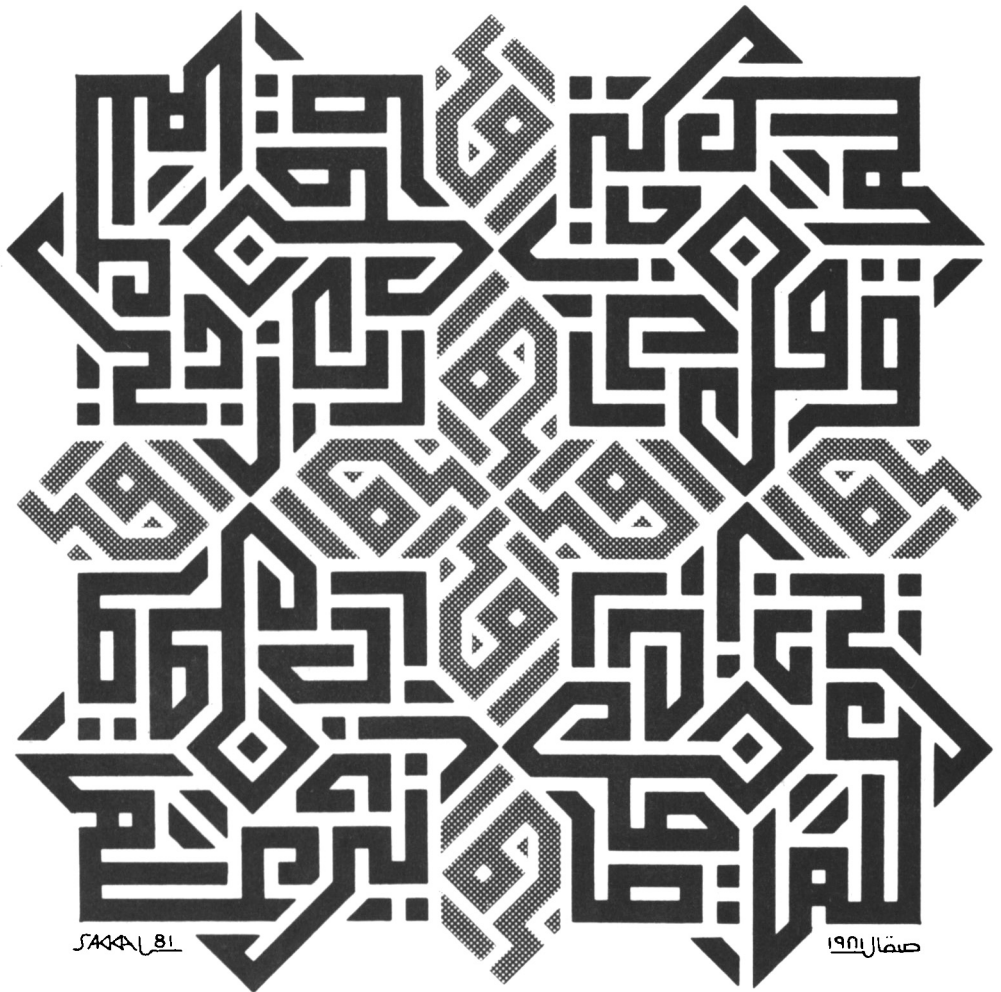


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- to promote high standards of scholarship and instruction in this area;
- to facilitate communication among scholars through meetings and publications; and
- to foster cooperation among persons and organizations concerned with the scholarly study of the Middle East.

The area included within the Middle East runs from Morocco to Pakistan and from Turkey to the Sudan. MESA is concerned with this area primarily since the rise of Islam and from the viewpoints of the social science and humanistic disciplines.

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[Cover design, by Mamoun Sakkal, is from Sura *Taha*, 114, and reads:
"My Lord, increase me in knowledge" (in the corners)
with the word "read" (in the center).]

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