



# Middle East Newsletter

Vol. 20, No. 1

September, 1994

## SEMINAR ON ARABIAN PENINSULA PLANNED

Join us for our annual fall teachers seminar, this year on SAUDI ARABIA AND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. We have arranged for a group of excellent speakers, will provide a fine Middle Eastern lunch, and will give you handouts on teaching about this region. If you have attended our seminars before you know these assertions are true, and you will plan now to attend and bring a friend! To register, fill out the coupon at the end of the newsletter and mail to the Middle East Center, c/o our return address. Pre-registration is a must so we can get an accurate count for lunch!

The Arabian peninsula is a vast area (about the size of the western half of the U.S., minus Texas, of course). It is not surprising that in this historically and socially complex region there is more than "sun, sand, and oil," but, aside from the oil and our geo-political interests, we hear little else about this region in the news. The seminar planned for October 22 aims to put the peoples, cultures, and governments of the Arabian peninsula in perspective. Although we will show a video, *Aramco at Fifty*, the rest of the program will be devoted to discussions of history, society (including women and gender issues), and variety of governments.

## SAUDI ARABIA AND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

October 22, 1994  
Thomson Hall, Room 101  
University of Washington

8:15-8:45 am Coffee, tea, rolls

8:45-9:00 Words of welcome. Charlotte Albright, Assistant Director, Middle East Center, UW

9:00-10:00 **Thought and Change in the Arabian Peninsula: Anthropological Approaches.** Dale Eickelman, Anthropology, Dartmouth College

10:00-11:00 **Gender, Family, and Nation: Comparing Arab Gulf Societies.** Christine Eickelman, Anthropology, Dartmouth College

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-12:15 **Lecture on Saudi Arabia** (Topic to be announced. Speaker will probably come from the Information Office of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).



12:15-1:30 pm Lunch: Middle Eastern lunch provided as part of registration fee

1:30-2:30 **Yemen: Past, Present, and Future.** Discussion by Marta Colburn, Portland State University and Robert Burrowes, UW

2:30-3:00 Video: *Aramco at Fifty*

3:00-3:45 Discussion of teaching materials. Wrap up and evaluation

Sponsored by the Middle East Center, University of Washington  
With substantial funding from the Middle East Institute and  
the Washington State Committee on U.S. Arab Relations  
With donation of teaching materials from  
the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Biographical information about speakers:

**Dale Eickelman**, Professor, Anthropology, Dartmouth College,

Professor Eickelman has lived and done research in several countries of the Middle East, including Oman, Egypt, Iraq, and Morocco. His books include the text, *The Middle East: An Anthropological Approach*, (2nd Ed. 1989), a volume edited with James Piscatori, *Muslim Travellers: Pilgrimage, Migration, and Religious Imagination*, and most recently an edited volume *Russia's Muslim Frontiers: New Directions in Crosscultural Analysis*.

**Christine Eickelman**, Lecturer, Anthropology, Dartmouth College

Dr. Eickelman has lived and done research in several countries of the Middle East, including Oman, Egypt, Iraq, and Morocco. Her book *Women and Community in Oman* is the result of field experience living in the Hamra Oasis in Oman.

**Marta Colburn**, Outreach Liason and Assistant Director, Middle East Center, Portland State University

Ms. Colburn lived and worked in Yemen for three years in the late 1980s during which time she worked for both OXFAM and for the Yemeni government's Consortium for International Development. She has edited the *Bibliography on Women in Yemen* in 1992 and written "Country Analysis on the Situation of Women in the Republic of Yemen" for the International Women's Rights Action Watch in 1992. She is a very active outreach coordinator for the Middle East Center at Portland State University and has extensive experience working with teachers.

**Robert Burrowes**, Lecturer, International Studies, UW

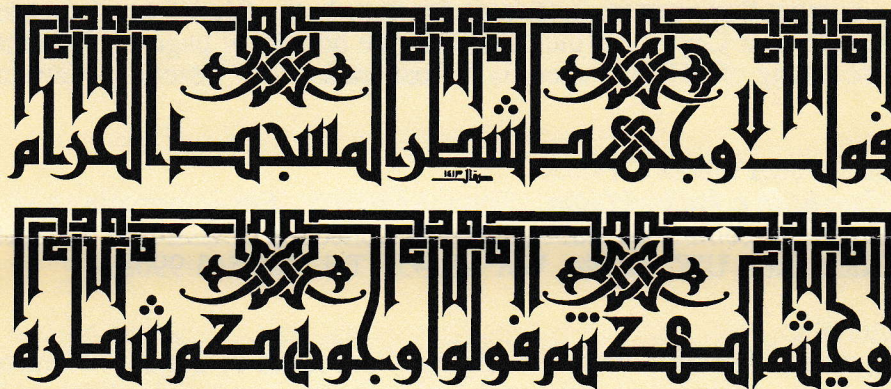
Dr. Burrowes has lived in both Lebanon, where he worked at the American University in Beirut, and Yemen, where he was a consultant for Save the Children. He is a specialist on Yemen and teaches courses on the Arabian peninsula at the School of International Studies, UW. A book on Yemen, *The Yemen Arab Republic: The Politics of Development, 1962-1986*, was published in 1987. Two others, *The Republic of Yemen: Oil and Unification* and *The Republic of Yemen: An Historical Dictionary*, are forthcoming.

## NELC INSTRUCTOR WINS CALLIGRAPHY PRIZE

Mamoun Sakkal, Affiliate Instructor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, received the first award in Kufi, one of the earliest and most decorative styles of Arabic calligraphy, in the Third International Calligraphy Competition run by the Research Center for Islamic History, Art, and Culture in December, 1993, in Istanbul. The competition is held every three years. This particular competition commemorated the calligrapher Ibn El-Bawwab (d. 1022 AD). Five hundred and fifty calligraphers from 35 countries participated in the competition with a total of 1200 works in 14 calligraphic styles. Awards totaling \$40,200 were distributed to 96 participants from 26 countries.

Mr. Sakkal received limited traditional calligraphy training in Aleppo, Syria, where he grew up, but his interest in the study of Islamic arts in general, and calligraphy in particular, increased when he emigrated to the United States in 1978. His firm in Bothell, WA, provides graphic and architectural design services to local, national, and international clients. Mr. Sakkal's prize-winning entry is shown below. It is a quote from Sura 2, Verse 144 of the Qur'an and means approximately:

Turn your face in the direction of the sacred mosque,  
Whenever you are, turn you faces in that direction.



## HOLSINGER OFFERS 'INQUIRING MIND' LECTURE ON NORTH AFRICA

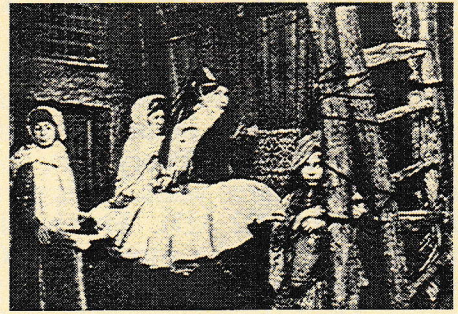
Donald Holsinger, Professor of History at Seattle Pacific University, will be an "Inquiring Mind" speaker for the Washington Commission for the Humanities (WCH) during 1995. The lecture he offers on North Africa is entitled "Islam and Community in a Desert Oasis." To book him (or other Inquiring Minds speakers), contact WCH at 615 Second Ave., Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98104, tel. 206-682-1770, FAX 206- 682-4158.

## SALAAM CULTURAL MUSEUM ESTABLISHED

This summer a group of interested individuals including Rita Zawaideh, Betsy Colson, Wadad Saba, Dina Drovetto, Beryl Cheal, and Soudabeh Rasekhi pooled their energies and established an organization called The Salaam Cultural Museum. Museum activities will provide educational and cultural opportunities to help people experience the diversity and beauty of the Middle East and North Africa. The first activity of the Salaam Cultural Museum was a film festival, which took place August 12-14. A second film festival is planned for November. Other activities being considered are programs for children, music and art festivals, and special cultural displays. People interested in working with this group can call 545-7307.

## TIES THAT BIND

Leonard M. Helfgott, historian at Western Washington University, is the author of a book on Iranian carpets, *Ties That Bind: A Social History of the Iranian Carpet*, published recently by Smithsonian Institution Press. According to the press, the book reveals "an intricate record of Iran's economic development, gender relations, and art history." Helfgott traces the rug's production, use, and exchange from the 15th century until World War II, showing changes in carpet manufacture and Iranian society that ensued when the West imported carpets as luxury items in the 19th century.



## NEW MATERIALS AT THE MERC

You may borrow these materials (except for item 1, the film) free of charge by contacting the Middle East Center c/o the address at the bottom of page 1. You may also request a complete listing of MERC materials on loan called the "Teaching Materials Resource Guide."

### New Film at Instructional Media Services:

*Correspondent Caught in a Pack of Lions*. Terry Anderson. For information and rental fee to borrow this item, contact Educational Media Collection, Classroom Support Services, DG-10, Kane Hall, UW, Seattle, WA 98195. Tel. 206-543-9908.

### Audiovisual Materials:

*The Art of Calligraphy*. Teaching unit on calligraphy produced by Najda: Women Concerned About the Middle East. Includes an article on Arabic writing, an article about world famous America calligrapher Mohamed Zakariya, classroom activities, an Arabic alphabet, common English names in Arabic, and a poster with samples of calligraphic art. You can borrow the unit from the MEC or order your own for the rock-bottom price of \$4.00 from Najda, P.O. Box 7152, Berkeley, CA 94707-1052. Tel. 415-854-0535.

*Kuwait University: One Year After Liberation*. VHS, color, 1992. Produced by the Kuwaiti Government. A look at the destruction and rebuilding of the country's premiere university. General audience.

*The Long Search. Islam: There is No God But God*. VHS, color, 52 min. Part of an extensive series on world religions, this segment deals with Islam, travelling to Egypt to take part in a village wedding, to a market town for dawn prayers, and then into Cairo. Secondary level and general audiences.

*Whether It's Good or Bad, Arabesk Is the Fad*. VHS, 2 hrs, color. This program, produced by Kerime Senyücel for Turkish Radio TV, chronicles the Turkish popular music style called Arabesk. Originally seen as the symbol of corruption of Turkish society, now scholars view the style as a reflection of change and adaptation and mutation of eastern and western music styles. The program has English subtitles and is divided into four 30 minute segments. General audiences.

## Books and Articles:

*Evaluation of Secondary-Level Textbooks for Coverage of the Middle East and North Africa.*

A Project of the Middle East Studies Association and the Middle East Outreach Council, Third Edition. Elizabeth Barlow, Ed. June 1994. This valuable compendium of textbook assessments, compiled by experts in the field, offers you a chance to see how your text stacks up against others on its presentation of the Middle East. The MERC has one to borrow, or you may purchase a copy for \$12.00 from MESA, 1232 N. Cherry Street, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

"The Middle East as a Circumterral Region." Richard W. Fox and Saul B. Cohen in *Social Education*, April/May, 1994, pp. 219-225. Interesting article for geography buffs.

*The Tragedy of Sohrab and Rostam; from the Persian National Epic, the Shahname of Abol-Qasem Ferdowsi*, trans. Jerome W. Clinton. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1987.

*Turkey: A Short History, Second Edition.* Roderic H. Davison. Huntingdon, England: Eothen Press, 1988.

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 Registration Form for Seminar on  
 Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula

Please enclose a check for \$25 (made out to NEAR EAST STUDIES COUNCIL) for registration in the Arabian peninsula seminar.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_

(home) \_\_\_\_\_

If you teach, please give the name of the school:

Charlotte F. Albright, Editor  
MIDDLE EAST RESOURCE CENTER  
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University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195

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