

THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

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

Winter 1999

Vol. 24 No. 2

Western Jewish Studies Association Annual Meeting To Be Held at the University of Washington

THE Fifth Annual Conference of the Western Jewish Studies Association will be held on at the University of Washington, Seattle Campus HUB Student Union Building, on March 14-16, 1999. The conference will feature national and international scholars, covering such themes as: Sephardic Studies, Jews in the Pacific Northwest, Canadian Jewish Studies, and New Technology in Jewish studies, and Pedagogy (*see pp. 2-7 for program and insert for registration*).

Such eminent scholars as Lucette Valensi, Director, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Paris; Michael Cook, Princeton University; and Daniel Schroeter, UC-Irvine, will give presentations. In addition, the conference

will feature a Tree of Life Judaica book exhibit, a special exhibit of photographs, and the airing of two films: "The Return of Sarah's Daughters," by Marcia Jarmel and "A Coat of Many Colors," produced by the Washington State Jewish Historical Society.

Support for the conference has been very broad, including at the UW the Jewish Studies, Center for the Humanities, Office of the Dean of A&S and Office of the Dean for Social Sciences, History, Middle East Center, Near East Languages & Culture, Canadian Studies, Jackson School; as well as the Association for Jewish Studies; and the Western Jewish Studies Assoc. (*Visit <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~jsis/catalog/jewish.html>*)

PAULA HOLMES-EBER

Visiting Anthropologist Teaching Winter Term

PAULA Holmes-Eber is teaching "Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East" to a full house in the Department of Anthropology winter term under the sponsorship of the Middle East Center. The class has been so popular that extra chairs had to be brought into her classroom to accommodate the overflow.

Paula comes to the University of Washington after four years as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. She earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern



*Holmes-Eber with her husband,
Lorenz in Morocco*

University writing her dissertation on *Visits, Holidays*

and Celebrations: Women's Kin Networks in Tunis Her research focuses on gender, family, and the effects of migration and (*continued on page 6*)

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Western Jewish Studies Association Fifth Annual Conference March 14-16, 1999, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington — P R O G R A M —

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1999

12:30-2:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions

Session I: Canadian Jewry

Chair: Nadine Fabbishusha, Univ. of British Columbia
Martin Sable, The University of Toronto
Leo Davids, York University, Atkinson College
Janice Rosen, Canadian Jewish Cong. National Archives

Session II: Welcome to the Next Generation: Jewish Studies and the New Technology Collaboration

Chair: Muriel Dance, University of Washington
Laurie Zoloth-Dorfman, San Francisco State University
Edith Lubetski, Yeshiva University

Session III: Berber Jews and Sephardic Studies

Chair: Jere Bacharach, University of Washington
Sarah Levin, Independent Scholar
Daniel Schroeter, UC-Irvine
Discussant: Lucette Valensi, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris

2:15-3:45 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions

Session I: Varieties of Sephardic Experience in 20th Century America

Chair: Joan Ullman, University of Washington
Aviva Ben-Ur, Queens College
Seth Ward, University of Denver

Session II: Religious Responses to the Shoah

Chair Sam Edelman, California State Univ., Chico
Lawrence Baron, San Diego State University
Theodore Linn, St. Lawrence University
Marc Krell, University of Arizona

Session III: Israel Studies

Chair, Joel Migdal, University of Washington
Gideon Shimoni, The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem
Michael Cohen, Bar Ilan University
Elihu Bergman, American Veterans of Israel

4:00 -5:00 p.m.: Keynote

The Experience of Sephardi Jews: Identity and Discontinuity

Chair: Ellis Goldberg, University of Washington
Lucette Valensi, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

5:00-6:00 p.m. Kosher Reception

Including a Virtual Tour of Seattle, "Shalom Seattle," presented by Dorothy Becker

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1999

8:00-9:00 a.m., Shofar Editorial Board Meeting

9:00-10:30 a.m.: Concurrent Sessions

Session I: Jews in Canadian Literature

Chair: Anthony Chan, University of Washington
Michael Greenstein, York University
Alexander Hart, University of British Columbia
David Mesher, San Jose State University

Session II: Pedagogy

Chair: Monica Devens, University of Washington
Harris Lenowitz, The University of Utah
Leonard Greenspoon, Creighton University
Jody Myers, California State University, Northridge

Session III: Mediterranean Jewry

Chair: Scott Noegel, University of Washington
Elias Messinas, National Technical Univ. of Athens
Annette Fromm, Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida
Rachel Simon, Princeton University Library

11:00 a.m.-noon: Concurrent Sessions

Session I: Radical Politics

Chair: Susan Glenn, University of Washington
Michael Alexander, University of Washington
Ruth Abrams, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst

Session II: Creating Jewish Identity in North America

Chair: Julia Eulenberg, University of Washington
Pamela Dorn Sezgin, Mus. of the Southern Jewish Experience
Richard Menkis, University of British Columbia

Session III: Sepharad

Chair: Robert Stacey, University of Washington
Bruce Rosenstock, UC-Davis
Michael McGaha, Pomona College

12:00-1:30 p.m.: WJSA Board Meeting

1:30-3:00 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions

Session I: Jewish Rhetoric

Chair: Scott Noegel, University of Washington
Sam Edelman, California State University, Chico
Yehoshuah Gitay, Univ. of Capetown and Haifa Univ.

Session II: Jews on Stage and Screen

Chair: Janet Heineck, University of Washington
Seth Wolitz, University of Texas
Jeffery Rubin-Dorsky, Univ. of Colorado-CO Springs
(continued on page 7)

BOOK REVIEW: *Women in the Muslim World: Personalities and Perspectives from the Past*, Lyn Reese

Reviewed by Patricia J. Woods

Doctoral Candidate, Near and Middle East Studies, UW

This collection of stories, histories and poetry is well-suited for secondary school and introductory college audiences. It covers the history of women in the Islamic world from Aisha's leadership against Ali in the Battle of the Camel, to the famous Sufi, Rabia, to the 20th-century activities of feminists such as Huda Shaarawi and popular figures such as Umm Kulthum. Addressing an array of famous, politically active, and economically powerful women throughout Islamic history from the Middle East to Africa to India, this collection of stories and vignettes also includes unknown women of little means to illustrate the dynamism of Muslim women in religion, music and poetry in the Islamic world. The book includes suggested classroom activities and discussion topics.

Topically, Reese addresses the hajj, political leadership, jihad, economic activity, religious activities, veiling, and the arts. Each topic is covered through a brief discussion of its historical or textual background, followed by biographical vignettes, in a few cases written by the person being discussed. Most of the stories are one- to two-pages long, are accessible to a wide audience, and give the reader the sort of experiential entry to the topic that might be offered by a novel, but is less apt to come from more detailed studies. Moreover, the brief historical discussions and the vignettes themselves challenge some of the most common misconceptions about women in the Islamic world, including their position in the Qur'an, in various Muslim societies, the relationship between Islamic norms and cultural norms, seclusion and veiling.

Reese traces the issue of veiling, for example, to ancient Assyrian kings, who introduced both seclusion and veiling to the Mediterranean Near East. She places veiling in an historical context by tracing the historical progression of veiling from ancient Assyria to the ancient Greeks to Christian

Byzantium, Persia, and upper caste Rajput women in India. Later, Christian women in Mediterranean areas such as Italy took on clothing patterned after the hijab and scarf that most Muslim women wore. The difference between the more common hijab and veiling of the face is also explained, putting to rest some of the mystery of supposedly Islamic veiling in a concrete historical account of the origins,

expansion, and current debates about veiling.

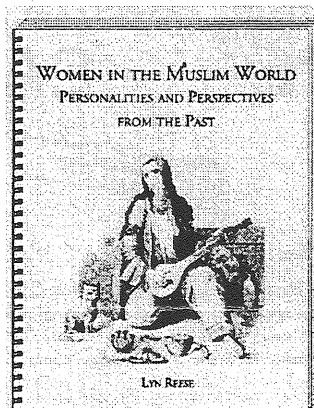
The range of individual biographies, personal stories, and history covered in this book is impressive. The only caveat, however, is that the history addressed is necessarily limited in a short (96 page) text made up mainly of one- to two-page vignettes.

Thus, while the text touches upon important events, such as the Battle of the Camel or the nationalist activities of women in the 20th century, and important phenomena in Islam, such

as jihad or hajj, it does not provide an adequate historical context in which to understand these events and phenomena. No whole picture arises from the vignettes, well-organized, selected and written as they are. For a college-level course on women, women in the Middle East, or a section on women in Islam, I would recommend this book as a positive addition to more complete historical analyses such as Leila Ahmed's impressive *Women and Gender in Islam* (Yale, 1992), and Frederick Denny's *Introduction to Islam* (MacMillan, 1994). Students should enjoy the biographical and short-story format of Reese's book, as well as access to the stories of specific individuals who are examples of the issues and events discussed in more detailed historical and theoretical, but less personal, terms in these other texts.

Women in the Muslim World (Berkeley, CA: Women in World History Curriculum, 1998), 96 pp. + glossary and references. ISBN 1-890380-05-9 \$19.95.

AVAILABLE IN THE CENTER'S LIBRARY



New Videotape Acquisitions Now Available in the Center's Resource Library

Resources may be borrowed from the Middle East Center free of charge by contacting the Middle East Center <fhecker@u.washington.edu>, or by telephoning the Center at 206-543-4227. The Center also publishes a video guide of its holding, which is available free upon request or see our on-line guide at our homepage <<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~mideast/index.htm>>

The Traditional World of Islam (1998 re-release). Six parts, each is 25 minutes

Part 1: Unity. Shot in Africa and the Middle East, the video introduces some of the basic ideas of Islamic civilization. Includes scenes of the pilgrimage to Mecca, shows trading patterns and the great caravan routes, and the discusses the attitude toward warfare, and the need which Muslims feel for a private, inner world.

Part 2: Nomad and the City. Examines the tension between nomad and the city, featuring scenes from Berber, Bedouin, Turkoman and Bahktiari culture, which are contrasted with two urban settings—Sana'a, Yemen and Fez, Morocco.

Part 3: Man and Nature. Shows examples from various parts of the Islamic world of man's cooperation with the forces of nature, leading to the building in ancient times of large dams, underground water systems, and windmills.

Part 4: The Pattern of Beauty. Concentrating on the arts of architecture, abstract

decoration, and calligraphy the film examines how these are approached from an Islamic perspective. Ends with a brief look at the arts of three great cultures: Ottoman Turkey, Mughal India, and Safavid Iran.

Part 5: Knowledge of the World. This video shows the large and beautiful Islamic colleges in which advanced teaching took place, and which led to the establishment of some of the oldest universities in the world, such as, Al Ahzar in Cairo. Islam's significant contributions to Western medicine are also briefly examined.

Part 6: The Inner Life. This film examines the major role Sufism has played in civilization. The impact of Sufi mysticism is explored in the Islamic visual and literary arts, as well as its manifestation in Persian garden design. Examples of Sufi teaching from Egypt, Morocco, Iran, and India are explored.

Wedding in Basra. 55 minutes, PBS, Nov. 1998. Narrated by Arthur Kent, this video examines the ramifications

of UN sanctions on the people of Iraq.

The Bonds of Pride. 28 minutes, part of the Bill Moyers "The Arab World" series. The video explores the nature of Arab identity and the main cultural ties that hold the Arab world together—language, the Qur'an, historical vision, literature, poetry, and humor.

The Shadow of the West. 50 minutes, part of "The Arabs: A Living History" series. Edward Said traces the course of European involvement with the Near East via the Crusades to Napoleon's campaign in Egypt and the French and English entrepreneurs, adventures and empire builders who came in his wake.

Between Two Worlds. 55 minutes, part of "The Arabs: A Living History" series. A businessman in Fez, Morocco describes the conflicts of raising children in the modern world while instilling the traditional values of an Arab family.*

JACKSON SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL UPDATES SERIES

Time to Register for this Dinner-Lecture Series

It is time to register for the Annual "International Updates: Trends and Transitions in Your World" dinner-lecture series organized through the cooperative efforts of the Jackson School's outreach personnel. All lectures will be held in the Walker-Ames Room at Kane Hall, UW, Seattle campus beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Each dinner-lecture is \$22 per person. For those who register for the entire series, the cost is \$132 (one lecture free), if registration is received before February 5, 1999. For individual lectures, registration must be received one week in advance of the event. Washington State clock hours are available for K-12 teachers and community college instructors for no additional charge.

DATES AND SUBJECTS

- Feb. 17: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS** "The Asian Financial Crisis: What Lessons Have We Learned?" Karma G. Hadjimichalakis, Senior Lecturer, Finance and Business Economics, School of Business
- March 3: CANADA & SOUTH ASIA** "Global Communities and Local Conflict: Sikhs in South Asia and North America," Virginia Vandyke, Ph.D. University of Washington
- March 17: WESTERN EUROPE** "United Irishmen, 1798-1998: The Life and Times of William Sampson," Walter Walsh,

- Professor, School of Law
- April 7: EAST ASIA** "What's Ahead for Japan? Current Economic and Political Issues," Marie Anchordoguy, Associate Professor, Jackson School
- April 21: SOUTHEAST ASIA** "Indonesia on the Edge of Revolution: Crisis and Change," Dan Lev, Professor Emeritus, Political Science
- May 12: LATIN AMERICA** "Business, History, and Culture in Mexico: Interesting Intersections," Carlos B. Gil, Professor, History

May 26: MIDDLE EAST "Do Civilizations Clash" Islam, Westernization, and the Dilemmas of Turkish Modernity," Soli Özel, Visiting Professor, Business School, Editor of *Foreign Policy* (Turkish Edition) and *Private View: The International Journal of the Turkish Businessmen's Association*

To register, please indicate which of the of the dinner-lectures you wish to attend.

- ☐ Feb 17: International Business
- ☐ March 3: Canada/South Asia
- ☐ March 17: Western Europe
- ☐ April 7: East Asia
- ☐ April 21: Southeast Asia
- ☐ May 12: Latin America
- ☐ May 26: Middle East
- ☐ ALL LECTURES

Please also check if

- ☐ vegetarian meal is desired
- ☐ clock hours are desired (at no additional charge)

Mail this registration form and check (payable to the University of Washington), \$22 per session or \$132 for entire series to:

Jackson School Outreach Centers
Attn: International Updates
Box 353650
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3650
or call 206-643-1816 or email
<elisefox@u.washington.edu>
for more information

REMEMBER: Deadline for registration is one week before the lecture, or Feb. 5 for the entire series.

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Daytime telephone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

School/School District _____

Grade level currently teaching _____

Amount Enclosed _____

PLAN TO ATTEND!

Western Jewish Studies Association Fifth Annual Conference



The University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
March 14-16, 1999

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Mark your calendar to attend the Fifth Annual Conference of the Western Jewish Studies Association!

Featuring keynote speakers

William Jordan, Princeton University

Robert Stacey, University of Washington

David Berger, CUNY

Lucette Valensi, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

Topic areas of special interest include:

Sephardic Studies

Canadian Jewish Studies

Jews in the American West

Pedagogy

Jewish Studies and the New Technology

Yiddish Cultures

Israel Studies

Hosted by the University of Washington and supported by: The Association for Jewish Studies, UW College of Arts and Sciences, Department of History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, Canadian Studies, Humanities Center, and the Jewish Studies Program and the Middle East Center of the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Dr./Mr./Ms.	First	Last	Affiliation	
Street Address		City	State	Zip
Telephone		Facsimile	E-mail	

REGISTRATION RATES

- ☐ Faculty - Priority (*postmarked by February 15, 1999*) \$50.00
- ☐ Faculty - Standard (*postmarked after February 15, 1999*) ... \$60.00
- ☐ Student (with current ID) \$30.00
- ☐ Non-WJSA members \$60.00
- ☐ Banquet \$30.00

Please send the completed registration form and a check
(payable to Jewish Studies Outreach Education) to:

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
c/o Prof. Naomi Sokoloff
University of Washington, Box 353120
Seattle, WA 98195-3120

BACHARACH WINS MESA PRESIDENCY

Jere L. Bacharach, the director of the Middle East Center from 1983 to 1995, and currently the Director of the He Jackson School of International Studies, at the University of Washington has recently been elected President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, the premier professional organization for Middle East scholars. Bacharach, who will serve his term in 2000, was also editor of the *MESA Bulletin* for fifteen years.*



Jere Bacharach (l) and Irene Bierman (r), Director of UCLA's Near East Center, who was also elected to the MESA board

Interdisciplinary Workshop on Medieval Islamic Society and Institutions Will Bring and Elite Group of Scholars to Campus

THE Middle East Center will host an interdisciplinary workshop on Islamic society and institutions May 1, 1999. The workshop will bring internationally known scholars in history, economic history and economics to the UW campus for a day of intense discussion of their own work and perspectives on institutions and social order in the medieval Muslim world.

Those attending the workshop will be Professors Avner Greif, Mahmoud al-Gamal, Timur Kuran, and Avrom Udovitch. Greif is a member of the Stanford Economics department and a 1998 MacArthur Fellow. He is widely known for his work on medieval European and Jewish economic and political institutions. Al-Gamal is a professor of Islamic economics and finance at Rice

University and is best known for his work on Bayesian decision theory. Kuran is on the Economics faculty at the University of Southern California and he has worked on modeling the social consequences of preference falsification. Udovitch is the Zilkha professor of Jewish Studies at Princeton University and the author of *Partnership and Profit in Medieval Islam*, a seminal work in the study of medieval Islamic economic theory and practice.

To focus the exchange and foster an intensely creative working environment, participation will be limited to five faculty members at the University and five graduate students. For more information, please contact Felicia Hecker <fhecker@u.washington.edu> *

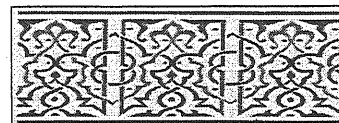
ANTHROPOLOGIST Holmes-Eber

(continued from page 1)

urbanization in North Africa, has included field studies of migration, fertility and women's kin and social networks in Tunis, Tunisia; the impact of migration on North African women's family ties in Paris, France; and a comparative study of the impact of urbanization on North African households in Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. She is currently completing her book *Tea and Visits: Women, Family and Networks in Tunisia* for publication with Indiana University Press.

Paula's passion for writing and travel is reflected in her two favorite non-academic pursuits—poetry and outdoor adventure. Her poetry has been accepted for publication in magazines, anthologies, and greeting cards. Recently she was awarded Third Prize in the Sixth International Blue Mountain Arts Poetry competition.

When not writing or researching, Paula, her two daughters—Yvonne, age six and Anya, age eight—and her husband, Lorenz, can be found backpacking, camping and cycling throughout the Northwest.*



Western Jewish Studies Association Fifth Annual Conference

PROGRAM (continued from page 2)

MONDAY, MARCH 15 (continued)

Session III: Memory and Representation of the Shoah

Chair: Carol Edleman, California State Univ., Chico
 Nikki Halpern, Universite de Paris
 Ron Feldman, Graduate Theological Union
 Esther Fuchs, University of Arizona

Session IV: American Jewish Institutions

Joel Gereboff, Arizona State University
 Jerry Kutnick, Gratz College

3:30-5:00 p.m.: Plenary Session (co-sponsored by AJS)

Medieval Jewish Studies and the Historians

Keynote: William Jordan, Princeton University
 Chair & Respondent: Robert Stacey, Univ. of Washington
 Respondent: David Berger, AJS President, CUNY

5:30-7:00 p.m.: Banquet

7:00-9:00 p.m.: Film

(co-sponsored by Seattle Jewish Film Festival)

"Nothing to be Written Here,"

Discussion by Wendy Oberlander, Producer

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1999

8:00-9:00 a.m.: Directors, Jewish Studies Programs

9:00-10:45 a.m.: Concurrent Sessions

Session I: Islamic Studies/Jewish Studies

Chair: Brannon Wheeler, University of Washington

Michael Cook, Princeton University
 Gordon Newby, Emory University
 Steve Wassertrom, Reed College
 Fred Astren, University of San Francisco

Session II: Yiddish Cultures

Chair: Naomi Seidman, Graduate Theological Union
 Yael Chaver, University of California, Berkeley
 Matthew Hoffman, University of California, Berkeley
 David Shneer, University of California, Berkeley

Session III: Jews of the American West

Chair: Amy Shevitz, California State Univ., Northridge
 Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University
 Ava Kahn, University of California, Davis
 William Toll, University of Oregon

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions

Session I: Bible and Midrash

Chair: Hillel Gamoran, University of Washington
 Meir Lubetski, Baruch College, CUNY
 Naomi Graetz, Ben Gurion University
 Ita Sheres, San Diego State University

Session II: Israeli Literature

Chair: Naomi Sokoloff, University of Washington
 Miriyam Glazer, University of Judaism
 Rachel Feldhay Brenner, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison

12:30 p.m.: Adjourn

Textual Authority, Tradition, and Politics in the Islamic World

Are the Focus of the Winter Term Comparative Islamic Studies Seminar

The Interdisciplinary Comparative Islamic Studies Seminar, under the direction of Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, will explore the themes of textual authority, tradition and politics in the Islamic world during winter term. The class meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-4:00. Weekly classes will be supplemented by special guest lectures presented in Parrington Hall, Commons/Forum on:
January 20: Arthur Buehler (Louisiana State University) who will discuss his recent book: *Sufi*

Heirs of the Prophet: The Indian Naqshandiyya and the Rise of the Mediating Sufi Shaykh.

February 10: Dick Davis, (Ohio State University), who will discuss his translation of Farid al-Din Attar, *The Conference of the Birds.*

March 3: Lloyd and Suzanne Rudolph (University of Chicago) will present a lecture titled "Commensality, Language and Sociability: Tracing Muslim Politics in the Amar Singh Diary."
March 16 (call 206-3800 for details): Workshop coordinated

with the Western Jewish Studies Association Annual Meeting will convene on the subject of the "Exchange between Islamic and Jewish Studies".

All University faculty, staff, and students are cordially invited to attend any of these guest lectures. For further details contact Brannon Wheeler at email:

<wheelerb@u.washington.edu>



CALENDAR OF SELECTED UP-COMING EVENTS

February 10

Translating Persian Literature: The Challenge and the Promise. 6:00 p.m., Walker-Ames Rm., Kane Hall. Professor Dick Davis, Ohio State University. First Annual Afrassabi Memorial Lecture. Info: 206-543-6033

March 14-16

Western Jewish Studies Association Fifth Annual Conference. Keynote speakers include William Jordan, Princeton; Robert Stacey, UW; and Lucette Valensi, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales. Info: 206-543-7145 (*program and registration form inside*)

April 17

Middle East Regional Seminar, Portland, OR. Contact Jean Campbell <campbej@sab.misc.pdx.edu>, tel.: 503-725-8566

May -22

Oil and Gas Resources in the Middle East and Central Asia Conference (*more information in future newsletters*)

May 26

"Do Civilizations Clash? Islam, Westernization, and the Dilemmas of Turkish Modernity" (JSIS International Updates Series), Walker-Ames Rm., Kane Hall, 5:30-8:00 p.m. (*see p. 5 inside for registration*)

The Middle East Center Newsletter

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