

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING, 30 NOVEMBER 1984

President Ira Lapidus presided over the meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MICHAEL E. BONINE

Membership. On 15 November 1984 there were 1307 individual members, compared to 1193 last November 1. This is 114 more members than last year, and there are an additional 50 to 60 new 1985 members. Of 271 new members there were 125 full, 25 associate, and 121 student.

Members by discipline (see also the *Roster of Members*) include the following: 427 History, 239 Political Science, 101 Anthropology, 97 Literature, 58 Religion, 47 Linguistics, 39 Economics, 37 Sociology, 36 Art History, 27 Geography.

The Secretariat at Tucson is now in its second year of handling the membership, and, although still very time consuming, the operation is getting much smoother. All membership files are now entered in the computer. This has taken an extra year because of computer programming problems and has delayed the publication of the *Roster of Members*.

Institutional Members. I want to extend a special thanks to the institutions and organizations which have become institutional members. As you know, we once had only a few such members. The list of institutional members now includes: American Graduate School of International Management, American Research Center in Egypt, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Brandeis University, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Los Angeles, College of the Holy Cross, Columbia University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Foundation of Iranian Studies, Harvard University, Institute of Turkish Studies, Inc., The Islamic Texts Society, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, Portland State University, Princeton University, State University of New York at Binghamton, University of Texas at Austin, University of Utah, University of Washington.

Our institutional members have become a most important source of support, and we want to encourage more of you to have your institutions become members.

Membership dues. For the third year in a row we are not raising dues. They will remain at: \$45 Full and Associate, \$55 Joint Full, \$20 Student and Retired, \$30 Joint Student or Joint Retired.

Finances. MESA is in a slightly stronger financial situation than the last few years, thanks particularly to your support and contributions, including the Institutional Memberships. The annual, independently audited, financial statement of the Association will appear in each December issue of the *MESA Bulletin*.

Publications. *IJMES* now has a new editor, Peter von Sivers of the University of Utah. We also want to thank Afaf Lutfi Al-Sayyid Marsot for the excellent job that she did as the editor these past five years. The new members of the editorial board include: Dr. Janet Abu-Lughod (Northwestern U.), Dr. Fedwa Malti-Douglas (U. of Texas), Dr. Robert Tignor (Princeton U.). In addition, Dr. Nancy Gallagher (UC, Santa Barbara) has been appointed as Book Review Editor of History and Islamic Studies.

Jere Bacharach continues to do an excellent job as the editor of the *MESA Bulletin*, and we thank him for his devotion and service in that capacity. We

should mention that if you did not receive a July 1984 issue (with Malcolm Kerr on the cover) you should contact the Secretariat. Evidently the postal service simply "lost" a great many.

The *Roster of Members* is finally finished after a year's delay because of computer problems. All members should have received a copy by the end of the year. I wish to thank particularly Geoffrey Lasley of the Secretariat, who helped solve many of the computer problems as well as carrying out the bulk of the work on the *Roster*.

A new *Directory of Graduate and Undergraduate Courses* is planned for the Summer of 1985. All programs in the 1982 Directory have been sent update notices. Please be sure these are returned. Any new programs or programs not listed in 1982 should contact the Secretariat to be included.

Dissertation Awards. These awards (in humanities and social sciences) now have been named after Malcolm H. Kerr. The prizes will be raised to \$500 each next year (1985). [The winners for 1984 were announced at the annual banquet: In Social Sciences, Lila Abu-Lughod (Harvard U.) for "Honor, Modesty and Poetry in a Bedouin Society: Ideology and Experience among the Awlad 'Ali of Egypt"; in Humanities, Zeynep Celik (UC, Berkeley) for "The Impact of Westernization on Istanbul's Urban Form, 1838-1908."]

Outstanding Book Award. A MESA Outstanding Book Award will be instituted, maybe in 1985 if the guidelines and mechanics of the award can be set up in time. An award of \$500 is contemplated.

Fund raising. I am happy to report that MESA is recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. This grant is for MESA to help raise funds to help establish a permanent endowment in order to stabilize our finances and to increase the quality of services and programs to you. The total package is for \$337,500, which is based on a 1 to 3 matching ratio: \$84,375 in federal funds—if we raise the remaining \$253,125. This is to be done in stages over the next four years. All contributions as of 1 January 1984 are eligible for matching. There are several things you can do to help your organization in this drive:

1. Give a contribution with your dues notice.
2. Become a Life Member (\$1,200). This one-time payment is matchable. We also will institute a life membership to be paid in four installments of \$300 each over the next four years.
3. Be sure that your school or organization is an institutional member (all institutional memberships are matchable as well).
4. Give us help in raising money for MESA and in giving us leads to potential sources of support.

Annual Meeting. 1984. I wish to thank the University of California, Berkeley, which served as host of this exciting meeting. Although there are a great number of individuals to thank, we wish to thank particularly Dr. Laurence Michalak, who has coordinated this meeting and has done a superb job.

Some of the firsts for this meeting include the MESA Combined Book Exhibit, where we had over 100 titles exhibited, and the Poster Session. We hope that some of you will be participating in some of the future book exhibits and poster sessions. We also have had a sizeable French delegation and one from Germany as well. In the future we hope to have more scholars and delegations from the Middle East and other countries. For instance, we hope to bring a delegation from the Soviet Union to a future meeting.

1985 New Orleans. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the African Studies Association. The dates are from 22 to 25 November 1985, which is unusual because it is the Saturday to Tuesday *before* Thanksgiving. The schedule was adopted to obtain an excellent rate for the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans. The rate will be \$65 for a single, double, triple, or quadruple occupancy. One note of caution: make your airline arrangements early, because for your return trip you will be getting into the Thanksgiving holiday air traffic. (Some of you may wish to stay on in New Orleans for the Thanksgiving holidays, and you can get the same convention rate during this period.)

The program will include a number of joint panels, and we encourage you to organize these. Panels related only to the Middle East (or Africa) of course will still constitute the bulk of the program. The Program Co-Chairs for MESA are Michael Morony (UCLA) and Charles Smith (UC, San Diego). The Program Committee is located in Southern California to facilitate coordination with African Studies and its Program Committee. The deadline for abstracts is 15 March 1985.

1986 Boston. The meeting will be 19 to 23 November 1986 at the Sheraton Hotel. The room rates will be \$70 single and \$75 double. The program and local arrangement committee will be organized very soon.

1987 Baltimore. This city has been selected for the 1987 meeting, the exact dates to be determined. Baltimore has a fantastic new harbor development and is developing into a most exciting convention site.

If any of you have had problems with McGettigan's Travel Service, please send me information. I have had a number of complaints and would like to document them.

[In response to the Secretary's Report, one member objected to the scheduling of the New Orleans meeting right before Thanksgiving and advocated that the first week in November always be used. Bonine replied that in order to get better hotel rates, MESA needs to be flexible in time scheduling. October and November are still prime convention times in most areas and one must be flexible to get a good (reasonable) rate.]

ELECTIONS

New MESA officers from the last election are: President-Elect, Elizabeth Fernea (The University of Texas); Board Member, David King (New York University); Board Member, Amal Rassam (Queens College).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominees for the 1985 election: (Names from the Board) Jon W. Anderson, Sarah Moment Atis, Ulku U. Bates, Bruce Borthwick [declined, on leave], Richard W. Bulliet, Fadwa El Guindi, Yvonne Haddad [declined, on leave], William L. Hanaway, Jr., Philip S. Khoury; (Names from the Floor) Judith Tucker [not a member]. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate by acclamation. [Passed.]

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Funding. The Ethics Committee of Dale Eickelman and Marilyn Waldman reported on their talks and letters with the DIA regarding the DIA's funding of research and reports. No action was requested, but only discussion and input from the membership. The full text of the Ethics Committee, therefore, will be published in the *Newsletter* for the membership comments. [See the Winter 1985 issue of the *MESA Newsletter* for this text.]

A resolution was introduced by the Board of Directors for the approval of the membership. The resolution resulted from complaints by a number of members who appear on a confidential list of "pro-Arab sympathizers who are active on college campuses," which was disseminated by the New England Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) or whose names, programs, and activities are gathered in surveys on U.S. campuses by the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The AIPAC campus surveys have resulted in such publications as Jonathan S. Keller and Jeff Schwaber's *The AIPAC College Guide: Exposing the Anti-Israel Campaign on Campus*. The MESA Board also had received letters from the Joint Near and Middle East Committee of the Social Science Research Council regarding these lists and Publications. The text of the Resolution is:

RESOLUTION PROPOSED TO MEMBERS AT THE
MESA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
San Francisco, California, November 30, 1984

WHEREAS

- 1) the Middle East Studies Association is a scholarly, non-political and non-profit professional association open to all persons broadly interested in the Middle East.

WHEREAS

- 2) an atmosphere of academic freedom, open investigation, responsible criticism, and reasoned debate are essential to scholarly activity, we deplore and condemn by any individual or organization
 - a) false, vague, or unsubstantiated accusations which amount to no more than drawing conclusions based on the circumstantial evidence of religion, race, ethnicity, association, participation in public events, or affiliation with organizations;
 - b) the creation, storage, or dissemination of blacklists, "enemy lists," or surveys which call for boycotting individuals, academic classes, harassment or ostracism which might create an atmosphere of intimidation or prevent scholars from carrying out their teaching, research, or administrative duties.

WHEREAS

- 3) the New England Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has disseminated to "student leaders" from New England to northern California a confidential document listing factually inaccurate and unsubstantiated assertions that defame specific students, teachers, and researchers as "pro-Arab propagandists," who "use their anti-Zionism as merely a guise for their deeply felt anti-Semitism"; and

WHEREAS

- 4) the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee has solicited unbalanced information on students, faculty, and other parties on American university campuses through a "Survey of Political Activism."

BE IT RESOLVED that the Middle East Association

- 1) calls upon the national offices of the New England Regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee to disavow and refrain from such activities; and deplore all such activities by any individual or organization;
- 2) increase the size of the Association Ethics Committee and authorize it to receive complaints from members and report to the Secretariat and the Board on a continuing basis.

An extended discussion followed the introduction and reading of the proposed resolution. A number of members wanted to examine all the evidence, others said that the Board's decision was sufficient for them. Many individuals who are on the ADL list or listed by the AIPAC booklet spoke out, reading what is said/alleged about themselves, and then stating that they did not hold these beliefs and that

the charges are totally unsubstantiated. The members who spoke also emphasized that these lists and surveys inhibited open discussion of the Middle East as well as infringing upon their rights and defaming them. Some members wanted legal action.

An amendment was added to the resolution, which became number 3 of the last section:

- 3) reaffirms its desire to encourage and facilitate open professional dialogue among all individuals and organizations concerned with the Middle East.

The amendment passed by unanimous voice vote by approximately 600 members in attendance at the business meeting. Then the resolution passed by unanimous voice vote. [See the Winter 1985 *MESA Newsletter* for more information on the resolution as well as letters by ADL and AIPAC. Members may also want to see coverage in:

1. *The New York Times*, Wednesday, 30 January 1985, p. 9.
2. Article by Phebe Marr in *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, 17 December 1984.
3. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 27 March 1985, p. 5.]

The meeting was adjourned.