

## TIMA NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2010

Happy New Year to all!

### TIMA EVENTS

#### NEW STAFF

Dear Colleagues,

Some of you may already be aware that I will be leaving my position at TIMA very soon. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all well for the future, and to introduce TIMA's two new Office Administrators, **Emma Wells** and **Alison Judge**. Many of you have already met Emma, a trained archaeologist, in her present role of Secretary for the Prince Alwaleed Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. She has also been involved in TIMA's activities since February 2009. Alison Judge has extensive experience as a teacher of English as a foreign language and is a speaker of Urdu. She recently completed a Master's degree in social anthropology at LSE, London.

Please send your emails to [tima@islamicmanuscript.org](mailto:tima@islamicmanuscript.org) so that all TIMA staff members receive them. Individual contact emails for Alison and Emma are: [alison@islamicmanuscript.org](mailto:alison@islamicmanuscript.org) and (as of February) [emma@islamicmanuscript.org](mailto:emma@islamicmanuscript.org).

---

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

This invitation is open to all TIMA members and we would really like to encourage your participation in the conference. We have not yet received as many conference submissions as we are hoping for, so there is a chance for more members to submit abstracts and be chosen. If your abstract is selected your attendance at the conference will be subsidised in full by the Association, and your paper may go on to be published on TIMA's website or in the upcoming journal.

#### **The Sixth Islamic Manuscript Conference: Central Asian Islamic Manuscripts and Manuscript Collections**

**8-10 July 2010, Queens' College, University of Cambridge, UK**

The Islamic Manuscript Association is pleased to announce that the Sixth Islamic Manuscript Conference will be held at Queens' College, University of Cambridge from 8-10 July 2010. The Conference will be hosted by the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation, and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge. The theme of the Conference will be Central Asian Islamic manuscripts and manuscript collections.

The Association invites the submission of abstracts on topics related to the study of Islamic manuscripts – particularly codicology – and the care and management of Islamic manuscript collections. Preference will be shown to submissions pertaining to the Conference's theme. The Conference will be organised around the Association's four key working areas: cataloguing, conservation, digitisation, and research and publishing; and papers falling into these broad categories will be included in the relevant panel. The Association will also consider submissions on topics that do not fall directly under the purviews of the working groups but are yet concerned with scholarship on Islamic manuscripts or the care and management of Islamic manuscript collections. Please note that the total number of papers accepted will not exceed 25 and that preference will be given to speakers who have not presented papers at the Association's previous conferences.

The invitation is open to members and non-members of the Association. The languages of the Conference will be Arabic and English and submissions will be accepted in both languages. The deadline for submissions is 31 January 2010. Late submissions will not be considered. The duration of each conference paper is 30 minutes inclusive of questions and answers.

Please send an abstract of 500 words, a resume and the attached cover sheet to the Association's Executive Committee at the below email, fax or postal address:

The Islamic Manuscript Association Ltd  
c/o 33 Trumpington Street  
Cambridge CB2 1QY  
United Kingdom  
Email: [tima@islamicmanuscript.org](mailto:tima@islamicmanuscript.org)  
Fax: +44 (0)1223 302 218

---

## **PUBLICATION**

Indiana University Press is pleased to announce the recent publication of:

THE ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPT TRADITION  
Ten Centuries of Book Arts in Indiana University Collections

Edited by Christiane Gruber

Over the course of ten centuries, Islam developed a rich written heritage that is visible in paintings, calligraphies, and manuscripts. The Islamic Manuscript Tradition explores this aspect of Islamic history with studies of the materials and tools of literate culture, including pens, inks, and papers, Qur'ans, Persian and Mughal illustrated manuscripts, Ottoman devotional works, cartographical manuscripts, printed books, and Islamic erotica. Seven essays present new scholarship on a wide range of topics including collection, miniaturization, illustrated devotional books, the history of the printing press in Islamic lands, and the presence and function of erotic paintings. This beautifully produced volume includes 111 color illustrations and provides a valuable new resource for students and scholars of Islamic art.

304 pp., 111 color illus., 11 b&w illus.  
cloth 978-0-253-35377-1 \$39.95

For more information, visit:

[http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product\\_info.php?isbn=978-0-253-35377-1](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product_info.php?isbn=978-0-253-35377-1)

---

## **PUBLICATION**

Indiana University Press is pleased to announce the recent publication of:

"Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources"  
Edited by Scott C. Levi and Ron Sela

Islamic Central Asia is the first English-language anthology of primary documents for the study of Central Asian history. Scott C. Levi and Ron Sela draw from a vast array of historical sources to illustrate

important aspects of the social, cultural, political, and economic history of Islamic Central Asia. These documents<many newly translated and most not readily available for study<cover the period from the 7th-century Arab conquests to the 19th-century Russian colonial era and provide new insights into the history and significance of the region.

338 pp., 1 map  
cloth 978-0-253-35385-6 \$75.00  
paper 978-0-253-22140-7 \$27.95

For more information, visit: <http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/>

-----

## **ARTICLE**

A fascinating article from "Academe Today" (the daily news update of the Chronicle of Higher Education):

[http://chronicle.com/article/A-Monk-Saves-Threatened/49283/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/A-Monk-Saves-Threatened/49283/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

A Benedictine monk's project to digitize early Christian manuscripts, particularly from Middle Eastern countries.

-----

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Free searchable online catalogue**

The Wellcome Library, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and King's College London, have formed a partnership to create a free searchable online catalogue of 500 Islamic manuscripts in the Wellcome Library.

The partners will

- \* design a cataloguing system to create and manage descriptive metadata for Asian manuscripts, including adapting the ENRICH TEI metadata schema
- \* catalogue the manuscripts using this tool
- \* create cover-to-cover, high quality digital photographs of the manuscripts
- \* produce a website to enable sophisticated access to the metadata and its associated digital images.

The website will be hosted by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and digitised content will also be available via the Wellcome Library catalogue, pending inclusion of the complete catalogue on the Wellcome site when circumstances permit.

For more information visit  
<http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/arabicproject.html>.

-----

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Virtual Iraq Museum has been initiated with the cooperation of Google and U-Tube, consisting of 14,000 photos with text in Arabic, English, and French. It will be officially inaugurated in early 2010.

<http://www.virtualmuseumiraq.cnr.it/homeENG.htm>

---

## **APPOINTMENT**

### **A new post at the V&A**

The V&A Museum And Iran Heritage Foundation Are Delighted To Announce That Dr. Moya Carey Will Become The Iran Heritage Foundation Curator, Iran Collections, In The Asian Department Of The V&A. This New curatorial role Is One Of A Series Of Positions Created As Part Of Iran Heritage Foundation's New Programme Of Developing Strategic Partnerships With Major Academic And Cultural Organisations.

Of Dr. Carey's appointment, Mark Jones, Director of the V&A, said: "The V&A and Iran Heritage Foundation have a long history of collaboration. The appointment of Dr. Carey was made possible through a generous grant from the Iran Heritage Foundation and will enable the V&A, for the first time, to devote the resources of a full time curator to its considerable Iranian collections."

---

## **VACANCY**

### **School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London – Lecturer in the History of the Near and Middle East in the Early Islamic Period**

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the History of the Near and Middle East in the Early Islamic Period. Candidates should demonstrate research and teaching excellence pertaining to aspects of Islamic history in the period from the rise of Islam to c 1000 CE. The person appointed will be expected to contribute to teaching at both BA and MA levels and to supervise research students working on the history of the Near and Middle East.

Prospective candidates seeking further information on the Department and the School may contact the Head of Department, Dr Benjamin Fortna, on [bf7@soas.ac.uk](mailto:bf7@soas.ac.uk).

This post commences on 1 September 2010. Annual leave is 30 days per year plus statutory and bank holidays. USS pension scheme will be available.

Closing date: 15 January 2010

Interviews will be held during week commencing 8 February 2010

Website: [http://jobs.soas.ac.uk/fe/tpl\\_soasnet01.asp](http://jobs.soas.ac.uk/fe/tpl_soasnet01.asp)

---

## **COURSE**

**The 6th Arabic Papyrology Webclass (Spring Semester 2010):  
Authentication Procedures on Arabic Coins, Seals and Letters  
(May 16-18, time might be changed)**

By exposing certain features, coins, seals and letters represent the institutions and persons issuing them. This, however, implies a generally accepted procedure of authentication. By dealing simultaneously with coins, seals and letters, we will try to understand the underlying conceptions of constructing authenticity. We shall focus on documents from the first up to the third century Hijra.

This is an on-line webclass taught by Lutz Ilisch, Tübingen, and Andreas Kaplony, Zurich, and mostly reading unpublished coins, seals and letters held at the collections of Tübingen and Vienna. A scan of the document will be sent to you in advance. Estimated time for preparation: 1-2 hours/week. Communication will be in English.

Registration is open until 31 January 2010 through [www.ori.uzh.ch/apw](http://www.ori.uzh.ch/apw).

The Arabic Papyrology School: [www.ori.uzh.ch/aps](http://www.ori.uzh.ch/aps)

The Arabic Papyrology Webclass: [www.ori.uzh.ch/apw](http://www.ori.uzh.ch/apw)

The Arabic Papyrology Database: [www.ori.uzh.ch/apd](http://www.ori.uzh.ch/apd)

---

## VACANCY

### AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

**Director, AKU-Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations (ISMC)  
London, England**

The opportunity now exists for a new Director to provide visionary and strategic leadership for the continued growth and development of AKU-ISMC. Building on the success that it has already achieved, the Director will promote an environment of academic excellence in research, teaching and scholarship. In particular, the new Director will provide leadership in the fulfillment of the mandate of AKU-ISMC, to foster a pluralistic and inclusive understanding of Muslim civilizations based on a comparative and historical approach.

The successful candidate will be an established scholar with some years of experience within a university environment where he/she has developed strong financial and administrative management competence. Advancing the research profile of the Institute and seeking new sources of funding are key parts of the mandate of the Director, but above all, he/she must be a leader who can foster a shared vision among a team of approximately 30 faculty and staff, develop strong local and international relationships, and shape the future of a young institution.

If you are interested in applying for this exciting position, please visit [www.odgersberndtson.ca/en/careers/8797](http://www.odgersberndtson.ca/en/careers/8797) to submit your resume and related information online.

---

## VACANCIES

### British Museum

#### 1. Project Curator: Ethnography - Fixed-Term for 23 Months

As Project Curator: Ethnography, you will undertake a broad range of curatorial work and research in relation to the field of ethnography in the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf Region and advise on its presentation in relation to the Zayed National Museum. You will support the development of a curatorial programme for the ZNM and identify appropriate material within the British Museum and in the UAE and Gulf region.

Additionally you will undertake research on the histories and cultures of the UAE and the Gulf region, advise the curator on objects and narratives for the ZNM and contribute to the development of the intellectual framework for the permanent galleries and special exhibitions.

Educated to degree level or equivalent in anthropology or ethnography, you will also be familiar with and have knowledge of the societies of the Gulf. You will have good organisational skills and be able to work effectively as part of a team. With proven project delivery, you will also have the ability to prepare written reports.

Closing date: 12 noon, 20 January 2010.

## 2. Project Curator: Social History - Fixed-Term for 23 Months

As Project Curator: Social History, you will undertake a broad range of curatorial work and research in relation to the field of social history in the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf Region and advise on its presentation in relation to the Zayed National Museum. You will support the development of a curatorial programme for the ZNM and identify appropriate material within the British Museum and in the UAE and Gulf region.

Additionally you will undertake research on the histories and cultures of the UAE and the Gulf region, advise the curator on objects and narratives for the ZNM and contribute to the development of the intellectual framework for the permanent galleries and special exhibitions.

Educated to degree level or equivalent in social or political history, you will also be familiar with and have knowledge of the societies of the Gulf. You will have good organisational skills and be able to work effectively as part of a team. With proven project delivery, you will also have the ability to prepare written reports.

Closing date: 12 noon, 20 January 2010.

Dr. Fahmida Suleman  
Email: [fsuleman@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:fsuleman@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

---

## LECTURE

### **ANCIENT SOUTH ARABIA AND THE NEAR EAST** **Thursday, 21 January 2010** **6:00pm in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum**

ANCIENT SOUTH ARABIA AND THE NEAR EAST, a lecture by Alexandra Porter of the British Museum, Department of Middle East, held in conjunction with the Council for British Research in the Levant and the Palestine Exploration Fund.

Abstract: South Arabia does not even feature on many maps of the ancient Near East. Scholars have not recognised the significance of South Arabia in the ancient Near East due a limited knowledge of this area. However, in recent decades there have been astonishing developments in the understanding of the region, as a result of archaeological excavations and the enormous quantity of written sources that have been discovered. This information demonstrates that South Arabia had a strong cultural identity characterised by unique and original features but was at the same time part of the broader historical and cultural system of the ancient Near East. In this lecture we will outline the history of interaction between the Fertile Crescent and South Arabia. We will examine the models of migration vs indigenous

development in the origins of the ancient South Arabian civilisation, the role of the incense trade in the rise of the South Arabian kingdoms, and the various influences reflected in ancient South Arabian art.

Please direct any queries to: E [j.onley@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:j.onley@exeter.ac.uk) W [www.societyforarabianstudies.org](http://www.societyforarabianstudies.org).

---

## MEETING

### **2010 HIAA MAJLIS 13 February 2010**

The Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA) will hold its 2010 annual majlis (meeting) on Saturday, 13 February 2010, 9 am - 2 pm, at the University of Chicago, Cochrane Woods Art Center, room 157, 5540 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

The majlis will begin with a program of 4 presentations on current research in Islamic art, followed by a business meeting.

<http://www.historiansofislamicart.org/portal/default.asp?id=31>

---

## CONFERENCE

### **MELCOM Conference Cordoba, Spain April 2010**

MELCOM conference in Cordoba, Spain, in April 2010 is fast approaching. As in the past, the sessions of the meeting will be devoted to the following topics:

1. Manuscripts, rare books and documents
2. Collection development, acquisition policies, cooperation between libraries
3. Catalogues and bibliographies
4. History of libraries and readership
5. Digitisation and other new technologies
6. Current issues of information science in Middle East area studies
7. And of course any other aspect within our fields of interest

Further details about the conference's themes can be found here:

<http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/ext/melcomintl/melconfCordob10.shtml>

---

## WORKSHOP

### **Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research June 7-11, 2010, Washington DC Deadline for applications: February 25, 2010**

Ph.D. students from any discipline working on dissertations involving archival research (particularly in relatively newly accessible archives) are invited to apply to participate in the 8th annual Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research (SICAR) at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. SICAR trains graduate students to get the most out of their time conducting research in archives and includes the following sessions such as:

- preparing to go to an archive and structuring time once there;
- understanding how archival documents come to be written and deposited in archives;
- tackling the challenges of interpreting archival documents, including issues of culture and foreign language; and,
- searching for information not in the archives.

The deadline for applications is February 25, 2010 and decisions will be announced by the end of March. Please send applications via e-mail (ATTN: SICAR APP) to [sicar@gwu.edu](mailto:sicar@gwu.edu). Letters of recommendation can be sent via email or by regular mail to:

The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies  
ATTN: Elidor Mehilli/SICAR  
1957 E St. N.W., Suite 412  
Washington, DC 20052.

GWU will cover the costs of housing and meals and may in some cases help with transportation. For more information please email: [elidor@gwu.edu](mailto:elidor@gwu.edu).

-----

## **VACANCY**

### **University of North Carolina Charlotte, United States - Digital Programs Archivist**

The J. Murrey Atkins Library's Special Collections Department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte seeks a Digital Programs Archivist to develop, implement, and provide leadership for digital initiatives involving Special Collections materials and services. S/he will be creative, dynamic, and articulate and be skilled in digitization, project and website management, and electronic records preservation.

For further details about the Library, please consult our web site: <http://library.uncc.edu>. For additional information about the Special Collections Department please visit <http://specialcollections.uncc.edu/>

-----

## **FELLOWSHIP**

### **Postgraduate Fellowships in Conservation of Museum Collections Smithsonian Deadline: January 15, 2010**

The Smithsonian's Office of Fellowships has announced one-year fellowships for recent graduates of masters programs in art and archaeological conservation or for conservation scientists to conduct research and gain further training at the Smithsonian in the conservation of objects in its collections. The fellowship begins in the fall of 2010. A stipend of \$32,000 is being offered plus allowances. The

prospective fellow must first contact the conservator or scientist with whom he or she would like to work. If the potential supervisor confirms that candidacy is suitable, application must be made through the Office of Fellowships. Program guidelines, instructions, cover sheets, and letters for your referees are available on the Office of Fellowships' web site: <http://www.si.edu/ofg/fell.htm>

As one of the conservation laboratories in which a fellowship is offered, the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) offers postings for treatment of Smithsonian material and research projects that make use of MCI's excellent analytical capabilities

<http://www.si.edu/mci/>

-----

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Rare Middle Eastern and North African Works to be Digitized Through Federally-Funded Cultural Imaginings Project**

Rare Middle Eastern and North African works will be made available online through a federally-funded project launched today by The George Washington University, Kirtas Technologies and Georgetown University. The state-of-the-art project, Cultural Imaginings: the Creation of the Arab World in the Western Mind, will evaluate automatic book digitization systems by electronically scanning selected the rare works. The project was made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded to GW's Gelman Library to evaluate digitizing technology made by Kirtas Technologies. As part of the evaluation process, Gelman Library, along with Georgetown's Joseph Mark Lauinger Library, will digitize more than 2,500 books and items from special collections from both universities link to press release here

Initially, books scanned will be in western languages only; in a future phase we may include Arabic and other Middle Eastern language-materials.

-----

## **CONFERENCE**

### **4th Conference of LIBER Manuscript Librarians Group "Meeting with manuscripts, today and tomorrow" 26-28 May 2010**

The purpose of LIBER Manuscript Librarians Group (<http://liber-manuscripts.kb.nl/>), established in Stockholm in 2000, is to give European manuscripts curators a space where to exchange knowledge and experiences and to promote mutual understanding and cooperation. The Group "recognises the unique significance of manuscript and archive collections, not only for the world of research and learning, but also for a wider audience of people interested in history and cultural heritage".

The dissemination of digital technologies is strongly affecting manuscript culture, as well as any other field of information and knowledge. The 4th Conference of the Group will focus on the evolution we are facing and on how we expect the world of manuscripts – the nature of the manuscripts themselves, their public, their curators - will be like in a short time. Starting with information and news from twelve European libraries about their collections and activities, the Conference will include sessions on born-digital materials, networks of digitized manuscripts, old and new readers and users, and training of curators, trying to highlight the best ways to preserve born-digital literary and historical documents for

future generations and to profit from the technological sceneries to enhance and expand the access to and the knowledge of the manuscript sources.

An exhibition of manuscripts will be held in the Conference room.

The programme of the Conference is available on the website of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma, <http://www.bnccrm.librari.beniculturali.it/>, where you can find the registration form, and on the website of LIBER Manuscript Librarians Group, <http://liber-manuscripts.kb.nl/>

Deadline for registration: 1 March 2010

Registration fees: 80 €

Maximum number of participants: 100

We advise to register and find accomodation as soon as possible, as Rome in that time of the year is particularly full of tourists.

---

## **JOB**

### **Senior Professorship in the History of Modern Central Asia, Harvard Univ The deadline for receipt of applications is May 1, 2010**

The Department of History at Harvard University announces a search to appoint a distinguished senior scholar in the field of Islamic studies with a focus on modern Central Asia, whose teaching has relevance for contemporary developments in the region. Teaching duties will include courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The successful candidate will have a strong publications record and experience training doctoral students, as well as demonstrated competence in relevant research languages (e.g., Persian, Uzbek, Uyghur, Kazakh, Chaghatay, etc.). Applicants should submit a letter of application, including a brief statement of current and future research and teaching interests, and a curriculum vitae, to Islamic History Search Committee, c/o Janet Hatch, Department of History, Harvard University, 201 Robinson Hall, Cambridge, MA 02138, [jhatch@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jhatch@fas.harvard.edu)

---

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Joint Conference on Digital Libraries JCDL 2010 June 21-25, 2010 Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia [www.jcdl2010.org](http://www.jcdl2010.org)**

Sponsored by ACM SIGIR, ACM SIGWEB, ASIS&T, and IEEE-CS TCDL

The ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) is the major international research forum focused on digital libraries and associated technical, practical, and social issues. JCDL encompasses the many meanings of the term "digital libraries", including (but not limited to) new forms of information institutions; operational information systems with all manner of digital content; new means of selecting, collecting, organizing, distributing, and evaluating digital content; and theoretical models of information media, including document genres and electronic publishing. Digital libraries are distinguished from information retrieval systems because they include more types of media, provide additional functionality

and services, and include other stages of the information life cycle, from creation through use. Digital libraries can also be viewed as an extension of the services libraries currently provide.

JCDL 2010 invites submissions of papers and proposals for posters, demonstrations, tutorials, and workshops that will make the conference an exciting and creative event to attend.

All papers are due Monday, January 25, 2010 at 5 PM EST. Submission and Formatting Instructions are available at:

<http://www.jcdl2010.org/submitformat.php>

-----

Ms Jenny Wright  
Assistant Director  
The Islamic Manuscript Association Ltd  
(A company limited by guarantee  
Incorporated in the Isle of Man)  
c/o 33 Trumpington Street  
Cambridge CB2 1QY  
United Kingdom  
Telephone: 01223 303177  
Mobile: 07826 355828  
Fax: 01223 302218  
Website: <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org>