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Welcome to MEM! We hope that this brief newsletter will whet your interest and encourage your participation. As you may know by now, our chief goal at this time is the revival of medieval studies within MESA. Only through your active participation can MEM become the vocal and persistent force we hope it will be.

What's Enclosed?

We have enclosed two items to which we would like you to give serious attention. First of all, please fill out the membership application and return it with a check Though we for \$12.50. realize that all of you have yearly dues commitments with a variety of other academic associations, we hope that our fee will appear modest by comparison. In addition, your contribution will at the very least allow MEM to get off the ground and represent our interests without delay. Next, please read through carefully the tentative set of By-Laws of MEM. We invite your comments and suggestions. We would appreciate it very much if you could return the application form with your check and any comments you might have concerning the By-Laws by Friday, November 10, 1989.

MEM at MESA '89

Having mentioned membership applications and by-laws, we want to stress the importance of your attendance at two events at MESA this year which will be sponsored by MEM. First, MEM will have its very first business meeting on Wednesday, 15 November from 10-12. Though it is the initial day of the annual meeting and the hour is early, we strongly urge you to attend. At our meeting, we will have the following agenda: election of officers, discussion and ratification of the proposed By-Laws, and clarification of our affiliation with MESA and the possibility of an additional link with the American Oriental Society. Given the AOS's traditional interest in medieval studies and the fact that many MEMers are members of both organizations, the latter is an issue which we should consider seriously.

Secondly, please try to attend our panel on the problem of periodization in medieval Islamic history. The panel will meet on Friday, 17 November, 8:30-10:30 a.m. and will include papers by William Gohlman (SUNY/Geneseo), Michael Morony (UCLA), Lutz Richter-Bernburg (Univ. of Bonn), and Marilyn R. Waldman (Ohio St.). Joseph Roberts (Michigan Tech) will serve as discussant. We look forward to your participation at both events!

Honorary Members

Several senior medievalists have indicated their support of MEM by accepting our offer of Honorary Membership. They are David Ayalon, Claude Cahen, Bernard Lewis, George Makdisi, and Franz Rosenthal. Each has sent a very warm letter of acceptance and we want to express our deep appreciation and thanks.

And last but not least ...

At this time, we also want to say thank-you to Jere Bacharach, Michael Bates, Richard Bulliet, and Christopher Rogers for their invaluable advice and financial contributions at this early stage in MEM's existence.

SEE YOU AT MESA IN NOVEMBER !!!

S. Gellens