RESULTS OF THE MEM INFORMATION SURVEY

As you will recall, the second annual meeting of MEM, held at Austin last November, considered the question of how to encourage the enhancement of the MEM newsletter. At the suggestion of Paul Chevedden, the annual meeting decided to survey all MEM members about their current work, recent publications and other news of interest to the general membership. On February 1st that survey was sent to everyone on MEM’s general mailing list with the request that it be returned by March 15th. Over sixty members took the time to complete these forms and return them. As a result, the current issue of al-‘Uṣūr al-wusṭā is the most substantive issue to date. At long last we seem to be coming closer to our objective of facilitating communication between Middle East medievalists. As imperfect as the current effort is, we feel that it represents a significant step forward. Hopefully members will send the editor announcements, brief communications, ideas, proposals, comments and other information of interest to members in the future without the need for a survey. Thank you for your assistance in returning your membership survey on time. We currently plan to repeat the survey each spring. If you have any material for the fall newsletter, please send it to the editor by October 1, 1991.

THIRD ANNUAL MEM MEETING SCHEDULED

The third annual meeting of MEM is currently scheduled for 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 23, 1991 in Washington, D.C. As usual, the annual meeting will be held in connection with the MESA conference. Further information concerning the annual meeting will be provided in the fall issue of the newsletter. Members wishing to add items to the agenda are requested to submit them in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than October 1, 1991.

COMMUNICATIONS

The directors of the Late Antiquity and Early Islam Project have asked us to bring to the attention of MEM members a workshop on "Land Use and Settlement Patterns in the Byzantine and Early Islamic Near East" to be sponsored by the project. The workshop is scheduled to take place at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London between April 25-27, 1991. This is the second workshop sponsored by the project and will include papers by: Dr. Ghazi Bisheh (Amman), Dr. Wolfram Brandes (Berlin), Dr. Pierre-Louis Gatier (Lyon), Prof. Dr. Heinz Gaube (Tübingen), Dr. Geoffrey King (London), Dr. Henry MacAdam (Princeton), Professor Michael Morony (Los Angeles), Mr. Yehuda Nevo (Sde Boker), Dr. Alistair Northedge (Tübingen).

Dr. Mikhail Piotrovsky (Leningrad), Professor George Scanlon (Cairo), Professor Yoram Tsafir (Jerusalem), Dr. Donald Whitcomb (Chicago) and Mr. Ali Zayadeh (Bir Zayt). The charge for the workshop is £15.00. Please contact Dr. Geoffrey King, Dept. of Art and Archaeology, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, ENGLAND for further information concerning the workshop.

Ross Brann has asked us to announce that a workshop entitled "The Three Cultures of Medieval Spain in Perspective: A Remembrance of 1492," will be held at Cornell University on November 8, 1991. Papers will be presented by James T. Monroe, María Rosa Monocal, Ciriaco Arroyo, José Piedra and Ross Brann. For further information concerning this workshop please contact Dr. Brann, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 360 Rockefeller Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-2502 for further information.

We are pleased to announce the publication of Tarih, a new publication devoted to the history and culture of the ancient and Islamic Near East. Tarih is published by the Annenberg Research Institute which welcomes the submission of articles for future volumes. Please contact Dr. Vera B. Moreen, Editor, Tarih, The Annenberg Research Institute, 420 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
MEMBERS' NEWS (seminars, lectures, conferences and sources of funding)


SEEGER A. BONEBAKKER - Presentations at the Union Européenne des Arabisants, Utrecht (September, 1990). Appointed member of a committee of four instituted by the Dutch Ministry of Education to maintain and enhance non-Western studies, which in recent years have suffered from budget cuts.


McGUIRE GIBSON - Planning a symposium on social organization in both pre-Islamic and Islamic Middle East with a focus on Iraq.

WILLIAM E. GOHLMAN - Numerous lectures on the Gulf Crisis.


KARIN C. RYDING - "Case/Mood Syncretism in Medieval Arabic Grammar," Georgetown Round Table on languages and linguistics pre-session (April, 1991). Members of MEM may be interested in the al-Khalil Circle, a study group devoted to exploration of the genesis and development of medieval Arabic grammatical theory. It is named after al-Khalil ibn Ahmad (d. 791), the first major Arabic grammarian and lexicographer, author of the Kitāb al-'ayn and al-Jumal fi al-naḥw, teacher of Sibawayhi, and founder of the Basran school of grammar. On March 1, 1991 Koos Versteegh, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, delivered a guest lecture to the al-Khalil Circle on "Early Arabic Grammatical Terminology."


ELIZABETH SAVAGE - "Land Use and Settlement Patterns in the Byzantine and Early Islamic Near East," a workshop of the Late Antiquity and Early Islam project, SOAS (April, 1991).


KEITH WEISSMAN - Received Ph.D. in Islamic History from the University of Chicago (December, 1990).

WORK IN PROGRESS


STEPHEN ALBUM - "Coinage and Monetary Policy in Muzaffarid Iran," a doctoral dissertation at UC Berkeley.

M.A.J BEG - "Founders of Islamic History: a study of the Sahābah (Companions of Muhammad) in the Middle East (632-718 A.D.)." "Interaction between the Mongols and the Muslims during the 13th and 14th Centuries A.D."

SEEGER A. BONEBAKKER - History of Arabic literary theory, Arabic poetry and Islamic scholarship.


MICHAEL A. COOK - A monograph on al-amr bi'l-ma'raj and articles on Saʿūdi and early Islamic topics.

ELTON L. DANIEL - A translation of Bal'ami's Tārikh.

McGuire Gibson - Study of a pottery and glass making complex at an unidentified ‘Abbasid site east of Nippur, Iraq (interrupted by the recent war).

WILLIAM E. GOHLMAN - A study of Ibn Sina’s writings on ethics.


WILLIAM J. HAMBLIN - A history of medieval Islamic warfare.

AXEL HAVEMANN - Forms and functions of historiography in Lebanon and Syria, especially during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries (a habilitation thesis).


R. STEPHEN HUMPHREYS - Continuing research on Ibn ‘Asākir as a source for early Islamic Damascus. Intention this summer is to focus on biographies of the Rashidun/Umayyad era. NEH funding will continue for this project through the summer of 1991.


ELLA LANDAU-TASERON - Continuing to work on early Muslim historiography.

KALUS LUDVIK - Continuing work on Corpus d'inscriptions arabes et persanes en Chine (with Chen da-Sheng).

VERA B. MOREEN - An anthology of Judaic-Persian literature for Yale University Press.

LINDA S. NORTHRUP - Publication of a dissertation on the Mamluk Sultan al-Mansur Qalawun and an article on "Ayyubids to Mamluks: Change and Continuity."


CARL F. PETRY - *Protectors or Praetorians: The Last Mamluk Sultans and Egypt's Decline as a Great Power* (currently under consideration for publication).

VALERIA FIORANI PIACENTINI - A research project on "Military Thought in the Islamic World" c/o Ce. Mi.S.S. A UNESCO project on the Silk Route: Genoa and Genoese.

DAVID S. POWERS - Continuing work on: *Discovering the Law: Mufassils and Worldly Interpretation in Muslim Societies* (co-edited with Brinkley Messick and Khalid Masud).

LUTZ RICHTER-BERNBORG - Working on a translation and annotation of al-Ṭabarānī's *History* (the Sasanians).


KARIN C. RYDING - A translation, with introduction and commentary, of the *Kitāb al-jumal fi l-nahw*, by al-Khalil ibn Ahmad. This may be the earliest extant text on Arabic morphosyntactic theory. Estimated date of completion is mid-1991. A summer grant (1991) from Georgetown University to do a comparative study of language as described by a medieval Arabic alchemist (Jabir ibn Hayyan) and a medieval grammarian and lexicographer (al-Khalil ibn Ahmad). This study will have particular reference to phonosymbolism: mystical, mathematical and magical meaning attributed to consonant phonemes in the Arabic tradition, with investigation of the relevance of set theory and permutation operations to modification of meaning.

NOHA SADEK - A study of the historical mosques of Zabid (Yemen). Additional studies of the function of space in the Rasulid Madrasa and the painted domes of Taʾizz.

PAULA SANDERS - A series of articles on various aspects of Fatimid historiography. This summer will be devoted to work on an article entitled: "The Mamluk View of Fatimid History."


WARREN C. SCHULTZ - Continuing work on a dissertation dealing with Mamluk history (University of Chicago).

IRFAN A. SHAHID - Continuing work on a two volume work entitled: *Islam and Poetry*. Also working on *Byzantium and the Arabs in the Sixth Century*. This is the fourth volume of the series being published by Dumbarton Oaks. The last volume, *Byzantium and the Arabs in the Fifth Century*, appeared in 1989.

YEDIDA K. STILLMAN - Working on the *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Arab Dress* to be published by Brill. MEM members are kindly invited to forward any references they may come across on Islamic costume.


MARINA A. TOLMACHEVA - Editing Swahili-Arabic texts of the *Pate Chronicle* under an NEH grant administered by Michigan State University for the Association for Publication of African Historical Sources. Also revising for publication a paper entitled: "Ptolemaic Influence on Arab Geography." Also revising an article entitled: "Ibn Battuta on Women's Travel in the Dar al-Islam."
DANIEL MARTIN VARISCO - Preparing a paper for MESA on the symbolic significance of Muhammad's genealogy in early Islam. Working to complete an edition and translation of an anonymous 14th century Yemeni agricultural almanac.

KEITH WEISSMAN - Beginning study of the urban renewal of Cairo in the latter half of the 19th century.

NEGUIN YAVARI - Completing a dissertation entitled: "A Political Biography of Nizam al-Mulk." This work will focus on his links with Sufi and Shi'i dignitaries in the eleventh century (Columbia University).

RECENT AND PLANNED FIELDWORK


CAROLE HILLENBRAND - Crusader sites in Jerusalem (summer, 1990).

VERA B. MOREEN - Travel to the U.S.S.R. (Oriental Institute, Leningrad) between May 21-June 12, 1991 to research Judaico-Persian manuscripts.

BETH E. PHILLIPS - Cairo, Egypt (1989-90 and January, 1991) doctoral research dealing mainly with unedited works of 15th century Mamluk chroniclers as found in the Dār al-Kutub. Research involves a larger study of the iqtā' and the political structure of the Mamluk Sultanate (University of Utah).

VALERIA FIORANI PIACENTINI - Continuing work in Makran, Pakistan (since 1986).

NOHA SADEK - Field work planned (April-May, 1991) in Yemen to conduct study of the mosques of Zabid.


DANIEL MARTIN VARISCO - Fulbright Islamic Civilization Grant to work at the Arab Gulf States Folklore Centre at Doha, Qatar to work on a history of the Arabic almanac genre (1989-90).

NEGUIN YAVARI - Doctoral research conducted in Iran, Syria and Turkey (1989-90).

RECENT OR FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS


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INFORMATION FOR THE FALL 1991 NEWSLETTER
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