

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Visiting Scholars Program - Fall 1979

Professor R.B. SERJEANT, Director of the Middle East Centre and Sir Thomas Adams' Professor of Arabic at Cambridge, will be a MESA Visiting Scholar in the fall. He is planning to arrive in the last week of September and to leave in the first week of November. Final dates will be established in a few months.

As a visiting scholar, Professor Serjeant will receive travel and per diem allowances to enable him to visit universities in the United States and Canada. A list of suggested lecture topics is given below.

Persons interested in having Professor Serjeant visit their centers or departments should contact the MESA Secretariat, New York University, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, Washington Square, New York, N.Y. 10003. Please do so as promptly as possible; his itinerary will be prepared by early September.

Suggested Lecture Topics:

- 1- New Light on Ancient Islamic Documents:
 - a) Constitution of Medina.
 - b) 'Umar's Letter on the Qadiship.
 - c) Siffin Arbitration Treaties.
- 2- Protected Enclaves in Arabia: Haram, Hawtah, Hijrah, Hima and Mahjar.
- 3- Shari'ah and Customary Law (with particular reference to Southwest Arabia).
- 4- Saint Cults in Southwest Arabia.
- 5- The City of San'a (illustrated with color slides).
- 6- East/West Trade Through the Red Sea.
- 7- Fishing and Maritime Customary Laws of the Arabian Coasts.
- 8- The Wards or Quarters of South Arabian Cities and Their Organization.
- 9- Yemenite Jews as Seen in Arabic (and Some Jewish) Sources.
- 10- The Two Yemens.

Education:

- 1936: M.A., Edinburgh University - Semitic Languages
1939: Ph.D., University of Cambridge

Experience:

- 1940: School of Oriental and African Studies: research in South Arabia.
1940-41: Governor's commission in Aden Protectorate Guards.
1941: Lecturer, School of Oriental and African Studies.
1942: BBC Eastern service.
1943-45: Editor, *Arabic Listener*.
1944: Editor, *Arabic Publications*, Ministry of Information.
1947-48: Colonial Research Fellow in Hadramawt Gulf.
1953-54: Research in South Arabia and Persian Gulf.
1956: Member of Minister of Education's Mission to examine Arabic instruction in Northern Nigeria.
1957: Secretary of State for Colonies' Mission to examine Muslim education in East Africa.
1955-64: Professor of Arabic, Middle East Department, School of Oriental and African Studies.
1964-66: Lecturer in Islamic History, Middle East Centre, Uni-

versity of Cambridge.

1966-70: Reader in Arabic Studies, Middle East Centre, University of Cambridge.

1970-Pres. Sir Thomas Adams' Professor of Arabic, Cambridge.

1965-Pres. Director, Middle East Centre, Cambridge.

Publications:

1942: *Catalogue of Arabic, Persian and Hindustani Manuscripts in New College, Edinburgh.*

1942-51: *Materials for a History of Islamic Textiles*

1950: *Prose and Poetry from Hadramawt*

1957: *Sa'yids of Hadramawt*

1976: *The South Arabian Hunt*

In Press: *San'a': An Arabian Islamic City [with R.B. Lewcock]*

In Press: *Papers from the Colloquium on the Islamic City, UNESCO, Paris.*

In Press: *Cambridge History of Arabic Literature (editor)*

[The above is an abridged version of Prof. Serjeant's *Curr. Vitae.*]

ANNUAL MEETING, 1979

The dates for this year's meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, to be held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, are November 8 to 11, 1979. Deadline for submission of proposals for the regular program was May 15th, but inquiries regarding it may be addressed to: Byron D. Cannon, Chairman, MESA Program Committee, Middle East Center, Building 413, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112. Phone: (801) 581-6181 or 581-6121.

The Conference will be organized into three categories of presentation:

- **Panels:** Groups of papers on a common theme or problem.
- **Workshops:** Groups of presentations concerned with methodology and/or demonstrations of new approaches, techniques, technology, models, etc.
- **Papers for Distribution and Discussion:** Individual papers submitted by their authors, or as parts of panels or workshops, which in the opinion of the Program Committee do not fall into either of the other categories.

Papers in all three categories will be available for sale. Proceeds from the sale will be divided equally between MESA and the authors.

Associated organizations will be block-scheduled for sessions and business meetings on Wednesday, November 7th. They may request blocks of time ranging from one (1) hour to all day. The requirements, procedures and schedules for any activities falling within an associated organization's assigned time block will be determined entirely by the associated organization and communicated to its membership.

The Program Committee welcomes and solicits suggestions from the membership as to programs and speakers for the plenary session. Suggestions for a breakfast session also will be entertained. Please send them to Professor Cannon at the above address.