ELIZABETH FERNEA
PRESIDES OVER MESA ANNUAL MEETING

Elizabeth Fernea (CMES, English) delivered the Presidential Address at the Banquet of the 1986 Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Meeting in Boston on November 22. The Meeting lasted from November 20-23 with a Plenary Session, a Business Meeting, and some 127 panels and workshops for participants. Fernea's address, "The Intellectual Contribution of Women's Studies to the Field of Middle Eastern Studies," will be reprinted in the Summer 1987 volume of the MESA Bulletin.


Of special note at this year's Meeting were the films shown continuously during the three days of panels. Present to discuss their films were Assia Djebar, director of La Zerda and La Noubâ des Femmes, and Mai Masri and Jean Chamoun, directors/producers of Wildflower.

Special visitors to the MESA Meeting included seven Middle Eastern Studies scholars from the People's Republic of China. The scholars participated in a workshop explaining their personal areas of research. Another important visitor from outside the country was Abdul-Karim Rafeq, the Fulbright 40th Anniversary Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies. Rafeq, Professor of History at the University of Damascus, participated in the MESA Plenary Session as a Discussant.

The 1986 Meeting marked the inauguration of the newly formed Association for Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS). At a formal meeting and banquet the day before MESA commenced, Lebanese poet Etel Adnan was the Keynote Speaker. In connection with AMEWS, a panel of poets read their works to an extremely large audience on Friday. Salma Jayyusi (Palestinian) introduced the poets, who were Huda Naamani (Lebanese), Assia Djebar (Algerian) and Adnan. The women read in Arabic, French, and English.

Fedwa Malti-Douglas (Arabic) was elected a member of the MESA Board of Directors. She will serve on the Board for the next three years. Attending the Conference from the University were faculty and staff, graduate students, and personnel from the University of Texas Press. UT speakers at the Conference were Peter Abboud (Arabic), Aman Attieh (Arabic), Shafeeq al-Ghabra (Government), Kate Gillespie (Business), Barbara Harlow (English), M.A. Jazayery (Persian), Michael Hillmann (Persian), Gregory Rose (Government), Pooak Taati (Sociology), and Caroline Williams (Architecture).
FARROKHZAD CONFERENCE

Forugh Farrokhzad (1935-87) Twenty Years Later

A weeklong tribute to the late Persian poet Forugh Farrokhzad was held on campus February 8–15. Organized by Michael Hillmann (Persian), the Conference was hosted by Literature East & West, and cosponsored by the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures, the Language Laboratory, the Center, and the Foundation for Iranian Studies. Conference proceedings will appear in a special issue of Literature East & West scheduled for publication in the fall of 1987.

The tribute, called “Forugh Farrokhzad Twenty Years Later,” included a television program, an exhibit in the Middle East Collection, films, lectures, a theatrical entertainment, and a three-day Conference. On February 8, NIMA-TV presented a television tribute produced by Sheraquime Youchidje, a Visiting Scholar at the University. Hillmann lectured twice during the week, as part of ongoing classes, about Farrokhzad’s life and work. On February 11 approximately fifty people attended a film, Mudbrick and Mirror, by Ebrahim Golestan.

Discussing the film was critic and publisher from Tehran, Karim Emami. The four Conference sessions were held February 13–15, and on the evening of February 14 a theatrical tribute, put on by Pari Saberi (visiting director from Iran), was attended by approximately 120 people.

Participants in the lively Conference sessions were Leonardo P. Alishan (University of Utah), Hamid Dabashi (University of Pennsylvania), Mohammad Ghanoonparvar (University of Texas), Djaleh Hajibashi (University of Texas), William L. Hanaway, Jr. (University of Pennsylvania), Hasan Javadi (University of California)

SCHOLARS FROM THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC

A seven-member delegation of specialists on Middle Eastern Studies from the People’s Republic of China visited the Center on November 13–15. The visit took place as part of a project funded by the Ford Foundation to assist in building area studies programs in China. On its way to the MESA Meeting in Boston, the delegation visited two Middle Eastern Studies Centers, including the Center at the University of Texas, and several associated institutions.

Accompanying the scholars were Dr. Sidney Greenblatt, the group’s American escort and an interpreter. Leader of the delegation was Liu Jing, Vice Chairman of the China Society of Middle Eastern Studies at Beijing. The scholars visited classrooms; spoke to faculty, students, and the press; inspected facilities, and visited in the homes of faculty and staff from the Center.

Books from the Center’s Modern Middle East and Middle East Monograph Series were displayed at a University of Texas Press booth at the Conference. UT Press Director John H. Kyle hosted a reception for the authors of both Series.

Chinese Scholars Talk with CMES Graduate Students

Michael Hillman, Abazar Sepehri, M. A. Jazayer, and Mohammad Ghanoonparvar
at Berkeley), Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (University of Washington), Farzaneh Milani (University of Virginia), Heshmat Moayyad (University of Chicago), Girdhari L. Tikku (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Mohammad Valady (University of Texas), Ehsan Yarshater (Columbia), and Emami. The panels were devoted to aspects of Farrokhzad's life and to analyses of her poetry, both in Persian and in translation.

Poetry is a serious business for me.
It's a responsibility
I feel vis-a-vis my own being.
It's a sort of answer
I feel compelled to give
To my own life.

Forough Farrokhzad

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The American-Arab Affairs Council, in conjunction with Memphis State University, will hold a meeting, “America's Economic and Political Interests in the Arab World,” on October 15-16, 1987, in Memphis. Leading Arab and American figures from politics, business and academicians are being invited to participate. Contact the American-Arab Affairs Council at 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, for further information.

The Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting will be held November 14-17, 1987, in Baltimore. For further information, contact MESA, Department of Oriental Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.

The African Studies Association will have its annual Meeting on November 19-23, 1987, in Denver. For further information, contact African Studies Association, 255 Kinsey Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024.

NIMA-TV

A television series on Iranian culture began airing on Austin Cable Channel 10 in the fall of 1987. Called NIMA (National Iranian Music and Art), the hour-long program shows at noon on Sundays and again at seven Wednesday evenings. The show is produced and directed by Visiting Scholar Sheraguime Youchidge. It features children's stories, cooking lessons, music, and interviews, all in Persian. M. R. Ghanoonparvar, author of two Persian cookbooks, hosts the cooking segment. M. A. Jazayery, Director of the Center, gives a series of talks on the life and works of Ahmad Kasravi.

The program is sponsored by the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures, the Language Laboratory, and Literature East & West.

1987 TEL YIN'AM EXPEDITION

Harold Liebowitz (Hebrew) will be directing continued digging in Tel Yin'am this summer from June 10 to July 22. Excavation at the site was begun in 1975, and has been sponsored by the Center and the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures. The hope this year is to expose more of the Late Bronze Age buildings and excavate to the Neolithic levels. After two weeks of excavation, volunteers will go to Jerusalem and work on the finds at the Department of Antiquities. Three credit hours will be offered through the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures. Students and other interested persons should contact Liebowitz at the University.

The Center is in the process of exploring the possibility of participating with other institutions in an archaeological consortium to excavate a new site in the Upper Galilee. The proposed site, Tel Rosh, is a large mound north of Safed, near Ma'alot. Each member of the proposed consortium would be asked to contribute to an operating budget for three seasons of excavation and would be invited to send fifteen students for the dig. For more information contact Liebowitz.
NEW AND VISITING FACULTY

The Center and the Departments of French and Oriental and African Languages and Literatures are fortunate to have three new members for part or all of this academic year.

Well-known poet T. Carmi comes to Hebrew Studies from Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. Carmi is spending the spring semester at the University after being in residence at New York University during the fall of 1986 and at Yale during the winter. He teaches poetry classes both in Hebrew and in English translation. His books of poetry include *There Are No Black Flowers, The Last Sea* (for which he received the Shlonsky Prize for Poetry), *The Brass Serpent, Into Another Land, At the Stone of Losses, and One to Me*. His works have been translated into English, French, and German.

Allen Douglas brings a great diversity to the Department of French and Italian and to the Center. Coming from the History Department at the University of Southern Mississippi and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Douglas specializes in modern European history and 19th century European visitors to the Middle East. Douglas has studied and published abroad extensively. Among his newest publications is a book, co-authored with his wife Fedwa Malti-Douglas, *Image et Ideologie France-Egypte: La politique interculturelle de la bande dessinee*, published by the Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation Economiques, Juridiques, et Sociales.

Sociologist Mubecel Kiray comes to the Center for the spring semester from Turkey. Kiray, who received her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Northwestern University in 1950, teaches at the Istanbul Technological University. She has taught previously at the Middle East Technical University and the London School of Economics, and has published extensively in Turkish and in English. Undergraduate and graduate students in Sociology and in Middle Eastern Studies at the University are fortunate to have her classes offered this semester on social change in Turkey and urban sociology of the Middle East in general.

VISITING SCHOLARS

The Center is pleased to welcome several Visiting Scholars for all or part of the 1986-87 academic year. Soraya Altorki comes to the Anthropology Department from the American University of Cairo. Parkhideh Amiri comes to work in her field of Linguistics from Jundi-Shapur University in Iran. Also in Anthropology is Donald Cole from the American University in Cairo. Faisal A. Nasr comes from the College of Industrial Management at the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia to work in the field of Economics. And Sheraguime Youchidje is here to work with film and literature, particularly to work on the poetry of his father, Nima Yushij.
FACULTY NEWS

Aman Attieh (Arabic) organized and chaired a panel entitled “Evaluation of Selected Internationally Aided Education Programs: The Case of Venezuela, the Yemen and Pakistan” at the Annual Meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society held in Washington, D.C., March 12-15.

James Bill (Government) appeared as an analyst of the Iran-Iraq War on the McNeil-Lehrer News Hour on January 23. During February, he advised the Wall Street Journal concerning its coverage of the hostage-taking of reporter Gerald Seib in Iran, and was interviewed twice on National Public Radio concerning the state of the Iranian Revolution and the Iran-Iraq War. On February 27, Bill made a presentation to the Tejas Club in Houston at a meeting held in his honor. He also delivered an address on March 26 at the Sam Rayburn Public Affairs Symposium held annually at the Performing Arts Center of East Texas State University.

Paul English (Geography) delivered an invited paper March 18 at a Conference entitled “Qanats: History, Development and Utilization” being sponsored by the Center of Near and Middle Eastern Studies and the British Institute of Persian Studies at the University of London. He also participated in a symposium, “Contemporary Iranian Politics,” at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London on March 20.

Elizabeth Fernea (CMES, English) and Teaching Assistant Ann Gardner presented papers at the Family Life Conference sponsored by the School of Social Work. Fernea’s speech was entitled “A New Approach to the Study of Middle Eastern Women,” and Gardner’s speech was “Women’s Role Within the Bedouin Family.” For two weeks in March, Fernea was Distinguished Visiting Professor at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. She also lectured at the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University on March 8.

Robert Fernea (Anthropology) gave an invited lecture to the Honors Club of the University Economics Department on March 9. He also lectured for the Semiotics Symposium on the subject of “A Man’s Castle is His Home” on April 6.

Mohammad Ghanoonparvar was appointed a Research Associate for the Center. Ghanoonparvar has taught in Persian Studies at the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures since fall of 1985. Prior to that, he taught at the University of Virginia.

At the invitation of the Fifth International Conference on Oriental Carpets, held in Vienna, Austria, in September, Michael Hillmann (Persian) presented a lecture entitled “A Cultural Analysis of the Esfahan Carpet in the LBJ Museum.” Hillman took up residence during Michaelmas Term at the College of St. Hild and St. Bede at the University of Durham where he served as a Visiting Fellow in the Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. As a recipient of a University Research Institute Faculty Research Assignment from the University of Texas, Hillmann conducted the research and writing of a book in Persian on the careers of a group of contemporary Iranian authors. In January, he was invited to the University of Utah by the Middle East Center to give two lectures: “Iranian Patriarchy and Its Quintessential Victim” and “Omar Khayyam and Perennial Iranian Skepticism.” Hillmann was invited to present two lectures in April at the University of Pennsylvania: “What Is an Iranian? A View Based on Contemporary Literature” and “An Iranian Life That Has Poetry.”

During March 1-8, Robert Holz (Geography) presented a paper at the “Symposium on the Nile Basin” sponsored by the African Research Institute at the University of Cairo. The title of Holz’ presentation was “The Use of NOAA-AUHRR Satellite Data for Monitoring Land Use and Land Cover of the Nile Delta.” Over fifty scholars from throughout the world attended the meeting.

Harold Liebowitz (Hebrew) and Shifra Epstein (Hebrew) did research during September on Sukkot in Texas and northern Mexico. A Sukkah is a booth set up for the Feast of Tabernacles. Liebowitz and Epstein studied the impact of regionalism on Sukkah decoration.
by visiting a series of major cities with substantial Jewish populations along Interstate 35 (Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, and Laredo) and Monterrey. Liebowitz also presented a paper in Atlanta, Georgia, on the "Late Bronze Age Level at Tel Yin'am." The occasion was the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

Fedwa Malti-Douglas (Arabic) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Middle East Studies Association for a three-year term. She was also appointed Book Review Editor for Literature of the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin. Her afterword to the translation of Yusuf al-Qaid's *War in the Land of Egypt* (London: al-Saqi Books, 1986) appeared, as did her article, "In the Eyes of Others: The Middle Eastern Response and Reaction to Western Scholarship," in As Others See Us: Mutual Perceptions, East and West, a special issue of the Comparative Civilizations Review. "The Mummy: an Egyptian Classic," coauthored with A. Douglas, appeared in Cairo Today, October (1986). Malti-Douglas will be delivering invited public lectures during the spring of 1987 at the University of Michigan, Indiana University, and the University of Chicago.

Claudio Segre (History) will have his book, Italo Balbo: A Fascist Life, published by the University of California Press. The book is the biography of the last Italian governor of Libya. "Colonization in the French Maghreb: Model for Italy's Fourth Shore" was published in the February special issue on Libya of The Maghreb Review.

Robert Stookey (CMES Research Assistant) addressed various audiences in Austin, Houston, and San Marcos on Middle East issues during the spring and fall of 1986. He has reviewed for Middle East Journal the books Contemporary Yemen, edited by B. R. Pridham, and Failure in Palestine by Martin Jones. The latter review will appear in the Spring, 1987, issue.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visitors and local faculty lecturing on subjects related to Middle Eastern Studies during the months of January and February have included:

Erella Brown, Ph.D. candidate at Cornell University, speaking on "Why Allegory?" The lecture was sponsored by the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures. Brown is a candidate for a position in Hebrew Studies.

Nathan J. Brown, Ph.D. candidate at Princeton, spoke on "The Ignorance and Inscrutability of the Egyptian Peasantry." Brown is a candidate for one of two positions in Government and Middle Eastern Studies.

Norman Daniels spoke on "Islam and the West." Daniels, the British Cultural Attache in Cairo for many years, has a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh. He has been active during his career in promoting cultural relations between Arab nations and the West.

Robert Mallow, Assistant Professor in French and Italian and in Oriental and African Languages and Literatures, lecturing on "Imperialism and the Exotic East: Maurice Barres' Enquete au Pays du Levant."

Another candidate for one of the positions in Government and Middle Eastern Studies was Raymond A. Himmelschurn, Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. The title of his presentation was "Problems of Conceptualizing the Syrian Political System."

Another candidate for the position in Hebrew Studies was Yudith Nave, who lectured on "Existential Humiliation in the Short Stories of Shulamit Hareven." The Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures sponsored Nave, a candidate for a Ph.D. at Brandeis.

The Government Department brought to campus two other candidates for the positions in Government and Middle Eastern Studies. Mark A. Tesler, Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, spoke on "Studying Political Attitudes in the Middle East." Robert Vitalis, Ph.D. candidate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke on "A Mythical Capitalist Class: Egypt's Weak Local Progressive National Comprador Bourgeoisie."

The Department of Art presented John Williams, Professor of Art and Middle Eastern Studies at the University, in a lecture on "David Roberts and Orientalism." Williams' presentation featured many slides of the work of 19th century British artist Roberts and his contemporaries.
JIM BILL GOES TO WILLIAM AND MARY

James A. Bill, Professor of Government and former Associate Director of the Center, has accepted the Class of 1935 Professorship of Government and the Directorship of the Center for International Studies at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He will leave the University at the end of the spring semester.

Bill, an extremely popular teacher, has 16 graduate students working under his supervision as he leaves the University. He has focused his own study on the comparative analysis of political development. His most recent research concerns the issues of stability and revolution in the Middle East, a new model of U.S. foreign policy-making, and the relationship between politics and oil prices. He has done extensive field work in the Middle East, beginning with a two-year residence in Iran between 1965 and 1967. Bill specializes in teaching classes about politics and petroleum in the Middle East.

Jim Bill received an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Princeton University. He has been a Visiting Professor at Washington University, St. Louis and at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He has delivered distinguished university lectures at the University of Nebraska, the University of New Hampshire, and at South Dakota State University. In 1980 and 1982, he presented inaugural lectures at the International University of Japan at Niigata. He has also lectured on international issues at Harvard University, the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota and at 60 other universities and colleges. He has lectured on the contemporary politics and economics of the Middle East in Tokyo, Bonn, London, Mexico City, Cairo, Jerusalem, and Halifax.

The author or co-author of five books, his next study, The Eagle and the Lion: America and Iran, is to be published in 1988 by Yale University Press. At the College of William and Mary, Bill plans to add a Middle East component to that College's Center for International Studies, which he will direct. Bill is joining William and Mary as it prepares to celebrate its tricentennial in 1993.

FAREWELL TO JIM BILL

Those of you who read our last newsletter will remember that the University of Texas has within the past year or so lost two colleagues in Middle Eastern Studies, Carl Leiden to retirement and Vincente Cantarino to Ohio State University. We are now about to lose a third colleague, James Bill, as explained in this newsletter.

Jim Bill joined the University when the Center was in its early stages of development. For the past 26 years, the Center has constantly expanded and improved its various programs. One chief element in this expansion and improvement has been James Bill, whose own academic career has been parallel to that of the Center.

Traditionally, university professors, certainly most of them, have lived in isolation from the rest of the world, seldom leaving their ivory tower. This attitude has been damaging both to us, members of the profession, and to the world at large. In recent decades there has been a tendency, for some of us at least, to venture out and become involved in what goes on "on the outside." Jim Bill has been one of the most active people in this respect. He has published his books, and his articles have appeared in learned journals. He has, however, also been in close contact with the nonacademic world. His interviews, newspaper columns, and public lectures have tried to bring to the public at large, both here in the United States and abroad, the results of his research, which has concentrated on Iran and recently on the Persian Gulf in general.

It is never pleasant to lose a distinguished colleague. It is, however, something of a consolation to us, that if the University is losing him to another institution, that his energy, intellect, and knowledge will continue to be available to the field of Middle Eastern Studies, both within academe and without. We wish him success, and congratulate the College of William and Mary, his new academic home.

M. A. Jazayery, Director
CARTER BRYANT

Carter Bryant, who completed a Ph.D. in 1982 at the University in Comparative Literature with a concentration in Persian, passed away in Los Angeles on October 9, 1986, at the age of forty-two. Bryant had trained in Austin for a Peace Corp assignment in the summer of 1966. He served in eastern Iran and continued there to study Persian, serving as the Director of the Iran-American Society in Mashhad. After receiving his degree in Austin, he moved to Los Angeles, where he achieved prominence among North American Persianists for his translations from Persian prose and his literary critical essays. A Society for Iranian Studies panel at the 1986 MESA Meeting was dedicated to Bryant’s memory, and Michael Hillmann’s forthcoming book, Iranian Culture: A Persianist View, is also dedicated to Bryant.

IN MEMORIUM

Two separate Memorial Funds have been established by the Center in memory of Curriculum and Instruction Lecturer Victorine Abboud and Research Associate Arthur Allen. Abboud died in 1984 after a distinguished career of pioneering work in computer-assisted instruction for Arabic studies. Allen, who died in 1985 after eight years with the Center, contributed knowledge to students, faculty and community groups, based on his thirty-year diplomatic service in the Arab world.

The Memorial Funds will be used for grants to students. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact the Director of the Center.

DAVID FRANCIS

Faculty, students, and staff connected with the Center were saddened to hear of the death of Eric David Francis, Professor of Classics and member of the Center’s faculty. Francis, 1985 winner of the Jean Holloway Award for Teaching Excellence, died March 16, 1987.

A member of the University faculty since 1975, Francis taught classical mythology, Greek civilization, and Greek poetry. He had earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Classics and Linguistics from Cambridge. He had also received master’s and doctoral degrees in Linguistics at Yale University.

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