Summer 1993 Middle Eastern Language Institute

This year the Center will be the host of the annual Summer Middle Eastern Language Institute. The Institute, which is jointly sponsored by the Consortium of Western Universities, will be held on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin June 14-July 16 (first session) and July 19-August 20 (second session). Courses will include the standard language courses, first-, second- and third-year Arabic, and first- and second-year Persian and Hebrew. First year Turkish will be offered as well as Azerbaijani Turkish for the first time in the U.S.

A number of additional courses in history and cultures of the Middle East will also be offered. They include: Biblical Archaeology, History of the Arab World, and Modern Iran. Informal classes (non-credit) include: Israeli Cinema; Persian Cuisine; Satellite Imagery of the Middle East; and Introduction to Kurdish History and Culture.

M. R. Ghanoonparvar, (Persian) is the director of this year’s Institute. Plans for the summer also include a Middle East film series and several group outings within the Austin area, such as a picnic and an evening on Austin’s famous Sixth Street. The Center will host a breakfast and a dinner for the participants. For information about the Institute, contact Dolly Robinson, coordinator, at (512)471-3881.

Images of the Middle East on Display in Main Building

Images of the Middle East is on display on the ground floor of the Main Building of the UT Austin campus from February through June. The exhibit is a collaboration between the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the General Libraries Map Collection. Five of the six display cases are devoted to maps and aerial and satellite imagery of the region. Some of the maps are reproductions of historic maps, including the famous Idrisi map from the Middle Ages. Other cases display modern maps of the region as well as cartographic resources available in the General Libraries. With over one quarter million maps, the General Libraries Map Collection is the largest map collection in the American Southwest.

The sixth case gives information about projects in which the Center is involved. Staff artists Jim Retherford of the General Libraries and Diane Watts of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies developed the display from materials provided by Professor Robert Holz (Geography) and Stephen Littrell, map librarian at the General Libraries. Roberta Micallef and Annes McCann-Baker provided additional assistance.
From The Director

The spring semester of 1993 has been busy and exciting at the Center. In early March we learned that the Board of Regents had approved an exchange program between the University of Texas and Moulay Ismail University in Meknes, Morocco. The agreement was mailed to Morocco during the second week in March for final signatures. We hope to make this an active program with exchanges of students and faculty in both directions. As a first step in its implementation, Keith Walters (linguistics) will visit Meknes for several weeks at the end of the spring semester. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or recommendations, or would like to participate in this program, please contact me.

Because of budget restrictions and other considerations, the Center has delayed plans for the Summer Study Abroad Program in Israel. The Texas Coordinating Board approved the Program in early March—to too late for the summer of 1993. We are, however, going forward with plans for summer 1994. The six-week program, based at the Rothberg School of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will give our students the opportunity to earn college credit while living and traveling in Israel. Courses will be conducted each summer by University of Texas faculty members. The Center is preparing a brochure and will begin recruiting students in early September. We are excited about the opportunities this program will offer both students and faculty in coming years.

The Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures has interviewed four candidates for the vacant position in Arabic literature. To fill this position OALL has made an offer to Walid Hamarneh, who is currently teaching at Yale. At a time when faculty recruitment has been restricted, we are appreciative that Dean Robert D. King has allowed the Department to go forward with the search for a candidate for this position.

Elizabeth "BJ" Fernea (English) will be on leave during the summer and fall of 1993. I have asked Abraham Marcus (History) to serve as Graduate Advisor for the 1993-94 academic year beginning in June. Abe will bring new energy and direction to the job and we are looking forward to working with him. I want to extend my thanks to BJ for serving as Graduate Advisor for the past two years. She has done an excellent job dealing with a major expansion in the graduate program (from 18 students in 1990-91 to 53 in the fall of 1992).

Next year the Center will initiate a required but non-credit, one-hour proseminar for graduate students. A different faculty member will speak each week, providing an overview of his/her teaching and research interests in the Middle East. The objectives of this course are to acquaint our graduate students with the range and diversity of faculty research on the Middle East and to give them at least an introduction to theory and methodology from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. We encourage all faculty to participate in this new and exciting initiative for graduate students.

I was in Washington D.C. in early April to attend a meeting of Title VI Center Directors organized by the U.S. Department of Education. This was a key meeting for two reasons: first, we have a new administration in place in Washington and second, next fall we will be submitting a major proposal, for peer review, to qualify the Center for the next three-year cycle of funding. I urge you now to begin thinking about new and innovative ideas for teaching and other programs on the Middle East. We need well-developed, imaginative programs to meet the increasingly competitive demands for funding under the Title VI program.

Over the next few months the Center will be preparing for the intensive Summer Language Institute sponsored by the Western Consortium. We anticipate that between 100 and 150 students will be on campus to take part in this Institute. In addition to our own UT students, there will be people from the other Consortium universities—University of Arizona, UC Berkeley, Portland State University, University of Utah, UCLA, and University of Washington. I hope each of you will take part in these activities and meet as many of the Summer Institute students as possible.

The Center is providing partial funding for trips to the Middle East during the summer by three faculty members: Yair Mazor will travel to Israel to videotape interviews with major Israeli writers for an exciting course on Israeli literature; Ian Manners will go to Turkey, where he will conduct research on water resources and meet with key Turkish academic leaders about a possible exchange program; Keith Walters will lecture on Arabic discourse at Moulay Ismail University in Meknes, Morocco, and gather material for a course on language and culture in Arabic-speaking communities. Faculty members who are interested in travelling to the Middle East to carry out research in connection with course development should submit suggestions next fall for inclusion in the Center’s proposal to the Department of Education.

Discussion continues about moving the Center back to a campus location. As of this writing, no decision has been made although several locations have been mentioned as possible quarters. I suspect that a decision will be reached by summer, and we would hope such a move could take place during the summer.

Deborah Littrell, our Outreach Coordinator, has been on maternity leave since early December, has returned to a part-time schedule. Diane Watts, our Artist and Academic Program Coordinator, who was on leave due to an illness, has also returned to work. I want to thank all the staff for their cooperation and professionalism during this period when we found ourselves short-staffed.

Robert K. Holz
Director
Lectures/Visitors

The Center has sponsored numerous public lectures on the Middle East in conjunction with its ongoing colloquium series. On October 20, Travis Hanes, Assistant Professor of History, Western Kentucky University, spoke on "Imperialism or Expatriate Nationalism: Decolonization in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan." In November, Douglas Haldane, Ph.D. candidate in History and Research Associate, Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M, gave a talk on "Nautical Archaeological Research: Case of an 11th Century Shipwreck at Serce Limani, Turkey." Renate Wise, Ph.D., Arabic, spoke on the fictional works of Yusuf Idris in a lecture entitled "And Then the Wolf Killed the Lamb: Sexual Dynamics in the Short Stories of Yusuf Idris." On January 26, Hadassa Kantor, Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages, Bar-Ilan University, gave a lecture entitled "The Impact of Western Cultures on Israeli Hebrew." In February, David Lesch of Trinity University spoke on "Taking Arab Nationalism Seriously: The Anglo-Syrian Crisis of 1957." Virginia Danielson, Rockefeller Fellow, UT Austin, spoke on "Words to Music: Umm Kulthum, Popular Song and Performance in Contemporary Egyptian Society." In March, Teirab AshShareef, Rockefeller Fellow, spoke on "Triple Vision: Cultural Consciousness in Muhammad al Fayturi's Poetry," Moira Killoran, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, gave a talk entitled "Poetic Endings for an Unclosed History of North Cyprus."

Several other visitors with interests in the Middle East came to the campus during the year. On November 6, Michael Fry, Professor of International Relations, University of Southern California, visited the UT Austin campus and lectured at the British Studies Seminar on "The United Nations and the Crisis in Lebanon in 1958." Dr. Abdallah Hassan El-Ashaal, a Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Studies Institute in Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the Center on November 11. Peter Bridges, Manager of International Affairs, Shell Oil Company, and former ambassador to Somalia, delivered a speech February 10 entitled "Reminiscences of Somalia." Jason Thompson, Assistant Professor of History, Western Kentucky University, gave a lecture entitled "Edward William Lane: Travels to Egypt" on February 19 co-sponsored by the Center and the British Studies Seminar. Steven Meadows of the Legal Department at Conoco Inc. spoke on "Dubai, Historical Pragmatism" on March 4. Anton Shammas, author of the highly acclaimed novel Arabesques and adjunct professor of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan, gave a public lecture entitled "Language and Identity" on March 26.

Symposium on Jewish Children

On April 1, the Hebrew Studies Program and the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures presented a symposium on Children and Adolescents in Jewish Society and Culture. The symposium took a panoramic view of children and adolescents from the Biblical period to the present. Speakers at the symposium, all from the University, focused on the important role played by children in the revival of the Hebrew language and other aspects of Jewish children's lives.

Esther Raizen (Hebrew Studies) presented a paper entitled "Where is the Biblical Youngster?"; Harold Leibowitz (Hebrew Studies) spoke on "The Education of Children and Adolescents"; Aaron Bar-Adon (Linguistics) delivered a presentation on "Children and their Role in the Revival of Hebrew"; Avraham Zilkha (Hebrew Studies) spoke on "Children of the Kibbutz"; Yair Mazor gave a talk entitled "Who's Afraid of Hebrew Children's Literature and Why?"; Yaron Shemer (Hebrew Studies) spoke on "Children and Adolescents in Israeli Film"; and Ramon Tasat (Music) spoke on "Lullabies in Jewish Tradition."
Arabic Linguistics

The seventh annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics was held on the UT Austin campus March 5-6, 1993. The symposium was sponsored by the Arabic Linguistics Society, the University (College of Liberal Arts, the Center, The Department of Linguistics, and the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures) and the University of Utah (Department of Languages and Literatures). The symposium featured more than 18 presentations on Arabic linguistics by professors of Arabic from all over the country.

Iranian Authors Visit UT Campus

A series of Iranian authors have visited campus during the spring semester in conjunction with a course entitled "Iranian Literature in Exile." The course, taught by Professor M. R. Ghanooparvar, features a series of guest lectures by Iranian authors living in the United States whose books have been read by students in the class. The lecture series was co-sponsored by the Iranian Studies Endowment, the Center, the departments of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures, Psychology and Women's Studies. Majid Amini, author of several fictional works, gave a talk entitled "Between Two Cultures:" Manoucher Parvin spoke about his recently-completed novel entitled "Avicenna and I:" Bahman Sholevar lectured on "The Creative Process:" and Sattareh Farman Farmaian, author of a recently-published autobiography, spoke on "An Iranian Woman's Struggle for Liberation."

Center Is Evaluated

On February 3-4, the Center had its program evaluated. The site visit by two important scholars in the field of Middle Eastern Studies, Lee Bean, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Middle East Center at the University of Utah, and Ernest McCarus, Professor of Near Eastern Studies and former Director, Center for Near Eastern and African Studies at the University of Michigan, gave faculty and students the opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the program. The final report by the evaluators, containing its overall evaluation as well as suggestions and recommendations for the program, will be written up and delivered to the President of the University.

Student News

Kamran Hooshmand hosts Middle Eastern music night "Mahfel" at Chicago House (607 Trinity) the first Tuesday of every month. Local musicians perform Persian, Arabic, Turkish and other non-Western music. The next Mahfel will take place on Tuesday, May 4.

Moira Killoran, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, received a Liberal Arts Dissertation Fellowship for the spring 1993 semester. Roberta Micallef, Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature, delivered a paper in late March at the American Comparative Literature Association conference entitled "Space and the Other." Roberta has received a grant to conduct dissertation research in Uzbekistan from the International Research Exchange Board (IREX). Mandy McClure and Margaret Schulenberg have both been awarded one-year scholarships to study Arabic in Egypt under the auspices of the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA).

Gregory Noakes, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, authored the lead article entitled "Al-Andalus" for the current issue of Aramco World magazine. Tom Hartwell, B.A. Middle Eastern Studies, has had his photos of Morocco published in the lead piece of a recent New York Times travel section. Catherine and Najeeb Ahmad, graduates of the joint MES/Business School program, visited the Center and held an informal discussion for MES graduate students. Najeeb is currently working with Mobil Oil in Dallas.

Faculty and Staff News

Cora Boyett (Accountant for the Center) will receive an award for fifteen years of service at the Annual Staff Recognition Program and President’s Reception on May 14.

Elizabeth Fernea (CMES and English) has been elected to the Board of Editors of the Middle East Journal, in Washington, D.C. Her article, “Cuisine of Survival,” about Iraqi cuisine appeared in the April issue of Natural History Magazine.

Robert Fernea (Anthropology) is completing his final year as President of the Society for Cultural Anthropology and as a member of the Board at the American Anthropology Association.

M.R. Ghanoonparvar (Persian Studies) was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures. His book, In a Persian Mirror, Images of the West and Westerners in Iranian Fiction, was published by the University of Texas Press in March; and he was appointed Editor of the Society of Iranian Studies Newsletter.

Deborah Harrold, a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago in Political Science, has been a visiting Lecturer in the Government Department during the spring semester. She has been teaching a course on the relation between recent political liberalization in the Arab world and the rapid expansion of the Islamicist movement. Her own research is focused on economic discourse in contemporary Algeria.

Clement Henry (Government) presented a paper, “The Political Economy of Banking,” at the American Political Science Association meeting in Chicago on September 5. He gave a presentation on “The Turkish Opening to Arab-Islamic Capital” at the MESA meeting in Portland in October. On January 12, he delivered his lecture “Political Economics of Financial Adjustment: May Bankers Support Democracy?” to the Department of Political Science at Cairo University. Henry completed the final month of his Fulbright research grant in Cairo during the Christmas break of 1992/93.

Michael Hillmann’s translation of Shahrokh Meskoob’s Melliyat va Zaban (Iranian Nationality and the Persian Language) was published by Mage Publishers in December. In January, 1993, at the invitation of the Critical Languages Institute at Florida A&M University, he participated in a national conference on teaching materials needs in less commonly taught languages. The Society for Iranian Studies has asked Hillmann to organize a panel on classical Persian literature at SIS’s first biennial conference in Virginia in May, 1993. Hillmann has been named Will and Ariel Durant Chair in the Humanities at St. Peter’s College in Jersey City, N.J., for the 1993/94 academic year.


Yair Mazor’s book The Other Tchernichovsky: His Narrative’s Landscape, Saul Tchernichovsky’s Art of Narrative was published by Papyrus Press of Tel Aviv University in 1992. In December, Mazor delivered papers: “Scolding Aesthetics in Biblical Literature” at the AJA Annual Conference in Boston, and “Bridged Bird: The Poetry of Yair Horvitz” at the international conference dedicated to modern Hebrew poetry at Tel Aviv University.

Annes McCann-Baker (CMES Editor) received a Joseph J. Malone Fellowship from the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. She will participate in the Islamic Studies Program in Kuwait and Syria from May 18 to June 3. McCann-Baker was also selected to receive a $500 College of Liberal Arts Award for Outstanding Service by a Staff Member this spring.

Gail Minault (History) will be conducting research at the India Office Library in London this summer on an SSRC/ACLS advanced research grant. The title of her research project is: “The Delhi Renaissance: An Intellectual History of the Mughal Imperial City, 1827–1857.”

Thomas G. Palaima (Dickson Centennial Professor of Classics) was recently elected a Member of the Mycenaean Commission of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. While Fulbright Professor of Mycenaean prehistory at the University of Salzburg, he delivered invited lectures on “The Three Most Important Mycenaean Religious Texts” at the University of Nancy, “Blues and Blacks in America” at the Altenmarkt Fulbright Conference, and “The Origin of Mycenaean Kingship” at the University of Heidelberg. He also visited the Classics Department of the University of Vilnius in Lithuania in December and January in order to set up a program to help scholars and students in the newly independent republic.

Anne Rasmussen (Music) delivered papers this year at MESA in Portland and the Society for Ethnomusicology in Seattle. She continues to direct the Middle East Ensemble, which has given numerous performances for University and community audiences over the academic year.

Denise Schmandt-Besserat delivered three lectures in the fall: “The Origin of Writing” at the University of California at Berkeley; “The Invention of Writing,” at Whittier College at Whittier, California; and “Counting,” at Whittier College. She was interviewed on “Discover” on the Disney channel February 16.

Abazar Sepehr (CMES Librarian) made a library acquisitions trip to Istanbul, Turkey, in September, where he acquired 43 complete or partially complete Turkish periodical sets and more than 300 retrospective monograph titles selected from various vendors’ catalogs. He also made exchange agreements with several academic and research institutions including Istanbul and Marmara.
TAMES Meeting

The 1993 annual conference of the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES) was held on the Trinity University campus in San Antonio during the weekend of February 26-27.

A Social Sciences panel included the following papers: "Taking Arab Nationalism Seriously: The Repercussions of the 1957 American-Syrian Crisis" (David Lesch-Trinity University); "Explaining the Hostility of the Iranian Revolution Toward the United States" (Robert Snyder-Southwestern University); "International Migration in the Middle East: The Haves and Have Nots" (Aaron Segal-UT El Paso); "Monumentalism of Everyday Life in Syria and Morocco" (Darrow Zenlund-UT Austin); and "Istanbul and the Western Imagination: Rereading the Early Maps of the City" (Ian Manners-UT Austin).

A Turkic Literature panel included "Nationalism and Uzbek Novels" (Robertia Micaleff-UT Austin); "Mulla Nasreddin in the Past and Present" (Monika Shepherd-UT Austin); "Turkey as America's Other" (Pelin Basci-UT Austin); "Turkish Literature Abroad" (Hülya Ünlü-Southwestern University); and "Time and Space in Turkish and Uzbek Folktales" (Güliz Kuruoglu-UT Austin).

A panel on Literature and Languished Boundaries: the Literature of Exile and Alienation was composed of the following papers: "Existentialist Poetics: Alienation in the Poetry of Saleh Abd al-Sabur" (Teirab AshShareef-University of Minnesota); "The Turkish Cypriot Experience of Living History in Exile" (Moira Killoran-UT Austin); "The Fiction of Goli Taraqi in Exile" (Faridoun Farrokh); "Exile at Home: Palestinian Feminism within the Palestinian Nationalist Discourse" (Njed Yaziji-UT Austin); and "Refashioning the Past: Complicity and the Painful Legacy of Colonialism in LePassé Simple of Driss Chraibi" (Najib Mokhtari-UT Austin).

A Voices of the Middle East panel included "Sleepers Awake! The Masahharati on Television" (Virginia Danielson-UT Austin); "Egypt's 1979 Personal Status Laws: a Social and Political Context (Christine Herrmann-UT Austin); "Layali Alf Layla: A Noveless Interpretation of the Thousand and One Nights" (Ayman A. El-Desouky-UT Austin); and "The Emergence of Mystic Themes in the Post-Revolutionary Music of Iran" (Kamran Hooshmand-UT Austin).

One of the highlights of the weekend was a performance of Middle Eastern music by the Middle Eastern Ensemble, led by UT Lecturer Anne Rasmussen. Thanks to Susan Siavoshi and Trinity University for hosting the conference, to Elizabeth Fernea, Mohammed Ghanoonparvar, Güliz Kuruoglu, and Hafez Farmayan for serving as chair/discussants to the panels and to all others who made the conference such a success. And special thanks to Allison Hodgkins, Center Outreach Assistant, for organizing the conference.

During the business meeting, a decision was made to hold next year's TAMES meeting at UT Austin. In the future, UT Austin will host the conference every other year. The new TAMES officers for the 1993-94 year are President: Yair Mazor (UT Austin); Treasurer: Faegheh Shirazi-Mahajan (UT Austin); and Council Member: Manoche Rorra (Texas Christian University). For further information on upcoming TAMES events or on membership, please contact Deborah Littrell, Outreach Coordinator, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin 78712, (512)471-3881.

Outreach News

This year the Outreach Program has focused on developing curricular materials and promoting its services to teachers. The Outreach Program in conjunction with ECHO (Expanding Cultural Horizons and Options) and the Middle East Outreach Council had a booth at the annual meeting of the Texas Council for Social Studies in October. This gathering of social studies teachers from around Texas is a good opportunity to inform many teachers at once of the Center's services.

A pilot edition of an Exploratory Language Curriculum unit for Arabic has been completed and is currently being evaluated in schools in Texas and other parts of the country. The nine-week unit is designed to help promote interest in this critical, less commonly taught, world language. Three other area studies centers at UT have developed similar units, and this summer an institute will be hosted to introduce language teachers from ten Texas school districts to the four language units being offered (Arabic, Russian, Portuguese and Hindi). Once evaluations have been completed, revisions will be made as needed and a final edition made available nationwide for the 1994 school year.

The Malcolm Kerr Scholars Program is a nationwide competitive summer study abroad program for high school juniors, designed to give students an opportunity to study Arab and Islamic society and experience another culture. The Outreach staff helped promote the program in the Austin area again this year, and is pleased to report than an Austin student has been chosen to participate in this summer's program.

New Research Institute in Syria Planned

Plans are underway to establish an American Research Institute in Syria (ARIS). Funding would come from USIA. A set of by-laws has been drafted and the committee is looking for both individuals and institutions who are interested in joining this organization. A copy of the proposed by-laws are on file in the Center, if anyone would like to review them.
Publications

The Center has published new books in two of its series this winter: The Islamic Movement in North Africa in the Middle East Monograph Series and Please, No Police in the Modern Middle East Literature in Translation Series.

The Islamic Movement in North Africa was written originally in French by François Burgat and published in 1988 in France as L'Islamisme au Maghreb. Burgat and Time correspondent William Dowell translated the book into English and added a great deal of new material including an interpretation of the events of the summer of 1992 in Algeria. Much of the text is translation from Arabic speeches and articles by leaders of the movements in the North African countries. The Foreword is by Robert Fernea (Anthropology-UT). The book sells in paperback for $13.95 from the University of Texas Press.

Please, No Police is Teoman Sipahigal’s translation of the Turkish original by Aras Ören. The novella concerns the situation of Turkish workers in Berlin, the alienation of the two cultures and the misunderstandings that result. Former scholar at the University, Akile Gürsoy-Tezcan, wrote the introduction that helps put this unusual and informative piece of fiction into context. The paperback sells for $9.95 from the University of Texas Press.

The Center congratulates faculty member Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Art History) for winning the Kayden National University Press Book Award for $2,500 for the best book in the humanities published by a university press. Her two-volume work, Before Writing, published by the University of Texas Press, was the unanimous choice of the Kayden Book Committee who read 33 publications during the course of the award period. Before Writing presents new theories about the origins of writing in the Middle East.

Notes from Abroad

(A brief account of life in Seiyun, Yemen, in a letter from Linda Boxberger)

February 18, 1993

We are in Seiyun, Hadramawt, and things are going very well, after a rocky start. This place feels very isolated and remote. Seiyun is a bustling market center and smuggler’s emporium, so there are always visiting Bedouin and rural folk among the townspeople. We work daily in the old city near the suq, at the Museum—the palace of the former Sultans. We live outside the center, in a tall, plastered mud-brick house surrounded by date palms.

This is a very conservative community. People live in extended families in big houses, and the young defer to their elders. Women are secluded and completely covered up. Social life is completely segregated (I attend some men’s events as well as socializing with women). People pray five times a day. They seem quite happy not to have a Communist regime anymore.

After leaving Austin, Awad and I spent two pleasant and productive weeks in England. When we got to Yemen, we had to spend a month in Sana’a, getting research permission and residence visas, and buying and registering a car. Striker demonstrations and riots made it difficult to get our business done and we didn’t feel safe.

When we finally got to Hadramawt, we were quite happy. Arriving just before the New Year, we found Seiyun full of German tourists, and we had to spend the first week here in our tent on the roof of a small hotel. Because of the bombings in Aden and the Bush-Saddam showdown, tourism dropped off and we got a room. But it took us a month to get a house. It was discouraging and our living conditions at the hotel were rather grim. The only foreigners who have lived here lived in a Russian compound, not only in town. And property is a sensitive issue; people are still in the process of reclaiming property that the Communist government had confiscated. Finally, with the help of a friend, we found a lovely and comfortable house, with friendly and generous neighbors. We feel much better now that we can cook.

The work has gone well from the beginning. Our first day in town we got to see the ibex dance, celebrating a successful hunt. The Museum Director welcomed us and set up an office for us, in a little room in one of the corner towers of the Palace, with great views on three sides. The documents are organized and catalogued; the museum staff gives us every assistance.

The Museum Director and another local historian with a private library, both ‘ulama’ in their seventies, have taken us on as protégés. I feel very honored. Older people here, women as well as men, are very outgoing and friendly, and interested in my work. Our social life was slow to take off, but now we have friends who take us to music and poetry sessions and I attend ladies’ parties and wedding celebrations. We also have a good friend (the local Toyota spare parts dealer) who sits with us for hours explaining legal and agricultural terminology (he also serves wonderful lunches of the goat’s-head-in-the-soup type).

Awad and I are both feeling strong and healthy and we’re enjoying the work and our newly developing social life. Hadramawt is a fascinating place and I feel so fortunate to have this opportunity. I will stay in touch. We hope all is well in Austin.

(Publications continued)
Iranian Studies Endowment

Since the Iranian revolution more than ten years ago and the resulting political tensions between the United States and Iran, opportunities for funding, research and travel in the area of Iranian Studies have been severely hampered. To address this need, The Iranian Studies Endowment was recently established at the University of Texas at Austin. "The Iranian people have a long and rich history," said M. R. Ghanoonparvar, one of the co-chairs of the Endowment. "Iranians have contributed a great deal to the fields of art, literature, science, philosophy and religion, but most Westerners have a limited knowledge of these contributions." Designed to enhance Iranian studies on the UT campus and in the Austin community, the endowment has an initial goal of raising $250,000.

The Iranian Studies Endowment, established with the support of the Center, serves as a permanent endowment to encourage the greatest possible support for Iranian Studies at the University. The interest from this endowment would ultimately be used to support a variety of activities including providing academic training in Iranian Studies; assisting worthy students, both American and Iranian, to further their studies of Iranian culture; assisting graduate students and faculty, both American and Iranian, to carry out research on Iran; developing curricular materials for precollege students; organizing conferences and symposia; encouraging exchange visits of American and Iranian students and scholars; arranging cultural events such as art exhibits, musical programs, plays, films, and poetry readings; and sponsoring the publication of translations of scholarly and literary works.

The following are Advisory Committee members for the Iranian Studies Endowment: Professor Hafez Farmayan and M. R. Ghanoonparvar, chairs; Dr. Parviz Adib, Dr. and Mrs. Ahmad Fatehi, Dr. and Mrs. Ezam Ghodsi, Professor M. A. Jazayery, Dr. and Mrs. Keikhosro Kavoussi, Professor Vijay Mahajan, Dr. Mina Mohammadioun, Mr. Abazar Sepehri, Dr. and Mrs. Mehdi Sharifian, Dr. Faegheh Shirazi-Mahajan. Professor Robert K. Holz, Center Director, and Marjorie Payne, Executive Assistant, serve as ex-officio members. The Endowment is also supported by The Iranian Students' Academic and Cultural Organization.

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