Conference on Nineteenth-Century Persian Travel Memoirs

On April 8 and 9, the Center sponsored an international conference on Nineteenth-Century Persian Travel Memoirs. The Conference was organized by the Iranian Studies Program at The University of Texas, which brought together in Austin some of the foremost specialists in this field from Europe, Iran and the United States. The underlying theme of the Conference was the cultural interaction between Iran and the West during the nineteenth century.

During that century, many Iranians traveled to Europe and India, and a few got as far as the United States and the Far East. These travelers left a rich written legacy in the form of memoirs, which not only depicts the social and political life of Europe through Iranian eyes but also shows how Western ideas and cultures influenced the minds of the Iranian elite and prepared the way for the modernization and later revolutionary upheavals of the twentieth century. Until recently, few scholars, Iranian or Western, had taken notice of this remarkable source of information.

The Conference provided scholars an opportunity to examine, for the first time, many aspects of this literary genre. Some of the topics discussed were how Iranian travelers were influenced by the West, and how they subsequently interpreted the West to other Iranians; the nature of this literature as a literary medium as well as a source of historical inquiry; and, finally, how these travel accounts influenced the course of modernization. Travelers whose works were discussed in the Conference represented the entire span of the nineteenth century; they came from all strata of society. Among them were kings, royal princes, ambassadors, merchants, students and religious men.

Participant scholars whose papers were read and discussed at the Conference were: Iraj Afshar, University of Tehran; Abbas Amanat, Yale University; Juan Cole, University of Michigan; Elton Daniel, University of Hawaii; Ali Dehbashi, University of Tehran; Hafez Farmayan, University of Texas; M.R. Chanooparvar, University of Texas; William Hanaway, University of Pennsylvania; Shireen Mahdavi, University of Utah; Hashem Rajabzadeh, Osaka University; Roger Savory, University of Toronto; Reza Sheikhholeslami, Oxford University; M. Tavakoli-Targhi, Illinois State University; and Anna Vanzan, University of Bologna.

Cosponsors of the Conference were the Department of History, the College of Liberal Arts, the Office of the Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies, Friends of Iranian Studies in Houston, and the Iranian Cultural Community of Austin.

Kurdistan Exhibit and Conference

Texas Memorial Museum at the University presented during April a photographic exhibit and a one-day conference on the people, events, and history of Kurdistan. The photographic exhibit, entitled “Journey through Kurdistan,” showed the pictures and artifacts of Mary Ann Smothers Bruni of San Antonio. In her vivid and personal photographs, Bruni captured a unity of individuals that makes it possible for the viewer to conceive of the concept of a separate Kurdish culture among the three cultures found where Kurds live: Arab, Persian, and Turkish. Bruni took her pictures of the Kurdish people and their lands from 1990–1993, a time of turmoil for the Kurds. The exhibit is explained in panels written by the photographer.

(continued on page 2)
From the Director

As the many events documented in this newsletter indicate, the Center has had a busy and exciting year. We are still housed on the 15th floor of the Dobie Center, just off the southwest edge of the campus, but plans are well under way for the Center to move back to campus. We will be housed on the fourth floor of the West Mall Office Building, where we will share the building with the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the Center for Mexican-American Studies, and perhaps the new department of Middle Eastern Languages, although the final decision on that academic department has not been approved at this writing.

Plans call for the Center to move in late summer, but, realistically, the move probably will not occur until the fall semester, 1994. We are excited about these prospects of operating from this new location, centrally located on the campus and in a building better equipped to make use of our developing computer facilities.

As I write these lines, I am on board a Kuwaiti Airlines 747 somewhere over the North Atlantic Ocean. This is my second trip to the Middle East during 1994. Over the Christmas vacation, I was fortunate to visit Saudi Arabia and Bahrain as a Malone Fellow with the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. It was an exciting trip. We landed first in Jeddah, that ancient seaport that was the Arabian window to the West for so many years. It is still a thriving port and a prized summer vacation center for the Saudis. From Jeddah we went by bus to Tiaf in the Hijaz Mountains near Mecca. This mountain town is also a highly used recreational area as attested to by the numerous palaces belonging to the royal family there. I was impressed by how much some areas of the mountains looked like the Texas hill country west of Austin. In this semi-arid environment there is a great deal of similarity of vegetation and general look of the landscape. From Tiaf we flew to Riyadh. The growing, sprawling capital city is clean, modern and "green." The Saudis have done a remarkable job of reusing carefully treated sewage water to irrigate parks, beltways and the medians of express ways. The green belts give the impression of a city in a more humid region rather than the very hot dry desert of central Arabia. The Saudis have gone to great lengths to develop the infrastructure of the country and monumental public buildings of all kinds.

From Riyadh we flew to Dhahran in the eastern oil province. (Recent oil discoveries have expanded production to many other parts of the country.) At present rates of production, the Saudis have reserves that will last over 100 years. In an effort to diversify their economy and reduce the large swings in income from an oil-based economy, the government financed the development of a major industrial area at Al-Jubial. Based on huge supplies of natural gas, the industry there is geared to petrochemicals, but other products are being produced and the Saudis are making every effort to expand and diversify their industrial base.

We drove to Bahrain over the new causeway that connects the island to the mainland. Halfway across this bridgelike structure, we passed through customs. The society of Bahrain is much more open than that of Saudi Arabia, and, while the island looks prosperous and there is a frenetic economic activity, the Bahrainis worry about their future. Their oil reserves will be exhausted in ten to twelve years, they worry about claims of Iran and Qatar on their territorial waters and islands in the Gulf and the political consequences of being surrounded by larger, more powerful neighbors.

The goal of Bahrain is to become another Hong Kong. They hope to make the island a center for banking, communications, trade, commerce, and recreation. They already attract 100,000 Saudis to the island every weekend. The island is a lively and dynamic place.

My visit to Kuwait is less structured and clear. I will give a lecture, visit at the University of Kuwait and, I hope, tour the interior and the battle areas. More about this trip in the fall newsletter.

The Center is supporting OALL in the recruitment of a person for a faculty position in Islamic Studies. We have brought two outstanding candidates to campus for interviews and we hope to be able to offer coursework in this important academic field in the fall, 1994.

I am pleased to announce that the Center has again been successful in the three-year grant cycle from the U.S. Office of Education. This means we will be funded for the next three years. Due to the increased number of all area centers competing for funds, the amount of the grant we received for the 1994-95 academic year was reduced, as was our funding for FLAS Fellowships. We intend to make up some of this lost funding from other outside sources.

Robert K. Holz
Director

(Kurdistan Exhibit continued)

On April 16, the Memorial Museum presented a conference in conjunction with the exhibition. Entitled "Investigations in Kurdistan: An Update on Current Research and Issues Pertaining to the Kurds," the program featured speakers from the University of London, the UT Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures, UCLA, and the Middle East Watch. Sponsors of the exhibition and the conference were the Texas Committee for the Humanities and the J.E. (Jack) Smothers, Sr. Foundation.
Faculty and Staff News

Elizabeth Bouri (CMES) is organizing a workshop for the 1994 MESA annual meeting: "Integrating Telecomputing into Middle Eastern Studies."


Elizabeth Fernea (English) was invited to accept the Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professorship at Northwestern University this spring. She lectured there April 13 on "Gender, Ideology and Film" and met with students and faculty April 14. She has also been elected to the Executive Committee of the American Research Center in Egypt, with headquarters in New York City.


Kate Gillespie (Marketing) has had a proposal selected for funding by the Ford Foundation Area Studies Social Science Competition in Middle Eastern Studies. She and two of her students plan to study "Ethnicity and Altruism: Armenian-American Investment in the Republic of Armenia."

Clement Henry (Government) has had a proposal selected for funding by the Ford Foundation Area Studies Social Science Competition in Middle Eastern Studies. He and six of his students will study civil society and democratization in the Middle East.

Michael Hillmann (Persian Studies), as the 1993-94 Will and Ariel Durant Chair in Humanities at Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, lectured at the annual English Department conference on "What Makes Asian Literature Asian: The Case of Iran's Persian Literature" and at the Political Science Department's Model United Nations Workshop on "Islam and America in the 21st Century." While on leave, Hillmann lectured at Columbia University on "From Persian Literature to World Literature," at Montclair State College on "Individuality and the Poetry of Farugh Farrokhzad," and at the University of Rochester on "An Aesthetics of Persian Carpets."

Deborah Kapchan (Anthropology) has been awarded a Fulbright research grant for 1994–95 to go to Morocco. She will finish the book resulting from her dissertation, which won the Malcolm Kerr Dissertation Award for the Social Sciences at the 1993 MESA annual meeting.

Yair Mazor (Hebrew Studies) has completed the first volume, Not Beyond Reach: Modern Hebrew Poetry, in a series of three books on Hebrew literature to be published by Tel Aviv University Press. He presented a paper on Biblical narrative at the annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Studies in Boston.

Gail Minault (History) received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the year 1994–95. She will be on leave from the University to research the project: "The Delhi Renaissance: An Intellectual History of the Moghal Imperial City, 1827–1857."

Thomas Palaima (Classics) will be awarded an honorary doctorate by the Humanistic Faculty of the University of Uppsala in Sweden on May 27. During the fall, he was elected a member of the Centro Internazionale Ricerche Archeologiche e Storiche in Italy and the Editorial Committee for the classical journal Fauentia in Spain. Palaima delivered papers during the year at the annual meeting of the American Philological Association in Washington, DC; at the Fleming Symposium on Dionysus at Northwestern University in Georgetown; at the Lowell Institute Lecture at Boston College; and at the 13th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Mexico City.

Esther Raizen (Hebrew Studies) received support from the Dean of Liberal Arts to develop a computerized advising system, which will be ready to serve students and faculty affiliated with the Center in the fall of 1995. Raizen was elected to the Board of the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars for the next two years.

Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Art History) was featured in "About the Authors," in Connie Burton and Beverly Spicer, Open Ceiling (Futura Communications, Austin, 1994). She wrote "Forerunners of Writing: The Social Implications" in W.C. Watt, Writing, Reading and Cognition (The Netherlands, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1994). She gave an invited paper at Hamilton College in December: "On the Origin of Writing," and another lecture in March at Duke University: "Writing and the Origin of Narrative Composition." Schmandt-Besserat has recently been awarded a USIA/American Center for Oriental Research grant to take part in the excavations of Ain Ghazal, near Amman, a major Neolithic site.

Abazar Sepehri (Middle East Librarian), as part of the Foreign Periodicals Program for Turkish and Azerbaijani periodicals funded by the U.S. Department of Education, made his first acquisitions trip to Turkey, North Cyprus and Azerbaijan in January. He acquired complete or partially incomplete files of 143 periodicals that are not commonly held by U.S. research libraries. He will be making a second trip in June.


Avraham Zilka (Hebrew Studies) has received a URI Faculty Research Assignment and will be spending the fall semester in Jerusalem. He is writing the second volume of his Hebrew dictionary, which will be published by Yale University Press.

Keith Walters (Linguistics) has received the President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award from the University this spring.
The College of Liberal Arts has announced that Linda Boxberger has been awarded a Liberal Arts Dissertation Fellowship for the 1994-1995 academic year. The Fellowship carries a stipend of $12,000, and is presented to outstanding Ph.D. students who have only the dissertation writing to complete for the degree.

Three awards were presented by the Center this spring to outstanding students in Middle Eastern Studies. With funds received from the Du Pont Committee on Educational Aid, the Center awarded a $500 fellowship to Pamela Stafford, a student in the MA program, and a $200 scholarship to Andrew Clarno, an undergraduate student majoring in the program. With a grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies, the Center presented a $1,000 fellowship to Caroline West, a scholar in the MA program. All awards were based on academic performance, as determined by the graduate and undergraduate advisors at the Center with input from faculty. Competition was quite intense; the students chosen have shown a strong commitment to Middle Eastern Studies and a high level of scholarship.

A delegation of graduate and undergraduate students from UT attended the Model Arab League Conference at Midwestern State University, which was held between April 13-16. The group, which represented the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, was headed by Blanca M. Chow. Delegates were Carol Northrup, Armaity Barucha, Debra Smith, Andrew Clarno, Phillip Kaylan, Amir-Mohsen Mirabi and Mohammed Shamma, and the delegation was sponsored by Esther Raizen, the Center’s Undergraduate Advisor. The group prepared a set of resolutions which it presented to the various committees of the conference—the Economic Affairs Committee, the Political Affairs Committee, the Cultural Affairs Committee, the Social Affairs Committee and the Committee on Palestinian Affairs. Armaity Barucha, an MA in Middle Eastern Studies won a “Best Delegate” award. Delegates will share their experience with Middle Eastern students and faculty during a meeting to be held at the end of May. The delegation was supported by grants from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and from the Dean of Liberal Arts.

Ann Baddour, a Masters student in the joint Middle Eastern Studies/Public Affairs Program, has received a Fulbright to study at the University of Damascus in Economics.

Recent recipients of the 1994/95 academic-year FLAS awards are James Grehan (Arabic), Cassandra Burke (Arabic), Jennifer Grocer (Turkish), Persis Karim (Persian), and Harold Revelson (Hebrew). Winners of the summer awards are Allison Hodgkins (Hebrew), Armaity Bharuch (Persian), Jennifer Grocer (Turkish), and Mark Zaineddin (Persian).

Joint Masters Degree with Communication

In the fall of 1995, the Center and the College of Communication will begin offering a joint program leading to two graduate degrees, the Masters of Arts degree in Advertising, Journalism, Radio-Television-Film, or Speech Communication and the Masters of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies. The program will combine advanced communication studies with interdisciplinary area studies and language. The degree, which will take three years to complete, will enable graduates to respond to an increased need in both the public and private sectors for communication specialists with a thorough understanding of the culture, economics, geography, history, and politics of the Middle East and North Africa.
Lectures, Visitors, and Performances

The Center and the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures brought four speakers to the University as candidates for positions in Islamic Studies. They were John E. Long (Western Kentucky University) speaking on “Futuh Ifriqiyah and Kitab al-Adwani: Two Visions of the History of the Maghrib,” Nadir Muhsin (University of Michigan) on “Muslim Intellectual Strategies: The Search for an Islamic Identity,” Ahmad S. Dallal (Smith College) on “Science and Religion: The Islamic Paradigm,” and Benjamin Todd Lawson (University of Toronto) on “The Crucifixion of Jesus in the Qur’an: Commentaries of al-Tabari and al-Razi.”

The Armenian Club and the UT Department of Library and Information Science presented a public lecture by Ara Sarafian, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, on “Archival Sources on the Armenian Genocide.”

Visitors to the Center have included Christopher Van Hollen, former Ambassador to Turkey; Morteda Zabouri, Director of the Dar El Hadatha Foundation and Publishing Company in Algeria; and five members of the Ministry of Finance of Kuwait: Abdul Aziz al-Roumi, Fauzi al-Qassar, Fatemah al-Busairi, Sami al-Hasan, Nabila al-Ali, and Naser al-Naserallah.

The Center collaborated with several departments to present special programs during the spring. In February, Robert Vitalis (Clark University) and Shafeeq al-Ghabra (Kuwait University) visited the Center to speak on a panel concerning “Democratization in the Middle East.” Clement Henry (UT) chaired the panel. Also in February, the Center presented a program, “A Night of Persian Music,” featuring Reza Derakshani, a musician in the classical Persian mode. In March, Nahid Rachlin, author and lecturer at Barnard College, spoke on “Childhood Influences and the Creative Process: Growing Up in Iran.” The Center and the Department of Art presented “Music and Musical Instruments in Sumer,” a lecture by Anne Draffkorn Kilmer (Berkeley) in April. Issam Khoury, professor of Economics at the University of Damascus and a Visiting Scholar at UCLA, spoke on “Economic Growth and Demographic Change in the Syrian Arab Republic.”

The Center has continued this semester with its Colloquium Series of lectures every other Tuesday afternoon in the Dean’s Conference Room in the Old Music Building. The Series provides a forum for graduate students and faculty, both local and visiting, to present ongoing and future research. Lecturers have included Yair Mazor (UT) speaking on “Poetics of Poverty in Contemporary Hebrew Poetry,” Henry Speck (Abilene Chris-
TAMES Annual Meeting

The Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES) met for its annual meeting on this campus on February 18-19. TAMES President Yair Mazor (UT-Hebrew Studies) announced the new officers for 1994-95. New council members will be Esther Raizen (UT-Hebrew Studies) and Walid Hamarneh (UT-Arabic Studies). Professor Mazor will continue in a two-year term as president.

Panelists who gave papers for the two days were Faegheh Mahjanz (UT-Human Resources); Persis Karim (UT-Comparative Literature); Faridoun Farrokh (Texas A&M International-Literature); Kamran Hooshmand (UT-Middle Eastern Studies); Touraj Noroozi (University of Utah-Persian Studies); Yilderay Erden (UT-Turkish Studies); Yaron Shemer (UT-Hebrew Studies); Walid Hamarneh; Yair Mazor; Jason Leuck (UT-Middle Eastern Studies); Carol Macha (UT-Middle Eastern Studies); Manocher Dorraj (Texas Christian University-Political Science); Aaron Segal (UT-El Paso-Political Science); David Eaton (UT-LBJ School); Esther Raizen; Nada Ismail (UT-Middle Eastern Studies); Allison Hodgkins (UT-Middle Eastern Studies & LBJ School); Avraham Zilka (UT-Hebrew Studies) and Khalis Sakakini (AAADC).

After the conference on Saturday night, a reception was held in honor of Ali Jazayery (UT-Persian Studies Emeritus). Professor Jazayery was the primary founder of TAMES fifteen years ago. A number of his former students gave tributes to him, and the publication of the TAMES proceedings from two years ago was dedicated in his honor by former TAMES president M.R. Ghanoonparvar. The publication is called In Transition, Essays on Culture & Identity in Middle Eastern Societies, eds. M.R. Ghanoonparvar and Faridoun Farrokh (Laredo: Texas A&M International University, 1994). The books are on sale from Deborah Littrell, CMES Outreach Coordinator.

Istanbul Exhibit

In the fall of 1994, the Center, in collaboration with the Texas Committee for the Humanities and the Department of International Relations at Marmara University, Istanbul, will stage an exhibit on the social history and geography of Istanbul. After its initial opening in Austin, the exhibit will travel to museums, libraries, colleges, and centers throughout the United States.

Planning for the exhibit has been underway for over a year. In the spring of 1993, Ian Manners (Geography) visited Turkey to discuss the possibility of the exhibit with interested faculty at Marmara University, as one of a number of activities that would strengthen institutional ties between the Center and Marmara. Kemal Saybasli, Chair of the Department of International Relations, helped arrange meetings with other interested individuals in Istanbul including Celas Gürsoy, Director-General of the Touring and Automobile Club of Turkey, who made available the resources and materials of the collection he has established in the Istanbul Kitaplık. In January of 1994, Professor Manners returned to Istanbul with Abe Marcus (History) to work with Ayhan Akar, professor at Marmara, in developing the ideas for the exhibit and identifying appropriate materials.

The exhibit has been broadly conceived. Few cities reveal the array of features that make Istanbul such an unusually rich subject for an exhibition: a spectacular geographical location; a history as a center of culture and commerce; a population of remarkably diverse religious and ethnic groups; a cityscape that is rich in historical monuments; and a dramatic growth in population and construction over the past fifty years to create a "mega-city" with its own particular set of challenges and opportunities. The exhibit will begin with the Byzantine heritage of the city, but the main focus will be on the later history of the city as the capital of the Ottoman Empire and as the leading urban center of modern Turkey.

The exhibit will feature photographs, manuscript illuminations, engravings, maps, plans, and documents. Among the array of materials that have been assembled for the exhibit are early photographs of late nineteenth-century Istanbul from the collection of the German Archaeological Institute; early sixteenth-century Ottoman maps of the city and manuscript illuminations of ceremonies and festivities from the archives of Topkapı Sarayı Küttiphanesi; and contemporary photographs of such distinguished Turkish photographers as Ara Güler and Ergün Çağatay.

Publications News

The Center has brought out the fifteenth book in the Modern Middle East Literature in Translation Series published in conjunction with the University of Texas Press. Daughter of Damascus by Siham Tergeman appeared in March. Little...
find a charming story, while scholars can find source material for university courses in anthropology, sociology, family and women’s studies, and Middle Eastern area studies. The introduction by Rugh portrays Syrian social life for Western readers and points out some of the nuances that might escape the attention of those unacquainted with Arab culture. As well as describing the family customs and architecture of the old quarter of Damascus in the first half of this century, the book describes the period when the Syrians were involved in the Balkan Wars and World War I. Daughter of Damascus is is available in paperback through the University of Texas Press at (512)471-7233.

Iranian Studies Director

Hafez Farmayan, Professor of History, was named Director of the Iranian Studies Program by Dean of Liberal Arts Sheldon Ekland-Olson. Professor Farmayan received his M.A. from Stanford University and his Ph.D. from Georgetown University. Prior to his immigration to the United States, he was Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tehran; and before coming to Texas, he was Visiting Professor of History at Columbia University. He has published several books and numerous articles in leading Persian and American journals, including Travels of Hajji Pirzadeh; Memoirs of Amin al-Dowleh; Travels of Farahani; Europe in the Age of Revolution; and A Shi‘ite Pilgrimage to Mecca.

News from the Front

(A brief account from Liberal Arts Dean Sheldon Ekland-Olson of his spring-break trip to Morocco)

What a trip. Morocco was in full bloom. This year has seen an unusual amount of rain, following several years of drought conditions. So, the hills and mountains were bursting with wildflowers and lush fields, and spirits were high and optimistic.

This was my first trip to this most interesting part of the world, and I took full advantage of the kindness and advice of many friends and colleagues. Elizabeth and Bob Fernea were kind enough to invite Carolyn and me over for an orientation dinner with Denise Spellberg, Keith Walters and Deborah Kapchan. Great company, wonderful food, and much pleasant conversation about what I should expect, see and do. Most importantly, BJ got in contact with Evelyn Early and Ed Thomas who, along with Al Salniers, made my stay in Rabat a productive, hit-the-ground-running time. Rain slowed us down the second day, but a trip to the medina on the third more than made up for it.

Driss Ououicha, who, as many of you know, is my bureaucratic counterpart at University Moulay Ismail in Meknes and a graduate of U.T., drove me from Rabat to Meknes. It was two days before the end of Ramadan, and we spent much of the time discussing this holiday and its comparison with Christian and Jewish traditions. With the subsequent announcement of the end of Ramadan, while in Meknes I would learn with gastronomic specificity what the end of this season of fasting meant in terms of Moroccan cuisine and hospitality. Wonderful!

In any event, Driss and I spent most of our time discussing how to strengthen the links between Austin and Meknes and our respective institutions. One exciting possibility is a capstone semester for undergraduates, organized around what one colleague has suggested we call “Tracking Culture.” There are a few remaining wrinkles, but so far none that we should not be able to iron out. In addition, the ground was laid for a cooperative research program between faculty in Meknes and U.T., designed to study the health-care implications of migration patterns from Morocco to Europe, with particular attention given to comparisons with the parallel flow from Mexico and Latin America to the United States. Again, potentially an important endeavor.

In addition to introducing me to the faculty and facilities in Meknes, Driss was my guide in Fez and at the new American University in Ifrane. As I left the hotel at 4:30 in the morning for what would be a three-and-a-half-hour ride to the airport in Casablanca, I felt a bit as if I had been in a whirlwind. Much had been experienced and much accomplished. The College is in a very good position to establish a strong exchange program in northern Africa. I will be glad to talk to anyone willing to listen about what is shaping up to be a truly unique program.

The Dean in his djellaba
Liebowitz and NASA to Explore Site in Israel

H arold Liebowitz (Hebrew Studies) will lead a team of some 40 students and staff to explore a series of successive farm communities at Beit Gan in the lower Galilee this summer. Remote-sensing satellite photos from NASA will be used to explore underground sites without having to dig into the structures. With ground-penetrating radar, scientists can locate areas of human activity from thousands of years ago.

Liebowitz, who has studied the site for two years, suspects that it was used as a farming community and as a travelers’ trading place during its successive periods of occupation. The area was probably good for what it is today, growing wheat, barley and figs. The site was occupied during the Canaanite, Israelite, Persian, Roman, Late Byzantine and Mameluke periods from 1400 B.C. to A.D. 1400.

As well as the remote-sensing activities, students will continue to conduct traditional excavation during the period from June 5 to July 17. The work is funded by UT and private funds.

Electronic Activities at the Center

The Center has established a “gopher” system on the UT computer system. It is up and running and offers information about the Center’s courses, faculty, and activities. Data bases on materials related to the Middle East are currently being located and will soon be linked to the Center’s gopher.

In order to access the gopher, an individual needs to connect to a UT server and type “gopher.” At the main menu, choose “2. UT-Austin.” In the next menu, choose “4. Colleges, Departments, Projects,” which opens with a list of all gophers maintained by departments or groups at UT-Austin. Choose “6. The Center for Middle Eastern Studies.”

The Middle Eastern Studies menu will soon expand to include various gopher sites throughout the world that convey useful information. Individuals with Internet addresses for Middle Eastern institutions should contact the Center at its Internet address, mideast@bongo.cc.utexas.edu, or contact the Center’s Electronic Project Coordinator, Elizabeth Bouri at bouri@emx.cc.utexas.edu.

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