

Announcements

Join MEM or renew your MEMbership: An invitation from Middle East Medievalists

Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to announce the launch of the new website of Middle East Medievalists (MEM). Please visit the site at the following address:

<http://islamichistorycommons.org/mem/>

It is now time to either renew your MEMbership or join MEM if you are not a member. The new website features a new database that will dramatically improve MEM's ability to communicate with MEMbers, manage MEMberships, and carry out other key functions. Just click the membership menu on our website and choose the "individual" or "institutional" option.

Please note that MEM's annual dues have risen (after no increase for years). Individual dues are now \$40.00 per year. This is a flat rate (domestic and international). Institutional dues are \$250.00 a year.

You will be taken to the relevant MEMbership form. As in the past, you have the option to join or renew for one, two, or three years. If you are a member of Islamic History Commons (IHC), you might want to log in with your IHC credentials first on <http://islamichistorycommons.org/>. This will enable us to pre-populate the membership form (you may update it as needed). If you are not a member of IHC or

if you are joining MEM for the first time, simply fill out the form directly.

You will then be directed to PayPal. There you can either pay with a PayPal account or with a credit/debit card. Once you are done, you will be redirected to our website. You should receive via email 1) a payment confirmation from PayPal and 2) a confirmation from our own website reflecting the changes to your membership. If you run into any problems at all, please be sure to contact us directly.

We have transformed *al-Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā* (*UW*) into an open access, peer-reviewed, and online journal. This decision followed much discussion, online and during our annual business meetings. Our aim, quite simply, is to transform *UW* into the journal of choice of Middle East Medievalists, the largest scholarly association in the field in North America. Please stay tuned for forthcoming announcements regarding the new editorial board, a set of initiatives (including the digitization of the entire run of *UW*) and the TOC of our next and, we believe, very exciting issue. We might add that, the changes notwithstanding, *UW* will continue to provide a sense of community and common purpose for all of us in the discipline.

The new dues also reflect MEM's renewed commitment to the field. We are planning to reintroduce our graduate student paper prize and to introduce a MEM book prize as well, on top of our existing Lifetime Achievement Award and Honorary Membership. Other new ideas are of course welcome!

Announcements

Join MEM or renew your MEMbership: An invitation from Middle East Medievalists (Cont.)

As announced at last MESA, MEM has also noticeably increased its presence on social media. Make sure to follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/MideastMedievalists>) and on Twitter (@MideastMedieval)!

Our new website will include, in due course, further new resources dedicated to teaching and digital humanities in particular, and will benefit from the many resources (such as working papers) that the Islamic History Commons have to offer.

We would also remind you that our list (H-MEM) provides opportunity to engage colleagues worldwide with the topics and questions that concern us all.

Please join now. MEM is embracing change and needs you to continue to provide outstanding service to the field.

— The MEM Board of Directors

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George T. Scanlon Graduate Student Award in Arab and Islamic Civilizations

Alumnae of The American University in Cairo (AUC) have established an endowment in the name of the late George T. Scanlon (1925-2014), Professor Emeritus of Islamic Art and Architecture at AUC. The **George T. Scanlon Graduate Student Award in Arab and Islamic Civilizations** will be a merit-based award open to all students pursuing a graduate degree in the various disciplines of Arab and Islamic Civilizations (ARIC), the department that Scanlon was affiliated with for most of his professional career. The award will recognize the most distinguished MA thesis produced by an ARIC student in that given academic year, with an annual award ceremony that will feature an invited keynote speaker from the Cairo academic community who will recognize the award recipient and commemorate Scanlon's impact on Islamic studies. This award will be a lasting tribute to an educator and scholar who left a strong imprint on Islamic archaeology, studies related to the material culture of medieval Egypt and the generations of students that he taught:

<http://new.aucegypt.edu/news/stories/aucegypt%20-%2099s-george-t-scanlon-%20-%209Ckeep-faith%20-%209D>

To contribute to the **George T. Scanlon Graduate Student Award in Arab and Islamic Civilizations**, please contact givingthanks@aucegypt.edu.