Greetings from the chair!

As the 2008-2009 academic year draws to a close, I am very pleased to report that faculty, student, and alumni members of the Near Eastern Studies family have amassed an impressive number of honors. Muhammad Qasim Zaman, the Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion, won a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship, graduate alumna and Silver Professor at NYU Leslie Peirce [Ph.D. NES, 1988] also won a Guggenheim, graduate alumnus and George Washington University professor Nathan Brown (Ph.D. Politics, 1987) was appointed a 2009 Carnegie Scholar, and graduate alumnus and American University assistant professor Mustafa Aksakal (Ph.D. NES, 2003) won a Library of Congress Kluge Fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year, but Near Eastern Studies is proudest of the accomplishments of its current students.

Fifth-year graduate student Intisar Rabb was appointed a 2009 Carnegie Scholar, the only graduate student among the twenty-four Carnegie Scholars named, as well as being selected a Hoffman Scholar at Princeton. Fourth-year graduate students Joseph Witztum and Krisztina Szilágyi both won Whiting Fellowships and, along with fifth-year graduate student Bella Tendler, were selected to receive Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Student Research Awards. Fifth-year graduate student Alan Verskin won a Dissertation Completion Fellowship, which is part of the Andrew W. Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Early Career Fellowship Program.

On the undergraduate front, NES major Flannery O. Becker won a Fulbright and Marina E. Olevsky, a senior in the Woodrow Wilson School who is earning certificates in Near Eastern Studies, Russian Studies, and Eurasian Studies, was awarded a Harold W. Rosenthal Fellowship in International Relations.

Let us all join together in applauding these wonderful accomplishments.

M. Sükrü Hanioğlu Chairman of the NES Department Director of the Program in NES

Intisar Rabb

Intisar Rabb, a fifth-year graduate student of Professor Hossein Modarresi in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, was named one of twenty-four 2009 Carnegie Scholars selected to receive awards of up to $100,000 for research on Islam in the modern world. While a Carnegie Scholar, Rabb will be working on a project entitled “Islamic Law and Legal Change: The Internal Critique.” This project will examine how contemporary jurists in countries with Islamic criminal law regimes draw on the classical literature in modern debates about criminal law legislation, implementation, and reform. In addition to constructing a public, online database of criminal law practices in the Muslim world, she will focus specifically on the debates over criminal law in Iran and Saudi Arabia, with some reference to Pakistan. Rabb, a 2008–2009 Whiting Fellow, is finishing her dissertation on “Doubt’s Benefit: Legal Maxims in American and Islamic Law.” She also was selected to be a 2009 Hoffman Scholar, an honor that rewards original research as well as the ability to communicate this work to a non-specialist audience. This scholarship honors the memory of Bob Hoffman ’58, a graduate alumnus of the University who believed in alumni education.

Joseph Witztum

Joseph Witztum, who will be a fifth-year graduate student in NES, was awarded a Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities for the academic year of 2009-2010. The working title of his dissertation is Syriac Literature and the Qur’an: The Origins of Early Islamic Biblical Narratives. It examines the impact of Christian Syriac biblical traditions on the Qur’an and early Islamic exegesis, and aims to situate the Islamic texts within their wider Jewish and Christian context. Witztum is also one of the recipients of the Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Student Research Awards for the 2009-2010 academic year and will participate in the Religion and Culture workshop.

Krisztina Szilágyi

Krisztina Szilágyi, who will be a fifth-year graduate student in NES, was awarded a Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities for the academic year of 2009–2010. Her dissertation, tentatively continued on page 2
entitled “Muhammad in the Christian Writings of the Islamic World (7th to 10th Century AD),” examines the literary images of Muhammad in the writings of Christians living under Islamic rule in dialogue with his corresponding Muslim portrayals. Her purpose is to reconsider, with the help of these texts, the dynamics of interreligious polemic in the early medieval Islamic world. Muhammad’s portraits in the Christian writings of the Islamic world, unlike those in European Christian ones, have never been subject to a comprehensive and detailed study, nor has their Islamic background been explored in depth. Szilágyi is also one of the recipients of the Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Student Research Awards for the 2009–2010 academic year.

Alan Verskin

Alan Verskin, who in 2009–2010 will be a sixth-year Ph.D. student in NES, was awarded a Dissertation Completion Fellowship which is part of the Andrew W. Mellon/America Council of Learned Societies Early Career Fellowship Program. His dissertation, advised by Prof. Michael Cook, is entitled “The Evolution of the North African Muslim Jurists’ Response to European Rule and Influence: From the 15th to the 19th Century.” His research focuses on al-Wansharīfī’s al-Mī‘yār al-Mūrib and a nineteenth-century updated version of the work by al-Wazzānī known as al-Mī‘yār al-Jādīd.

Bella Tendler

Bella Tendler, who in 2009–2010 will be a sixth-year graduate student, won a Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Student Research Award. Her dissertation studies the ideas of secrecy among the Nusayris (Alawites) of Syria.

Marina Olevsky

Marina Olevsky ’09 has recently been awarded the Harold W. Rosenthal Fellowship in International Relations, through which she will spend the summer of 2009 working on U.S.-Middle Eastern foreign policy at the Pentagon for the Department of Defense. A senior in the Woodrow Wilson School, with certificates in Near Eastern Studies as well as Russian and Eurasian Studies, Marina has dedicated her academic work to the impact of Russo-Middle Eastern nuclear and military transfers on regional destabilization in the Middle East.

Schayegh Joins NES Faculty

This past year Cyrus Schayegh joined the Near Eastern Studies faculty as an assistant professor. Schayegh, who earned his BA in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1996 and a DES in Political Science from Geneva University in 1997, received his Ph.D. in Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures from Columbia University in 2004.

His dissertation, which won the 2004 Dissertation Award for the best dissertation in the field of Iranian Studies (Foundation for Iranian Studies Annual), combines social history and the history of colonial science in telling two intertwined stories: how, in early twentieth-century Iran, an emerging middle class used modern scientific knowledge as its cultural and economic capital, and how, along with the state, it employed biomedical sciences to tackle presumably modern problems like the increasing stress of everyday life, people’s defective willpower, and demographic stagnation. This spring the dissertation appeared in print as Who Is Knowledgeable Is Strong: Science, Class, and the Formation of Modern Iranian Society, 1900-1950 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009).

After completing his Ph.D., Schayegh moved to Tehran and stayed until summer 2005. He moonlighted as a journalist for Swiss newspapers; had a fascinating experience helping organize, as a temporary employee of the International Organization of Migration, the out-of-country leg of the January 2005 Iraqi parliamentary elections in the Iranian province of Khuzestan; and, as a post-doctoral fellow at the Tehran Institute for Management and Planning Studies, initiated a project on the rise of technopolitics under the Pahlavi monarchy.

Eager to branch out and conduct research also in the Arab world, in 2005 Schayegh began teaching modern Middle Eastern history at the American University of Beirut. He soon became interested in the post-Ottoman past of the Levant also as a region rather than simply as a collection of countries. In his principal current project he is rethinking the interwar Levant as an area formed by the interplay between new states and cross-border movements of goods and people. He is trying to get a handle on this broad theme by examining smuggling, a completely overlooked, though very pervasive and complex phenomenon across and beyond the new Mandate states.

At Princeton, Schayegh offers courses in three main areas: the social history of the modern Middle East, and more particularly of the Levant; the history of Arab-Israeli relations, especially during the British Mandate; and modern Iran.
Class Day 2009

On June 1, 2009, the Near Eastern Studies Department and Program hosted a Class Day reception for graduates and their families. At the event the following awards were presented:

**Bayard and Cleveland Dodge Memorial Thesis Prize**
(for best senior thesis) To be shared:

**Wasim Shiliwala,** “The Rise of National Muslim Educational Institutions in America.”

**Dodge Memorial Thesis Prize co-winner and highest honors graduate Wasim Shiliwala with department chair Şükrü Hanoğlu.**

**Isaiah Soval-Levine,** “Istanbul to Islambol: The Transformation of a City Through Migration, Globalization, and the Creation of an Islamist Identity.”

**Ertegün Foundation Thesis Prize**
(an award to be given for the best senior thesis in Ottoman, Turkish, or Turkic Studies)

**Anna Irwin,** “Turkey’s Tension between ‘Reform and Deform’ of Family Planning.”

**Ertegün Foundation Thesis Prize winner and honors graduate Anna Irwin with Ertegün director Hanoğlu.**

**F. O. Kelsey Prize**
(for best second term junior paper)
To be shared:

**Logan Anderson,** “National Myths and Identity Politics: Turkey and Brazil.”

**Elizabeth MacFarlane,** “Return to Montreux: New Conflict in the Turkish Straits.”

**Spencer Walle,** “The Garden of Flowers Is Inside You: Kabir’s Mysticism and His Path to God in Hindu-Muslim India.”

**Kelsey Prize co-winner Spencer Walle with department chair Hanoğlu.**

**Departmental Honors**

**Highest Honors:** Wasim Shiliwala and Isaiah Soval-Levine

**High Honors:** Theodore Beers

**Honors:** Anna Irwin

**Dodge Memorial Thesis Prize co-winner and highest honors graduate Isaiah Soval-Levine with department chair Şükrü Hanoğlu.**

**Graduating seniors: Wasim Shiliwala, Isaiah Soval-Levine, Anna Irwin, Flannery Becker, and Theodore Beers.**

**High honors graduate Theodore Beers.**

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Theo Beers, “Reflections on Iranian Literature, from the Hijra to Nezámî” [Advisor: Michael Barry; Reader: Michael Cook].

Theo Beers’ thesis is entitled “Reflections on Iranian Literature from the Hijra to Nezámî.” He attempts to trace the seamless development of Iranian literature from pre-Islamic times, especially the Sassanid period, until the age of Ferdowsî and Nezámî. The common perception is that the first three centuries after the advent of Islam represent a dormant period for Iranian culture, simply because no major work was published in the Persian language during this time. On the other hand, scholars of Iranian origin authored numerous texts of great significance—in Arabic—under the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad. Their contributions helped to drive what is still known as a golden age of scholarship in the Muslim world. Beers suggests that these Arabic works should be reinterpreted as Iranian literature, even though they were not written in Persian. He goes on to explain how such a shift in perspective could lead to a better understanding of the development of Iranian culture in general.

Anna Irwin researched the forces affecting the progress of family planning programs in Turkey in her thesis. She spent two weeks in Ankara and Istanbul interviewing doctors, government officials, pharmaceutical companies, and other experts in the field of reproductive health. Some of the negative forces at work in this field are the AKP’s recent pro-natalist rhetoric, Turkey’s changes towards privatization without incentivizing preventive care, and the downturn of the global economy. The counter-balancing forces, which will need to be strengthened, include NGOs, the force of the EU accession process, and continued international support. In order to maintain progress in this field, the government should alter its rhetoric and ensure that family planning programs are incentivized. Furthermore, the EU and other international organizations should continue funding in this area.

Wasim Shiliwala, “The Rise of National Muslim Educational Institutions in America,” offers a significant amount of primary research on the recent phenomenon of American institutions set up by Muslims to teach Muslims across the country about Islam and Islamic studies (exegesis, hadith studies, Islamic law, etc.). In his view, these institutions represent a concrete step by the American Muslim community towards developing national standards of education and scholarship (and thereby authority and leadership). What makes this process both unique and challenging is that due to immigration patterns over the past two centuries—the first Muslims in America were slaves—the American Muslim community is so ethnically and ideologically diverse that forging any sort of unity, especially within the realms of education and authority, is a monumental endeavor. He therefore argues that as a result of this diversity, these institutions both differ
amongst themselves and, as a set, do not represent or even educate entire sections of the Muslim American community. Furthermore, they not only compete with each other to teach the same material, but also compete to transmit their notions of what American Islamic scholarship should be. Although this thesis focuses on their histories, activities, classes, and educational missions, it also assesses the implications that this style of learning has on the American Muslim community at large.

Isaiah Soval-Levine, “Istanbul to Istanbul: The Transformation of a City Through Migration, Globalization, and the Creation of an Islamist Identity” (Advisor: Heath Lowry; Reader: Ümit Cizre)

Soval-Levine’s thesis explored the relationship between rural to urban migration, globalization, and culture/class conflicts in Istanbul, and the creation of Islamist identity as one its ramifications. The city of Istanbul itself plays an important role in this process as a source of images and ideas, as well as a space to be shaped according to ideology. He concludes that contemporary Turkish Islamism is an urban phenomenon.

NES Program certificate recipients, departments, and senior thesis or independent work titles

Adrienne Clermont [WWS], “A Foot on Both Shores: North African Migrants as Investors in Home-Country Development.”

Sarah Dajani [WWS], “U.S. Foreign Assistance to Egypt: The Future of USAID.”

Hesham El Halaby [POL], “Irreconcilable Differences? Challenges Facing the League of Arab States.”

Katie Giarra [POL], “Puzzling Through the Strategy of Death: How Organizational Infrastructure Accounts for Variation in the Use of Suicide Attacks Among Salafi Jihadist Groups.”

Marine Graham [POL], “Curbing Terrorist Support through Female Empowerment: The Effect of Microfinance Institutions in the Muslim World.”

Heba Hathout [ENG], “Reading the Quran as Literature.”

Michel Jabre [ECO], “The Conditional Curse of Natural Resources: How Institutions Determine the Direction of Economic Growth in Resource-rich Countries.”

Tiffany Johnson [POL], “Armed Citizens: African Americans’ and Muslim Americans’ Political Use of Military Service for Rights.”

Babur Khwaja [ECO], “The Fall of Granada: The Spanish Muslim Identity and the Relation to Pakistan.”

Melissa Lerner [WWS], “Catalyst for Peace: Deciphering Strategies for Effective Presidential Leadership of the Arab-Israeli Peace Process.”


Charles McCartney [HIS], “US Intervention in Lebanon 1958.”

Taher Modarressi [MoBio], “The Challenge of Global Measles Control.”

Irene Moskowitz [HIS], “A Signpost on the Road to Statehood: The Iraqi Revolt of 1920 as a Result of Societal Fusion.”

Emily Norris [WWS], “When Cyrus Met Sam: Building a Roadmap to Reengagement Between The Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.”

Oliver Noteware [ECO], “Assessing Major Events of the Cedar Revolution: Evidence from Lebanese Financial Markets.”

Karen Okigbo [POL], “No Victor, No Vanquished: The Role of Ethnicity in the Nigeria-Biafra War.”

Marina Olevsky [WWS], “Sobering Portents: Gauging the Impact of Russo-Middle Eastern Nuclear and Military Transfers.”

Max Peck [WWS], “Ripe for Resolution: The Israeli-Syrian Conflict after the Second Lebanon War.”

Colin Pfeiffer [ANT], “Hope Amidst Desolation: Dispatches from the Aral Sea.”

Daniella Raveh [WWS], “Physical Planning Policies in Israel.”

Zvi Smith [POL], “Democratic Reform in Egypt: Theory, Practice, and the Role of the United States.”

Andrew Watrous [WWS], “Working with Islamist Parties: Lessons from the Moroccan JPD.”

Lauren Whitehead [SPO], “Race and Ethnicity from Early Iberia to Modern Latin America.”

Andrew Yewdell [POL], “All the King’s Tribesmen: Monarchical Engagement of Ethnic-Tribal Groups in Morocco and Jordan.”

Yetta Joy Ziolkowski [WWS], “Beyond the Force of Reason: The Recognition and Institutionalization of Islam in Italy.”

NES Certificate in Language and Culture recipients:

Certificate in Hebrew Language and Culture
Matthew E. Kandel
Joshua Rodman

Certificate in Persian Language and Culture
Theodore Beers
Faculty news

Muhammad Qasim Zaman, the Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion, was named a 2009 Guggenheim Fellow. His project during the fellowship will be “Islam in Pakistan.”

Michael Cook’s 700-page monograph, Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong, available since 2005 in a Persian translation that has been reprinted more than once, is now also available in an Arabic translation (Beirut, 2009). He was informed that at the recent Riyadh Book Fair the Saudi vice police (the Mutawwa’un) purchased 100 copies.

On May 7 he was in Qum giving a talk on “A puzzling tradition about the qibla in the Kafi of Kulayni” at the International Symposium on Kulayni held at the Dar al-Hadith Research Institute.

Erika H. Gilson presented at the Title VI 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C., March 19–21, 2009. The goal of the conference was to highlight significant impacts of Title VI programs on US institutions of higher learning in the past 50 years; demonstrate the pressing need for Title VI programs given the current and future needs; and address future directions of Title VI programs. Gilson participated in the session on Middle East Language Learning in U.S. Higher Education where together with colleagues Kirk Belnap, Ray Clifford, and Maggie Nassif from the National Middle East Language Resource Center at BYU she presented the difficult position language instructors are facing nationally. For coverage of the presentation, see Inside Higher Education [http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/03/20/language].

Gilson will again be part of the Princeton Global Seminar in Istanbul, June 13–July 25. The seminar starts this year with the first week in Crete. 15 Princeton students and 5 Koç University students are participating. In addition, she is bringing 19 students to Istanbul with USED funding to study intensive advanced Turkish, as well as directing 5 different programs in Turkey for the State Department’s Critical Languages Initiative. Under this program, 52 students will be studying Turkish at various locations, at all proficiency levels.

Mirjam Künkler received together with Mehrzad Boroujerdi (Syracuse University) a $100,000 grant from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) for the creation of an Iran Social Science Research Portal. This freely accessible Web-based portal will enable journalists, policymakers, academic researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, and others to have access to a wide variety of information about Iran, including English-language socio-economic information, translations of important legislation, electoral data for the last thirty years, and social science data.

Mirjam Künkler and Hanna Lerner (Tel Aviv University) convened a workshop titled “Law, Religion and Democracy” at the Mediterranean Research Meeting of the European University Institute in Florence, March 25–28, 2009. The workshop brought together 14 participants whose research revolves around the role of law in regulating contemporary religion-state relations and the role of courts in shaping and re-defining the legal status of religious institutions vis-a-vis the state. Researchers presented papers on the transformation of religion-state relations in countries of the Mediterranean and Asia, specifically Spain, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, India, Indonesia. Selected papers will be published in a special journal issue this fall.

Michael Reynolds spent the month of April in Baku, Azerbaijan, on a grant from IREX (International Research and Exchange Boards) to study religion in Azerbaijan.

Recent Faculty Books


Undergraduate News

Suleika Jaouad ’10 received several grants to do thesis research in Tunis on the Personal Status Code during June. She will then spend the rest of the summer in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where she will work for OXFAM and the African Union until school starts again in the fall.

Peter McCall ’10’s Fall junior paper, entitled “The Theory and Practice of Ribafree Islamic Banking,” will be published in the Journal of Undergraduate International Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Emily Norris ’09, a Woodrow Wilson School major from Brookline, MA, who earned a certificate in Near Eastern Studies, is a Charles and Marie Robertson Government Service Scholar. She will spend the next two years working for the federal government before returning to the Woodrow Wilson School to enroll in the two-year master in public affairs (MPA) program. Norris was one of six juniors to be selected in 2008 for this program, Scholars in the Nation’s Service.

Wasim Shiliwala ’09 presented a portion of his senior thesis at Yale’s Critical Islamic Reflections Conference (http://www.yale.edu/cir/) on April 11. The title of his paper was “The Rise of National American Muslim Educational Institutions.”

2009 Sophomore Open House

On April 9, 2009, the Near Eastern Studies Department and the Program in Near Eastern Studies held their annual open house for sophomores interested in either majoring or earning a certificate in Near Eastern Studies. Sixteen students attended and heard presentations by department chair and program director Şükrü Hanoğlu and departmental representative Erika Gilson. Of the sixteen sophomores, all of whom had already begun studying one or more Near Eastern languages, seven were considering majoring in Near Eastern Studies and nine were interested in earning a certificate in the Program in Near Eastern Studies.

Graduate Student News

Seven M. Ağır defended her doctoral dissertation, “From Welfare to Wealth: Ottoman and Castilian Grain Trade Policies in a Time of Change,” on June 5, 2009. The examination chairman was Professor M. Şükrü Hanoğlu. The examiners were Professors Michael A. Cook and Abraham L. Udovitch.

Amy Motlagh completed her dissertation, “Married to Modernity: Gender, Fiction and Reform in Twentieth-Century Iran,” written under the direction of Negin Nabavi. Michael Wood was the second reader. Motlagh joined the faculty of the American University in Cairo as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of English & Comparative Literature at the beginning of the 2008–2009 academic year.

Mary Zeng defended her MA thesis, “Making a Pipe Dream Reality: Overcoming the Obstacles to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline,” on May 7, 2009. Her adviser was Professor M. Şükrü Hanoğlu.


Intisar Rabb will join the faculty of the Boston College Law School, where she will teach criminal law, legislation, Islamic law, and comparative law. She will also be an affiliate in research at Harvard Law School’s Islamic Legal Studies Program.

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Deniz Kilinc¸oglu spent June in Iran for an intensive Persian program at the Dehkhoda Institute, Tehran. While in Iran, he planned on meeting with professors and collecting some material for his dissertation research. He will be spending the rest of the summer in Istanbul doing research in the archives and libraries. Kilinc¸oglu is the new Chair of the NES Graduate Student Committee and the GSG Representative of NES.

Alumni News

Mustafa Aksakal (’03 Ph.D.), an Assistant Professor of History at American University, was awarded a Kluge Fellowship for research at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. He will be working in the Library’s Ottoman and Near East collections during the 2009–2010 academic year. His research is focused on the Ottoman Empire and the First World War. His first book, The Ottoman Road to War in 1914: The Ottoman Empire and the First World, appeared in December 2008 (Cambridge University Press).


Istanbul dinner

On June 26, 2008, the Princeton Alumni Group in Istanbul invited all PIIRS Global Seminar participants as well as other Princeton students who happen to be spending the summer in Istanbul to dinner at a gorgeous roof-top restaurant by the Galata Tower, with unbelievable views of the city. Haydar Çolakoğlu ’06 was the gracious host, and PIIRS Director Katherine Newman, who had just flown in, was also among the guests.

Alumni News Request

The Near Eastern Studies Newsletter is interested in printing news from NES alumni. Items may include, but not be limited to, honors received, announcements of new books, new jobs, etc. Please send such information to the newsletter’s editor, Bill Blair, at blairw@princeton.edu.
Abraham L. Udovitch Retires (June 2008)

Avrom was born in 1933, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he grew up. As an undergraduate he attended Columbia University and concurrently followed a course of study at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He received his BA in 1958 and his MA in Near Eastern Languages, also from Columbia, a year later. He obtained his doctorate in 1965 at Yale where he wrote his dissertation on the Islamic law of commercial partnership. During his years of graduate study his mentors in medieval and Near Eastern studies—all of whom became his friends and colleagues—were such extraordinary scholars as Robert Lopez, Joseph Schacht, Shlomo Dov Goitein, and Franz Rosenthal. Between 1964 and 1967 he taught at Brandeis and Cornell; in 1967 he came to Princeton where he has remained until his retirement, with visiting stints at various other universities and research institutes. His contributions to learning as a scholar, teacher, and administrator have been enormous.

His pioneering study, Partnership and Profit in Medieval Islam published by Princeton University Press in 1970, and several articles on related subjects, represent a breakthrough in the understanding of the relation of Islamic law to everyday practice in the economic life of the medieval Middle East. It had been thought that in some areas [such as ritual, family law, and inheritance] practice reflected the shari’a; that in some others (as in constitutional and criminal law) practice and law were far apart if not, often, disconnected; and that in commercial law matters fell between these two extremes. Avrom’s examination of the sources showed that Islamic legal theory in the commercial sphere was not at all divorced from the real world. As he made clear, Judeo-Arabic letters, contracts, and court documents from the 11th to 13th centuries, preserved in the Cairo Geniza, demonstrated the curious fact that in that period the practice of Jewish merchants was in keeping with Islamic law as elaborated by scholars in the eighth century. The explanation for this, as Avrom showed, was that both those early Muslim legal texts and the Judeo-Arabic Geniza texts reflected the same reality: a widely recognized and historically rooted merchant’s law that was neither specifically Muslim nor Jewish.

Avrom’s many articles on the economic life of the medieval Near East and North Africa display the range and originality of his research. He has thrown fresh light—to mention only a few topics—on long-distance trade, the institutions of credit and banking in the medieval Islamic Near East, the informalism characteristic of the social and economic institutions of the medieval Islamic world, the duration of commercial voyages, the constitution of the traditional Islamic market place, and Jews and Muslims in Sicily in the 11th–12th centuries.

From using documents to decipher the everyday life of people who lived a thousand years ago, Avrom moved to fieldwork and the contemporary world for a book he and his wife Lucette Valensi researched together and published in 1984: The Last Arab Jews: The communities of Jerba, Tunisia. Their study of these socially and culturally self-contained Jewish communities, the only ones in North Africa that had resisted both assimilation and migration, records and, through objective writing that yet connects with the reader’s imagination, renders palpable the most varied aspects of life—from the social lives of men and women, through the astonishing fullness of ritualized time in a place where being Jewish is a “full-time activity,” to the life of the marketplace where Jews and non-Jews interact.

The roster of graduate students he trained, many of whom are now among the leading scholars of four continents in their fields, is dauntingly long. His former students still speak of Avrom’s ability, in seminars and in advising sessions, to raise the stimulating question, to point out the illuminating connection, and of course to inspire enthusiasm for the work. Undergraduates too observed these qualities, and over the years Avrom supervised some of the smartest senior theses written in the department.

Throughout his career, Avrom played an essential role in fostering his discipline. He organized seminar conferences, served as editor for a great many books on medieval and Islamic studies, and has been co-editor for over thirty years of Studia Islamica, one of the finest journals in the field. He was associate editor of the Dictionary of the Middle Ages, and since 1978 he has been a member of the executive committee of the most important collaborative publication in the field, the Encyclopaedia of Islam. In 1987 the Jewish Theological Seminary recognized his many contributions to scholarship by awarding him an honorary doctorate.

For eighteen years Avrom chaired the Department of Near Eastern Studies with extraordinary success. From the Middle East, from Britain, from the United States he brought to Princeton some of the world’s foremost scholars in Near Eastern history and Islamic studies, making this university second to none in the field. His fund raising efforts also met with remarkable results.

Avrom, a card-carrying historian of the medieval world, has long had an active interest in modern Middle Eastern affairs. In the seventies, he served on various panels exploring the possibilities of peace in the Middle East, and became a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His optimistic temperament and his studies of societies in which Jews and Arabs peacefully engaged in

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Abraham L. Udovitch Retires 
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the give-and-take of daily life perhaps pre-disposed Avrom to take an active part in attempts to bring a just peace to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. The International Center for Peace in the Middle East chose him and four others to form the delegation that went to Stockholm in December 1988 to meet with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization. At the conclusion of these meetings Yasir Arafat issued a statement in which he stated publicly that the PLO accepted the existence of Israel as a state, and declared its rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. After some further negotiations with the US State Department, Arafat restated the PLO position in a form that met previously stated US conditions to begin public diplomatic contact. In 1989 Avrom received the Jewish Peace Fellowship’s Abraham Joshua Heschel award. "Speaking out critically but constructively," Avrom said on that occasion, "is the only way to be a true friend of Israel."

Avrom’s many achievements are inseparable from his personal qualities: inexhaustible energy (his travel schedules alone can inspire fatigue); a view of the world that is cheerful without being prey to illusions; an extraordinary gift for conversation and friendship. It is hard to see how the word “retirement” can apply to Avrom, except in the most attenuated sense. His contributions to the world of scholarship will continue. He and Lucette will continue their bi-continental existence in Paris and New York where they have their children and grandchildren, and, we hope, in Princeton where they have countless friends. The glittering cities have their claim, but we do want Avrom here. One needs a model for living with good will and gusto.

2008 PIIRS Global Seminar

The Department of Near Eastern Studies held its first Princeton Global Seminar in the summer of 2008 in Istanbul. The six-week long seminar which earned students full credit as well as a Historical Analysis credit towards their distributional requirements, was entitled “Islam, Empire, and Modernity: Turkey from the Caliphs to the 21st Century.” The objective was to provide students, in situ, with the tools to analyze change and continuity in Turkish society, with a strong focus on history.

The seminar was hosted by the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations [RCAC], an institute of Koç University located very centrally in the city, in Beyoğlu. Five students from the hosting institution also enrolled in the seminar. Students began arriving on the weekend of June 21, and although arriving at different times and days, all were met at the airport by the Turkish students. Some friendships were formed right then and there—resulting in a Princeton Reunion in September.

RCAC as a venue turned out to be elegant as well as ideal. At RCAC, each student had a single room with bathroom and kitchenette; the seminar sessions and afternoon lectures were held in the spacious auditorium. There were ample opportunities for discussions—tea and coffee always at the ready—in the study hall, cafeteria, or the roof-top terrace with a grand view of the Old City across the Bosporus. The daily Turkish instruction took place across the street in an old school building that was originally built as the British High School but now houses a public high school. It tended to get very hot, and eventually class was held in the area of the study hall.

Each week focused on one broad topic: the first week covered Anatolian civilizations before the Turks arrived, the second week covered Turkish literature from divans to Orhan Pamuk, although somewhat out of sequence because of the availability of the presenters. The third week dealt with the Ottoman Empire on three continents. There were two weekend trips to two important historic Ottoman cities in the Balkans in this context, Thessaloniki and Skopje. The students had their first experience with overnight train travel in sleeping cars. The “Friendship Express,” recently instituted as a joint venture by the Greek and Turkish governments, leaves Istanbul in the evening and arrives in Thessaloniki the next morning, while another train makes the trip in reverse. They also

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2008 PIIRS Global Seminar
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experienced travel involving crossing borders: there were up to three hours spent in the middle of the night waiting for the return of passports and passing customs inspection.

It was instructive to observe to what extent the Ottoman presence in Thessaloniki has been eradicated. This is in contrast to Skopje and Tetova in Macedonia where the countryside is dotted with mosques, and Turkish is heard as much as Macedonian or Albanian. Many supermarkets and restaurants are owned and operated by Turks, or Turkish-speaking Macedonians. There was the visit to a famous dervish lodge in Tetova and a “sohbet” [chat] in Turkish with the very stately Baba—who was interrupted several times by a call on his cell phone.

The mosques in Tetova were very unusual in that they were very colorfully painted with frescoes depicting floral displays but also scenery of various regions.

The fourth week dealt with Ottoman decline, Ottoman reform, and the collapse in 1918. Where weekend trips during the earlier periods took the students to the early capitals of the Ottoman state, Bursa and Edirne, now the seminars were held on location at the palaces, the Topkapı and Dolmabahçe Palaces in Istanbul. Several of the afternoon lectures were also held on location as the lecture on early Byzantine structures by Professor Alessandra Ricci.

The focus of the fifth week was “Turkey from the Great Savior to Islamists,” with one afternoon lecture being given by an AKP Member of Parliament, Nursuna Memecan. The tensions in current Turkish society between the secularists and the AKP members were very evident during the heated discussion that followed the lecture, when several of the Turkish students voiced very concrete concerns. The final week was an introduction to Turkish art and architecture, including the modern era. There were numerous excursions in and around the city, some voluntary, to the old industrial shipping terminal converted to the “only” museum devoted to modern art in the Middle East, to the old electricity-generating facility on the Golden Horn that is now a museum and home to one of the new private universities, strolls through old ethnic neighborhoods, a visit to the Greek Patriarchate with a special tour of the church, the coffee house hastily set-up in the street when there was not enough room inside for all of us.

We were invited to visit the Koç University campus, greeted by President Aşkar, and treated to a sumptuous barbecue. One of the highlights without doubt was the invitation extended by one of the Koç students to visit his village by the Black Sea where his family has been living for several generations. Not only did the students have a chance to see remnants of old Cold War fortifications for this very strategic site at the mouth of the Bosphorus, they also had a chance to swim in the bracing waters of the Strait. The dinner that followed in the lovely garden of our host and his family will not be easily forgotten.

The overall program included community service on Wednesdays, held free for this activity. The students were divided into 3 groups, each with at least one Koç student, and went by public transportation to two “Education Parks” which were run by the Turkish Education Volunteers Foundation. The third group volunteered to work with children at a site the local Rotary Club administers.

Fitting volunteers for 6 weeks into a program that already had been established proved to be difficult. Those that
volunteered into sports activities generally were very pleased, but others felt underused and wished that they had a chance to teach English. This is one aspect of the program that needs rethinking and further planning.

Also on Wednesday evenings, a Turkish film with subtitles was shown in RCAC. These were chosen by the Koç students and were well attended.

In the evening of the last day of the seminar, Friday, August 1, we were guests of Koç University on a dinner cruise on the Bosporus.

After dinner, the Princeton students presented a surprise thank-you present to the Koç University resident. In turn, each of the Koç students were also given a gift by the Princeton students.

Of the four languages in NES—Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish—a clear majority of NES undergraduate majors concentrate in Arabic. It is often the case that a student will have more than one of the languages: Arabic and Hebrew being the most prevalent combination, although in 2009, one senior had Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. The data are from the years 2009–2011.
Events

NES Advisory Council Visits

Members of the NES Advisory Council during their visit to Princeton in early May 2009

The Leon B. Poullada Memorial Lecture Series

2009 Poullada Memorial Lecturer Robert Crews with Mrs. Poullada

This public lecture series was established by the family and friends of Leon B. Poullada (1913–1987), a career US diplomat whose service took him to South Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran. Mr. Poullada retired with the rank of ambassador and then earned a doctoral degree in Politics and Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University.

Thereafter, he devoted almost two decades to teaching and scholarship. In recognition of his diplomatic and scholarly contributions, especially his long association with the peoples of Persian and Turkish languages and cultures, this series, under the auspices of the Program in Near Eastern Studies, invites eminent scholars in Islamic studies, broadly defined, to present the results of their scholarship in a form meaningful to the non-specialist.

The 2009 lecture series, “Sacred Spaces and Profane Boundaries: Afghanistan and the World in Modern Times,” was presented by Robert Crews, assistant professor of History at Stanford University, March 10–12, 2009. He is the author of For Prophet and Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006). He received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an M.A. from Columbia, and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. This lecture series may be viewed at http://www.princeton.edu/nep/Poullada-Lecture-Series/

The 31st Carolyn L. Drucker ’80 Memorial Lecture

2009 Drucker lecturers Ismar Schorsch and Susannah Heschel with Professor Mark Cohen

The Carolyn L. Drucker Memorial Lecture was endowed in memory of Carolyn Louise Drucker, a member of the Class of 1980 who died in 1978. Drucker was studying Hebrew and shared her family’s interest in Jewish studies and Jewish affairs. This year’s lecture, “The Jewish Fascination with Islam,” was presented by Susannah Heschel and Ismar Schorsch on April 23, 2009.


Schorsch is chancellor emeritus of The Jewish Theological Seminary and Rabbi Herman Abramovitz Professor of Jewish History. He is currently at work on a biography of Moritz Steinschneider and more generally on the interdisciplinary nature of Oriental studies in the nineteenth century. His publications include From Text to Context: The Turn to History in Modern Judaism (Hanover, NH: for Brandeis University Press by University Press of New England, 1994) and Jewish Reactions to German Anti-Semitism (New York: Columbia University Press, 1972).

Course on Arabic Dialectology, March 16–20, 2009

Professor Dr. Otto Jastrow leading Arabic Dialectology Seminar

Over the last few years, the Near Eastern Studies Department at Princeton has organized a series of short, intensive courses on topics not normally taught on campus [see a complete list below]. In each case, an internationally recognized expert has been brought in to teach the course over a period of five weekdays during the midterm break of the Spring semester. This spring a course on Arabic dialectology was offered; the instructor was Professor Dr. Otto Jastrow, formerly at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and now at Tallinn University, Estonia.

Funded through the generous donation of Mrs. Lynn Shostack, the course was organized and administered by Michael Cook, the Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies, whose report follows:

continued on page 14
“Our intensive five-day course on Arabic Dialectology was taught by Otto Jastrow, an internationally recognized expert in the field who was for many years at the universities of Heidelberg and Erlangen and is now at the University of Talinn in Estonia (he was brought there on his retirement from Erlangen by a dynamic rector who is investing energy and resources in building up a program in Arabic studies). There were eighteen participants selected from a somewhat larger pool. Thirteen of those who attended were graduate students, four of them from Princeton (two from History and two from Near Eastern Studies), and nine from elsewhere (Columbia, Penn, University of Texas at Austin, UCLA, Exeter, Cambridge, Leiden, and Venice). One participant was a very bright undergraduate from Tel Aviv. As in previous years we were able to contribute significantly to defraying the expenses of the students from outside Princeton, something of which they are very appreciative. In addition to the students, we also had representatives from the faculty and research staff of Princeton, Columbia, and NYU.

The course was held in 245 East Pyne, the same attractive seminar room that we used in previous years courtesy of Slavic Languages. Teaching five hours a day for five days, Professor Jastrow introduced students to the study of the most significant and interesting dialects of the Arab world. The first day was spent on the Levant, the second day on south-east Anatolia, the third on Iraq, the fourth on Egypt and North Africa, and the last day on the isolated Arabic dialects of Malta and Uzbekistan. Professor Jastrow based his teaching on a xeroxed handout of around a hundred pages mostly made up of texts and paradigms for the various dialects, together with digitalized sound recordings, many of which he himself had made in the course of his field-work.

In line with the previous courses in the series, the objective was to give young scholars who will not themselves become professional researchers in Arabic dialectology an overview of the field, combined with brief but authentic experience of hearing, reading, and analyzing texts written in the various dialects. Once again, the course was very successful in achieving its aim. It was also clear that more could and should be done to advance this field.

Previous courses:
(1) 2004 (October 25-29):
  Topic: Arabic manuscripts
  Instructor: Dr Adam Gacek (McGill)
(2) 2006 (March 20-24):
  Topic: Islamic coins
  Instructor: Dr Lutz Ilisch (Tübingen)
(3) 2007 (March 19-23):
  Topic: Arabic papyri
  Instructor: Professor Geoffrey Khan (Cambridge)
(4) 2008 (March 17-21):
  Topic: Middle Iranian philology
  Instructor: Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams (SOAS, University of London)
(5) 2009 (March 16-20):
  Topic: Arabic dialectology
  Instructor: Professor Dr Otto Jastrow (Tallinn)

Future course:
(6) 2010 (March 15-19):
  Topic: Sayyids/sharifs: The kinsfolk of the Prophet in Muslim Societies
  Instructor: Professor Kazuo Morimoto (Tokyo)
(Those interested in attending the Spring 2010 course should check the NES Web site (http://www.princeton.edu/~nes/) in September 2009 and click on the link, Five Day Intensive Courses.)

Conference Honors John Waterbury

On April 3–4, 2009, the Project on Democracy and Development under the auspices of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional hosted a conference, “Democracy and Development in the Middle East,” in honor of John Waterbury, President Emeritus of the American University in Beirut and the William Stewart Tod Professor of Politics and International Affairs Emeritus, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. The conference celebrated “the life and work of John Waterbury... by bringing together many of the leading students and colleagues to share their latest research on such themes as the enduring challenges of reform and development in the Middle East, the evolving logic of clientalism in developing democracies, new forces of change and contestation in the region, and power and authority in the study of the Middle East.” Waterbury earned his AB in Oriental Studies [1961] at Princeton and his Ph. D. in public law and government from Columbia in 1968.

The Princeton-connected among the many colleagues, friends, and students who gathered to honor John Waterbury

Persian Calligraphy Workshop

Parviz Homaee teaching one of three Persian calligraphy workshops on April 10, 2009.

PIIRS Summer Institute Global Reunion

Students from the 2008 PIIRS Global Seminar reunite at Princeton with Professor Şükrü Hanoğlu and PIIRS director Katherine Newman.
Library News

Manuscripts

New digital library of Islamic manuscripts online
Princeton University has placed a new digital library of 200 Islamic manuscripts online for scholars to consult and study.

These manuscripts were selected from some 9,500 volumes of Islamic manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and other languages of the Muslim world in the University Library’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Princeton’s extraordinary holdings constitute the premier collection in the Western Hemisphere and among the finest in the world, according to Don Skemer, curator of manuscripts.

The digital library is a major component of the Islamic Manuscripts Cataloging and Digitization Project, begun in 2005 with the generous support of the David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project. Eventually, all of the manuscripts will be cataloged online, which involves creating bibliographic records containing basic descriptive information that helps researchers decide whether to order microform copies or to visit the library in person.

“The Islamic Manuscripts Cataloging and Digitization Project was conceived specifically as a way for the library to improve access to these rich collections and share them worldwide through digital technology,” Skemer said. “It is hoped that the project will make a contribution to international understanding and serve as a gesture of good will to a critical part of the world.”

Michael Cook, the Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies and one of the leading Islamicists in America, said, “Princeton has 9,500 Islamic manuscripts in Arabic and other languages in a location that is very convenient for scholars based in North America, but far less so for those based in the Islamic world or Europe. Most of the collection is described in printed catalogs, and scholars can always obtain microfilms of the manuscripts. But the printed catalogs are old and not available everywhere, while microfilms often provide images of poor quality. The online digital library thus marks a major advance in providing up-to-date descriptions of the manuscripts to anyone who can log onto the Web, and in making at least some of the manuscripts available online in fine-quality digital images.”

While the digital library emphasizes rare or unique texts of academic research interest, it also includes a selection of Persian illuminated manuscripts and Mughal miniatures, such as a magnificent 18th-century Indian album of miniatures and calligraphy.

Princeton expects to add more manuscripts to the digital library in the future, besides producing the online bibliographic descriptions.

Access to the digitized manuscripts may be found on the following url: http://library.princeton.edu/projects/islamic/index.html.

From this webpage, click on “View the Digital Library” and select any of the 200 manuscripts, which are listed both alphabetically and by subject and genre.

For more information about the project, contact Skemer at dcskemer@princeton.edu.

Courtesy of Office of Communications, Princeton University

Library Acquires its 14th Müteferrika Press Title

In March, the library’s Department of Rare Books purchased from a French dealer Hasan Şu’uri’s Ferheng, a Persian-Ottoman dictionary and the seventeenth and final book published by Ibrahim Müteferrika on his press in 1155 AH (1742). With this acquisition, the library continued on page 16
now has fourteen of the seventeen titles published on this first Muslim-owned and operated printing press.

The Dawn of Ottoman Printing

Printing presses were not unknown in the Ottoman Empire prior to the establishment of the Müteferrika Press in the 1720s. A Jewish press, founded in Istanbul by émigrés from the West, was in operation certainly by 1505 and may have printed its first book as early as 1493. An Armenian press was active in the 1560s, also in Istanbul, and a Greek press opened there in 1627, but it was destroyed in January 1628 by Janissaries who objected to the press on the grounds that it was an innovation. There were even short-lived Christian Arabic presses established in Lebanon (1610, one work, a Psalter) and Aleppo (1706–11). What is significant is that all of these presses were established by religious minorities. An official cause of this lack of Muslim printing presses was the issuing of imperial edicts in 1485 and 1515 which banned Muslims from printing Arabic-script works. Religious conservatism, the social and economic interests of calligraphers and other members of the manuscript production trades, the economics of book production, and the aesthetic appeal of manuscripts all seem to have played a role in delaying the establishment of a Muslim printing press.

On the other hand, Sultan Murad III issued a ferman in 1588 authorizing the importation of Arabic printed books from Europe, and by the mid-seventeenth century the historian İbrahim Peçevi was able to report that Ottoman society was beginning to accept the printing press, but it was not until after the Treaty of Passarowicz (1719) that there developed a sufficient impetus for reform that a Muslim printing press became a reality. The leading proponent of setting up a press was İbrahim Müteferrika, an Ottoman statesman and reformer. He was supported in his efforts by the grand vezir İbrahim, Yirmisekiz Çelebi Mehmed Efendi, a recent ambassador to France, Mehmed’s son Sa’id Efendi, and the şeyhülislâm Abdullah Efendi, who issued a fetva, or religious ruling, permitting the establishment of a press by Muslims. With a ferman from Sultan Ahmed III in hand, İbrahim Müteferrika printed his first book in 1729 and a total of seventeen titles before his death in 1745.

Princeton’s Collection of Ottoman “Incunabula”

A highlight among the library’s fourteen Müteferrika Press holdings is the very first title published, Mehmed ibn Mustafa el-Vanî’s Ottoman translation of Sihah ül-Cevherî [1141 AH [1729]], an Arabic dictionary written by İsmâ’il ibn Hammad Jawhari’. Other notable holdings are two copies of Kâtib Çelebi’s naval history, Tuhfat ül-kibar fi esfar il-bihar [1141 AH [1729]], the second book published and the first with illustrations, two copies of the same author’s Cîhannüma, a world geography illustrated with numerous maps, Tarih ül-Hind il-Garbî el-museum bi-hadis-i nev [1142 AH [1730]], a history of the New World illustrated with thirteen woodcuts, and the Grammaire Türkü [1730] of Jean Baptiste Daniel Holdermann, an Ottoman grammar written in French.

Yet to be added are these three Müteferrika Press titles: Ibn ‘Arabshahi’s Tarihi Timur Gürkan [1142 [1730]], translated into Ottoman Turkish by Nazmizade Efendi, İbrahim Müteferrika’s brief treatise on magnetism, Füyuzat-i Miknatsiye, published in 1144 [1732], and Ömer Bosnavi’s Ahvâl-i Gazavat der diyar-i Bosna [1154 [1741]]. In addition, the press printed four maps, the first dated 1132 [1719 or 1720], none of which Princeton owns.

In addition to the fourteen Müteferrika Press imprints, the library has a number of other Ottoman titles from the eighteenth century. Following İbrahim Müteferrika’s death in 1745, his press fell into disuse until 1756, when a second edition of Sihah ül-Cevherî was printed. After another lengthy break of seventeen years, the press printed three
books between 1783 and 1786 and three more between 1792 and 1794, making a total of 24 books printed on Müteferrika's press. Of these additional seven titles, the library has one of the two Si- hah ül-Cevherî volumes and three other titles. The three titles, Fenn-i Harb [art of war], Fenn-i Lağım [military mining], and Fenn-i Muhasara [science of sieges], that Princeton does not own are very scarce. The online union catalog WorldCat lists just one copy of the first title and two of the second. The third is not listed in WorldCat. Available union catalogs of Turkish libraries list four copies of the Fenn-i Harb and only one copy of Fenn-i Muhasara.

Overlapping in time with the third and final run of the Müteferrika Press is a press established by the French Embassy. This press printed four titles in small print runs. Of these, the library has two titles, Pierre François Viguier's Éléments de la Langue Turque (1790), a fairly commonly held work, and Laurent Jean François Truguet's Usûl ül-Maarif fi Vech-i Tasfif-i Sefain-i Donanma ve Fenn-i Tedbir-i Harekâtiha [1202 [1787]]. This treatise on naval maneuvers is quite rare. WorldCat shows just one other copy, and the union catalogs of Turkish libraries also show only one copy. The remaining two titles, Usûl ül-Maarif fi Tertib il-Ordu ve Tahsinihi Muvakkaten [a manual on military organization, 1200 [1786]] by Jean de La Fitte-Clavé and Risalet fi Kavanin ul Melâhat Ameliyen [another treatise on naval maneuvers, 1201 [1787]] by Laurent Jean François Truguet, are both as rare. Only one copy of the former title appears in WorldCat and none in the Turkish union catalogs. The second title does not appear in any of these sources (Of course, copies may exist in libraries where the collections have not been added to these union catalogs).

The turn of the nineteenth century saw increased activity in the world of Ottoman printing. New presses opened in 1797 and 1803. Thus for the first time two Ottoman printing presses were in operation at the same time. These two new presses published at least twenty-two titles in just the first ten years of operation as compared to twenty-four titles by the Müteferrika Press in sixty-five years. The lengthy dawn of Ottoman printing had at last ended and book printing began its mainstream existence.

(The library is seeking to complete its collection of Ottoman "incunabula" from the Müteferrika and French Embassy Presses and over the last twenty years has added seven titles, five of the original seventeen imprints, and one each from the revived Müteferrika and French Embassy Presses. These titles rarely appear for sale and are often quite expensive. We live in hope.)
In Memoriam

John H. Marks, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, died peacefully in his home in Princeton, New Jersey, on April 15, 2009. He was 85 years old.

Professor Marks, who served for two years as director of the Program in Near Eastern Studies, and for three years as department chairman, was remembered by his colleague and former student, Andras Hamori ’61, Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies.

“John was a sweet-tempered man, learned in his field and modest in his demeanor. He was an excellent teacher. I know this from experience: He was my teacher and mentor when I was an undergraduate. He taught me Hebrew and was my senior thesis adviser. Both experiences were valuable as well as most enjoyable.”

The son of Ira and Clara Dralle Marks, Professor Marks was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. During the Second World War he served in Europe as a chaplain’s assistant, a position to which he was appointed because he answered affirmatively when his platoon was asked whether anyone could play the organ. When the war ended, he returned to Denver, where he completed his studies at the University of Denver, receiving a B.A. in Classics in 1946. Following his graduation he matriculated at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he would meet his future wife, Aminta Willis. After graduating in 1949 with a B.D., he moved to Switzerland to turn to Denver, where he completed the organ. When the war ended, he re-

In 1959, and again in 1966, he spent sabbaticals at the American School of Oriental Research in what was then Jordanian Jerusalem, serving during the second trip as director for nearly a year before fleeing with his family to Amman, Jordan, at the outbreak of the Six-Day War. He later served as president of the American Center for Oriental Research, a sister organization based in Amman (1969–79), and as a trustee of the American Schools of Oriental Research (1971–86).

Following the retirement of Dean Ernest Gordon in 1980, Professor Marks served as Acting Dean of the Princeton University Chapel while participating as a member of the search committee. He was also active in the Westminster Foundation, which supports the work of the Presbyterian Church at Princeton University.

His publications include Der Textkritische Wert des Psalterium Hieronymi Iuxta Hebraeos (1956), A Beginner’s Handbook to Biblical Hebrew (with V. M. Rogers; 1958), “Genesis” in The Interpreter’s One Volume Commentary on the Bible (1971), and Visions of One World: Legacy of Alexander (1985). His chief focus, however, was his teaching—and his graduate and undergraduate students, many of whom remained life-long friends.

Professor Marks served only briefly as a pastor, but his two summers as Minister of the Grindstone Methodist Church in Clayton, NY, introduced him to a community in the Thousand Islands that he would serve for nearly 40 years as church organist. His belief in community service was manifested in Princeton by a commitment to the public school system, which he served as president of the school board, and a three-year stint as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board. Following his 1993 retirement, he took great pleasure in the Old Guard—whose weekly meetings he introduced by sounding his “note” and leading the members in the singing of the fourth verse of “America”. Professor Marks’ spheres of influence were broad, and his care for the world and its people was full of love.

He is survived and will be greatly missed by: Aminta, his wife of nearly 58 years; his son Peter; his daughter Fleur Rueckert, her husband William and their children Cleveland, Elizabeth, and Julia; and his son John (“Pom”), his wife Belle and their children Phoebe, Anna, and Eliza. He was predeceased by his sister, Miriam Dalton.

David Stuart Dodge ’45 *69

David Stuart Dodge (BA History ’48), a graduate alumnus (MA ’49) of the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures and a member of the Near Eastern Studies Department’s Advisory Council, died January 20, 2009.

Dodge was born November 17, 1922 and grew up on the campus of the American University of Beirut, an institution founded by his great-grandfather Daniel Bliss, a Presbyterian missionary. Dodge’s grandfather Howard Bliss
and father Bayard Dodge ('09) were also presidents of AUB. Dodge attended the American Community School in Beirut and then Deerfield Academy before becoming a member of the class of 1945 at Princeton. Like many of his generation, he left Princeton to serve in the military during World War II, rising to the rank of captain in the army. Returning to Princeton, he graduated in 1948 with a degree in history. The following year, he completed a masters' degree in the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures.

He then joined the Arab American Oil Company (ARAMCO) and later worked for its subsidiary, Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company (Tapline) in Beirut from 1952 to 1977. After retiring from Tapline, he served as president of the Near East Foundation in New York City, before joining the faculty of AUB in 1979. In 1982, while serving as the acting president of AUB—the fourth generation of his family to lead AUB—he was abducted and held for a year, being released on the anniversary of his abduction.

Following his release, he moved to Princeton and worked for several years as the recording secretary of Princeton University. In 1996–97, he again served AUB as president while the job was based in New York City.

Over the years Dodge was active in philanthropic and charitable affairs. For many years he was the director of the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation and trustee emeritus of AUB. He served on the boards of Princeton-Blairstown Center, which provides “adventure-based experiential education programming to at risk urban youth,” the Princeton Family YMCA, and Princeton-in-Asia, which seeks “to promote good will and understanding and to facilitate in every way the free interchange of the best ideals in the civilizations of both East and West.” He volunteered at Princeton Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Princeton Symphony, Princeton Medical Center, and other organizations. He was a member of the Princeton Near East Society and program coordinator for the Old Guard of Princeton.

Dodge married his first wife of forty-nine years, the former Doris Westfall, in 1952. She passed away in 2000.

In 2002, he married the former Margaret White Keating.

Dodge is survived by his wife, Margaret, a sister, Grace Dodge Guthrie, four children from his first marriage, Nina, Bayard, Melissa, and Simon Dodge; three step-children, Richard White, Jr., John E. White, and Lee White Galvis; and four grandchildren and eight step-grandchildren.
Class Day 2009

Isaiah Soval-Levine and Senior Lecturer in Turkish Erika Gilson.

Max Peck and his father Jeffrey Peck.

Wasim Shiliwala and family.

Emily Norris and Mother with Senior Lecturer in Arabic Nancy Coffin.