

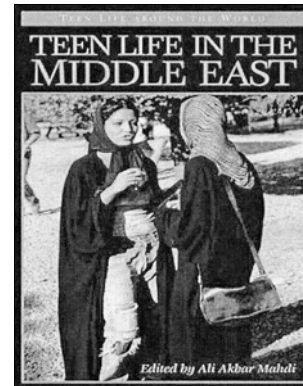
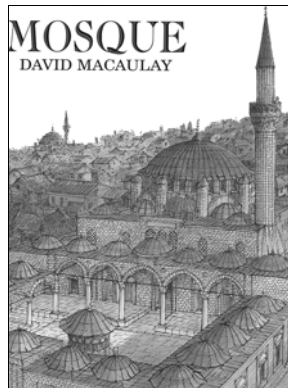
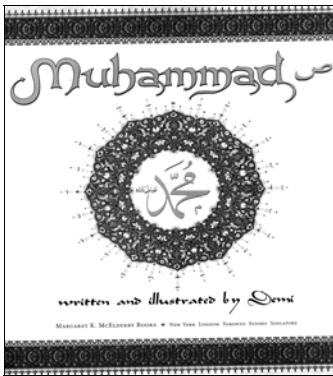
THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

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

Winter 2005

Vol. 30 No. 2

MIDDLE EAST OUTREACH COUNCIL ANNOUNCES *Annual Book Awards for Literature for Young Readers*



THE MIDDLE EAST Outreach Council, a nonprofit, nationwide network of educators working to increase public knowledge about the peoples, places, and cultures of the Middle East, has announced its 2004 award winners for literature on the Middle East for younger readers. This year's winners are: *Muhammad* by Demi (picture book); *Mosque* by David Macaulay (younger reference); and *Teen Life in the Middle East* edited by Ali Akbar Mahdi (youth reference). Honorable mentions include: *Witness to History: Afghanistan* by David Downing (younger reference) and *A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization* by Vernon O. Egger (youth reference).

MEOC established its awards in 1999 to recognize books for children and young adults that contribute meaningfully to an understanding of the Middle East. Books are judged on the authenticity of their portrayal of a Middle Eastern subject, as well as

on their characterization, plot, and appeal for the intended audience.

Muhammad—written and illustrated by Demi (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2003) won the picture-book category. Demi portrays the Prophet Muhammad's life in a richly colorful, two-dimensional Persian style, respecting Islamic tradition by omitting depictions of the Prophet and his family. ep love and respect.

Mosque by David Macaulay (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003) won the younger reference category. Macaulay's masterful work provides step-by-step details and diagrams of the construction of a fictional sixteenth century Ottoman mosque. As the author guides the reader through the engineering and artistry of the structure, he reveals the mosque's diverse functions in the community.

In the category of youth reference, this year's award goes to *Teen Life in the Middle East* edited by Ali Akbar Mahdi (Greenwood

Press, 2003). This compilation offers insights into the interests, family and social lives, religious practices, and culture of teens in twelve profiled countries—Leslie Nucho, Chair, MEOC Book Awards Committee.

For more information on previous years' winners or on the Middle East Outreach Council, visit: <http://link.lanic.utexas.edu/menic/meoc/>

2005 REGISTRATION FORMS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ❖ Summer Fellowships for Teachers: Theme: Middle East Overview
- ❖ International Updates
- ❖ Sports and Games of the World: K-8 Educators Mosaic
- ❖ Hot Spots in Our World: Lecture Series

NEW VIDEO RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

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: <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>

Arg-e-Bam. Pre-2003, 35 min.

This documentary captures the magnificence of the Citadel at Bam, a designated UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, before it was destroyed in December 2003 by a devastating earthquake. Entirely in Persian with no English.

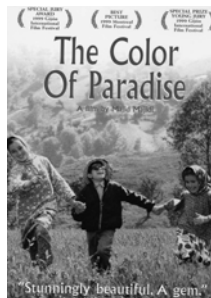


The Art of the Book: Persian Miniatures from the Shahnameh. 30 min., 1993. Traces the development of the art of Persian miniature painting over three centuries through the illustrating of the great 11th-century epic Persian poem by Firdausi

Children of Heaven. 88 min., 1999. DVD. This prize-winning Iranian film celebrates the essence of childhood in a tale of a brother and sister who share a single pair of shoes after the boy loses his sister's only pair. The children keep the loss secret from their parents.



The Color of Paradise. 90 min., 1999. DVD. This Iranian film explores the world of a gifted blind boy at the mercy of his father's crippling sense of shame, who intends to disown him to win the hand and dowry of a local woman. Directed by Majid Majidi. First Iranian film to be nominated for an Oscar.

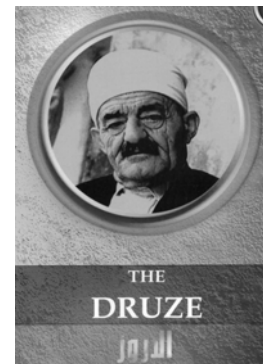


Divorce Iranian Style [Talagh, be sabke Irani]. 80 min., 1998. This documentary explores the divorce courts of Iran as three women bring their cases before the court. In Persian with English subtitles.



Dream of My People. 66 min. Zvee Scooler narrated this romantic travelogue of 1933 Palestine, accompanied by the singing of the great Cantor Joseph (Yossele) Rosenblatt.

The Druze. DVD. 2004. This documentary traces the history of the Druze, a Muslim sect that follows the teaching of Al-Hakim (985-1021). Episode I: 1017-1943; Episode II: 1943-75; Episode II: 1975-2003. Each episode is 70 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles



NEW VIDEO RESOURCES — *Continued*

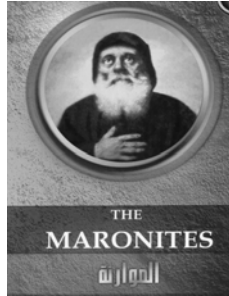
Harem. 113 min., 2003. DVD.

An epic tale of sensuality set against the historical backdrop of the early 1900s in Istanbul. A young woman rises in the ranks of power within the Ottoman Empire, she and a eunuch plan an elaborate scheme for the release of the female slaves. Directed by Ferzan Ozpetek. In Turkish with English subtitles.



The Maronites. DVD. 2004. The Maronites constitute the largest Catholic Christian group in the Middle East. Using rare historical footage, this documentary traces the history of this community to the modern day. Episode I: 685-1920; Episode II: 1920-68; Episode III: 1968-75; Episode IV: 1975-2003. Each episode is approximately one hour. In Arabic with English subtitles

Promises. 102 min., 2001. DVD. The Israeli-American filmmaker, B. Z. Goldberg



travels to Palestine and Israel to interview children over the four years between 1995-2000. Children interviewed are from Palestinian refugee camps, Israeli settlements on the West Bank, and from Jerusalem neighborhoods. Though the children live only 20 minutes apart, their worlds are very different. With lessons plans.

Three Kings. 115 min., 1999.

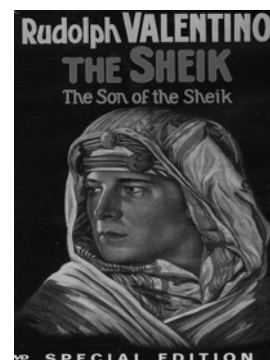
DVD. Starring George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube, and Spike Jonze. This film begins as the Gulf War ends. Amid the confusion, four American soldiers go into the Iraqi desert in search of stolen



Kuwaiti bullion. They are plunged into the heart of a democratic uprising that spins their lives out of control. A David O. Russell film.

Lovers Wind /Le vent des amoureux/Saba Wind [Baad-e Saba]. 2 hours, 1978. A visually stunning documentary made by the French filmmaker Albert Lamorisse, shows Iran's beautiful landscape from a wind's point of view. Lamorisse was killed in a helicopter crash while shooting this documentary near Teheran. The work was later edited from his notes and was nominated for an Oscar as best feature documentary for the Academy Awards of 1978. English narration.

The Sheik and The Son of the Sheik. 155 min., 1921. DVD. Two classic Rudolph Valentino films that electrified audiences in the early 1920s and captured the West's romanticized and stereotyped notions of the Arab world.



CALENDAR OF SELECTED UP-COMING EVENTS

February 17, 2005

Iraq and the Global Rise of Religious Violence: A Report from Baghdad. 7:30 p.m., Kane 110. Speaker: Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California, Santa Barbara. Annual Lecture in Comparative Religion & Contemporary Life. Sponsored by: Comparative Religion Program. Contact: 206-543-4835.

February 20, 2005

Searching for Hassan: A Journey to the Heart of Iran. Kane Hall 110, 5:00 p.m. Speaker/Author: Terence Ward. Sponsored by UW Persian Studies.

March 5, 2005

Sports and Games of the World: A Mosaic for K-8 Teachers. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thomson Hall, UW campus \$45 registration. *See insert inside.*

Ensemble Kaboul (Afghan). 8:00 p.m., Meany Theater. Single tickets \$28. Part of the UW World Music Series, visit <www.uwworldseries.org> or telephone: 206-543-4880

March 9, 2005

Jewish Ethnics and the Debate among Zionists over the Use of Military Power. 3:30-5:00 p.m., Communications, Room 202. Ehud Luz, Professor, Dept. of Jewish History and Thought, Haifa University. Sponsored by Comparative Religion Program, Contact: 206-543-4835.

March 16, 2005

Social Narcotics: Betel Nut in India & Qat in Yemen. Speakers: Mathew Schmalz, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Religious Studies, College of Holy Cross; and Robert Burrowes, Lecturer, Middle East Center, Jackson School. *See insert inside.*

April 6, 2005

Iraq: What Next? Ellis Goldberg, Director, Middle East Center and Professor, Political Science, UW. 7:30 p.m. Part of the Hot Spots in Our World Series. *See insert inside.*

The Middle East Center Newsletter

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