born in Haifa, Israel, he studies at the University of Haifa, 1967-69. After receiving his B.A. in 1970 from Hebrew University, Jerusalem, with a major in Arabic history, he came to the United States to study at Yale University where, in 1972, he received his M.A. in medieval history. While working at the Yale University Library as a language and subject specialist, Amnon earned his MLS degree in 1975 from Southern Connecticut State College. He then served as the Near East cataloger (1976-1977) at the University of Washington Library, Seattle. A member of the faculty at Ohio State since 1977, Amnon was promoted to assistant professor in 1983, tenured in 1984, and promoted to associate professor in 1988. There is no question that he would have attained full rank were it not for his illness.

A born teacher and a very active participant in bibliographic instruction, he lectured regularly in Hebrew and Yiddish. Additionally, he took part in the library orientation program for foreign students.

Amnon's most significant contribution to research is unquestionably manifested in the first seven volumes of the *Bibliography of Modern Hebrew Literature in (English) Translation* (1979-1985) and the *New Series* (1985-1986). Supplementing this achievement is his companion work: *Bibliography of Modern Hebrew Literature in Arabic Translation*. Beyond this ongoing research and publication endeavor, he also authored 21 articles and was a consultant for the important *Hebrew Annual Review* (produced at Ohio State) since its inception in 1978.

Nationally and at the University level, Amnon maintained a strong service profile over the years. Through committee work, chairing, and presentations, he was very active in the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL), the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA), the Council on Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies and the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). ... One of his last library

efforts was bringing Project ALEPH--a computer-managed database of catalog records in Hebrew and Arabic scripts--to Ohio State.

A fitting tribute was paid to Amnon last Fall when the Melton Center for Jewish Studies established the "Amnon Zipin Student Intern Position", which is to provide general assistance in the library for the Jewish Studies bibliographer.

Individuals wishing to offer a donation in Amnon's memory may do so to any of four recipients:

1) Hospice of Columbus [181 Washington Blvd., Columbus, OH 43215];

2) Michael S. Melton Hebrew Library Fund;

3) the OSU Melton Center for Jewish Studies; or

4) the Amnon Zipin Jewish Studies Library Memorial Fund.

Donations for the last three should be made payable to the Ohio State University, designating the particular recipient, and sent to the Friends of the Libraries [112 Main Library, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, OH 43210] whose staff will forward appropriately.

Positions Available

MIDDLE EAST BIBLIOGRAPHER, LIBRARIAN III/IV

SUMMARY Generally responsible for the University Library's Middle East program. Serves as a technical services librarian reporting to the Director of Technical Services and as a bibliographer reporting to the Director of Collection Development with the primary reporting responsibility to Technical Services. Supervises support staff and part-time employees. Works with a substantial degree of independence. Represents the Library at appropriate meetings and organizations.

DUTIES Work closely with faculty to provide appropriate collections and services in support of academic programs. Serve as liaison to associated academic departments and appropriate academic committees.

Develop and manage collections in Arabic and supervise the same in Persian, Turkish, and Urdu. Select some Western language materials in the Middle East field in cooperation with other subject bibliographers.

Supervise the work of support staff and part-time staff involved in the cataloging, organization, maintenance, and use of the Middle East collection.

Develop bibliographic records, including classification and descriptive cataloging where appropriate, for materials in Middle Eastern languages, using the RLIN system. Oversee the proper integration of these bibliographic records into the main library database.

Provide primary reference services for the Middle East area.

Supervise acquisitions of all non-Israeli Middle Eastern materials including relations with book dealers and vendors.

Participate in the community that plans and oversees the collection management and development programs of the Library.

Supervise seminar library devoted to the Middle East area, including selection of seminar materials, maintenance of the collection and reference services associated with it.

Develop bibliographies and other tools where necessary to support full use of the collection.

Serve as Library representative at meetings or conferences as requested.

Assist other sections of the Library in working with Middle Eastern materials, e.g. Interlibrary Loan.

QUALIFICATIONS MLS from ALA-accredited library school or equivalent in training, knowledge, and work experience. Excellent Arabic language skills and working knowledge of written Persian required. Knowledge of Middle Eastern publishing industry and book trade needed. Effective written and oral English-language skills. Demonstrated commitment to public services. Demonstrated ability to work effectively, independently, and cooperatively with library staff and users. Postgraduate degree in an area of Middle Eastern studies and record of achievement in professional organizations desirable.

Appointment as Librarian III requires 3 to 5 years of successful professional experience in an academic/research library, preferably in technical services or collection development. Appointment as librarian IV requires 5 years successful professional experience in an academic/research library, preferably in technical services or collection development.

SALARY Librarian III salary range is \$31,900-\$40,600; Librarian IV salary range is \$35,000-\$43,700

APPLICATION PROCESS Interested individuals should send a cover letter, resume, and the names and telephone numbers of three references to John Keane, Director of Administration and Finance, University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, 3420 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6206. Applications received by December 15, 1993 will receive first consideration. The University of Pennsylvania is an AA/EOE.

Proposal

One of the more useful features in the newsletter of another librarians' organization I am active in (ARLIS/NA) is something called "Serials Update." This is something that goes beyond the announcements of new publications that have occasionally appeared in MELA Notes, in that it addresses not only the birth of new serials but also the changes they undergo in their (often short and mercurial) lifetimes. As those of us who are involved in collection development are only too well aware, many serial titles in our field (and this also includes some that are published in Europe and North America) are elusive entities. More than most, they are subject to unpredictable shifts in publication schedules, changes of publishers and addresses, metamorphosed titles, mergers and schisms, suspended and suppressed issues, etc. Finding out about such changes is never easy and not the sort of thing one likes to leave to standard serials jobbers or MECAP to straighten out. What I would like to see in MELA Notes is a sort of community bulletin board where we could share this sort of information, post queries, or inquire about the availability of spare back issues. This would increase the practical value of our publication, spread information to colleagues who are not on electronic networks, and help to build cooperation among librarians and institutions. The information would be sent to the MELA Notes editor (or perhaps someone could act as coordinator?) and included as a column in each issue; it could also be posted on the network from time to time. By way of a sample (and perhaps a foretaste of things to come) here are a couple of recent items that have come to my attention:

---NEW SERIAL TITLE:

ENVIRONET : NEWSLETTER OF THE PROJECT IN DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT = RISALAH AKHBARIYAH LI-MASHRU' AL-TANMIYAH WA-AL-BI'AH. -- Washington, DC : PRIDE, 1992- /the issue in hand is v. 2 no. 2 (Summer 1993), containing articles in English (8 p.) and Arabic (2 p.); some of the article titles: "Egyptian engineers set up GIS (geographic information system database) in Nile delta" ; "Jordanians strive to improve environmental information, education, communication" ; "Pollution seminar held in Rabat" ... / available (at no charge) from: Paula Hirschhoff, Editor EnviroNet 2000 M Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036

---CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN : JOURNAL OF THE ISLAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN RESEARCH CENTRE. -- Roma : Carucci Editore, 1985- ISSN: 0393-5183 /two issues/yr. (in the last few yrs. published as a combined 1-2 issue once a year; annual subscription: \$28 + postage. Despite its technical-sounding title, the emphasis of this journal is historical, dealing with issues of architecture, urbanism and landscape design in the Islamic world. Recent "theme issues" have included: "Mimar Sinan: the urban vision" (1-2/1987); "Technology: from tradition to innovation" (1-2/1988); "Urban fabric" (1-2/1989); "Amate sponde: the presence of Italy in the architecture of the Islamic Mediterranean" (1-2/1990). Following the death of the publisher, Signor Carucci, the journal is now being published directly by the editor: Attilio Petruccioli Via Torno, 6822100 Como, ITALY
Distribution is handled by: Herder Editrice & Libreria Montecitorio, 117-12000186 Rome, ITALY

---CEASED TITLE:

MIMAR : ARCHITECTURE IN DEVELOPMENT. -- Singapore : Concept Media, 1981-1992. ISSN: 0129-8372 /quarterly; ceased with v. 12 no. 43 (June 1992)./

DUPLICATES AVAILABLE:

MONUMENTET. -- Tirana : Instituti i Monumenteve te Kultures, 1971. /available: nos. 1 (1971), 4 (1972), 9 (1975), 13 (1977). If interested, write to: A. Riedlmayer, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

I know that the above "sample column" merely reflects what happens to have come across my desk lately. I hope others will be inspired to contribute information on a greater variety of titles and subjects.

Andras Riedlmayer Fine Arts Library Harvard University
andras@harvarda.harvard.edu

REVIEWS

[The editor has included this reaction to the previous review of *Index Islamicus* unedited, from the author]

INDEX ISLAMICUS

The review which appeared on pp.33-35 of MELA Notes 56-57 may have misled or even mystified some readers, so I will attempt to clarify the position, and at the same time to outline our plans for the future development and improvement of the bibliography. But first, let me provide the normal details of the book, which were missing from the review as published:

Index Islamicus 1981-1985: a bibliography of books and articles on the Muslim world. Compiled and edited by G.J.Roper. London: Mansell, 1991. 2 vols.1347pp. [Now distributed by Bowker-Saur.]

The reviewer states that the Quarterly *Index Islamicus* -- the current periodical version of the bibliography -- "has quietly passed into oblivion: its last issue was published at the end of 1990". This is completely untrue, as a quick check with either editor or publisher could easily have established. As subscribers will know, Quarterly *Index Islamicus* has continued to be published in 1991, 1992 and 1993. In mid-1992 it was taken over by a new publisher, Bowker-Saur, very well-known and well-established in the bibliographical field, who are fully committed to continuing and improving the publication, and have invested substantial new resources in it. The reviewer also stated that "the latest information is that there will never again be another printed cumulation". What information? As Editor, I have consistently stated, in public and in private, that printed cumulations will continue, and that is the publishers' policy also. It is difficult to see what purpose is served by publishing such falsehoods in a journal such as MELA Notes without any attempt to verify them.

Turning to the reviewer's comments on *Index Islamicus* 1981-1985, I accept this point that it is not a complete, 100% record of all relevant European-language publications of the period -- as indeed I acknowledged in my Preface to it -- and his assessment of a 20% shortfall is a fair one. In this respect, however, it is no worse than all its predecessors, as the reviewer's own recent work on the 1906-80 period has shown, nor does it fall far short of what is achieved by many other

current bibliographies. Nevertheless, the total number of entries, at 34,382, shows a 55.6% increase over the 22,095 in the previous five-year cumulation (1976-80). At the same rate, this would indicate an increase of 142% over a ten-year period, and in view of this I made, in my Preface, the rather conservative claim that European-language publication in our field "is now virtually doubling every ten years". This view is confirmed by quite separate bibliometric analysis on British publications since the 1960s, carried out by Paul Auchterlonie for the Middle East Libraries Committee (MELCOM), which I cited in my Preface, but which the reviewer chose to ignore. Instead he attacks my figures as "distorted", pointing to multiple entries in *Index Islamicus* 1981-1985 for certain annual publications, and to the inclusion of some reprints. (He also mentions unpublished theses as a distorting factor, even though none are in fact included.) Such entries amount, at the most, to 100 items: if they were all eliminated, this would reduce the total from 34,382 to 34,282, the five-year increase from 55.6% to 55.1%, and the ten-year increase from 142% to 140.5%. I leave readers to form their own view of how seriously this distorts my assessment. But the point is of some importance, for we all -- librarians and scholars, as well as bibliographers -- need to face up to this ever-rising tide of publications in our field, before it engulfs us. If we insist on believing, like the reviewer, that the number of publications is "rather invariable", then we are behaving like King Canute.

The reviewer also complains about the inclusion of publications from before the period covered. All previous *Index Islamicus* Supplements have done this (so this does not distort the comparative figures), and most current bibliographies in all fields normally include in their cumulations items that have been missed from earlier volumes. Is the reviewer seriously suggesting that this information should be withheld from readers, just because it is late?

It is also suggested that *Index Islamicus* should restrict its coverage to periodical articles. It has, of course, never so restricted itself in the past: from the outset it covered the contents of books of a collective nature (Festschriften, conference papers, etc.); and the dramatic rise in the number of such volumes in recent years is one important reason for the overall 100+% ten-year rate of increase with which we are confronted. In addition, for the past 18 years we have also listed monographs. The reviewer considers this "superfluous", because most of the information about them is available from the Library of Congress. He is entitled to his view (although he himself was the compiler of the monographs volume of *Index Islamicus* 1976-1980); but both editor and publishers

have been in contact with a number of other users, and they have nearly all welcomed this coverage and found it to provide a useful service. Many, indeed most, individual scholars and researchers throughout the world do not have ready access to LC databases, and even if they had, they would often have difficulty in identifying relevant books via the LC subject headings, which are notoriously unsatisfactory for Islamic studies. We shall therefore continue to list monographs in *Index Islamicus*, and can only hope that eventually the reviewer will return to his former more helpful view of readers' needs.

The future.-----

Far from passing into oblivion, I am pleased to be able to announce that *Index Islamicus* is now set to improve and expand its currency and coverage. From next year (1994), it will be relaunched in a new form, with annual printed volumes which will attempt to provide a comprehensive record of all relevant publications in each year. As well as monographs and articles, these will also for the first time include book reviews, to replace the now defunct Islamic Book Review Index. The aim is to publish each annual volume at the end of the following year, so *Index Islamicus* 1993 will appear at the end of 1994 and so on. Each year there will also be three preliminary advance fascicles giving more up-to-date information on the latest publications. These will replace the present Quarterly *Index Islamicus*. For the intervening years since 1985, a series of two-year cumulations will appear in due course. There will be no more five-year cumulations, which at present levels have become too unwieldy in printed form.

For major bibliographies in the 1990s, however, printed versions are not enough. Electronic searching is now the norm for any large database, and we aim to make this true for *Index Islamicus* also. It is our intention that the entire contents of all the volumes and parts back to 1906 should be made available on CD-ROM. This is, of course, a major undertaking, involving not just scanning or inputting the published volumes, but also providing keywords for every entry to permit subject searching. If all goes well, we hope to complete this process within the next year or so, and then discs will be made available in the usual way, with annual updates to incorporate the contents of each annual volume. The 1665-1905 and supplementary 1906-80 entries could also be included if their compiler/publisher agrees to participate.

All these developments and improvements are being made possible by a new commitment of resources from the publisher, which will at last enable us to raise the compiling and editing of *Index Islamicus* above the one-person level at which it has hitherto operated, and which has latterly constrained it in the face of the dramatic increase in the publications to be covered. At the same time, we should always welcome suggestions or offers of collaboration from colleagues involved in the field, whose contributions could enhance the coverage even further.

Geoffrey Roper
Editor, *Index Islamicus*
Islamic Bibliography Unit
Cambridge University Library

Michael M. Laskier. *The Jews of Egypt, 1920-1970*. New York University Press, 1992. 326 p.

Stanford J. Shaw. *The Jews of the Ottoman Empire & the Turkish Republic*. New York University Press, 1991. 380 p.

Professor Laskier provides an analysis of the Egyptian Jewish community during a specific and important period, 1920-1970. Laskier's research focuses on issues which have not been considered previously in several recent books on this topic. His clearly stated objectives are: to define the factors which led to the eventual liquidation of Jewish communal life in Egypt; to compare the status of Jews under Nasser with that of the community under the ancien regime; and to contrast the status of this community with that of other Jewish communities in the Mediterranean basin during the same period. Significantly, the analysis covers the 1950s and 1960s, when Jewish self-liquidation and/or forced expulsions took place in Egypt. As source material, Laskier introduces the use of recently opened archival dossiers for the period including files of the Central Zionist Archives, the Diaspora Research Institute Archives, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives. He also insists on the enormous value of the information to be found in the French-language press of the Egyptian Jews, specifically the long-running newspaper, *Israel*. The result is a well-reasoned, document-based, and conclusive narrative. Professor Laskier writes in a terse yet readable style which carefully lays out the threads of his analysis. The magic of social history or the personal side of daily life in the community are not here, for these are not the aim of

this research. Laskier's analysis concludes that Zionism in Egypt had very little success. Furthermore, he states importantly, "The communal dissolution process, it seems, would have taken place in any event even if Israel had not existed... Due to domestic problems, Egyptianization, and the surge of nationalist and fundamentalist tides, the Jews, like the other minorities--portrayed as collaborators with European imperialism--would have been forced to resort to communal self-liquidation." This sobering statement and the research that backs it up are the critical core of this important book on the Jewish community of Egypt. The text includes 25 community-related photographs, 12 statistical data charts, chapter notes, bibliography and index.

In contrast to the sharply focused analysis of the Laskier volume, Stanford Shaw's research weaves a rich tapestry of history in describing the origins, achievements, and evolution of Jewish communities in southeastern Europe, Turkey, and the Middle East. Professor Shaw, one of America's most eminent historians of the Ottoman Empire, has devoted more than 35 years to amassing the sources and to providing a nuanced approach to his interpretation. The result is a fast-moving narration, full of details and information which span the 13th through the 20th centuries. Shaw is as interested in the golden age of Ottoman Jewry during the 14th and 15th centuries as he is fascinated by the political configurations within Europe and Turkey during the post-World War I period. He writes with confidence and sympathy, mixing, in an intriguing way, community descriptions, biographical glimpses, local views of ritual and customs, and the broader issues of assimilation, economic role, and demographic distribution. The aim of this book throughout is to provide historical perspective to a rich heritage for this community which, in 1992, celebrated the quincentennial anniversary of the exile from Spain and arrival in the Ottoman Empire. As a textbook, it will have a lasting and important function for those studying this community. The appendices include informational lists and copious population statistics. There are also chapter notes and an excellent "select" bibliography of 42 pages.

David Hirsch
University of California, Los Angeles



IRANBOOKS, INC.

IRANBOOKS has been in business since 1979. We have the largest collection of Persian and English books about Iran outside of Iran itself, including most Persian titles published outside of Iran. We can help you find almost any title.

We also publish a number of books and distribute for Iranian presses outside of Iran. Some recent titles are:

Samad Behrangi **MAHI SIAH-YE KUCHULU: THE LITTLE BLACK FISH** *In original Persian and English translation by Hooshang Amuzegar* softcover 5½ x 8½ inches \$6.95

Abol-Hasan Ebtehaj **KHATERAT-E ABOL-HASAN EBTEHAJ** *The Memoirs of Abol-Hasan Ebtehaj, the former head of the National Bank of Iran* 2 volumes 900 pages hardcover 6 x 9 inches \$45.00

Michael Craig Hillmann **FROM DURHAM TO TEHRAN: PERSIANIST IMPRESSIONS** *By the Professor of Persian Literature at the University of Texas* 128 pages hardcover 5½ x 8½ inches \$25.00

Manuchehr Kazemi **ALEFBA-YE NOVIN FARSI** *The New Persian Alphabet: in Persian and English* 104 pages softcover 5½ x 8½ inches \$10.0

Issa Pejman **ASRAR QATL VA ZENDEGANI SHEGOFTANGIZ SEPAHBOD TEYMUR BAKHTIAR** *The Secret of the Murder and the Sad Life of Teymur Bakhtiar, the First Head of SAVAK* 352 pages softcover 8½ x 5½ \$27.00

Saidi Sirjani **TAH BASAT** *Literary Essays by a very popular writer* 248 pages softcover 6 x 9 inches \$14.95

Siavosh Bashiri **SAYEH-YI AZ SARDAR** *Shadow of the Leader: A History of the Reza Shah Period* 386 pages softcover 5½ x 8½ \$20.00

Hasan Tashakori **MAHAJERAT BEH SHORAVI: AZ TEHRAN TA MARKAZ -E KAGEH BEH** *Pilgrimage to the Soviet Union: From Tehran to the Center of the K.G.B. Memoirs of the disillusionment of an Iranian Communist* 552 pages softcover 6 x 9 inches \$18.00

IRANBOOKS, INC.

8014 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD ● BETHESDA MARYLAND 20814 USA

TELEPHONE: (301) 986-0079 ● FACSIMILE: (301) 907-8707

**MELA Notes
c/o John Eilts
The Research Libraries Group, Inc.
1200 Villa Street
Mountain View, CA 94041-1100
USA**

