

THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle WA

Winter 2004

Vol. 29 No. 2

JERE L. BACHARACH RETIRES

*Generous Teacher and Scholar of Middle East History
at the University of Washington*

ON December 14, 2003, Jere L. Bacharach, professor of Middle East History at the University of Washington, retired. In a celebration attended by 180 family, friends, professional colleagues, and former students at the UW Faculty Club, the atmosphere of good cheer, seriousness of purpose, good humor, and sentimentality captured the essence of Bacharach's long career at the UW.

Bacharach was hired by the History Department in 1967, was chair of the department for five years, director of the Middle East Center for twelve years, and director of the Jackson School of International Studies for six years. In the national arena of Middle East Studies, Bacharach was president of the foremost American professional association of the field, the Middle East Studies Association of North America; and last year was the director of the American Research Center in Egypt. —continued p. 2



Jere Bacharach standing in front of his outrageous necktie collection, which numbered approximately 300 specimens and for which he was famous. Attendees at his retirement party were invited to take a souvenir tie. Only four remained on the table at the end of the event.

Center Partners with OneWorld Now! in Offering Arabic Language Instruction in Seattle High Schools



Saadia Al Tahir, lead Arabic instructor for the OneWorld Now! Arabic program, interacts with eager students at Roosevelt High School in Seattle.

The Middle East Center has entered into an innovative partnership with the Seattle non-profit organization, OneWorld Now! to offer Arabic language in four local high schools. This is the first time Arabic instruction has been available in the Seattle area public schools. The program combines the Center's goal to improve Americans' understanding of cultures of the Middle East with the vision of OneWorld Now!, which is to develop young leaders fluent in an emerging global society. Kristin Hayden, Executive Director and visionary of OneWorld Now! program, further aims specifically to help economically disadvantaged students through the program.

Currently, Arabic language —continued p. 2

BACHARACH RETIRES—(continued from page 1)

In a short interview conducted by Felicia Hecker, editor of this newsletter, shortly after his retirement Professor Bacharach supplied some insights into his own career and the development of the field of Middle East Studies.

FH: How did you first get interested in the Middle East?

JLB: In the fall of 1958 I was spending my junior year at Edinburgh University in Scotland when I decided to become a History major. I saw a course entitled Islamic History, a subject I had never heard of. By the end of the academic year, I had become so turned on by the subject that I decided to make Islamic history a life's pursuit and I am pleased I did.

FH: Who has most influenced you in your academic career?

JLB: Specific instructors had the greatest impact on my life. This included the group of Edinburgh faculty led by W. Montgomery Watt, author of numerous books on the Prophet Muhammad and early Islam, my Trinity College undergraduate thesis adviser Philip Kittler who was exceptional in demonstrating how to work with students as individuals, and my University of Michigan Ph.D. mentor and life-long friend Andrew S. Ehrenkreutz. I have tried to draw the best from each of them for my own approach to teaching and scholarship.

FH: Where have you found the most enjoyment in your career?

JLB: Each time I have a new project or responsibility, I try to make it the most important project of my academic career from teaching large freshman surveys of medieval European history where they received systematic exposure

to Islamic and Byzantine history to my role as Chair of History or Director of the Jackson School. If I don't experience that type of match where I am excited by my work, I try to find ways to move on to another activity where I will.

FH: How has the field of Middle East studies changed since you first entered?

JLB: Middle East Studies has radically changed over the four and a half-decades I have been studying it. Paralleling developments in many academic areas, issues related to gender, social mobility, and national identity are now subjects of research while other topics such as traditional political and institutional history have fallen out of fashion. Edward Said's *Orientalism* generated a tremendous amount of discussion and debate and impacted certain areas of study. Finally there have been major changes in who studies the area. Today, many of the leading scholars have family roots in the region, that is, heritage students, while very few did when I first entered the field; many scholars are women while four decades ago virtually none were; and, finally, the number of scholars who study Middle East history has increased exponentially. When I ended the job market in 1966 there were about a dozen individuals looking for jobs; this year 112 applied for the Middle East History position here.

Bacharach will continue to work at the UW into the summer consulting on development issues and will remain an active member of the Middle East Center. This editor can assure readers that he will remain an enthusiastic educator on Middle East subjects and an intrepid traveler to remote regions, as evidenced by his current expedition to Antarctica.

Arabic in the High Schools—(continued from page 1)

is being offered at to sixty students at Cleveland, Garfield, Ingraham, and Roosevelt high schools and are open to students from other schools. Classes meet twice a week and instruction is based on the models developed at the University of Washington, using the same textbook—Mahmoud Al-Batal's *Al Kitaab* and employing oral proficiency teaching standards. The lead instructor for the program, Ms. Saadia al-Tahir, has received extensive training from the

American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and has applied to become one of the elite group of nationally certified ACTFL testers of Arabic.

Students in the program are working toward mastery of oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing, which is a challenge given that Arabic is rated by the US State Department as the most difficult language for English speakers to learn. But students are meeting their goals remarkable well

having already mastered a foreign script and basic sentence structures.

In addition to their language instruction, the program incorporates leadership sessions twice a month in which students from all four high schools join each other to learn more about global issues and diversity in their own community. These sessions are coordinated by the MAVIN Foundation of Seattle and are a key ingredient to building the overall success of the program.

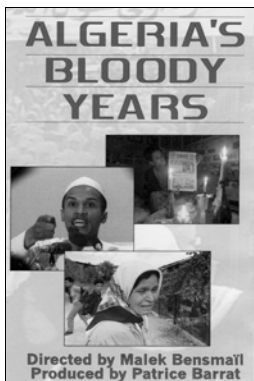
NEW VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CENTER'S RESOURCE LIBRARY

Resources may be borrowed free of charge for instructors and educators to use in their classrooms. Contact the Middle East Center by telephone (206)543-4227 or by email to: <fhecker@u.washington.edu>. The Center also publishes a video guide of its holdings, available free upon request, or view our webpage at <http://ljsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/mideast/vidlib.htm>

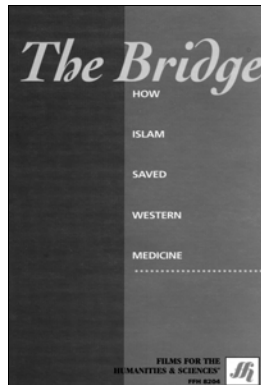
Abdulaziz. 45 min., 1999. Two videos: Part 1: Unity; Part 2: Building a Nation. Produced by the Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives. Extensive use of historical footage.



Algeria's Bloody Years. 59 min., 2003. Chronicles Algeria's struggle for democracy since independence from France and traces the rise of fundamentalist groups in the 1980s and 90s. Directed by Malek Bensmail.



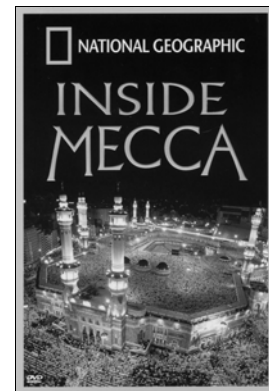
The Bridge: How Islam Saved Western Medicine. 50 min., 1998. This video examines how the medieval world of Islam preserved, expanded upon, and passed on the ancient philosophy, mathematics, and science of the Greeks to the Western world, where ancient knowledge was lost after the fall of the Roman Empire



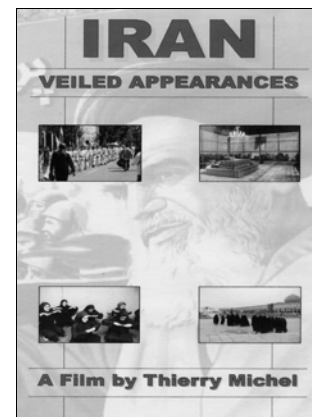
Finding Common Ground in the Middle East Peace Process. 81 min., October 23, 2003. Sari Nusseibeh, President Al-Quds University and Ami Ayalon, Former Head of Israeli Security (Shin Beit) present their grass-roots initiated peace plan for Israel and Palestine.

Inside Mecca. DVD. 60 min., 2003. Produced by National Geographic, this DVD follows the spiritual journey

of three pilgrims as they join fellow Muslims on the hajj to Mecca. Explores key Islamic sites and ancient rituals associated with the hajj.



Iran Veiled Appearances. 58 min., 2002. Composed of a series of diverse, contradictory images of everyday life in Iran juxtaposed against historical footage of protest and revolution, this videos is an insightful documentary about Iran 23 years after the Islamic Revolution.



CALENDAR OF SELECTED UP-COMING EVENTS

January 29, 2004

A Fixed Abode Beyond Jordan? Space and Place in Jewish and Muslim Conceptions of the Promised Land. 7:30 p.m., Kane 210.
Reuven Firestone (see insert inside)

February 9, 2004

Human Rights and Islamic Law. 3:30 p.m., location TBA.
Mehangiz Kar, prominent Iranian attorney, writer, and,
human rights activist (visit: www.humanrights.washington.edu)

March 13, 2004

Greater Pacific Northwest Regional Seminar on the Middle East.
8:30 a.m., HUB. (see insert inside for registration)

March 18, 2004

The Promised Land: Islamic Concepts. 7:30 p.m., Kane 220,
Roy Mottahedeh, Harvard (see insert inside)

April 24, 2004

Fun with Persian Calligraphy. 8:30 a.m., Thomson Hall.
Ali Roufar, noted Iranian calligrapher (see insert registration)

The Middle East Center Newsletter

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THE PROMISED LAND

place and the creation of community in religious traditions

Over the last two millennia, the concept of a Promised Land has been important as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam have defined themselves in relation to each other. This public lecture series will explore how these religions address the physical spaces and history of Jerusalem as well as the ways in which the idea of a Promised Land as a site of freedom developed outside the Middle East.

Funded in part by a grant from the Tillie and Alfred Shemanski Foundation.

Sponsored by the Middle East Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington

January 29, 2004, 7:30 p.m., Kane Hall 210

A Fixed Abode Beyond the Jordan? Space and Place in Jewish and Muslim Conceptions of the Promised Land

REUVEN FIRESTONE, Professor, Medieval Judaism and Islam
Hebrew Union College

February 26, 2004, 7:30 p.m., Kane Hall 220

Mormonism's Promised Land: Zion, America and the Quest for a Perfect Place

ROGER D. LAUNIUS, Chair, Division of Space History,
National Air and Space Museum, historian of 19th-century
American history, and author of *Joseph Smith III:
Pragmatic Prophet*

March 18, 2004, 7:30 p.m., Kane Hall 220

The Promised Land: Islamic Concepts

ROY MOTTAHEDEH, Gurney Professor of History,
Harvard University

May 27, 2004, 7:30 p.m., Kane Hall 210

Go Down Moses: African-American Slaves and the Promised Land

ALBERT J. RABOTEAU, Henry W. Putnam Professor of
Religion, Princeton University

The Middle East Center's sponsorship of this event does not imply that the Center endorses the content of the event.

The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: (206) 543-6450/V, (206) 543-6452/TTY, (206) 685-7264 (FAX), or dso@u.washington.edu.



2004 FESTIVAL MOSAIC: FOLK AND FINE ARTS AROUND THE WORLD
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004

Mosaics Saturday workshops introduce teachers of elementary and Middle school students to new ideas, resources, and activities for teaching about the world beyond our borders. The workshops offers an array of sessions to choose from, handouts, seven free clock hours, and an ethnic lunch. Mosaics are co-sponsored by the Jackson School Outreach Centers, the Seattle International Children's Festival, and the Washington State Council for the Social Studies.

This year's UW workshop will be held April 24, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Thomson Hall.

For those specifically interested in the Middle East, the workshop will feature a session by noted Iranian calligrapher, Mr. Ali Rouhfar, who is an artist-in-residence at the

Seattle Children's Museum and visiting faculty member of the University of Washington.

Sign up now to reserve your place. The registration fee is \$45, which includes an ethnic lunch, resource materials, and seven clock hours. Registration must be received five days in advance. Registration is possible at the door, but supplies, packets, and ethnic lunch may not be available.

Make checks payable to the *University of Washington*, enclose the form below, and mail to:

East Asia Resource Center
Attn.: Festival Mosaic, UW
Box 353650
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Registration Form for 2004 Mosaics

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Grade Level/Subjects taught _____



It's time to register for the annual dinner-lecture series sponsored by all the outreach centers of the Jackson School of International Studies and the Global Business

Center, University of Washington. Each event features an international expert, an ethnic dinner, and three clock hours per lecture for K-12 instructors at no extra

charge. All lectures are 5:30—8:30 p.m., Kane Hall, Walker Ames Room, University of Washington. Pre-registration of \$25 per lecture is required (no refunds).

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES 2004

Trends and Transitions in Your World

2004 PROGRAM

JANUARY 28

Bullets and Ballots: Militaries in South and Southeast Asian Politics

Mary Callahan, Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

FEBRUARY 11

Perspectives on Chinese-Russian Relations

David Bachman, Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

MARCH 10

Starbuck's Expansion Overseas: Triumphs and Challenges

Kathie Linderman, Senior Vice President of Operations, Store Development, and Global Business Systems

APRIL 7

Canada-US Border Security Cooperation—Phase Two

Ambassador Cresencio Arcos, Director, International Affairs, US Department of Homeland Security

APRIL 28

Saudi Arabia and the United States: A Relationship in Transition?

Hugh Renfro, Former Head of Arabian Chevron Oil Company

REGISTRATION FORM

Please indicate which of the dinner-lectures you wish to attend:

- Jan 28: South & Southeast Asia
 Feb 11: East Asia,; Russian, Eastern European, Central Asian; and International Studies
 Mar 10: Western Europe and Global Business
 April 7: Canada
 April 28: Middle East

Check if: Clock hours desired
 Vegetarian meal desired

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

School & Level Teaching _____

Mail this registration form with check (payable to the University of Washington), \$25 per lecture per person (no refunds) to:

International Updates Registration
 c/o REECAS, Box 353650
 University of Washington
 Seattle, WA 98195

For questions, call 206-543-4852 or email: reecas@u.washington.edu.