Greetings From the Chair!

In the early 1990s then director of graduate studies Michael Cook proposed to bring short-listed graduate student applicants onto campus for a two-day, intensive series of interviews, language evaluations, and presentations. The reasoning behind this proposal was that such an event would allow faculty to get a better idea of who the applicants were in a way that written applications could not convey effectively and would allow the prospective students to get a better idea of faculty personalities and a sense of Princeton as a place where they might be spending the next five-six years of their lives. The end result would most likely provide for a better fit between incoming students and their faculty advisors. The event would also serve as a bonding experience for the next fall’s incoming group of students and introduce them to current graduate students.

Cook’s proposal was accepted by the department and program and received Graduate School approval. The first group of prospective graduate students visited campus almost twenty years ago, beginning a tradition which is still going strong today. In the midst of another February 2010 snowstorm, the first students began arriving Thursday, February 25, for the two-day event. On Friday, the fourteen students (12 Ph.D. and two M.A. applicants) faced a series of faculty interviews and a daunting round of language testing to determine approximate skill levels. The day was not all filled with stressful twenty-minute segments, however. Following the late morning check-in, a tour of the library offered the visitors an opportunity to learn about the library’s Near East Collection, a major selling point in attracting the best students. More importantly, the tour was followed by a pizza lunch and a general briefing by director of graduate studies Mark Cohen before the applicants began their individual schedule of interviews and language testing (other than Turkish, which was held in the morning).

Another feature of the event is that current graduate students act as hosts to the visiting applicants. These contacts offer another way in which the prospective students can learn about life as a NES graduate student at Princeton, especially those unofficial aspects such as relations with the faculty, the routines and requirements of academic life, and, perhaps most importantly, the social scene.

Saturday was devoted to individual presentations before the assembled group of faculty, graduate students, and applicants. These presentations are not intended to be samples of original research but rather are to illustrate an applicant’s ability to construct an argument, communicate ideas, and handle a question-and-answer discussion. This year the presentations ranged from early Islam to the present day, with emphasis on modern topics. A sample of topics include: “Al-Khawarij: A Problematic Term in Islamic History,” “The representation of Nosrat Amin (1886–1983) in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” “The Evolution of Sayyid Qutb’s Understanding of Hakimiyya as a Response to the Nasser Regime,” “The Evolving Role of the Private Sector in GCC States: A Story of Two Booms,” “Sūrat al-Qalam and the Periodizational Aesthetics of the Qur’ān,” “The Mu’askar Archipelago: On the Social World of the Afghan Arabs,” and “The Role of the Ottoman

continued on page 2
Greetings From the Chair
continued from page 1

Another presentation.

Opposition Press in Paris Between 1878–1903: The Case of Khalil Ghanim.”

The day ended with a closing reception to which the entire Near Eastern Studies family was invited. Faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, spouses, and children all attended the festive occasion, the final event in the 2009–2010 graduate school application process.

For the department and program, the almost twenty years of experience with the prospective graduate student event have demonstrated at least one very significant benefit: a greater percentage of graduate students who are accepted decide to attend. This increase in the quality of graduate students alone makes all the hard work that goes into such an event worthwhile. The success of this program has also made Near Eastern Studies an example to be emulated as the dean of the graduate school has encouraged other departments to implement their own prospective graduate student events.

M. Şükrü Hanoğlu
Chair of the Near Eastern Studies
Department
Director of the Program in Near Eastern Studies

Transregional Institute News

The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia (TRI) is continuing its active engagement on various academic fronts this year. TRI has a new a website that is esthetically pleasing and simple to use; please visit this at http://www.princeton.edu/transregional/. Three fellows have been in residence. They are: Dr. Aron Zysow, Dr. Pascal Ménoret, and Mr. Michael Crawford. Aron is engaged in completing a book manuscript on Islamic legal principles and continues to help with the development of an Islamic legal studies program at NES. Pascal Ménoret, who is in his second fellowship year, is completing several articles and a book manuscript on the politics of youth in Saudi Arabia with a strong emphasis on the twin themes of domination and resistance. Pascal is teaching an undergraduate lecture course in the spring 2010 semester entitled “Arabia in the 20th Century, from Oil Concessions to Osama bin Laden.” Michael Crawford, a recently retired senior UK Foreign Service officer and an expert on the history and politics of Arabia and the Middle East more generally, has published on nineteenth-century Arabian history. He spent the fall 2009 term at Princeton where he completed a book manuscript on the history of the first Saudi state (1744–1818). In addition, he presented a paper on his research at a conference held in November, gave a public lecture and made himself available to students and faculty of the university.

TRI continues to direct the project on Oil, Energy and the Middle East (OEME), which has its own new website at www.princeton.edu/oeme. This is part of a multi-year joint effort by the Department of Near Eastern Studies and the Princeton Environmental Institute to develop expertise and research excellence on three facets of the unparalleled reserves of fossil fuel in the Persian Gulf region. These are: 1) the geo-political and security considerations as well as the domestic politics of energy in the Gulf; 2) the economic and financial aspects of oil and gas markets; and 3) the technological features and environmental implications of these Middle Eastern reserves. TRI is running a speakers’ series related to the oil and energy project and is hosting two research fellows. Two intertwined topics will be the focus of this current academic year: 1) the study of the effects of the recent petro-boom and the comparison of this cycle to the previous ones in the 1970s and 80s; 2) the study of the new industrialization policies of the Gulf countries as well as their food security policies. The two research fellows in the OEME project this year are: 1) Dr. Eckart Woertz of the Gulf Research Center in Dubai, who is completing a book on the politics of food security of the Gulf Cooperation Countries; and 2) Dr. Roger Stern, who is working on the Iranian oil economy as well as US military doctrines with respect to force projection into the Persian Gulf. In the spring 2010 term, Roger is teaching the OEME’s flagship course “Oil, Energy and the Middle East” (NES 266), and Eckart is teaching “The Political Economy of Arab Gulf Countries” (NES 530).

TRI will continue with its well-attended lecture series on aspects of the politics, economics, and culture of the Arab and Islamic worlds. It also held (jointly with Sciences-Po Paris) a major international conference entitled “The State of Saudi Arabia” in November 2009. This will result in a published edited volume.
New Faces

Emmanuel Papoutsakis

Assistant Professor in Syriac and Classical Armenian Languages and Literatures.

I studied Classics at the University of Athens, Greece (BA 1990), and Hebrew at University College London (BA 1994). As part of my degree in London, I spent the 1992–1993 academic year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. At UCL I was also introduced to Classical Armenian.


In 2001 I was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at Princeton University and in the spring semester of 2002 I taught Syriac and Classical Armenian as a visiting lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. During the 2002–2003 academic year I was a Research Fellow at Harvard University’s Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., where I worked on the Syriac literary background of the sixth-century Byzantine poet Romanos. Between 2003 and 2008 I taught as a lecturer in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton where I offered courses in Syriac and Classical Armenian languages and literatures. Before my reappointment as an assistant professor, I spent the 2008–2009 academic year as a member at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. My current research is in the area of Syriac poetry of the late antique period. I am also working on an annotated English translation of the so-called Syriac Julian Romance (to be published by Liverpool University Press). Together with Professor Philip Rousseau of the Catholic University of America, I edited the volume Transformations of Late Antiquity: Essays in Honor of Peter Brown (London: Ashgate, 2009). In the spring semester 2010, I shall be teaching an undergraduate survey course on Christianity along the Silk Road.

Matthew Fischer

Lecturer in Arabic. I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and lived there for about 10 years. My family moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1990 where they both worked as elementary school teachers, and I finished my elementary and high school education there. After graduating from high school in 1998 I enlisted in the military, and from 1999 until 2001 I worked as an aircraft mechanic on large-body cargo/re-fueling airframes. At the end of my enlistment I returned to Wisconsin and began attending UW-Fox Valley in pursuit of an associate’s degree, and in 2004 I was accepted to and attended UW-Madison. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in 2006 with a specialization in general philosophy and was accepted into a graduate program through the University of Michigan for teaching Arabic as a second language. From 2007 until 2009 I studied to attain the master’s degree while teaching first-year Arabic, conducting conversation groups, organizing cultural outings to Dearborn, MI, and tutoring students from all levels of Arabic. In June 2009 I accepted a position to serve as a lecturer at Princeton University.

Tarek Elsayed

Lecturer in Arabic. A native of Egypt, Tarek Elsayed came to the US in the early 1990s and became an American citizen in 2000. While in his native land, Tarek studied Arabic and History at Cairo University, where he obtained a BA. He also holds an MA in history from Rutgers University. Tarek will be writing a Ph.D. dissertation on the “Social History of Egypt during the Mamluk state” under the supervision of Professor Hugh Kennedy at the University of London.

Tarek has been teaching Arabic as a second language for more than a decade. His journey of teaching Arabic began in the UK, where he taught at the University of St Andrews and Oxford University. In the US, he has taught at various institutions, among them Monmouth University and Billiot College. Shortly before joining Princeton, Tarek was part of the administration staff of the Arabic Flagship Program at the University of Oklahoma. He is thrilled and humbled to be part of the Near Eastern Studies faculty at Princeton University.

“I enjoy teaching Arabic, and making it as much fun as possible. Helping students to read and write Arabic, and more importantly, to use it in real life situations is my teaching philosophy. This philosophy is in harmony with the ‘Communicative approach’ and the textbooks which the Arabic Program has adopted here at Princeton.”

His research interests include but are not limited to issues and developments of teaching Arabic as a foreign language, Arabic sources of early Islamic history, the social history of Egypt during the Middle Ages, and Egypt under the rule of Muhammad Ali and his family (1805–1952). Aside from his dissertation, he is in the process of writing a monograph entitled “Teaching Arabic as a second language: Some observations and suggestions.”

George Hatke

Lecturer in Arabic. I was born in Topeka, Kansas but grew up in Pennsylvania and upstate New York. I attended Hamilton College as an undergraduate, obtaining a BA in cultural anthropology. I studied Arabic both at Hamilton and at the American University in Cairo, spending at the latter institution both my junior year abroad and a further twelve months after graduating from Hamilton. Though for a time I was torn between anthropology and Egyptology, my interest in the Arabian Peninsula and early Islamic history brought me to Princeton University’s Department of Near Eastern Studies as a graduate student.

continued on page 4
New Faces

continued from page 3

My dissertation, "Africans in Arabia Felix: Aksumite Relations with the Arabian Peninsula, 200-800 CE," traces the history of contact between Arabia and the Ethiopian kingdom of Aksum. In it I argue that the cultural and economic links which characterized early links between the two shores of the Red Sea gave way by the sixth century to a quest on the Ethiopians’ part for domination of South Arabia, one couched in terms of a holy war—until then an unknown idea in Arabia.

My academic interests revolve mainly around the history and cultures of the Red Sea region and include more specifically ancient South Arabia, ancient and medieval Ethiopia, the rise of Islam, maritime trade, comparative Semitics, medieval Christian views of Islam, and the historical ethnography of the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. In addition to Arabic and Syriac, I have also studied Sabäic and Classical Ethiopic (Ge’ez), together with Arabic dialectology. From the latter I have recently developed an interest in Maltese.

Faculty News

Two NES professors were named to endowed chairs this year. Mark R. Cohen was named to the Khedouri A. Zilkha Professorship of Jewish Civilization in the Near East, established in 1983 by the Zilkha Foundation in memory of Khedouri A. Zilkha. Abraham L. Udo-vitch had previously held the chair from 1984 until his retirement in 2008. M. Şükru Hanoğlu was named to the Gar-rett Professorship in Foreign Affairs. This chair was “established by John W. Garrett, Class of 1895, in memory of his brother, Horatio W. Garrett, also Class of 1895, and later supplemented by members of the Garrett family in memory of John and a third brother, Robert, Class of 1897.” T. Cuyler Young (1953–1969) and L. Carl Brown (1970–1993) were the previous incumbents of the Garrett Chair.

Norman Itzkowitz, Professor of Near Eastern Studies Emeritus, was honored by former students and colleagues with a Festschrift in 2007. Edited by Karl K.

Itzkowitz also received the Middle East Studies Association Mentoring Award in 2007. This award “recognizes exceptional contributions retired faculty have made to the education and training of others.” Previous Princeton-related winners of the MESA Mentoring Award are:


On November 13, 2009, Heath W. Lowry presented a lecture, "An Illustrated Talk on Clarence K. Streit’s Visit to Ankara & His Meetings with Mustafa Kemal Paşa: Snapshots of Life In Anatolia (January – March, 1921),” at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. Part of the embassy lecture series and “commemorating the 71st anniversary of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s passing,” Lowry’s talk utilized the unpublished writings and photographs of the late Clarence Streit, who in 1921 was a twenty-five-year-old journalist, to offer a vivid image of life in central Anatolia at this crucial juncture in Turkish history.

Faculty Publications


Lewis Kicks Off 2009–2010 Brown Bag Lunch Series

On Monday, September 21, Bernard Lewis opened the 2009–10 Brown Bag Lunch Series of talks in a packed 202 Jones. Approximately one hundred people heard Lewis, the Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Emeritus, speak on “Propaganda in the Middle East.” The short talk was followed by a lively question and answer period.
Undergraduate News

Suleika Jaouad ’10 spent winter break in Cairo covering the Gaza Freedom March as a freelance reporter. Her videos of the march in Cairo were picked up around the world and may be seen at her blog: http://suleikajaouad.blogspot.com/. The January 6, 2010, issue of the Daily Princetonian reported on Jaouad’s experiences. The article may be found at: http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2010/01/06/24827/

2009 Freshman Open House

On September 15, 2009, over thirty faculty and students attended the 2009 Freshman Open House. This event offered freshmen an opportunity to learn about both the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies as well as to hear Assistant Professor Cyrus Schayegh speak on “The Iranian presidential elections of June 2009: regional repercussions.”

Department Welcomes New Majors


Ph.D. Final Public Oral Examinations

Yaron Ayalon defended his dissertation, “Plagues, Famines, Earthquakes: The Jews of Ottoman Syria and Natural Disasters,” on September 30, 2009. The examination chairman was Professor Mark R. Cohen and the examiners were Professors Michael A. Cook and William C. Jordan.

Intisar A. Rabb defended her dissertation, “Doubt’s Benefit: Legal Maxims in Islamic Law,” on October 16, 2009. The examination chairman was Professor Hossein Modarresi and the examiners were Professors Michael A. Cook and Kim Lane Scheppele.

Milena B. Methodieva defended her dissertation, “Reform, Politics and Culture Among the Muslims in Bulgaria, 1878–1908,” on December 10, 2009. The examination chairman was Professor Stephen Kotkin and the examiners were Professors Heath W. Lowry and Michael A. Reynolds.

Graduate Student News

Eric Lob: This summer, I spent three months in Tehran thanks, in part, to funding from the Near Eastern Studies (NES) Department and assistance from my Persian language professors. As a second year PhD student focused on the history of contemporary Iran and Syria, I found this to be an invaluable and memorable experience. During the first two weeks, I stayed with a kind and generous family in the modest environs of South Tehran and the remainder of the time resided in the dorms of Shahid Beheshti University, located in the posh and hilly northern suburbs of Valenjak. At Shahid Beheshti, I befriended several Iranian students and practiced every week with the university basketball team. By studying Persian in the intermediate and advanced classes at the Dehkhoda Institute and immersing myself in daily life, I significantly improved my language skills and understanding of the culture. I periodically traveled around the country, visiting the

continued on page 6
architectural wonders of Esfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd, and exploring the natural beauty and serenity of the Alborz Mountains and Caspian Coast. Most importantly, I witnessed a defining moment in the country’s history. Upon my arrival, I tuned into televised national debates and observed festive rallies on crowded streets in anticipation of the tenth presidential elections. During the ensuing turmoil, I tried to keep a distance, but caught unexpected glimpses of protests, clashes, and vigils. I also heard the occasional anecdote about individuals whose lives had been adversely affected by recent events. While I hope to return to Iran in the future to continue my language studies and perform research, I will never forget the endless hospitality and unwavering courage that I encountered during my first trip to the country.

Bella Tandler: I traveled to France this summer to present a paper at a conference on the Nusayris and Druze in Paris and Nantes. I was also able to do some manuscript research at the National Library of France.

Jessica Marglin is currently in her third year of the Ph.D. program in Near Eastern Studies. Her research focuses on the history of Jewish-Muslim relations in North Africa. For her dissertation, Jessica will explore the legal history of Jews and Muslims in Morocco in the long nineteenth-century (1792–1912). In preparation for her dissertation, Jessica has completed preliminary research in Morocco, Belgium, France, England, and the Netherlands; she plans to continue her research, primarily in Morocco and in Israel in 2010. Jessica is a contributor to the Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World, for which she has written articles on “Tetuan,” “Rabat-Sale,” “Ksar el-Kebir,” and “Haim Ben Attar.” Jessica has presented papers at a number of academic conferences, including “An Unheeded Discourse: French Ethnography and the Berber Dhabi, 1915–1930,” delivered at the 2008 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. In September 2008, she participated in the Berlin Wissenschaftskolleg’s International Summer Acad-emy entitled “Living Together: Plurality and Cosmopolitanism in the Ottoman Empire and Beyond,” held in Istanbul, and presented a paper entitled “The Socio-Legal History of Jewish-Muslim Relations in Morocco, 1792–1912.” This coming year she plans to present again at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in November, as well as at the Eleventh Annual Mediterranean Research Meeting entitled “Provincializing Europe?: Towards a Local History of Maghribi Modernity,” to be held in March 2010 in Florence, Italy. In addition, Jessica has been invited to deliver lectures on the history of Jews in Morocco at Rider.

Gregory Johnsen was interviewed by Glenn Greenwald in December 2009 on recent events in Yemen, such as attacks on suspected al-Qaida gatherings, and on the role of al-Qaida in Yemen. A transcript of this interview may be read at: http://www.salon.com/news/opinion/glenn_greenwald/radio/2009/12/24/gjohnsen_transcript/index.html. Johnsen’s blog, Waq al-Waq, was also quoted by Heather Murdoch in an article published January 6, 2010: http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/middle-east/100105/yemen-al-qaeda-offensive?page=0,1.

Alumni News

Seven Ağır (’09 Ph.D.) has received a postdoc offer from the Yale Economic History Program. It is associated with the economics, history, law, and management departments. She will not have to teach for the first year and might take economics classes relevant for her research. She looks forward to attending the weekly economic history workshops.

David R. Johnson, NES ’78, writes from Geneva, Switzerland: I worked in Dubai for a couple years after graduation and, after returning to get an MBA from the Kellogg School at Northwestern, was transferred here to Geneva, intending to stay a year or two. That has now stretched to more than twenty-five years. I’ve been fortunate to stay connected to the Near and Middle East the whole time, and travel frequently to the region. We also built a house in southern Turkey (in Kalkan) and spend summers there. I change careers roughly every decade, spending most of the 80’s as a business consultant specialized in the Middle East, the 90’s as an investment banker, and the last ten years as an investor and independent advisor in the private equity sector. Not sure what the next decade will have in store: I try to keep up with my reading, particularly new histories of the Ottomans, Ataturk, and early Republican Turkey, and have taken a crack at writing myself. One of my yet-to-be-published novels, in fact, is a fictionalized version of the year off I took to do research in Turkey for my undergraduate thesis under Prof. Itzkowitz. Not quite yet ready to quit my day job though, particularly since I have two sons in college in the US and a lovely one-year-old daughter in diapers here! To all you NES undergrads and young NES AB alums out there: fear not, there is life after Princeton with this degree!

Akel Ismail Kahera (’96 Ph.D.), currently serving as a tenured Professor and director of the Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture and Executive Editor of the Journal of History and Culture, has recently published a new book, Design Criteria for Mosques and Islamic Centres: Art, Architecture, and Worship (Oxford: The Architectural Press, 2009). His research for this seminal work focuses on the legal (shari’ah) injunctions and the liturgical requirements for the construction of mosques in Europe and America. This text should be read in conjunction with his first book, Deconstructing the American Mosque: Space, Gender and Aesthetic (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002). A third book on The Islamic City: Islamic Law and Habitat is in progress.

Baki Tezcan (’96 M.A., ’01 Ph.D.) has just been promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of
Alumni News

continued from page 6


Onur Yildirim (’93 M.A., ’02 Ph.D.) spent the 2009 fall semester at Binghamton University as “The Levin Distinguished Scholar in Turkish Affairs.” He was also awarded a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research on the historiography of the Turco-Greek Exchange of Populations. He recently contributed 18 articles to the *Encyclopedia of the Jews in the Islamic World* (Brill, 2009, 2010).

Three NES Ph.D.s, Uriel Simonsohn ’08 Ph.D. (University of Leiden), Petra Sijpesteijn ’04 Ph.D. (University of Leiden), and Michael Bonner ’84 M.A., ’87 Ph.D. (University of Michigan), were on the program of the Mellon Sawyer Seminar on “Conversion in Late Antiquity: Christianity, Islam, and Beyond” held at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, on January 16, 2010. Simonsohn spoke on “Conversion, Apostasy, and Penance: The Shifting Identities of the First Generations of Muslim Converts”; Sijpesteijn on “The Islamic State as an Agent of Conversion”; and Bonner on “Even if the Unbelievers Dislike It (wa-law kariba l-mushrikun): Conversion and the Early Islamic State.”

Library News

At a meeting with the NES faculty in October, David Magier, the Associate University Librarian for Collection Development, and James Weinberger, the Curator of the Near East Collections, brought the faculty up-to-date on a number of issues relating to the library’s Near East Collections. Magier announced that all books currently classified according to the Princeton University Library-specific Richardson system would be reclassified according to the Library of Congress system. As part of this project, the different components of the Near East Collections will be reunited in one section on Firestone’s B-Floor, whereas now they are divided between B- and C-Floors. In a related effort, Islamic law books cataloged before the Library of Congress fully developed a classification system for the subject will be reclassified according to the more detailed system, which will improve access to subtopics in the field.

The biggest news is that the library will expand its purchases from Pakistan to include English and Urdu books and periodicals. While the library has regularly bought Arabic and Persian books published in Pakistan through the Library of Congress Field Office in Islamabad, this will be the first time that the library has systematically collected material in Urdu and English from the country. The library will collect comprehensively books in Urdu on Islam in the region and selectively Urdu books about politics. English-language material will cover a much broader range of subjects: Islam in the region, Islamic law, regional history, anthropology, gender studies, human rights, economics, politics, legal reference books, and government documents. The library will also subscribe to a small number of English-language periodicals. This decision to increase acquisitions from Pakistan reflects the growing interest in South Asian studies at Princeton and the importance of this region for the study of modern Islamic movements.

Collection Notes

*The Mediterranean World from Lisbon*

From the early 1980s to the mid-1990s, the library acquired some eighty Portuguese works dealing principally with relations between Christian Europe and the Muslim world. These works, most of which are pamphlets under fifty pages in length, were published in Lisbon between 1609 and the 1840s. Located in Special Collections, they are part of the general Rare Books collection as they were acquired and cataloged individually. Subject-wise, they can be grouped into two main categories with a few titles that lie outside of, or overlap with, the larger groupings (for example, there are two works which discuss the pilgrimage to Mecca).

The smaller of the two main groups (eighteen titles) deals with relations—mostly armed conflicts—between European states and the Ottoman Empire.

Figure 1. Title page of *Noticia Verda-deira de Hum Grande Combate que Tiveram tres Nãos de Guarda-Costa de Hespanha, com Duas Nãos de Argel*. Courtesy of Rare Books Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

continued on page 8
Five titles published between 1684 and 1688 are concerned with the 1683–1699 war between the Habsburgs and Ottomans and the Holy League formed in support of the Habsburgs. Another five titles published in 1716 and 1717 discuss the wars the Ottomans fought against the Habsburgs (1716–1718) and Venice (1714–1718). Six titles published between 1737 and 1739 treat the 1736–1739 war fought by the Habsburgs and Russians against the Ottomans and the resulting peace treaty. Finally, the 1787–1792 Russo-Ottoman war is the topic of two works, one published in 1788 and the other probably in 1791.

The second group of fifty-six titles may be broadly described as dealing with the western Mediterranean world. This surprisingly cohesive body of material focuses primarily on the relations between the Iberian Peninsula and the North African principalities, treating the relations in their many component parts such as treaties, naval battles, privateering and piracy, slavery, the ransoming of slaves, and the Trinitarians (a religious order founded for the purpose of ransoming Christian captives and slaves from non-Christian captors), but also includes works about the North African principalities, Malta, and the Knights of Malta.

The four illustrations accompanying this article indicate the type of material available for research. Figure 1 shows the title page of a pamphlet describing a naval battle between three Spanish ships and two Algerian ships (Note that the ensign of the ship on the left contains a crescent moon and the ensign of the ship on the right a cross). Capturing ships at sea was one way in which captives were taken by both sides. Figure 2 is a listing of Christian captives awaiting ransoming, giving their home town, lineage, profession, and where captured. Figure 3 is a list of donors and the amount donated for ransoming. Figure 4 shows a list of ransomed captives divided into the three categories of dignitaries, women, and men and the amount paid in ransom. Thus the collection offers documents covering all aspects of the slave/redemption process.

While most of the pamphlets dealing with captives and slavery are concerned with Christian captives in North Africa, there are three items about a rebellion of Muslim slaves in Malta planned in 1749. Led by Mustafa Pasha, the captured Ottoman governor of Rhodes, the rebellion was discovered just before its outbreak, and its leaders were caught and punished.

Figure 2. The first page of text of Relação individual dos Portuguezes que estavão captivos em Argel e foram resgatados por ordem de S. A. R. Courtesy of Rare Books Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Figure 3. Title page of Segunda lista das subscripções voluntarias para o resgate dos portuguezes captivos em Argel. Courtesy of Rare Books Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Figure 4. Title page of Relação dos cativos, que por ordem do Fidelissimo Rey Dom Joseph I. Nosso Senhor resgataram na cidade de Argel os Religiosos da Santissima Trinidad...Courtesy of Rare Books Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Taken together, these pamphlets offer the enterprising scholar a rich trove of documentation regarding economic, military, and foreign relations in the western Mediterranean between Christian and Muslim states.
Visiting Fellows and Postdocs

Senem Aslan

Aslan, a second-year postdoctoral research associate, completed her dissertation at the University of Washington in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies in 2008. During her first year at Princeton she began revising her dissertation on “Governing Areas of Dissidence: Nation-Building and Ethnic Movements in Turkey and Morocco,” and she wrote two articles discussing aspects of Turkey’s policies towards the Kurds, both of which have been accepted for publication. In the spring semester, Aslan organized a panel at Princeton on “Minorities in the Middle East,” as well as a high-school teachers’ training session on the same topic, and she taught a course on the relations between the state and society in the Middle East. This year she plans on finishing the rewriting of her dissertation for publication.

Kazuo Morimoto

Professor Kazuo Morimoto will spend this year in Near Eastern Studies as a Visiting Fellow. Morimoto is associate professor of Islamic and Iranian history at the Institute of Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo. His publications in English include *The Earliest ‘Alid Genealogy for the Safavids: New Evidence for a Pre-Dynastic Claim to Sayyid Status*,” *Iranian Studies* 43-4 (forthcoming); “Putting the Lubab al-Ansāb in Context: Sayyids and Naqībs in Late Seljuq Khurasan,” *Studia Iranica* 36-2 (2007); and “Toward the Formation of Sayyido-Sharifology: Questioning Accepted Fact,” *The Journal of Sophia Asian Studies* 22 (2004). His representative publications in Japanese are *The Sacred Family: The Kinsfolk of Muhammad* (Tokyo, 2010); *The World Tied by the Persian Language: Another Eurasian History* (edited volume; Sapporo, 2009); and *The Self Portrait of Shi’ism* (translation of ‘Allamah Tabataba’i’s *Shi’ah dar Islam*; Tokyo, 2007). His main project during his one-year affiliation to the Near Eastern Studies Department is the writing of an English-language book provisionally entitle *The Guardians of Authenticity* on the basis of his dissertation submitted to the University of Tokyo in 2004, namely “Sayyids, Genealogists, Naqībs: A Study of the Genealogical Literature on Sayyid/Sharifs from the Late 10th–Early 15th Centuries” (in Japanese). He will also teach the Near Eastern Department’s Five Day Intensive Course this year (2010), which is entitled “Sayyids/Sharifs: The Kinsfolk of the Prophet in Muslim Societies.”

Thomas Pierret

Thomas Pierret is a Belgian scholar who will spend one year at the Department as a Postdoctoral Research Associate. Pierret completed his Ph.D. in political science at the Institut d’Études Politiques, Paris, and the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. His dissertation, “The Ulema in Contemporary Syria: Making Tradition Relevant, Finding a Place in an Authoritarian System,” focuses on the writings and political activism of the ulema as well as their daily religious activities as teachers, educators, and social leaders. His research project at Princeton will be “‘Sufi Ulema in the Saudi Hijaz: Regional Revival, Authoritarianism, and Globalization.” Examining how the Hijazi Sufi ulema managed to survive eight decades of repression resulting from the hostility of the Wahhabi ulema, Pierret will address two main theoretical issues: The functioning of authoritarian states in their relations with traditional forms of religious authority and the impact of globalization on local religious identities.

Benjamin Thomas White

A graduate of the University of Edinburgh with first class honours in Arabic, White earned his D.Phil. in modern history at St. Antony’s College, Oxford, in 2008. His dissertation, “The Nation-State Form and the Emergence of ‘Minorities’ in French Mandate Syria, 1919–1939”, studies the conditions that allowed the concept of “minority” to become prominent in Syria c. 1930 and argues that this occurred because of the development of the nation-state form. At Princeton, White plans to develop a growing interest in the processes of exclusion that are an integral part of state-building in modern nations through a project on statelessness in the interwar Levant, including areas under British and French mandate as well as the independent nation-state of the Turkish Republic.

TRI, Islamic Law Program, and OME Fellows

Michael Crawford

Michael Crawford is a recently retired senior UK foreign service officer and an expert on the history and politics of Arabia and the Middle East more generally. He has published on 19th-century Arabic history and is spending the fall 2009 semester as a visiting scholar in Princeton where he will complete a book manuscript on the history of the first Saudi state (1744–1818). In addition, he is presenting a paper on his research at a conference to be continued on page 10
TRI Fellows
continued from page 9

held in November and will be giving a public lecture as well as make himself available to students and faculty of the university. Mr. Crawford is a fount of knowledge on the modern politics of the Middle East and especially on Britain’s relationship with the region.

Pascal Ménoret

Pascal Ménoret, who is in his second fellowship year, earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Paris-La Sorbonne, where he wrote a dissertation entitled “Thugs and Zealots: The Politicization of Saudi Youth 1965–2007.” He is the author of The Saudi Enigma: A History (London: ZedBooks, 2005). Between 2005 and 2007, he was a visiting researcher at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh. His current research focuses on youth issues in Saudi Arabia and the Arab world. While at Princeton he has been working on several articles and a book manuscript on the politics of youth in Saudi Arabia with a strong emphasis on the twin themes of domination and resistance. Pascal is teaching an undergraduate lecture course in this spring semester entitled “Arabia in the 20th Century, from Oil Concessions to Osama bin Laden.”

Aron Zysow

Aron Zysow received his A.B. (Classics), Ph.D. (Islamic Studies), and J.D. from Harvard. From 2000 to 2005 he served as Research Associate for the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. Before that he taught Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle and Washington University in St. Louis and commercial law at Baruch College, City University of New York. His main academic interests are Islamic law, particularly legal theory, and theology. In addition to teaching several courses while at Princeton, Dr. Zysow will complete a book on the history of usūl al-fiqh and its relationship to kalām. He is the author of “If Wishes Were…: Notes on Wishing [al-tamānī] in Islamic Texts,” in Classical Arabic Humanities in Their Own Terms: Festschrift for Wolfhart Heinrichs (Leiden: Brill, 2008), and “Two Theories of the Obligation to Obey God’s Commands,” in The Law Applied: Contextualizing the Islamic Shari’a: A Volume in Honor of Frank E. Vogel (London: I.B. Tauris, 2008). In addition, he has contributed articles to a number of reference works, including the Encyclopedia of Islam, 2nd edition, for which he wrote the entries “Ra’y,” “Sadaka,” “Sarf,” and “Zakat” among others.

Roger Stern

Roger Stern is a graduate of the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. His thesis research appears twice in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences as well as in Energia, and his op-ed essays on Iran in The International Herald Tribune and The Wall Street Journal. At Princeton he plans to complete a new paper on the national security cost of oil market power, collaborate with Professor Socolow on technology cost estimates for CO2 transportation to the Persian Gulf (for oil recovery enhancement & carbon sequestration benefits), and begin a history of Western ideas about the relation of commodities to state power. Dr. Stern will teach the flagship course of the OMEM project entitled “Oil, Energy and the Middle East” in the spring 2010 term.

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 publications, new jobs, etc. Please send such information to the newsletter’s editor, Bill Blair, at blairw@princeton.edu.

Eckart Woertz

Dr. Eckart Woertz will be a Research Associate of the Oil, Energy, and the Middle East (OEME) project. Dr. Woertz joins us from the Gulf Research Center (GRC) in Dubai—the leading think tank of the Gulf region—where he heads the Economics Department. He earned his M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies (Political Science, Economics, and Islamic Science) from Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg, and his Ph.D. at the University of Bonn, Germany. Dr. Woertz has extensive experience in banking and finance and has held senior positions in financial services companies in Germany and the UAE. His research interests include the political economy of the Middle East, financial markets, and energy issues. Dr. Woertz is a regular contributor and commentator to major international and regional newspapers like the Financial Times, Forbes, Der Spiegel, The National, and Gulf News. He also appears regularly on Arabic-, English-, and German-speaking news channels like Al Arabiya, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg, or BBC. He has also dealt extensively with petrodollar recycling, strategic foreign investments, and the impact of the global financial crisis on the GCC countries. Since 2008, food inflation in the Gulf and GCC agro-investments abroad have been special interests of his. He will teach NES-530, “The Political Economy of Arab Gulf Countries,” in the spring 2010 term.
The Cairo Geniza: Ancient Papers in the Digital Age

The Cairo Geniza is a collection of an estimated 750,000 manuscript pages found discarded for “burial” in the Geniza chamber of the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo in the late 19th century. In addition to holding religious poems and fragments of Torah scrolls, the Cairo Geniza contains approximately 15,000 mundane papers that reflect the daily life of the Jewish community in Cairo during the medieval period (mainly in the 11th to 13th centuries) - letters, contracts, wills, and other legal documents preserved in the area’s arid climate. These “Geniza documents” range in size from a few words to long letters of 80-100 lines.

For more than two decades, Mark Cohen and his Princeton colleagues have been working to bring these ancient papers into the digital age. Their work, called the Princeton Geniza Project, has created the world’s only online, searchable-text database of the Cairo Geniza’s historical documents.

At the April 29 Lunch ‘n Learn seminar, Mark Cohen, Professor of Near Eastern Studies, discussed the background and challenges of the project. In 1986, Cohen and his colleague in the Near Eastern Studies department, Avrom Uдовitz, proposed the creation of a computerized database of Geniza documents. IBM (through its Princeton Pegasus Project) and Princeton University’s Near Eastern Studies department supported the effort, and in the past 20 years, with help from technology upgrades and recent grants from the Friedberg Genizah Project and the University, the database has grown to include more than 4,000 documents (as much as a quarter of the historical Geniza), available online and searchable in Hebrew and Arabic script or English keywords. The database used for this purpose, called TextGarden, contains transcriptions of Judeo-Arabic, Hebrew, and Arabic documents in XML format and allows for the storage of not only the transcriptions themselves, but also of the images, genres, news stories, essays, locations, and people involved with these documents.

The project has transcribed documents from film copies, photocopies, draft texts typed by S. D. Goitein, and printed editions, creating a full text retrieval text-base of transcribed documents. The project has developed new tools such as dictionaries, semantic categories, and morphological aids to aid the study of Geniza texts. The project disseminates its materials freely through the web to the international community of scholars who have an interest in the life of the medieval Middle East, as well as to all with an interest in Judaica. Ultimately, the project hopes to link digitized images of manuscripts in the corpus, as libraries pursue the imaging of their collections.

The current edition of the Geniza database, and the TextGarden web application that hosts it, was developed in 2005 by Rafael Alvarado, then Manager of Humanities Computing Research Applications at Princeton (now Director of Academic Technology Services at Dickinson College). It replaced and incorporated the original browser developed by Peter Batke in the late 1990s.

Ben Johnston from Princeton’s Humanities Resource Center, who has maintained the TextGarden database since 2006, spoke about the TextGarden database. Use of Unicode on web pages permits the project to archive the documents and transcriptions on the same page, even when both Hebrew and Arabic appear on the same document. The TextGarden database permits scholars to search for words and phrases and to explore often complex interrelationships among the documents within the collection.

A podcast and the presentation are available.

Jones Hall, February 2010. © Senior Lecturer in Arabic, Nancy Coffin.