

Islamic Art in Michigan Collections  
Michigan State University - February 1982

This Exhibition will appear at the Kresge Art Gallery, at Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan. Centered around the carpet collection of the university, this Exhibit includes:

- nine panels of an Egyptian ceremonial tent,
- illustrated manuscripts,
- ceramics, and
- materials related to the art of the book.

A catalog will be available with essays by:

P. Soucek	W. Denny
C. Fisher	H. Edwards
S. DeVries	E. Peck

Bedouin and Village Arts and Crafts of Saudi Arabia

Over 150 items from a number of collections, including the John Tophan Collection. This excellent introduction to the culture of the Arabian Peninsula is available for display.

Anyone interested in scheduling this Exhibition or desiring further information, contact: Elizabeth Driscole, SITES, Arts and Industry 2170, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

**OBITUARY NOTICES**

**MORROE BERGER**  
[1917 to 1981]

Morroe Berger, the first president of MESA, died at his home in Princeton, New Jersey, on April 7th. He was 63 years old.

He was best known to readers of this *Bulletin* for his contributions to Middle Eastern studies, but no notice of his career would be complete without mentioning his many accomplishments in other fields. His first published works dealt with legal efforts toward ending American racial discrimination: *Equality by Statute* (1952, revised 1967) and *Racial Equality and the Law* (1954).

His lifetime interest in jazz was reflected in such activities as new sociology courses offered at Princeton, the organizing of a jazz concert and lecture tour of the Middle East (1975); and a biography of jazz musician, Benny Carter, which will be published posthumously.

Berger maintained throughout his career an interest in literature and the ways in which literature both responds to and reflects society. His last major work, *Real and Imagined Worlds: Social Science and the Novel* (1977), represents the summation of many years of research on this broad subject.

This wide-ranging approach to scholarship also characterized Berger's work in Middle Eastern studies. His interest in the Middle East began, fortuitously, when, in 1943, he was sent to the Army Specialized Training Program for teaching Arabic at Princeton University. Later, military service took him to Egypt and Iran.

The Princeton connection, begun during the Second World War, was renewed in 1952 when he was invited to join the faculty in the Department of Sociology. By that time he had completed his professional training in sociology at Columbia University. Berger was to remain a member of Princeton's faculty from 1952 until his death. From 1971 to 1974, he served as Chairman of the Sociology Department.

Distinguishing his career was a concern for the institutional growth and development of Middle Eastern studies. Berger was a leader among the handful of academicians who worked to create MESA, and his selection as our Association's first president was a deserved acknowledgment of his services.

He was also instrumental in the creation of the American Research Center in Egypt, serving as president of that organization in 1974.

Only those who have been privileged to work with him at Princeton can fully measure his sustained support for Princeton's interdisciplinary Program in Near Eastern Studies. He directed this program from 1962 to 1968, and again from 1973 to 1977. Thereafter, until his death, he was a valued adviser to later program directors.

Perhaps Berger's best known work in our field is *The Arab World Today* (1962), a sociological survey, the easy readability of which veils the painstaking research and original interpretations that went into the work. He is also the author of *Bureaucracy and Society in Modern Egypt* (1957) and *Islam in Egypt Today* (1970). He edited a pioneering urban study, *The New Metropolis in the Arab World* (1963).

Berger had as well a marked talent for the short article that either addressed a major topic in a seemingly light fashion, or took an apparently off-beat topic and showed its importance. Many who know his work remember with pleasure and profit his short pieces on such diverse subjects as the sociology of the Oriental dance, American travel literature on Cairo, or Americans of Arab origin.

Berger abhorred ostentation or open display of emotions. He would have wanted this notice to be understated. This much can be said while scrupulously honoring his own pronounced preferences: few scholars had a better feel for modern Egyptian society and, yes, love for Egypt and its people than Morroe Berger. He was devoted to solid, old-fashioned scholarship, the kind that results from empathy, intelligence and—most of all—work, work, work!

He could always be counted on to express his distrust of flamboyant, scholarly precocity, or of theoretical flights of fancy chastely removed from intractable reality; but few showed greater sympathy and support for anyone willing to bring to scholarly inquiry the tools of honesty, integrity and industry.

MESA was well served by its first president—Morroe Berger.

...L. Carl Brown, Princeton University

ŞALĀḤ ʿABD aṣ-ŞABŪR  
[1931 to 1981]

Şalāḥ ʿAbd aṣ-Şabūr, one of the greatest modern Arabic poets, dramatists and critics, died of a heart attack in Cairo, on August 14, 1981. Şalāḥ was also, at the time of his death, the Assistant Minister of Culture and Director of the General Egyptian Book Organization. His previous positions included an appointment as Cultural Counselor in the Egyptian Embassy in India.

Şalāḥ was born in 1931 and graduated in Arabic literature from the University of Cairo in 1951. As a poet, he is credited with being one of the founder of the free verse movement in Egypt, and with having been one of its greatest exponents in the Arab world. His poetic collections include: *an-Nās fī Bilādī* (1957), *Aqūlu lakum* (1961), *Aḥlām al-Faris al-Qadīm* (1964), *Ta'ammulāt fī Zaman Jarīḥ* (1970), and *Shajar al-Layl* (1973).

Perhaps of even greater interest is Şalāḥ's output as a dramatist. He authored five verse dramas, all of them exciting and challenging to reader and critic alike. They include: *Ma'sāt al-Ḥallāj* (1964),