



# Center for Middle Eastern Studies NEWSLETTER

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## FACULTY CHANGES

There have been a number of permanent and temporary changes in the Middle East faculty over the past year.

The Center has helped bring four visiting professors to UT to teach Middle Eastern Studies. In the spring, **Donald Cole** of the American University in Cairo taught in the Department of Anthropology. Cole, who has conducted extensive research on pastoral nomads in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, gave classes on energy and the Arab world and on nomadism. In the summer, **James Faris** of the University of Connecticut taught "Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East" as part of the CMES Summer Institute. For this academic year, the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures is hosting two visiting faculty members, filling slots normally held by **Fedwa Malti-Douglas** and **Irving Mandelbaum**, each spending an academically enriching year elsewhere. **Dr. Ahmed Ali Morsy** will be teaching courses in Arabic language and Culture. He holds a Ph.D. from Cairo University, where he was recently named Professor of Arabic. He has previously been a visiting lecturer at the Middle East Centers of both Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1982 was visiting lecturer at the Universities of Oslo and Bergen in Norway. Dr. Morsy's scholarly writing has dealt extensively with Middle Eastern

folklore. **Dr. Refael Yenkelevitch** from the Department of Jewish History, Bar-Ilan University, will be visiting Professor of Hebrew for the entire academic year. Dr. Yenkelevitch was educated at Bar-Ilan University in Jewish History and pursued postdoctoral studies in Classical Archaeology at Tel-Aviv University. His written work includes both historical and archaeological studies on ancient Palestine in the Mishnaic and Talmudic eras.

We record the departures of three faculty members who have played active roles in the life of the Center. **William Darity, Jr.**, formerly Associate Professor of Economics, has accepted an appointment at the University of North Carolina; **Kristina Nelson**, formerly Assistant Professor of Musicology, has left teaching to work with the Save the Children Foundation in Gaza; and **Tagi Sagafi-nejad** has completed a contract as Assistant Professor of Economics and Middle Eastern Studies. We will miss the energy, vision, and scholarly excellence of each of these friends of the program.

## TURKISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

After a decade's lapse, the University is again offering Turkish language courses. This semester the first-year Turkish course is being given in the Department of Oriental and African Languages and literatures

(DOALL) under the supervision of Professor John Bordie (FLEC), by Ayshegul Musallam, Assistant Instructor. The second half of the course will be offered in the spring semester. Plans are now being made to add second-year Turkish to the schedule for the 1983-84 academic year. Students with some background in Turkish are also able to study Uzbek through DOALL. The Center is now able, from time to time, to offer support to students concentrating in Turkish studies. In that regard, we congratulate Jenny Morter, a graduate student in Anthropology, who received a grant to attend the First Annual Conference in Turkic Studies, held this year at Indiana University.

## NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

The Center again has been declared a National Resource Center in Middle Eastern studies by the U.S. Department of Education and has received grants providing program and library support. Through this program the Center is also able to administer fellowships to qualified graduate students in language and area studies. We congratulate this year's Fellowship holders:

### *Summer 1983*

Marianne Engle (Persian)  
Reuel Gerecht (Persian)  
Jennifer DeCamp (Arabic)

Larry Hanson (Arabic)  
Lawrence Schrenk (Arabic)  
Joya Saad (Persian)  
Caroline Sawyer (Persian)

#### *Full Year 1983-1984*

Paul Blank (Arabic)  
David Dāmrel (Arabic)  
John Robinson (Arabic)  
Jennifer De Camp (Arabic)  
Joya Saad (Persian and Arabic)  
Keith Heity Walter (Arabic)

Congratulations are also in order for Anne Royal, doctoral candidate in Linguistics, for her grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to produce an annotated translation of the autobiography (*The Answer Addressed to the Family's Request*) of the nineteenth century scholar and polymath, Mikhail Mishaga.

### SUMMER INSTITUTE

Approximately 100 students attended the 1983 Summer Institute sponsored by the Center. Most were from UT, but students came from Princeton, and the Universities of Michigan, Arizona and Pennsylvania. The institute was sponsored by a consortium of western states universities (The University of Denver, the University of Utah, and Portland State University) of which UT is a recent number. There have been other specialized summer programs here, but this was the first one offering intensive exposure to the entire region. The institute was only one of two summer programs in the

U.S. teaching both Arabic and Hebrew. To complement the course offerings, Institute Director Michael Hillmann and CMES Administrative Assistant Marjorie Payne organized a lecture series, focusing on regions of the Middle East not covered in depth in the classroom, and weekly screenings of documentary and feature films, and Government graduate student Ahmad Farokhpay conducted a very popular seminar on Islamic Calligraphy.

### MIDDLE EAST WEEK

In October, under the capable management of Resource Coordinator Ann Grabhorn, the Center sponsored its third Middle East Week. This year the programs concentrated on varieties of artistic and cultural expression and included slide lectures on the architecture of Cairo (Caroline Williams), contemporary Israeli art (Harold Liebowitz), Iranian art and architecture (Michael Hillmann), Palestinian folk culture (Taghreed al-Qudsi), and a panel on women in Middle Eastern literature, organized by Esther Fuchs. Two highlights of the week were a reading/lecture by Rafic Jaouejati, poet and diplomat—he is the current Syrian Ambassador to the United States; and a lecture demonstration of Turkish folksong and *saz* performance by Yildiray Erdemir, an Ethnomusicologist from Indiana University.

Middle East Week concluded with annual meeting of the Texas Association for Middle East Studies (TAMES). Those interested in participating in this

newly formed organization, designed to assist and promote Middle East scholarship in Texas, should contact the Center for membership information.

### PUBLICATIONS

Another volume has been accepted by UT Press for inclusion in the Center's Modern Middle East Series. *Government and Society in Rural Palestine 1920-1948*, by Ylana Miller, explores the ways in which Arab villagers experienced the British Mandate. Many studies have examined the Mandate, that brief period when Palestine both emerged and disappeared as an effective political entity. But few have so far taken the countryside, where most of population lived, as the main focus of investigation.

This detailed study looks at the transformation of Palestine in terms of its absorption into a modern state system—the institutions of the Mandate. Miller analyses the ambivalent role played by the government in shaping the political consciousness of the rural population as it extended services and administration into the countryside. On the one hand the rural inhabitants began to develop some sense of their identity as Palestinian Arabs; on the other, a combination of British policy, cleavages within the Arab community, and the growing strength of the Zionist population combined to thwart the realization of this incipient nationalism. The legacy of these events remains with us to this day and it is Dr. Miller's contention that their full comprehension is impossi-



ble without an understanding of the mutations undergone by the rural society. The book will appear in 1984.

## VISITING SCHOLAR

The Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Izzat Ghurani as visiting scholar for the year. Dr. Ghurani is Professor of Economics and Vice-President for Administration and Finance at Birzeit University. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Houston, and taught at the University of Texas at Arlington, Pahlavi University in Tehran and the University of Abadan before joining the Birzeit faculty in 1977. While at UT he will be preparing a computer analysis of the massive 1596 Ottoman census of Palestine. He and a team of researchers will use it as baseline data for a larger study on the social, economic, and demographic histories of Palestinian communities.

## SCHOLARLY FUTURES

Middle East researchers at UT now have access to an important new computer-based abstract service. *Mideast File* is available through DIALOG, a California database vendor. Assistance in using this service is available through the Special Services Department on the first floor of the Perry Castaneda Library. *Mideast File* grew out of an abstract service designed by the Shiloah Center for

Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University. The databank adds some 800 items per month drawn from 50 periodicals from the Middle East and several hundred published elsewhere. About 65 percent of the file is drawn from English language sources, 20 percent from Arabic, the rest from other regional or Western languages. Sources include relevant serials, books, and government documents. English language abstracts are provided for approximately 90 percent of the entries. An access fee is charged, but since actual on-line time will probably be quite brief, the time and effort saved by the use of the system should make the expense worthwhile.

We expect that a second Middle East databank will be added to the PCL facility later in this semester with the acquisition of NEXUS, another computerized service, now incorporating the New York Times Information Service which previously had developed its own electronic Middle East archive, MEDAB. Details on this service will be available when it is acquired late in the Fall semester.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Peter Abboud** (Oriental and African Languages and Literatures) again directed the summer School of Arabic at Middlebury College. This year's program built on last year's inaugural session, expanding both the number of students in the program and the range of course offerings. **Victorine Abboud** (CAI Lab) also participated in the program, as a

consultant on the use of Computer-assisted Instruction in Arabic.

Yale University Press will publish **Aaron Bar-Adon's** (Hebrew) book on the revival of Mishnaic Hebrew in Israel. This sociolinguistic study was carried out under a Rockefeller Foundation grant in 1981-82.

**James Bill** (Government) is on leave for the fall semester, having spent much of it on a research trip to the Persian Gulf, where he has been conducting a study of Gulf political trends. He also traveled to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Egypt, and Israel in May and June on a lecture tour sponsored by the United States Information Agency. He and **Carl Leiden** (Government) spend much of last year working on the revised edition of their *Politics in the Middle East*, appearing this fall from Little Brown.

**Paul English** (Geography) is expecting the release of the second edition of his widely used geography text *World Regional Geography: A Question of Place*. He has conducted research in Oman for the past two summers as part of a longer term study on the human geography of Oman.

**Hafez Farmayan** (History) has published a new edition of his *Travels of Haji Pirzadeh*. This 900 page work discusses the travels of a Persian dervish who made a trip (1886-1889) throughout the Ottoman empire, and to Vienna, Paris, and London. The new edition, with added illustrations, explanatory notes, and new documentation is reportedly selling briskly in the Islamic Republic. Dr. Farmayan has also published a biographical essay in the August 1983 edition of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, "Portrait of an Iranian Statesman: The Life and Times of Grand Vizier Amin



ud-Dawlah 1844-1904."

**Elizabeth Fernea** (CMES) has edited a new book for the University of Texas Press, to appear in 1984. Her collection of essays, reportage, stories, and poems is a sampling of analysis and comment from the ongoing debates on the role of the family in the Middle East. In October, she and **Robert Fernea** went to Egypt, Israel, and the West Bank for research on their forthcoming book on the contemporary Arab world.

**Robert Fernea** (Anthropology) spent the summer in Saudi Arabia on a field research project for an international development and city planning firm in the eastern province town of Hail. As part of the planning for the construction of new towns in that area, Fernea coordinated ethnographic field surveys and interviews among nomadic and town populations.

**David Francis** (Classics) has returned from a year as Visiting Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford under grants from the University Research Institute and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Francis has spent several years engaged in multidisciplinary research on the relationship between Classical Greece and Achaemenid Persia, as the focus of an inquiry into the roots of East/West Cultural conflict. His investigations at Oxford over the past year continued research into these cultural oppositions between Greece and Persia, particularly through their expression in Greek drama. For the Spring (Trinity) term Dr. Francis was asked to deliver the Waynflete Lectures, Magdalen's distinguished University-wide lecture series, which have been given in the past by such scholars as historian A.J.P. Taylor and Nobel laureate Sir John

Eccles. Dr. Francis's theme for the five-lecture series was "Reflections of Persia in Athenian Art and Literature."

**Esther Fuchs** (Hebrew) has recently completed two books on the Israeli literary scene. *Encounters with Israeli Authors* is based on a series of extended interviews with nine Israeli authors conducted by Dr. Fuchs over the past several years. Another work, *The Ironic Art of S. Y. Agnon*, is in press. Dr. Fuchs has also contributed several articles over the past year to a number of scholarly journals and continued preparation of two more books, *Israeli Myths and the Reality of Literature and Sexual Politics in the Hebrew Bible*.

Over the summer, **Michael Hillmann** (Persian) finished revisions of *Persian Carpets*, a cultural introduction to contemporary pile carpets woven in Iran. The volume is scheduled for a June 1984 publication by The University of Texas Press. Hillmann has recently completed another book, *An Iranian Woman Speaks (Out): The Life and Poetry of Forugh Farukhzad (1935-1967)*, which he researched in London and Paris last year.

**M. A. Jazayery** (Persian) has contributed an article, "The Modernization of the Persian Vocabulary and Language Reform in Iran," to *Language Reform: History and Future*, edited by Istvan Fodor and Claude Hagege (Hamburg, Helmut Verlag, 1983). This 3-volume work is the first comprehensive collection of original articles of the subject. Dr. Jazayery's paper focuses on developments during the 19th and 20th centuries. It gives attention to language reform movements in Iran with extended discussion given to the two language academies founded during the

Pahlavi period, and to the debates between the proponents and opponents of language reform. It also treats language contact and movements for the modification of the Persian alphabet.

**Roger Louis** (History) has just delivered the manuscript of his next book to the publisher. *The British Empire and the Middle East: Arab Nationalism, The United States, and Postwar Imperialism, 1945-1951* will be published by Oxford University Press in 1984. Dr. Louis carried out preliminary research in the summer for his next volume, on the British imperial experience in India. With Columbia University Historian J.C. Hurewitz he is organizing a panel, for the 1983 meetings of the American Historical Association on "The End of the Palestine Mandate." This panel will bring together some of the principal scholars on this subject and will examine the events surrounding the end of the Mandate from the British, American, Zionist, and Arab perspectives. Dr. Louis and CMES Research Associate **Robert Stookey** are planning to edit the proceedings for publication.

**Fedwa Malti-Douglas** (Arabic) spent the Spring semester carrying out literary research in the Middle East, primarily Egypt and Iraq. She will be on leave for the coming academic year, on a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities producing an annotated translation of as-Safadi's *Biographical Dictionary of the Blind*.

**Irving Mandelbaum** (Hebrew) is spending 1983-84 on a visiting appointment at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. With support from the University Research Institute he spent the summer working on a translation of *Yerushalmi Tractate Kilayim*. He also has a translation in press, "Mishnah

Kilayim," part of *The Mishnah, A New American Translation*, edited by J. Neusner for Yale University Press.

**Abraham Marcus** (History) received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to compile a work on Islamic Middle Eastern legal practices, *Society and Law in the Pre-Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook*. This will be the first such organized collection of original cases drawn directly from the records of Islamic courts of the pre-modern Middle East. The cases will be presented in the original Arabic, and accompanying annotated translation and will cover a sampling of the issues and concerns routinely handled in the courts.

**Edgar Polome** (Oriental and African Languages and Literatures) has published four books in the last year. *Indo-Europeans in the Fourth and Third Millenia* is an edited collection of papers presented at a symposium commemorating the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures. The papers focus on a variety of avenues of current research into Indo-European origins. A second work, a monograph from the *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, is a festschrift for the French comparative mythologist Georges Dumezil. A third volume, *Rural and Urban Multilingualism*, was published by Mouton. Finally, Stanford University Press has brought out a collection of eighteen essays by Professor Polome: *Language, Society, and Paleoculture* (edited by A.S. Dil) samples the range of Professor Polome's scholarly concerns, sociolinguistic, African language studies, creole studies, and studies in Indo-European language and religion.

**Denise Schmandt-Besserat** (Art History) was awarded a grant from the University Research Institute for the Spring semester to continue work on her book *Before Writing*, to be published by UT Press. The book will synthesise her work on the connections between the use of token-based recording systems and the development of the earliest forms of writing. During the spring and summer Professor Schmandt-Besserat lectured on the aspects of this topic in New York, Philadelphia, Kanasa City, St. Louis, and Madison, as well as participating in a major international symposium, "Bible et Orientalisme," in Strasbourg, France.

**John Williams** (Art History) and Caroline Williams (Architecture and CMES) have returned from two years at the American University in Cairo. **Caroline Williams** has recently published "The Cult of 'Alid Saints in the Fatami monuments of Cairo (Pt. I)" in *Muqarnas*, an Islamic art journal published annually by Yale University Press and is serving as co-author for the revision of R. Parker: *A Practical Guide to the Islamic Monuments of Cairo* (American University Press, Cairo.) In Cairo, she also contributed a series of articles to the English language review, *Cairo Today*, entitled "The City of Cairo: Fustat and the Mosque of Ibn Tulun." John Williams has now completed two volumes of his five volume *Annals of the Early Caliphate*, a translation of al-Tabari's *Ta'rikh al-Rusul wa al-Muluk*. He is also at work on a new history of Islamic political theory and is preparing a revision of his widely used *Islam*, originally published by Braziller in 1961. Together, the Williams were also recipients of grants from the governments of Kuwait and Oman

for study tours to those two countries in February 1983.

## SLIDE PACKAGES

Last year the Center received a grant under the International Understanding Program of the U.S. Department of Education for a two-year project to develop slide packages for teaching about the Middle East. The proposal was based on the very successful experiences of the Outreach Program over the past two years in the experimental preparation of slide/text combinations presenting a variety of Middle Eastern topics and events, such as *Islam, Jerusalem*, and the *Iran-Iraq War*. Praised by teachers for the simplicity of their design and their flexibility in use, these packages have proven to be an effective and relatively inexpensive means for teaching specialized Middle Eastern material in the classroom. Their development has become a major CMES undertaking.

As the first year of the grant period ends, three units are ready to be piloted in selected school systems around the country. Each contains approximately forty slides and a set of accompanying texts. The texts are chosen and edited in such a fashion that they can be used by students and teachers with different levels of understanding about the Middle East.

*The Middle Eastern Family, The Middle Eastern Village, and Food Production* have now been completed.





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