

Overall, *The Traditional World of Islam* series is good; and if it were accompanied by explanatory materials, would be useful in high school classrooms as well as at the college level. The directing and camera work are good; scenes were carefully planned and there were no jiggly or out-of-focus sequences. The narrator and the other voices were all pleasing to listen to and easy to understand. At least 18 different kinds of Near Eastern music were used in the films; sometimes the musicians themselves are in the films.

The good aspects of this film series make its weaknesses more striking by contrast. I have mentioned some of the problems with the script and internal organization of the films above. In addition, some footage that should have been edited out was used and looked oddly out of place. Since this film series does attempt to make a serious, scholarly statement about Islamic civilization, more care should have been taken with the film credits. At least 60 quotations are incorporated into the film scripts, but most are identified in the credits only as coming from the "*Koran*, Hadith, Rumi, Jami, Ibn Khaldun, al-Ghazali, Shahrastani and others." The viewer is bound to be curious about the origins of many of these quotes. Somehow they should have been linked to their sources as they occurred in the films. In the same way, though numerous examples of Near Eastern musicians were used, only three groups of musicians were identified in the credits. Here, too, the musical quotations should have been better documented. Careful documentation of the literary and musical quotations would have given this film series a more scholarly appearance.

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Ph.D. Dissertations in Progress

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