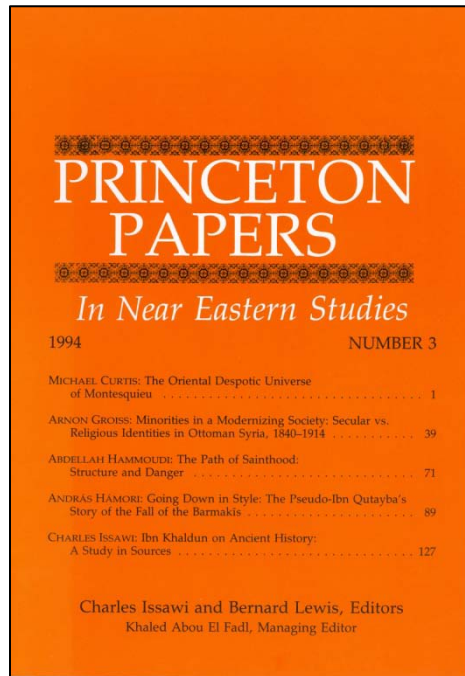


Princeton Papers Number 3



The third volume (1994) of *Princeton Papers in Near Eastern Studies*, like its two predecessors, contains articles on a variety of topics. Michael Curtis, “The Oriental Despotic Universe of Montesquieu,” analyzes Montesquieu’s concept of Oriental despotism, which influenced all subsequent thinkers on the topic. Arnon Groiss, “Minorities in a Modernizing Society: Secular and Religious Identities in Ottoman Syria, 1840–1914,” relates how identities and political aspirations of minority groups changed in reaction to the political, economic, social, and cultural developments occurring in Syria during the last years of the Ottoman Empire. Abdellah Hammoudi, “The Path of Sainthood: Structure and Danger,” studies hagiographies to answer the question, “How and by what path does one attain sainthood?” Andras Hamori, “Going Down in Style: The Pseudo-Ibn Qutayba’s Story of the Fall of the Barmakīs,” approaches the account as literature, examining “the emphases and contrasts that wind through it and create in it the conditions for a dramatic climax in plot and characterization” and discussing “how the audience is likely to have seen the moral of the story.” In the issue’s final article, “Ibn Khaldun on Ancient History: A Study in Sources,” Charles Issawi looks at Ibn Khaldun’s *Muqaddimah* and *Ibar* to learn how much Ibn Khaldun knew about the history of classical and pre-classical

civilizations, what sources he used, how his study of non-Muslims affected his understanding of history, and how his knowledge compared with medieval European and Byzantine historians.