MIDDLE EAST SUMMER INSTITUTE

This summer the Center will host an intensive Summer Institute on the languages and cultures of the Middle East. The Institute is being co-sponsored with the University of Arizona, the Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Denver, Portland State University, and the University of Utah, which together constitute a consortium supporting the annual institutes. The Director of the program is Dr. Michael Hillmann of the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures. The program of study will feature intensive instruction in Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian as well as several courses in Middle Eastern politics, culture, and history. A film and lecture series with weekly presentations throughout the summer will be a major component of the program. The films will focus on Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Israel. Lectures by U.T. faculty and outside scholars will focus on the region in general, Afghanistan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Yemen.

There will be a number of other Institute activities designed to provide forums for discussions about the Middle East. Among them will be an Institute room at the Student Union, reserved each day for luncheon gatherings and informal seminars. Students in language courses will be invited to social gatherings, where they will have an opportunity to utilize the languages they are studying. Other outings of various sorts are also planned to increase contact among Institute participants, faculty, and other students.

The Institute runs from June 1 through August 15. Applications are available from the 1983 Summer Institute, % the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. For out-of-town students, the Center is prepared to offer logistical assistance. Applications for financial assistance are due by March 31, 1983 and applications for admission to the Institute by April 25, 1983.

MIDDLE EAST FILM FESTIVAL

The Center continues its tradition of sponsoring a film festival for the University and for the Austin community. This year the festival is taking as its theme "Effects of Conflict," and will be presenting sometimes controversial views of this topic through Moroccan, Algerian, Iranian, Israeli, and Palestinian eyes. The films scheduled for this year's festival are the following:

March 31: *Tangist*. This film is based on a popular novel by Sadeq Chubak, in which a laborer from southern Iran is cheated of his rights and then goes to startling ends to redress the injustice. The film features Behrouz Vossoughi, Iran's most prominent actor, who will be present for this showing of the film.

April 7: *Siege*. This acclaimed feature was Israel's 1970 entry at the Cannes Film Festival. It depicts life in Israel in the aftermath of the 1967 war.

April 14: *Blood and Sand*. A documentary originally shown in this country on public television, this controversial film is the first widely available view of the ongoing war in the Western Sahara between the Polisario guerrillas and the Moroccan army.

April 21: *Fertile Memory*. This film recently won the International Critics Prize for its depiction of life in the occupied West Bank, as shown through the daily lives of two families. Following the screening, a panel discussion will be held on some of the issues raised in the film.

April 28: *Mothers of the Desert* and *R.A.S.D.* These two films are part of a documentary cycle exploring the evolution of the feminine condition in the Arab world. The first film is an ethnographic treatment of the matriarchal Tuareg of the Algerian Sahara; the second concentrates on the role of women in the struggle against the Moroccan occupation of the Western Sahara.
CMES RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

One of the valuable, and hidden, assets of the Center is its Research Associates program. From time to time this designation is offered to persons living in the Austin area who have attained excellence in their professional involvement with the Middle East, whether in academia, business, or government.

Center associates hold academic affiliation with the Center, participating as they choose in Center activities. They do not teach courses, though they do give guest lectures in classes and deliver papers at academic conferences. This semester, the Center welcomes its fourth and newest Associate.

Peter Speers studied at Princeton University, and later received his doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Working for Aramco, Speers lived in the Middle East for twenty-five years, spending most of his time in Saudi Arabia. His work there included translation, research, and writing on the history and politics of the Gulf Region. Before his retirement to Austin in 1981, Dr. Speer was occupied for two years as one of three editors of *Aramco and its World*, an illustrated history of the Middle East, with emphasis on the culture and history of the Arabian Peninsula.

He joins three other Associates, each of whom contributes greatly to the quality of the Center's programs of research, teaching, and outreach.

The first Associate in the Program was Robert Stookey. Dr. Stookey, was educated at the University of Nebraska and the Sorbonne, returned to academic life after a thirty-year career in the Foreign Service and took his PhD from the University of Texas in 1972. In the Foreign Service, Dr. Stookey served as an Arabic language officer and specialist in political affairs, serving in Algeria, Kenya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Yemen, as well as heading the Sudan affairs section in the State Department. Since joining the Center as a Research Associate, Dr. Stookey has written three books, *America and the Arab States: An Uneasy Encounter; Yemen: The Politics of the Yemen Arab Republic;* and *South Yemen: A Marxist Republic in Arabia* as well as numerous articles and a forthcoming edited collection. Dr. Stookey also translated *Jacques Berque's Cultural Expression in Arab Society Today* for the Center's publication series.

The second Associate to join the Center was Eisig Silberschlag. After retiring from his position as president of Hebrew College in Boston, Dr. Silberschlag taught at the University of Texas for four years, the first two as Gale Professor of Judaic Studies. Upon his retirement from that position he spent a year as Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Center for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies before returning to Austin as a CMES Research Associate. Dr. Silberschlag has written many articles and several books, most recent among them being a two-volume study of Hebrew literature and a critical study of the poet Saul Tschernichowsky. In 1980 he was awarded the first Abraham Friedman Prize for contributions to Hebrew Culture in the United States, and for his contributions to literature he has been awarded a membership in PEN. Dr. Silberschlag is currently at work on his autobiography, from which he has already drawn several chapters for publication in journals.

The third CMES Associate was Arthur Allen, who retired from the Foreign Service in 1974 after experience in Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Mr. Allen serves as an unofficial 'resident diplomat' at the Center and plays an extremely energetic role in the Outreach Program, in particular.

PUBLICATIONS

The next volume of the Center-sponsored Modern Middle East Series is about to go into production at UT Press. *The Art of Reciting the Qur'an*, by Kristina Nelson, is a pioneering, multi-disciplinary examination of the traditions of Quranic recitation. This is an especially exciting project since it is one of the first works in Western Middle East scholarship to look at the Qur'an as part of an oral tradition. As Dr. Nelson has written in describing the background to her study, "For most people, listening to recitation remains their only access to the Qur'an."
The sound of recitation, heard day and night on the street, in taxis, in shops, in mosques, and in homes is much more than the pervasive background music of daily life in the Arab world—it is the core of religious devotion, the sanctifying spirit of much cultural and social life, and an appreciated art form in its own right. The orality of the Qur’an is essential to its nature, and, thus, the recitation performance is far more than simple transmission of text or message.

There is, however, some unfortunate news from the CMES publications program, concerning two authors of books recently published through the Center program. We record, first, the sudden death last summer of Professor Hamid Enayat (Oxford), author of Modern Islamic Political Thought. Second, we note that Hasan Kakar, author of Government and Society in Afghanistan, is reportedly imprisoned in Kabul.

NATIONAL RESOURCE FELLOWSHIPS

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies is now accepting applications for National Resource Fellowships for Summer 1983 and for the 1983-84 academic year. These fellowships are designed to enable students to acquire a high level of competence in Middle Eastern language and area studies, and have traditionally been the principle means through which the Center has been able to offer support for graduate students. Applications and information about eligibility are available at the Center. And congratulations are in order for the current NRF holders—Mara Alexander, David Damrel, Kristin Koptiuch, John Robinson, Ann Royal, Matthew Sorenson, Samuel Walters, and Dinah Winn.

This program is expected to receive a congressional appropriation for the 1983-84 academic year. After that, the budget proposal currently before Congress seeks no further funding. Write your legislators.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

The Austin chapter of the Alternative Middle East Studies Seminar, a national organization of Middle East scholars, is planning a conference on the “Dynamics of Social Transformation in the Middle East.” The conference is scheduled for April 13 and 14. The organizers have received funds from the Social Science Research Council to allow scholars from several other universities to attend. This conference will provide scholars an opportunity for intellectual exchange and will also allow interested members of the University and local communities a chance to become acquainted with new avenues of research on the Middle East. For further information, contact Kristin Koptiuch (through the Center).

FACULTY NEWS

Peter Abboud (Arabic) spent two weeks between semesters in Egypt preparing for the next summer program in Arabic at Middlebury College. The summer program, which Dr. Abboud introduced last year, will again offer intensive language instruction in an Arabic-saturated environment. This year there will be approximately 25 students, 3 full faculty members and 6 assistants, with instruction offered at three levels of proficiency. In Cairo, Dr. Abboud interviewed potential instructors in the program and, miraculo dictu, received permission from the President of the Union of Egyptian Radio and Television to record current local programming for use in the Middlebury program. Dr. Abboud was also featured on Egyptian television, in a 45-minute interview aired nationally.

Robert Fernea (Anthropology) was a member this fall of an international cultural mission for UNESCO, assisting the Egyptian Civilization in Cairo and the Nubia Museum in Aswan. Dr. Fernea directed the Ethnographic Survey of Egyptian Nubia from 1962-1965 and recently received funding from the Ford Foundation (the original program sponsor) for the compilation and preservation of the original field data from that project.

Michael Hillmann (Persian) has published three volumes in recent months: Iranian Society—An Anthology of Writings by Jalal Al-e-Ahmad, from Mazda Publishers, a new press specializing
Tagi Sagafi-nejad (Economics) has completed two major projects over the last few months. At the request of the United Nations Development Organization (UNIDO), he conducted a two-month field study on the transfer of technology and manpower from Egypt over the last decade. The publication resulting from the study Technology Exports from Developing Countries: The Case of Egypt is the only case study commissioned by UNIDO on the Middle East. It is one of several UNIDO case studies whose results will be used to formulate UN policies and recommendations for technical cooperation among developing countries. Dr. Sagafi-nejad was subsequently commissioned by the Office of Technology Assessment, a research arm of the U.S. Congress, to carry out a study of technology transfer to Iran from the U.S. and other western countries during the last decade. This study will be used by Congress to assess the social, economic, and political impact of Western technology on Iran.

Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Art History) delivered a paper at the meetings of the Archeological Institute of America held in Philadelphia in December. She has also published two articles on the most recent results of her ongoing investigation into the origins of writing. “How Writing Came About” appeared in the Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik; and “The Emergence of Recording” has just appeared in American Anthropologist. She is on leave during the spring semester carrying out research.

Abazar Sepheri, Librarian for the Middle East Collection, presented a paper at the first conference of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists, held in September at Purdue University. Mr. Sepheri discussed the need and prospects for cooperative activities among Middle East libraries and collections. This is of particular importance in a time of shrinking academic budgets. In suggesting cooperation as an important strategy for collection survival and, with luck, growth, Mr. Sepheri reviewed past efforts of this nature in both cataloging and acquisitions and explored potential projects for Middle East libraries in the future.

OUTREACH NEWS

The Center has received a grant from the Department of Education to develop seven slide packets on the Middle East for use in primary and secondary schools. Each packet consists of a group of 40 slides with accompanying descriptive text and sets of additional readings keyed to different age levels, making each packet adaptable to different audiences. This semester, three packets are being prepared, The Family, Villages, and Food Production. For next term, four more are planned, on Cities, Geography, Dress, and Festivals. The packets are being prepared by the Center Outreach staff in cooperation with the appropriate faculty specialists.
Each packet will be pre-tested in California, North Carolina, Virginia, and Texas, and will then be made available to schools throughout the country.

One of the most consistently used parts of the Center’s research facilities is the daily clipping file. For several years, we have maintained a file of all daily news items about the Middle East from the New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor; more recently, we have begun to add some material from the English language Arab News. Now, we are pleased to add the international edition of The Jerusalem Post to the archive. We are grateful to the Jewish Community Council of Austin for helping us acquire the Post subscription.

Ann Grabhorn, Resource Coordinator, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Middle East Outreach Council, a national organization of universities and private groups with an expressed concern in promoting awareness of the cultures and peoples of the Middle East.

MIDDLE EAST WEEK

In October the Center sponsored its second Middle East Week, a full series of lectures, discussion, and exhibits designed to introduce the University community to as many aspects of Middle Eastern life and culture as possible. A photographic exhibit; lectures on Iranian intellectual life, Sinai Bedouins, and the crisis in Lebanon; a showing of Elizabeth Fernea’s new film trilogy, “Arab Women: Reformers and Revolutionaries;” and a radio talk on Qur’anic recitation were among the week’s presentations. In addition, individual days were devoted to specialized workshops by CMES faculty and staff, with teachers from local schools on one day, and representatives of local media on the next.

The week concluded with the first annual meeting of the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES). The day-long event included a series of papers, a luncheon, and a business meeting. A committee was chosen to draft a constitution for presentation at next year’s TAMES meeting.

COPYRIGHT SUIT

Faculty who regularly employ photocopied material in their classes would be well advised to follow the course of a suit recently filed in New York (under the sponsorship of the Association of American Publishers) against New York University, nine of its professors, and a neighboring copy shop for alleged infringement of copyright laws. The suit will test the ill-defined “fair use” provisions of the 1976 federal copyright law.

The doctrine of fair use provides for some degree of user exemption from royalty payments for photocopying for research or educational purposes. However, the ambiguities of this doctrine have not been fully expunged through legal process, since Congress failed to establish a code of conduct for educational copyrighting, relying instead only on its approval of a statement of guidelines drawn up by representatives of educators, authors, and publishing groups. This statement, which specifies the requirements for minimal compliance with the copyright law, was recently circulated through the College of Liberal Arts by Dean King’s office. All are advised to read it.

VISITORS

The Center was pleased to sponsor a number of guest lecturers during the fall and early winter semesters. Among them—

Frank Stewart, of the Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution, lectured on “Sinai Bedouin Law,” discussing the results of his six-year research into Bedouin legal theory and practice.

Morton Kondracke, Executive Editor of The New Republic, presented a critical overview of journalistic coverage of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, “The Media in the Middle East: Caught Between Enemies.”

Michael Bonine, University of Arizona, and Executive Secretary of the Middle East Studies Association, gave a talk on “Petroleum Urbanization in the United Arab Emirates.”

Professor Jean-Georges Henitz of the Ecole du Louvre, Paris,
presented a talk on a computer study being carried out on the Archives of Mari.

Karl Butzer, Henry Schultz Professor of Environmental Archaeology at the University of Chicago, lectured on “Ecological Perspectives on the Rise and Decline of the Pre-Islamic Ethiopian Kingdom of Axum.”

Five speakers gave public lectures as part of their participation in a special course taught by Robert Fernea, “Contemporary Cultures in the Middle East:”

Cynthia Nelson, American University in Cairo, spoke on energy and local development issues in rural Egypt;

Eric Davis, of Rutgers University, discussed the Lebanese crisis, in addition to presenting his own research on religious nationalism in Egypt and Israel;

Marie-Christine Aulas, Middle East Commentator for Le Monde Diplomatique, discussed the politics of transition in Mubarak’s Egypt;

Safia Mohsen, of SUNY Binghamton, spoke on the renewed strength of Islamic legal practices in Egypt, particularly as these developments affect the lives of women.

James Faris, of the University of Connecticut, discussed his experiences as ethnographic consultant for the BBC in the making of a film on the Nuba of Sudan. Dr. Faris will be returning to Austin this summer as a visiting professor in the Summer Institute.

The Center also played host to several extended visits by scholars under sponsorship of the Fulbright program and other international scholarly organizations. Among these were:

Dr. Hassan Bazara, a qadi and legal scholar from San’a University in North Yemen;

Dr. Gunter Barthel, an economist and Middle East specialist from Karl Marx University, Leipzig, East Germany;

M. Sadok Chaabane, member of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Political Science at the University of Tunis and legal advisor to the Arab League;

And a delegation from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, led by the institution’s president, Dr. Mohammed El Naggar. The group met with a number of University officials, including President Peter Flawn.

Editor: Daniel Goodwin
Production and Design: Diane Watts