

## Announcements

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

Dear Colleagues,

We launched the new website of Middle East Medievalists (MEM) in 2015. 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 in 2015 (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. 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 reintroduced our graduate student paper prize in 2016, and we are inaugurating a

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

MEM book prize this year. This comes on top of our existing Lifetime Achievement Award and Honorary Membership. Other new ideas are of course welcome!

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: <https://networks.h-net.org/h-mideast-medieval>) 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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