



AL-‘UŞUR AL-WUSTĀ 25 (2017)



THE JOURNAL OF MIDDLE EAST MEDIEVALISTS



About

Middle East Medievalists (MEM) is an international professional non-profit association of scholars interested in the study of the Islamic lands of the Middle East during the medieval period (defined roughly as 500-1500 C.E.). MEM officially came into existence on 15 November 1989 at its first annual meeting, held in Toronto. It is a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Illinois. MEM has two primary goals: to increase the representation of medieval scholarship at scholarly meetings in North America and elsewhere by co-sponsoring panels; and to foster communication among individuals and organizations with an interest in the study of the medieval Middle East. As part of its effort to promote scholarship and facilitate communication among its members, MEM publishes al-‘Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā (The Journal of Middle East Medievalists).

EDITORS

Antoine Borrut, *University of Maryland*
Matthew S. Gordon, *Miami University*

MANAGING EDITOR

Christiane-Marie Abu Sarah, *University of Maryland*

EDITORIAL BOARD,

AL-‘UṢŪR AL-WUṢṬĀ (THE JOURNAL OF MIDDLE EAST MEDIEVALISTS)

Zayde Antrim, *Trinity College*
Sobhi Bouderbala, *University of Tunis*
Muriel Debié, *École Pratique des Hautes Études*
Malika Dekkiche, *University of Antwerp*
Fred M. Donner, *University of Chicago*
David Durand-Guédy, *Institut Français de Recherche en Iran*
Nadia Maria El-Cheikh, *American University of Beirut*
Maribel Fierro, *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*
Emma Gannagé, *Georgetown University*
Denis Genequand, *University of Geneva*
Ahmet Karamustafa, *University of Maryland*
Étienne de La Vaissière, *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales*
Stephennie Mulder, *The University of Texas at Austin*
Marina Rustow, *Princeton University*
Isabel Toral-Niehoff, *Free University of Berlin*
Alison Vacca, *University of Tennessee Knoxville*
Peter Webb, *Leiden University*
Luke Yarbrough, *Saint Louis University*

ISSN 1068-1051

Copyright © 2017 Middle East Medievalists.
All rights reserved.

For submission guidelines, contact: middleeastmedievalists@gmail.com.

Website of the Middle East Medievalists: <http://islamichistorycommons.org/mem/>

Website of al-‘Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā (*The Journal of Middle East Medievalists*):

<http://islamichistorycommons.org/mem/al-usur-al-wusta/>

Become a member of the Middle East Medievalists:

<http://islamichistorycommons.org/mem/membership-application/join-mem/>

Al-‘Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā (Editorial Office)
Antoine Borrut, Editor
Department of History, University of Maryland
2115 Francis Scott Key Hall,
College Park, MD 20742-7315 USA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Letter from the Editors, Antoine Borrut and Matthew S. Gordon</i>	i-ii
--	------

MEM AWARDS:

Remarks by Fred M. Donner, Recipient of the 2016 MEM Lifetime Achievement Award	iii-ix
--	--------

ARTICLES:

<i>Important New Developments in Arabographic Optical Character Recognition (OCR)</i> Benjamin Kiessling, Matthew Thomas Miller, Maxim G. Romanov, & Sarah Bowen Savant.....	1-13
---	------

<i>The Numismatic Evidence for the Reign of Ahmad b. Tūlūn (254–270/868–883)</i> Luke Treadwell	14-40
--	-------

<i>The Abbasid “Golden Age”: An Excavation</i> Michael Cooperson	41-65
---	-------

<i>Conflict and Community in the Medieval Caucasus</i> Alison M. Vacca	66-112
---	--------

<i>Reflections on the Identity of the Arabian Conquerors of the Seventh-Century Middle East</i> Robert G. Hoyland	113-140
--	---------

CONFERENCE REPORTS:

<i>Spatial Thought in Islamic Societies, 1000–1600: The Politics of Genre, Image, and Text (Tübingen, 30 March to 1 April 2017)</i> Zayde Antrim, Jean-Charles Ducène, and Kurt Franz	141-148
--	---------

<i>New Insights into Early Islamic Historiography: A Substantial Conference Report (Göttingen, 25–26 June 2015)</i> Yoones Dehghani Farsani and Jens Scheiner	149-177
--	---------

BOOK REVIEWS:

Peter Webb, <i>Imagining the Arabs: Arab Identity and the Rise of Islam</i> Philip Wood	178-183
--	---------

Joshua Mabra, <i>Princely Authority in the Early Marwānid State: The Life of ‘Abd al-‘Azīz ibn Marwān (d. 86/705)</i> Matthew S. Gordon	184-189
--	---------



TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

Lyall Armstrong, <i>The Quṣṣāṣ of Early Islam</i>	
Pamela Klasova	190-196
Christophe Picard, <i>La Mer des Califes: Une histoire de la Méditerranée musulmane</i>	
Matthew S. Gordon	197-203
Chase Robinson, <i>Islamic Civilization in Thirty Lives: The First 1,000 Years</i>	
Brian Ulrich	204-209
Mona Hassan, <i>Longing for the Lost Caliphate: A Transregional History</i>	
Sabahat F. Adil	210-212
Abolfazl Khatibi, <i>Āyā Firdawsī Maḥmūd-i Ghaznavī rā hajv guft? Hajv’nāmah-i mansūb bih Firdawsī: Bar’rasī-yi taḥlīlī, taṣhīḥ-i intiqādī, va sharḥ-i bayt’hā [Did Ferdowsi Satirize Mahmud of Ghazni? The Satire Attributed to Ferdowsi: Analysis, Textual Criticism, and Commentary]</i>	
Theodore S. Beers	213-218
Thomas Würtz, <i>Islamische Theologie im 14. Jahrhundert. Auferstehungslehre, Handlungstheorie und Schöpfungsvorstellungen im Werk von Sa‘d ad-Dīn at-Taftāzānī</i>	
Christian Mauder	219-224
IN MEMORIAM:	
Anna Dolinina (1923–2017)	
Marina Tolmacheva	225-228
Günter Lüling (1928–2014)	
Fred M. Donner	229-234
ANNOUNCEMENTS:	
Join MEM or Renew Your MEMbership: An Invitation from Middle East Medievalists	235-236