

The American Research Institute in Turkey NEWSLETTER



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A Letter from ARIT-Istanbul

November 15, 1990

After a nine-month absence to pursue my own research at Washington University in St. Louis, it was with great anticipation that I returned to ARIT in June. I noted with delight the many physical improvements my replacement, Joe Schwarzer, had been responsible for in my absence. Using funds raised largely by the Friends of ARIT, he replaced the old table-top burners in our kitchen with a proper stove, eased Şükriye's burden by purchasing a clothes dryer, and added a very large Sony television and VCR to the second-hand paperback collection as distractions for the serious scholar. In addition, the lighting situation was improved with new overhead and table lamps, and a set of eight new shelves were purchased for the slowly but steadily expanding library. All of these additions have certainly improved the quality of life at the Istanbul hostel.

The only dark spot in this bright picture has been the water situation. The drastic water shortage facing Istanbul has affected the Beşiktaş district particularly severely. The municipality gives Beşiktaş water only one day out of every three. Although our building has a large water depot we still must ration. Since June our building has followed a schedule whereby there is water in the morning for two to three hours and in the evening for three hours. Inconvenient as this is, especially for those who are not out at work somewhere else all day, most guests have been able to arrange their life around these hours without too much difficulty. We provide for the waterless hours by keeping innumerable water-bottles in all the bathrooms and the kitchen. Fortunately, there has been significant rain in the last two months, but it's still too early to predict when and if the crisis will ease.

It has been an active five months since I returned. In July the Friends went for the third year in a row to visit the prehistoric excavations in the caves at Yarımburgaz. As always, Prof. Clark Howell of the University of California at Berkeley was a delightful and informative host, and the Friends were dismayed to learn that this season was probably the last. In August a reception for Ottomanists was held at the Institute. Our special guest of honor was Prof. Halil Inalcık. Eighty guests turned out for this occasion, well over half of whom were from outside the country. As a means of fostering scholarly contact, it appears to have been a great success. Not only did scholars have a chance to meet Turkish counterparts, but virtually everyone attending ran into some acquaintance or colleague they didn't realize was even in the country!

In the fall Friends' activities increased in tempo. In early October a group of Friends went by train to Aphrodisias.



Prof. Kenan Erim, in high spirits after a grand ceremony the day before marking the completion of the restoration of a triumphal arch, spent an entire day talking to the group and taking them around the site. It was truly a special occasion, the memory of which was made bittersweet by the news two weeks later that Prof. Erim had died suddenly of a heart attack.

The following weekend the Friends kicked off a new membership year with a reception for new Friends at ARIT attended by some seventy persons. Later that month the Friends joined the Ankara Friends for a unique tour of Antakya and neolithic sites in the region led by Dr. Marie-Henriette Gates. This was followed on a fine day in early November by one of the ever-popular walking tours of the Istanbul land walls, led this time by local expert and U.S. Consul General, Thomas Carolan. Finally, just this past weekend our Dernek President and premier Turkish architectural historian, Prof. Aptullah Kuran of Boğaziçi University, led us on a memorable tour of Ottoman Bursa and Iznik.

Let me close by once again asking all of you to keep ARIT in mind when you, your acquaintances or institutional libraries decide to get rid of, or sell, books about Turkey past or present. With our limited book-buying budgets, our libraries and the growing number of foreign and Turkish scholars using them here and in Ankara can be greatly enriched by your donations. We'll gratefully accept almost anything relevant; please write or call Toni Cross or me if you wish to know about the particular needs of our libraries. The cost of postage overseas will be covered by USIS if you can get the books to our Philadelphia office. Call ARIT for details. And thank you!

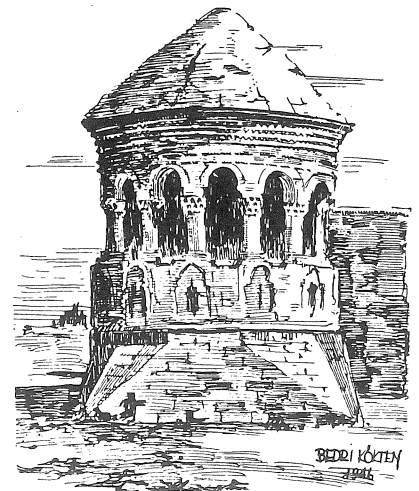
Tony Greenwood
ARIT-Istanbul Branch Director

KENAN ERIM

Kenan Erim died suddenly in Ankara on November 2, 1990, after the completion of his thirtieth campaign of excavations at Aphrodisias. The season had been crowned by the festive inauguration of the restored Tetracylon, the monumental gateway which is now visible from afar. The ceremonies were attended by President Turgut Özal, to whom Kenan Erim was to present a report on the preservation of Aphrodisias, and site conservation in general, at the end of the season.

The resurrection of Aphrodisias with its wealth of architecture, sculpture and inscriptions, and the installation of a local museum, were the lifetime accomplishments of Kenan Erim. He was a gracious host to visiting groups of ARIT Friends from Ankara and Istanbul, and as recently as October 6 the Ankara Friends were guided around the site by Prof. Erim himself. On June 9 he gave a rousing lecture on Aphrodisias at the ARIT-Ankara Members Dinner, held at the Ambassador's residence.

Kenan Erim, who was Professor of Classics at New York University, will be remembered with admiration and gratitude by the Friends and Members of ARIT. He was buried near the Tetracylon in Aphrodisias by the villagers, like the great benefactors of the ancient city interred within its walls. The Vali, archaeological colleagues, and representatives of the Friends of Aphrodisias attended the service. ARIT was represented at a ceremony at the Department of Antiquities and at the Maltepe Mosque on November 14 by Ankara Branch Director Toni M. Cross.



Reports from ARIT Fellows

The research fellows reporting in this issue of the ARIT Newsletter discuss issues of access and the availability of particular types of documentation, as well as the effects, both positive and negative, that access to certain kinds of materials has had on their results and on their plans for future research.



CARL ERNST is a 1990-91 ARIT Fellow from Pomona College, where he teaches in the Religion department. His research on "An Edition and Translation of Hawd al-Hayat, an Arabic Treatise on Yoga," took place in the summer of 1990. To shorten his report, document numbers have been omitted; interested scholars should contact Prof. Ernst for more details.

* * *

"I am happy to report that my trip to Turkey, supported by an ARIT travel grant, was extraordinarily successful for my research. My purpose had been to collect microfilms of the manuscripts of an important Arabic text, which is the only known treatise in Arabic on hatha-yoga. This text is known by several titles: 1) Hawd [ma'] al-hayat or The Pool of [the Water of] Life, which is the equivalent of the title of the lost Sanskrit work, the Amrtakunda, from which it was translated, ostensibly in the early 13th century; 2) Mir'at al-ma'ani fi idrak al-'alam al-insani or The Mirror of Meanings for the Comprehension of the Human World, the title given to it by the anonymous translator; and 3) Tibb al-insan li-nafsih, roughly meaning Do-It-Yourself Medicine.

"This text, according to the anonymous translator's introduction, was translated from Sanskrit into Arabic first in Bengal in 1210 by one Rukn al-Din Samarqandi, and then once more at an unspecified later time. It contains a description of the practices of yogic meditation and postures, with special emphasis on chanting mantras. The vocabulary is drawn from Greco-Arabic philosophy and Sufism, and the introduction contains a composite narrative, as a frame story, derived from a well-known Persian treatise by the Illuminationist philosopher Suhrawardi (d.1191) and from the Gnostic "Hymn of the Soul" from the Acts of Thomas....

"The research in Turkey was made necessary because the text had been wrongly ascribed in medieval times to the famous Andalusian Sufi Muhyi al-Din ibn al-'Arabi (d.1240).... Fortunately, since Osman Yahia has published an exhaustive bibliography of the works of Ibn al-'Arabi, this meant that a nearly complete list of the copies of this work in Turkey's libraries had already been compiled.... My task, then, was to examine and obtain microfilms of as many as seventeen manuscripts in Istanbul and one in Bursa.... In addition, Yahia had pointed out the existence of several copies of a Turkish translation of this work, made by a late Ottoman scholar, 'Abd Allah Salahi Efendi (d.1768).

"In Istanbul, at the Süleymaniye library I found that two of the references supplied by Yahia...were incorrect, but as a compensation I found four other copies of the work not mentioned by Yahia....

"Examination of two other Süleymaniye manuscripts...cleared up a little mystery. Bibliographies of the works of Ibn Sina... contained reference to a work entitled al-Mabda' wa al-ma'ad, or The Origin and the End, which was dubiously ascribed to Ibn Sina but which was clearly an excerpt from the above-mentioned frame story found in the introduction to the yoga text. Yet the old printed catalogue of the Esad Efendi collection described both manuscripts as commentaries on Ibn Sina's poem on the soul. Those descriptions were correct, but the anonymous commentator had decided to append three items to the commentary proper: 1) al-Ghazali's allegorical Risalat al-tayr, 2) the frame-story, and 3) a commentary on a hadith. Thus the Gnostic-Neoplatonic frame-story to the yoga text had been separately incorporated into this commentary on Ibn Sina (although in a slightly truncated form, lacking the concluding lines found in the epilogue to the yoga text).

"At Istanbul University, I found three more copies in addition to the one mentioned by Yahia, and obtained microfilms of all four. ... I also got one microfilm from the Topkapi. ... A visit to Bursa to see another MS...also proved rewarding.... A noteworthy feature of all these manuscripts is that none of them predates 980/1572.... Most copies are from the 17th and 18th centuries, but some are as late as 1891. The text exists in three different versions: a full version, one with an abbreviated introduction, and a version containing only six of the ten chapters. The manuscripts from Turkey will be of decisive importance for establishing the critical edition of the text, which I am now doing, using the "AlKaatib International" Arabic script word-processor. I expect to publish the text in a journal of Arabic studies, while the translation, along with a monographic essay on Sufism and yoga, is to be published by SUNY Press.

"This much was anticipated, but I had not foreseen what effect this first encounter with Turkey would have on my overall outlook as an Islamicist. The existence of a Turkish translation of this text is an important part of its textual transmission, and an examination of this translation, I was forced to admit, would considerably enhance the understanding of the role of this yoga text in the world of Turkish Sufism. This realization was reinforced when I examined the copies of the Turkish translation, which continued to be copied throughout the nineteenth century. One copyist had made two copies of the text within a three-day period in 1890, at the Galata Mevlevihane in Istanbul. In addition to seven manuscript copies, I was stunned to discover two copies of a second, entirely different Turkish translation, which was printed by an anonymous translator in 1328/1910-11.... Accordingly, I not only acquired a photocopy of the printed text and microfilms of three manuscripts of the Turkish text, but also I have returned armed with my large Rehouse Lexicon (Beirut ed.) and a number of Turkish grammars and readers kindly suggested by Charles Brown of the Redhouse Press. So, not without trepidation, I now as a result of this project have begun to navigate the waters of Ottoman Turkish.

JANE HATHAWAY, PhD candidate at Princeton University, updates her report in the ARIT Newsletter #10 with the research she did as a 1990-91 Fellow on her project, "Egypt's Mamluk Emirs in the Ottoman System, 1600-1754."

* * *

"This summer, I received an ARIT grant to complete and extend the research I began in Istanbul in 1988-89 [as a Fellow Without Stipend]. This research concerns the influence of the ruling cadre in Istanbul on the formation of Egyptian military households during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. I am particularly intrigued by the Qazdağlı household, which apparently began as a western Anatolian subfaction of the Janissary corps but which by the late 18th century all but ruled the province.

"I spent the bulk of my time in the Başbakanlık Arşivi. I am happy to report that within the past year, the Başbakanlık has become a more "user-friendly" facility. The reading room has been combined with the library so that there is more space for an ever-increasing number of researchers. The 100-pace photocopy limit has been lifted, and although the cost of copies has risen, the increase is not as drastic as had been feared. Furthermore, one can now pay for the copies inside the archives building; it is no longer necessary to trudge to the Defterdarlık. Access to the archives seems also to have become easier. Since I had applied to the Turkish embassy in Washington for permission, I was able to begin work the first day I put in an appearance at the archives. Those who apply for permission on the spot receive their permits by mail within a few days of their applications....

"The summer's main task consisted of going through mühimme defters from the mid-17th century to the early 18th century. (During my first research trip, I had read seven volumes of the Mühimme-i Mısır, which begins in 1701.) Since the general mühimme defters are not separated by province, I was obliged to scan through orders from all Ottoman provinces. I was, however, rewarded for my trouble: I found ample evidence of near-constant revolts and brigandage in Anatolia, particularly the western sancaks, during the late 17th century. This turmoil explains at least in part the influx of Anatolians in to Egypt during these years.

"One order in particular was almost worth the entire summer's searching: an order from 1109/1697-8 complemented a list of the vakıf property of the exiled Kızlar Ağası 'Abbas Ağa (1667-8) that I had found in the Topkapı archives in 1989. The mühimme clarified some items in the list--for instance, the book list was indeed part of a library--and revealed that the former governor İsmail Paşa had illegally tried to sell off some of the vakıf property.

"I also read a few more military pay lists from the Maliyeden Müdevver collection. One of these, a register of the hazine guard for 1167/1753-4, confirmed that even at that late date, there were a substantial number of Anatolians among the rank and file of Egypt's soldiery. This finding runs counter to the conclusions drawn by Gabriel Piterberg in an article in the August, 1990, IJMES.

"I spent several days at the Süleymaniye library, reading 'Abdülkerim b. 'Abdurrahman's Tarih-i Mısır (c. 1700). This chronicle is yet another example of what I might call the "Egyptian bureaucratic school," bearing telling similarities to the works of al-Hallaq, Ahmad Çelebi, the anonymous author of Akhbar al-nawwab, and al-Jabarti (cf. my previous report in ARIT Newsletter No. 10). It is all the more intriguing for the fact that 'Abdülkerim claims to be translating from Arabic chronicles even though he, like Hallaq, reproduces hatts and other official documents verbatim. Perhaps our conception of translating, like our conception of plagiarism, needs to be modified in the case of these chronicles.

"In sum, I gathered a great deal of data in a short time and was pleasantly surprised by the efficiency with which I was able to do so. The only hardship I encountered during my stay in Istanbul was, of course, the water shortage, which began to hit my neighborhood (Cihangir) particularly hard during July. Those contemplating research in Istanbul should keep apprised of water availability in various buildings and neighborhoods and arrange their accommodations accordingly."



News from the Branches

ISTANBUL BRANCH

Istanbul Branch Director Antony Greenwood was on research leave during 1989-90, and the Istanbul Branch was in the capable hands of Acting Director Joseph Schwarzer. The following report summarizes Mr. Schwarzer's accomplishments during the fall of 1989. He has now returned to the U.S. to finish his doctoral dissertation.

"Over the last four months ARIT facilities have expanded and relations with the Dernek, and the Friends of ARIT-Istanbul, have all progressed nicely... Fire extinguishers are in working order. Electrical outlets are rewired and securely installed. Storage areas have been consolidated. I have rewired three floor lamps, three table lamps, and eight desk lamps; consequently, desks in the rooms and the library are now well lit. In September I install new lights in the halls, the kitchen, the offices and three of the rooms, and it is now possible to use the periodical stacks without a flashlight. By mid-September a gas leak in the kitchen had become unbearable. I had the system checked and learned the problem was with the three-burner range. Through the generosity of the Friends of ARIT-Istanbul we promptly acquired a new gas range/oven and the problem is now resolved. Similarly, I felt it was not a good idea to dry laundry on racks in the library; once again, the Friends came through and we now have a dryer. It took the maid a few weeks to get used to this but she now seems quite fond of it. In addition all nonworking, unrepairable appliances (washer, dryer, refrigerator) have been removed from the halls and rooms and are now in pieces spread out over greater Istanbul.

Fariba [Zarinebaf, ARIT Fellow] and I have been working on the library. The book stacks have been repositioned in order to facilitate access to books, and the card catalogue is being restructured along the lines of the Ankara Branch Library (each book will be catalogued according to author and title). Until both collections (Ankara and Istanbul) are computerized, this is the best we can do. It is disturbing to note that ARIT has lost 22 books from the Ottoman holdings alone, and this is a clear indication that better security is required. Obviously, as long as the library cannot be isolated from the living quarters, proper security will be impossible. However, a part-time librarian, a sign-in register, and a bag check/inspection would help. Happily, again through the Friends, I have been able to obtain a new microfilm reader and, most recently, a 27-inch multi-system color tv/monitor and a multi-system, variable speed vcr player/recorder. ARIT will now be able to show the tapes it has and expand its collection, in all formats, for use by researchers, Dernek members, lecturers, the Friends, etc. Donations of suitable documentaries or films will be greatly appreciated (and tax deductible).

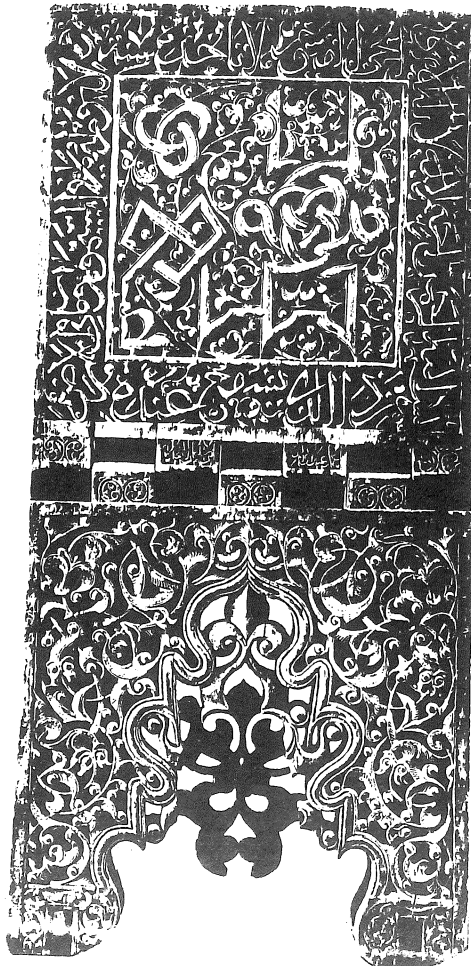
The relationship with the Dernek continues to be excellent. I have enclosed a copy of this year's grant brochure. Dernek activities for the Spring will include a

series of four lectures on theater and literature in Turkey and the U.S. and a minisymposium (another four lectures) on urban planning in Istanbul over the last five years: technical, economic, and aesthetic aspects. In each case, two lecturers will be Turkish and two American. Everyone seems quite pleased.

The Friends of ARIT-Istanbul is developing very well. This Fall's activities included: a lecture by Turkish cooking expert Neşet Eren at the Kıbrıslı Yalı, a tour of Sinan's waterworks and aqueducts, two lectures by John Carswell, Director of Islamic Art at Sotheby's London, a tour of Istanbul dungeons (Hallow-ween), a tour of medieval Genoese monuments, and a lecture by F. M. Katircioğlu on Ottoman maps 1483-1905. In addition to their generous support of ARIT, the Friends are considering a new scholarship for Turkish conservators.

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For ARIT
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US Consulate General
APO New York 09380



ANKARA BRANCH

During the first six months of 1990, the Ankara Branch Library had an average of 68 patrons per month. The monograph inventory, begun in January, disclosed a fair number of missing volumes, "truly a depressing business," according to Branch Director Toni M. Cross. Computerized lists of journals and of the slide collection have been compiled.

Hostel guests in the first half of the year numbered 20, and guest income helped considerably with operating expenses. New ceiling light fixtures were purchased and installed in the main hostel rooms.

The Tenth Annual Lecture Series included David French speaking on "Excavations at Tille," Oluş Arik on "Hasan Keyf," Peter Neve on "Recent Discoveries at Hittite Boğazköy," and the annual archaeological Mini-Symposium.

Activities of the Friends of ARIT-Ankara were the annual "Copper, Carpet and Kilim Show & Tell" in January; a slide talk on eastern Turkey, featuring a Mt. Ararat climb, in February; a trip to Antalya in March; in May a day tour of Roman Ankara led by Suna Güven, plus the Mini-Symposium; in June the annual Friends of ARIT dinner at the Ambassador's Residence, with a special program on Aphrodisias by Prof. Kenan Erim; and in July a day trip to Gordion with a tour of the site led by excavators Ken Sams and Mary Voigt.

In August, the Friends visited the Hittite capital of Boğazköy, where Dr. Peter Neve, director of excavations, showed them his most recent discoveries. Members gathered in September for a fall reception graciously hosted by the Danish Ambassador. In October, Dr. Marie-Henriette Gates, a former director of ARIT-Ankara, led a joint Ankara-Istanbul Friends trip to Antakya (ancient Antioch-on-the-Orontes). Another joint Friends trip to Antalya, to be led by Dr. Charles Gates, also a former director, was planned for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

In a cooperative venture with American research institutes in other countries, ARIT this year sponsored a visit by a Turkish scholar, Prof. Yıldız Ötügen, to the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. The Friends provided a travel grant of 60,000 TL, and lodging was provided by the American School in Athens. Professor Ötügen's trip was reported as "a great success."

Other donations from the Ankara Friends in this period included funds to cover the rent and utilities of the Ankara hostel, a supplement for the salary of the Library Assistant, special grants to the Gordion and Aphrodisias excavations and the Phrygian Symposium held in Ankara, and gifts toward the costs of various social events. ARIT is extremely grateful for the support given by the Friends, both financially and otherwise.

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APO New York 09254

ARIT/BU Program

The ninth ARIT/Bosphorus University Summer Language Program took place during the summer of 1990 in Istanbul. After several days of orientation to Turkey and to the city, students attended an eight-week intensive advanced Turkish language program in which sessions in grammar and reading skills alternated with language lab and conversation sessions. Some of the students sent reports on their experience to the ARIT office, of which the following is a summary.

All students who reported were unanimous in praise of their teacher, Sabahat Sansa. The faculty of the program has always been outstanding, and this year's faculty was no exception. Sabahat hanım was described as "absolutely phenomenal," "always energetic, encouraging and well prepared." "Her explanations of the grammar were very clear and tremendously effective." "She took a genuine interest in our progress and in our individual interests....She was quite demanding in her expectations of us and a good motivator."

The curriculum of readings "was heavily debated among the students." This is to be expected, since students enter the program for a variety of reasons and find different kinds of texts useful in their preparation. The weekly lectures given by faculty members and guest lecturers were much enjoyed. "Comparing my comprehension levels at the beginning of the course and at the end, I could clearly see how much more I understood as a result of the course and of speaking Turkish off-campus. The variety of the topics of these lectures was refreshing and interesting."

Students also praised the efforts of the Teaching Assistants, "who were always helpful," but found the format of the conversation hours which the TA's led immediately after lunch "not always conducive to absorption of more Turkish." Most students felt that smaller groups meeting less frequently, more variety in class structure, and increased informal conversation in Turkish, such as in the dorm or on field trips, would be more beneficial than formal conversation sessions.

The dorms of Bosphorus University, where the students stay, apparently did not suffer from the water shortage that plagued Istanbul during the summer of 1990; one student "was very pleased to have a continuous supply of water, hot and cold." In other respects, dorm conditions and especially dorm food got mixed reviews. Another Fellow remarked, "I sincerely hope that the men cleaning our rooms get a bonus for the work they did." Resident Assistants "were incredibly helpful and really went out of their way for the students"---"did a fine job."

In general, students found that their "Turkish improved a great deal. This applies to spoken Turkish, comprehension, and a broader understanding of the grammar." They continue to seek more contemporary literature, better meals, and more effective opportunities to speak Turkish, both on campus and off. Nonetheless, they return feeling that the program was "quite successful," "enjoyable," and that they "benefitted a great deal."

Friends of ARIT

NORTH AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ARIT

The North American Friends of ARIT are once again sponsoring a cultural seminar at the Annual Meeting of the American Friends of Turkey. Professor Walter Denny from the University of Massachusetts will speak on "Turkish Art and Europe: Admirers and Imitators." The seminar will take place on Saturday, February 23, 1991, at 10:00 a.m. in the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. The admission price of \$12.50 will cover the entire morning's cultural seminar program. For further information, contact the American Friends of Turkey, 1411 K St., NW, Suite 1010, Washington, DC 20005, tel. 202/783-0487.

News from Members

ARIT invites all who are paid-up members or Friends to send us your news for this spot.

Washington University/St. Louis: The Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations announces a continuation of its program of post-doctoral research fellowships for interdisciplinary research in Islamic studies. The topic for 1991-92 is the history of Islamic law in praxis, and for 1992-93 it is the reevaluation of Iberian history from a pluralistic Mediterranean perspective. All applicants should submit curricula vitae and letters describing their proposals by January 15 to: The Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations, Washington University, Campus Box 1230, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899, tel. 314/889-5166.

Audrey L. Altstadt: Now teaching in the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts, she writes that the Association for the Advancement of Central Asian Research announces the availability in both hard cover and paperback of ALPAMYSH: Central Asian Identity under Russian Rule by H. B. Paksoy. For further information or to order the book contact AACAR, Treasurer, c/o History Department, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

Membership

Since our membership letter went out to our previous Friends, ARIT has had a very respectable response. Many new members have also joined ARIT through the Newsletter. Several of the Friends have included an additional donation for the Ankara and Istanbul Libraries, for which ARIT is most grateful. The membership letter will continue to be sent to current Friends in early February. New Friends may join at any time by filling out the form on the back of the Newsletter.

Once again, ARIT would like to thank all of the generous members of NAFA who have made donations. The following is a list of donors since the Spring Newsletter.

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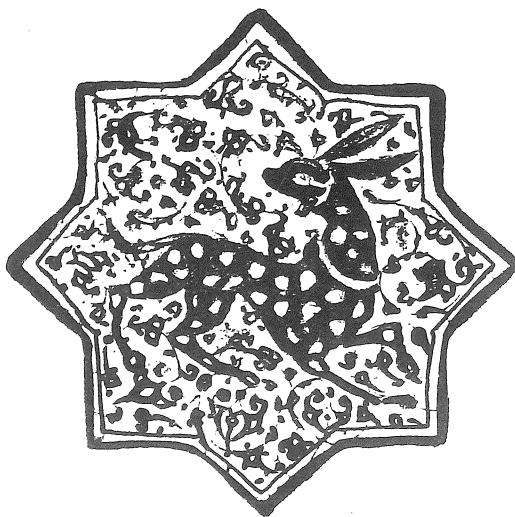
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