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...Charlotte F. Albright, University of Washington

*Saudi Arabia; Oil and American Power.* NBC/TV White Paper, 1979 [released 1980]. Producer: Anthony Mayer. Directors: Adrienne Cowles and Donald Murray. Commentator: Garrick Utley. 18 minutes.

A conscientious teacher of non-Western history finds his class discussing *Death of a Princess*. What is Saudi Arabia really like? Conscientiously, he applies to his media center, which orders a documentary for him. 1980: Good! This is new. NBC: Should be reliable. Although he may sense the tone—Let's laugh at the oddballs, marvel at the exotic, preen ourselves from our pedestal of cultural and technological superiority, pity the backward and primitive people—he is probably unaware of the factual errors, stereotypes promoted, misleading implications, blatant omissions and offensiveness of this production, which ill-serves curious students. Between the patronizing and ethnocentric introduction: "We know them so little ... Now they wield power through oil," to the final inanity: "The great fear is that modernization will turn what was a desert culture into a cultural desert," a patronizing commentary accompanies a series of stereotypes and distortions.

Saudi Arabia has its problems, to be sure. The leaders are striving to cope with the impact of Westernization, picking and choosing what they deem helpful, yet cognizant of their own proud traditions and values. This insensitive, inaccurate and distorting NBC piece does not recognize this. Order another film for classroom use.

...Ellen-Fairbanks Bodman, Chapel Hill, NC

### NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The 1982 MESA Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 4-7, 1982. The Program Committee will be chaired by Prof. Ann E. Mayer, Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania, 34th and Spruce, Philadelphia, PA 19104. All MESA members will receive information on submitting proposals. All other scholars may write her for details.

#### Auditor's Report: December 31, 1980 Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements Years Ended December 31, 1980 and 1979

	1980	1979
<u>Cash Balance, January 1:</u>		
On deposit, Manhattan Savings Bank		
Regular accounts	\$34,052	\$22,655
Time deposits	7,267	14,330
On deposit, Ephrata National Bank	534	1,630
Held by Agency Fund 9-190179, NYU	367	[5,415]
Held by Local Arrangements Committee for annual meeting.	[2,483]	3,928
Deposit held by U.S. Postal Dept.	103	103
	\$39,840	\$37,231

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Advertising in <i>Bulletin</i>	\$ 550	\$ 100
Annual meeting gross receipts:		
Advertising in program	\$ 2,150	\$ 635
Book displays	7,725	2,800
Registration and banquet	20,025	6,383
Sales of papers	<u>\$ 657</u>	<u>\$ 321</u>
Totals:	\$30,557	\$10,139
Annual meeting (previous year)	1,047	661
Contributions from members	240	-0-
Deficit, 1979 annual mtg., assumed by M.E.Center, U/Utah.	1,436	-0-
Direct Grants:		
Amer. Council of Learned Soc.	4,500	-0-
Esso Middle East	6,500	1,500
Ford Foundation	-0-	17,000
Ford Motor Co. International	<u>-0-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Totals:	\$11,000	\$19,500
Institutional memberships	1,000	2,000
Institutional <i>Bulletin</i> subscrips.	25	1,058
Interest, sav. accts/time deposits	3,325	3,376
Membership dues	41,544	37,370
Mailing list rental	1,845	945
Royalties	130	234
Publications sales	272	558
Sundry	105	-0-
Transfer Grants:		
NEH, for Lib. of Congress ('79 receipts incl. \$8844 from '78):	131,907	\$81,234
Lilley Endow., U of Chicago	<u>19,500</u>	<u>-0-</u>
	<u>151,407</u>	<u>81,234</u>
Total Receipts:	<u>\$244,483</u>	<u>\$157,175</u>
<u>Disbursements:</u>		
Abstracts	2,795	-0-
Annual meeting: Program, postage, printing, etc.	\$ 7,858	\$ 2,557
Banquet, reception, guest speaker, etc.	13,055	6,263
Clerical help, office supplies, audio-visual, etc.	6,698	2,203
Other	<u>91</u>	<u>1,962</u>
Totals:	\$27,702	\$12,985
Audit	1,245	1,085
Board, committee meetings	6,887	3,079
<i>Bulletin</i> , Newsletter, ballot	2,910	6,038
Grants, pre-collegiate education	-0-	1,315
<i>IJMES</i> (disbursements to Cambridge U Press, incl. billing/collecting membership dues).	41,389	24,153
Office supplies and expense	351	297
Printing, addressing, duplicating	1,607	1,096
Salaries/employ. ben./honoraria	12,724	11,143
Staff travel	420	883
Sundry	237	208
Telephone, telegraph	1,347	1,590

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
Transfer Grant:		
Lib. of Congress, from NEH ('79 disburse. incl. \$8844 from '78).	\$131,912	\$81,234
U of Chicago, from Lilley Endow.	19,500	-0-
Visiting scholars	-0-	9,460
Total Disbursements:	<u>\$251,026</u>	<u>\$154,566</u>
<u>Excess of Receipts over Disbursements</u>	<u>\$[6,543]</u>	<u>\$ 2,609</u>
<u>Cash Bal. Carried Forward (Dec. 31)</u>	<u>33,297</u>	<u>39,840</u>
<u>Cash Bal. Held as Follows (Dec. 31):</u>		
Manhattan Savings Bank deposits:		
Regular accounts	8,960	34,052
Time deposits	31,179	7,267
Ephrata National Bank deposits	3,497	534
Held by Agency Fund 9-190179, NYU	[13,147]	367
Due from (or to) Local Arrange- ments Committee, annual meeting.	2,778	[2,483]
Deposit held by U.S. Postal Dept.	<u>30</u>	<u>103</u>
Totals:	<u>\$33,297</u>	<u>\$39,840</u>

## **NEWS OF OTHER ASSOCIATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Harvard University/Massachusetts Institute of Technology

An endowment supports the Documentation Centers established at Harvard and MIT, which are collecting printed and visual materials on Islamic art, architecture and urbanism to improve the flow of information on those subjects to the academic community and to professionals. The Documentation Centers are involved not only in the acquisition of library materials, but in such activities as surveying and photographing buildings and sites, and establishing contacts with complementary collections of photographs and documents in other institutions. Both centers welcome opportunities for exchanges and other cooperative arrangements with libraries in the Islamic countries, and with other organizations specializing in architecture in the Islamic world.

Five-year funds have also been made available to the Documentation Centers to find methods for storing, indexing, retrieving and disseminating data suitable for a computerized information service on Islamic art and architecture that can be used by scholars, teachers, researchers and practitioners interested in the study of Islamic architecture and in the contemporary built environment of the Islamic world. Some of the five-year funds have been allocated to research projects, but the only kinds of projects the Program will normally fund through outside application in 1982 are those that will encourage the rapid publication and dissemination of research already completed. General mailing address is: Aga Khan Program, Room 10-390, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, U.S.A.