Conference on Iraqi Revolution of 1958

Academics, government and foreign service representatives, and journalists from Europe, the Middle East and the United States met March 10-11 on the University campus for a Conference entitled The Iraqi Revolution of 1958: The Old Social Classes Revisited. The focus of the event was Hanna Batatu's major study, The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq, published ten years ago. The thirtieth anniversary of the Revolution was chosen for the scholarly reassessment of the event, which resulted in the overthrow of the existing social order and effected political and economic consequences that persist to the present day.

Organizers of the Conference were Robert Fernea (Anthropology, UT Austin) and Roger Louis (Kerr Professor of History, UT Austin). The participants were welcomed in the Tom Lea Rooms of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center by Ian Manners, Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Speakers the first day were Marion Farouk-Sluglett and Peter Sluglett, "The Social Classes and the Origins of the Revolution"; Robert Fernea, "The Struggle for Hegemony in Southern Iraq on the Eve of the 1958 Revolution"; Sami Zubaida, "Community, Class and Minorities in Iraqi Politics"; Roger Louis, "Britain and the Origins of the Iraqi Revolution"; and Norman Daniel, "Britain and the Iraqi Revolution in Historical Perspective."

Speakers the second day were Frederick Axelgard, "American Policy and the British in Iraq in the Pre-Revolutionary Period"; Nicholas Thacher, "Reflections on U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Iraq in the 1950s"; Joe Stork, "Iraq and the Super Powers in the Revolutionary Period of the 1950s"; Rashid Khalidi, "The Impact of the Iraqi Revolution on Other Arab States"; Isam al-Khafaji, "Class, Clan and the State in Contemporary Iraq"; and Roger Owen, "Putting the State Back In: Some Thoughts on Batatu's Account of Class and Class Politics in Iraq Before 1958." Hanna Batatu concluded with "Response and Second Thoughts," which was followed by a general discussion. Themes woven through the speeches and discussion included the social structure of classes in the background of the Revolution, the part played by Communists and Ba'thists in the emancipation of Iraq from British control, the social and political consequences of the movement, and the significance of the Revolution to the Middle East in general.

Exhibits pertaining to the Revolution and preceding periods in Iraq were organized for display in the Tom Lea Rooms. One exhibit featured photographs of figures of the Monarchy and of the Revolution. Another was devoted to photographs of the people and the land. A display of Iraqi stamps traced the country's political history from the British period through the Monarchy into the post-Revolutionary period. Cases of memorabilia from these times—clothes, furnishings, books and documents were provided by the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University; the University's Middle East Collection; the University's Perry Castaneda Library; and Center faculty and staff. The exhibits were organized by Aseel Dyck, Resource Center Coordinator.

The Conference was presented by the Center. Other University of Texas sponsors were the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Graduate Studies, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and the Departments of Anthropology, Government, and History.
The Center is proud to announce its publication of the English translation of 
*By the Pen*, by deceased Iranian author Jalal Al-e Ahmad. The novel is the first in the new 
Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation Series, published by the Center and the University of Texas Press. Dr. M. R. Ghanoonparvar, currently a recipient of a Rockefeller Fellowship at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, is the translator of *By the Pen*, and Michael C. Hillmann, Professor in the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures at The University of Texas, wrote the Introduction. *Literature East & West* was responsible for producing camera-ready copy for the publication.

*By the Pen* is a novel about Iranian intellectuals, Iranian men of the pen. But it is also about the peoples and cultures of Iran and the role and responsibility of the writer in society. Set in an imaginary time and place, *By the Pen* tells the story of a revolution and of the two writers who question whether those who assume power are able to rule in accordance with their own ideals or are compelled as they face the realities of governing to resort to actions not unlike those of the rulers they deposed.

Jalal Al-e Ahmad is one of Iran's best known authors in the United States. Many of his works have been translated and published in English. As well as a writer of novels and short stories, he was also a translator, ethnographer, and essayist.

*By the Pen* can be purchased for $8.95 by ordering through the University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, Texas, 78713-7819. Send $2.00 for postage and handling, and Texas residents should add the appropriate sales tax.

The Center's next book in the Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation Series will be *That's All That's Left to You* by Ghassan Kanafani. The next publication in the Modern Middle East Series will be *Arabian Oasis City, The Transformation of Unayzah* by anthropologists Soraya Altorki and Donald Cole. Both books should come out in the late summer or early fall.

Two University Fellowships have been offered to students who have applied for acceptance in the Center's Masters in Middle Eastern Studies program. The students are Mark Allen Barnes, a graduate of John Hopkins University, and Jonathan B. Oberlander, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The University Fellowship is one of the highest honors awarded to a graduate student at The University of Texas.

The Center is proud to announce also that Ann Gardner, Anthropology graduate student concentrating on the Middle East, has received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research scholarship for twelve months in Egypt. Her research will focus on Bedouin socioeconomic change due to settlement in the Sinai Desert, especially the effects of settlement on women's status in relation to informal tribal networks.

In other student-related news, recipients of the 1988/89 Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarships are Najeeb Ahmad, Catherine Ahmad, Linda Boxberger, Brian Evans, Mark Juditz, Marietta Mugford, and Andrew Vorona. Recipients of the Summer FLAS awards during 1988 were Diana Davis, Daniel Lefkowitz, and Peter Riley.

Martha Diase, Communications graduate student specializing in the Middle East, has been chosen for a Ford Foundation Internship in New York City for the summer of 1989. She will be researching projects for the Developing Countries Program.

Three University students have been chosen for State Department Internships in the Middle East during the summer of 1989. Gwenn Okruhlik has been assigned to Abu Dhabi in the Political and Economic Section to conduct research and analysis for the Foreign Economic Trends and United States Implications Report. The other two holders of State Department internships are Jim Fitzgerald and Robert Acker. Mr. Fitzgerald will be with the American Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabi, where he will help in reporting and examining economic activity in the region. Mr. Acker will be with the American Embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

Kristen Stilt, senior honors major in Middle Eastern Studies, has been named as a participant in a Texas-Soviet Exchange Program, sponsored by the U.S. Citizens Exchange Council. Along with 15 other University students, she will visit Irkutsk University during March. During April, a party of students from Irkutsk will return the visit to The University of Texas. Turkish is Ms. Stilt's main language in her degree program, and since Irkutsk is in Siberia, she hopes that she may hear some of the Turkish-related languages of south-central Russia.

Jenny White has just returned from two years in Turkey where she conducted research for her dissertation in Anthropology. Ms. White is studying small commodity production in urban Turkey. She also taught at Marmara University while in Turkey.
Lecturers and Visitors

The Center continues to present a Colloquium Series on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 in the Resource Room, SSB 3.102. On February 2, Professor Gordon Newby of the History Department at North Carolina State University spoke on "Jewish Kings and Jewish Bedouin in Early Arabia." Dr. Tamar Katriel, Visiting Lecturer in Communications at the University, presented "Talking Straight: Dugri Speech in Israeli Sabra Culture." The Women's Studies Research Seminar Program joined the Colloquium Series on February 16 to present Elizabeth Fernea from the English Department and the Center to speak on "Changing Attitudes Toward Children in the Arab World," the topic of her latest research for a book in progress. On February 23 Professor James A. Miller, on leave from the Geography Department at Clemson University, spoke on "Change in Ethnic Relations in the Dra'a Valley of Morocco."

In March the Colloquium Series continued with Barbara Kellner-Heinikle of the Turkish Department of Goethe Universität Frankfurt lecturing on "Dervishes and Scholars: Glimpses at the Daily Life of Ottoman Naqshbandis." And on March 30, Lila Abu-Lughod of the Anthropology Department at the University of Pennsylvania presented a lecture entitled "The Romance of Resistance: Bedouin Women and Power."

Other lecturers to the University sponsored in part by the Center this semester include Professor André Raymond of the Université de Provence in Aix-en-Provence, France. His lecture on "Arab Cities in Ottoman Times" was cosponsored by the Department of History.

Several dialogues were presented during the semester. On December 6, Professor Avraham Zilkha of the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Linguistics and Professor Robert Vitalis of the Government Department spoke on "The Israeli Elections and the Palestinian Conference in Algiers: Prospects for Peace." Visiting professors Mark R. Cohen of Princeton and Norman Stillman of the State University of New York at Binghamton presented "The History and Politics of Jews and Arabs in the Middle East: Two Perspectives." This joint lecture on January 25 was cosponsored by the Center, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, and the Department of History. In connection with Liberal Arts Week at the University (February 27--March 3) Professor Zilkha and Professor Clement Moore Henry of the Government Department spoke on "The Question of a Palestine State."

On February 22, Aseel Dyck, Coordinator-Librarian of the Middle East Resource Center, gave a presentation for graduate students and interested individuals about the "New Library Resources at UT." Her talk will be repeated each semester.

Panel on Salman Rushdie Conflict

The University campus was the scene of a panel that discussed the conflict caused by the publication of the Salman Rushdie book The Satanic Verses. The book caused death threats against its author, a number of deaths abroad, and protests from Muslims around the world. The student gains a better sense of the cultural setting within which language is used and becomes familiar with the functional use of language in everyday life as illustrated through newspapers, magazines, and radio and television programs. Basic to the program is the principle of continual testing so that the student will reach the stipulated proficiency in a "pass/fail" mode rather than spend a certain amount of time in a classroom. Learning grammar is not the main focus, but rather the development of speaking skills. The individual goals of students have to be considered. The University of Texas is fortunate to have two teachers who are highly skilled in proficiency teaching and testing. They are Doctors Peter Abboud and Aman Attieh.

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Arabic and Persian Translations
In New HRC Collection

The University has acquired 68 rare volumes written or owned by the famous 18th century English linguist, Sir William Jones. These volumes are housed in the Rare Books Library of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (HRC). Often called "the father of comparative linguistics" because he was the first to notice the similarities in the languages that would come to be known as Indo-European, Jones was initially a scholar of Oriental languages.

Published early in Jones' prolific career was Histoire de Nader Chah, a translation of a Persian manuscript brought to England by Christian VII of Denmark and partially translated into French from the original Ta'rikh-i-Nadiri, by Mirza Mahdi Khan. Jones finished the French translation and later published an abridged English version. Jones appended to the Histoire an essay on Oriental poetry, in which he argued for the literary and intellectual qualities of Arabic and Persian writing, and included 13 of the poems of Hafiz.

Still early in his career, while mastering English law in order to provide himself with a secure income, Jones published A Grammar of the Persian Language, which was a success overnight, going through nine editions in 57 years. It contained the popular Persian Song of Hafiz, which inspired Goethe, among others, and led Fitzgerald into publishing the Rubaiyat.

In 1783 Jones was appointed a judge of the high court in Calcutta, the administrative seat of the East India Company, an office which he held until his death. Here Jones was able to indulge in his Oriental and Asian studies—Arabic, Persian, Sanscrit, and Indian languages—for the rest of his life.

The HRC Collection spans the whole of Jones' career as linguist. Other important Arabic- and Persian- related works in the collection include Jones' working copy of The Moallakat, seven Arabic poems he translated. The volume is interleaved and extensively annotated by Jones in Arabic and English. The Moallakat is the name given to the Seven Odes which hung from the temple at Mecca. They are often considered the most significant work in the entire canon of pre-Islamic Arabic poetry. Jones added to each poem a brief critical essay that was intended to encourage the study of Arabic.

Not a book by Jones, but one presented to him, is a copy of Charles, Count Reviczky's edition of Hafiz. Reviczky, a Hungarian scholar-diplomat, was one of the first Orientalists to appreciate Jones' unique talents. In the Collection is Reviczky's first edition of his translation of sixteen poems from Hafiz's Divan. Also in the Collection is a series of volumes with the Persian text and Latin translations.

Funds to acquire the Sir William Jones Collection came from the Dean's Office in the College of Liberal Arts, the HRC, and the General Libraries.

A first edition of 16 poems from Hafiz's Divan has Persian text on the left pages with a Latin version on the right pages. (Photograph by University News and Information)
Faculty

Allen Douglas (French) delivered a lecture "Bande dessinée et politique" at the University of Meknes, Morocco, in November. He also participated in the Conference on Cultural Dimensions of Development, in Tunis, where he spoke on "Femmes et histoire."

Elizabeth Fernea (English and CMES) has been a visiting lecturer at several campuses during the late fall and winter. She spoke in the Distinguished Speakers Program at the State University of New York at Binghamton; at the Women in Arab-Islamic Culture Conference at Cornell; at the Resident Associate Program Seminar on the Middle East at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.; at the University of Maine Peace Conference; and at invited lectures at Princeton and Rutgers.

Robert Fernea (Anthropology) went to India February 10–20 to chair a meeting of Directors of American Overseas Research Centers. Professor Fernea was elected last year chair of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). While in India, he travelled to several cities, visiting branches of the American Institute of Indian Studies, which hosted the meeting.

Clement Moore Henry (Government) had "Islamic Banking: Financial and Political Intermediation in Arab Countries" published in Oriens 29:1 (Hamburg, March 1988). The article will also be published in French and German versions by the CNRS (France) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. Professor Henry delivered at the 1988 MESA meeting a paper entitled "Islamic Banks and Competitive Politics in the Arab World and Turkey."

M. A. Jazayery (Persian) lectured on February 21 at the University of California at Berkeley on "Ahmad Krasravi on the Revival of Islam." On the same day he spoke in Persian to the Society of Iranian Professionals in Berkeley on "Krasravi and Representative Government in Iran." Professor Jazayery’s article, "Persian Contributions," was published in Discovery, Volume 11, Number 2, an issue devoted to language scholarship at the University.

Fedwa Malti-Douglas (Arabic) was Literature Editor of a special twentieth-anniversary volume of Al-Arabiyya, which appeared in November. Her article "The Revolution in Arabic Literary Studies" appeared in that issue. Her article "The Classical Arabic Detective" was published in Arabica; and the article "Classical Arabic Crime Narratives: Thieves and Thievery in Adab Literature" appeared in the Journal of Arabic Literature. In November, she delivered a lecture on "Littérature comparée et littérature canonique" at the University of Meknes, Morocco. That month, she also delivered a paper at the Conference on Cultural Dimensions of Development, in Tunis. In April, she will present "Poetry and Patriarchy: The Autobiography of Fadwa Tuqan," at a Conference on the Canon and Middle Eastern Literatures, at Ohio State University. She has also been invited to speak at the Levi Della Vida Award Conference honoring André Miquel to be held in Los Angeles in May.

Ian Manners (Geography) spoke in November at a special workshop on water management in the Middle East, organized for pre-collegiate teachers by the Middle East Outreach Council during the annual meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association. His talk was entitled "The Once and Future Nile." In March Professor Manners visited Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian Ornithological Society and the Egyptian Wildlife Service to lecture at al-Azhar University on the conservation of biological resources in the Middle East. Subsequently, he joined Egyptian wildlife biologists on a ten-day field trip to visit newly established biological reserves in Egypt.

Gail Minault (History) attended in September the European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies in Venice, Italy, and presented a paper entitled "Purdah and Boundaries: Images of Women and the Emergence of Indo-Muslim Identity." In January she gave three guest lectures at the University of Washington, Seattle, concerning her research on Indian Muslim women. Professor Minault attended the Association for Asian Studies in Washington, D.C. in March to serve as a discussant on a panel on women in Pakistan.

Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Art History) was invited to take part during December in an international conference in Czerniewo, Poland, on the Biology of Language: Essentialist vs. Evolutionist in the Nature of Language. Her presentation was called "Symbols in the Prehistoric Middle East." She had an article appear in Science News, December 24–31, 1988, entitled "Tokens of Plenty." Professor Schmandt-Besserat was the UNA Lecturer, 1989, at the University of California at Berkeley. She delivered a series of four lectures there during March entitled "Writing and Counting: the Near Eastern Legacy."

Caroline Williams (Architecture) was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars for two years. She went to Washington, D.C. in March in her role as a member of the National Selection Committee for the Malcolm Kerr High School Scholars Program, which is sponsored by the National Council on U.S. Arab Relations.

John Williams, who is currently the William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at The College of William and Mary, is delivering the Kenan lectures this spring. They are entitled "Islamic Philosophy and Muslim Fundamentalism: Theories of the Islamic State"; "Just the Facts, Please: Early Muslim Historiography and the Quest for Truth"; and "Mad Mullahs or Modernization: The Muslim World in Our Time." He will lecture also at Yale University on April 13–14. The second volume of Professor Williams' translation of al-Tabari's The Early 'Abbasis was published early this year by Cambridge University Press.

Avraham Zilka (Hebrew) has had his modern Hebrew-English dictionary accepted by Yale University Press for forthcoming publication.
Teachers Workshop Features Photo Exhibit of Migrant Yemenis

The Outreach Program at the Center is sponsoring a teachers workshop on Saturday, April 1, 9:00-4:30. The workshop will feature a gallery tour by Outreach Coordinator Annette Pomeroy of the photographic exhibit "Sojourners and Settlers: Yemeni Workers at Home and Abroad." The images in this exhibit depict the immigration of villagers from the Yemeni central highlands to California's agricultural heartland, the San Joaquin Valley. The Muslim workers were recorded simultaneously in the Yemen and in California by American documentary photographers, scholars, and the Yemeni villagers themselves. The photographs unveil environments and aspects of human adaption and interaction that, until recently, have rarely been seen by Americans. The exhibit is showing at the Texas Union Art Gallery from March 27 through April 9. The exhibit was previously shown at the Smithsonian Institute.

The workshop will open in Student Services Building 4.104 with CMES and Architecture faculty Caroline Williams who will give a slide presentation on "The Mosque: It All Began in Medina." CMES graduate student Linda Boxberger, who taught in Yemen for two years, will also give a slide presentation called "Travelling in the Yemen Arab Republic: Views of Cultural Diversity." A talk, "Joint Futures in Oil and Politics: Texas and the Arab Gulf States," will be given by Vicki Hammond, Government Department graduate student who lived in Saudi Arabia for many years. Two videotapes, "The Truck Driver" and The Arab Horse," will be shown.

Although the program is designed for social studies, geography, and history teachers of grades 6-12, one need not be a teacher to attend. Participants will receive certificates for Advanced Academic Training from the Texas Education Agency.

Visiting Scholars for 1988/89

The Center has sponsored several Visiting Scholars for the academic year 1988/89. During the fall Dr. Mohamed Berdouzi visited the University on a Fulbright Fellowship. A lecturer in the Department of Public Law and Political Science in Rabat, Morocco, Dr. Berdouzi used the University to further his research on important works on Morocco by leading American political scientists, with the objective of developing a critical review of available studies.

Professor Abdel-Mohsen Al-Qahtany from King Abdelaziz University in Saudi Arabia spent December and January at the University. A member of the Department of Arabic at his University in Jiddah, Professor Al-Qahtany spent his time on campus working at the Middle East Collection on research pertaining to rhythm and meter in poetry.

Dr. Parkhideh Amiri continues her appointment as a Visiting Scholar so that she can complete a major research study initiated in 1986. Dr. Amiri is conducting research in rhetoric and methodology of foreign language teaching. She is working on translations from English to Persian in these fields using the University libraries.

Dr. Barbara Kellner-Heinkele of the Turkish Department at the Goethe Universität Frankfurt will be a Visiting Scholar through August. She is conducting research on Ottoman and modern Turkish history and literature.

Professor James Miller of the Geography Department of Clemson University will also be a Visiting Scholar through August. He is working on a book on landscape changes in the Dra'a Valley, Morocco.

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