

MELCOM INTERNATIONAL

2006 Annual Conference
19-21 June, Istanbul

Arnoud Vrolijk

Melcom International

- **M**iddle **E**ast **L**ibrarians **COM**mittee
- THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS
- ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES DU MOYEN-ORIENT

Melcom International

- Founded 1979 by Middle East librarians from France and the UK
- ‘a non-governmental organisation, devoted to promoting co-operation among individuals and institutions in Europe, North America and the Middle East concerned with all aspects of librarianship, book collecting, the book trade and publishing.’

Melcom International

Presidents:

- 1979-1990 Derek Hopwood (Oxford)
- 1990-1998 Jan Just Witkam (Leiden)
- 1998-2001 Frédéric Bauden (Liège)
- 2001-2007 Arnoud Vrolijk (Leiden)

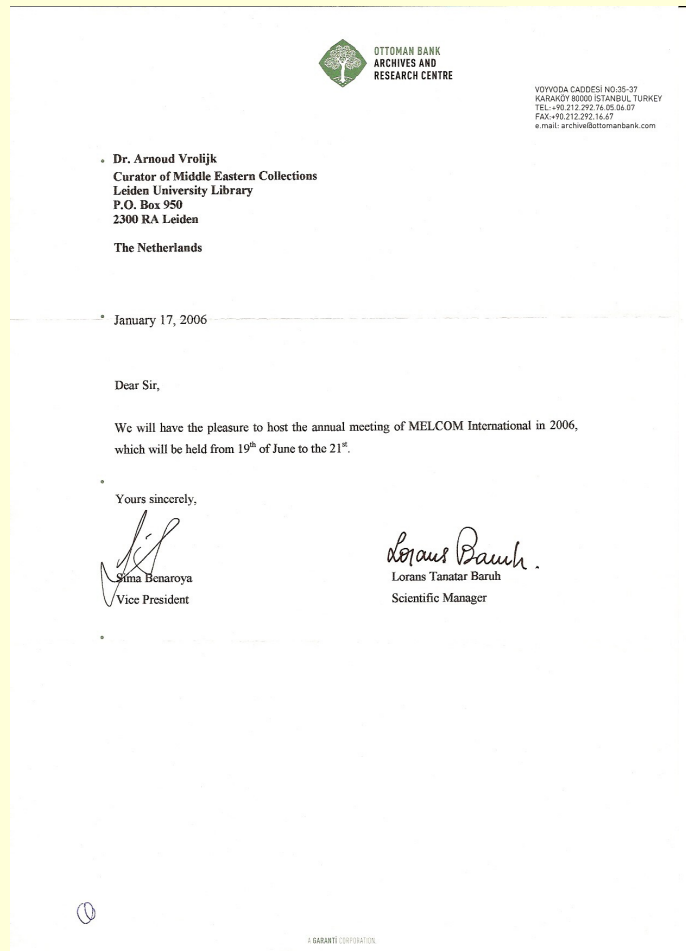
Current Board:

- President: Arnoud Vrolijk (Leiden University Library)
- Secretary: Sara Yontan-Musnik (Bibliothèque Nationale de France)
- Treasurer: Mastaneh Ebtehaj (St Antony's College, Oxford)

Annual conferences

- 1979 Aix-en-Provence – 1980 Oxford – 1981 Berlin – 1982 Paris – 1983 Cambridge – 1984 Leiden – 1985 Dublin – 1986 Madrid – 1987 Hammamet – 1988 Paris – 1989 Durham – 1990 Istanbul – 1992 Rabat – 1993 Birmingham – 1994 Copenhagen
- 1995 Leiden (University Library) – 1996 Cairo (Netherlands Institute) – 1997 London (School of Oriental and African Studies) – 1998 Sofia (National Library “St Cyril & Methodius”) – 1999 Liège (Université de Liège) – 2000 Venice (Università Ca’Foscari) – 2001 St Petersburg (Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences) – 2002 Paris (Bibliothèque Nationale de France) – 2003 Beirut (Université Saint-Joseph, Orient-Institut der DMG) – 2004 Munich (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek) – 2005 Alexandria (Bibliotheca Alexandrina)
- 2006 Istanbul (Ottoman Bank Archives & Research Centre)

Invitation from the local convener



- Letter from the Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Centre, 17 January 2006
- Signed 'Sima Benaroya, Vice-President' and 'Lorans Tanatar Baruh, Scientific Manager'.

The Ottoman Bank Archives & Research Centre



- ‘Banque Ottomane’, formerly the National Bank of the Ottoman Empire, founded 1856
- Research Centre founded 1997
- Archives, Library, Documentation Centre and Museum for the economic and financial history of the Ottoman Empire and the Early Turkish Republic

2006 Conference, Istanbul

- 84 Participants
- 14 Countries: Bosnia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Lebanon, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, Syria, Tatarstan, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

Conference preparations



- Board meeting, Oxford, January 2006
- Left: Sara Yontan-Musnik (Bibliothèque Nationale de France), secretary
- Right: Mastaneh Ebtehaj (St Antony's College, Oxford), treasurer

Conference preparations



- Oxford, January 2006
- St Antony's College, Oxford

Conference preparations



- Oxford, January 2006
- St Antony's College, Oxford

Networking



- Visting St John's College, Oxford
- The Hall

Networking



- Geert Jan van Gelder, Laudian Professor of Arabic

Library visit



- Library of St John's College, Oxford

Finalising the programme



- Board meeting in Burgundy at Sara Yontan's weekend home, April 2006
- Mastaneh Ebtehaj and Sara Yontan-Musnik (standing), Arnoud Vrolijk (thinking)

Finalising the programme



- Board meeting in Burgundy, April 2006
- Coffee on the bridge

Istanbul



- Istanbul as most tourists know it
- Süleymaniye mosque and Golden Horn

Istanbul



- Istanbul as most tourists know it
- Side entrance of Sultanahmet Mosque ('Blue Mosque')

Istanbul



- Pera/Beyoğlu, the modern city
- Grand' rue de Péra, 1928

Istanbul



- Pera/Beyoğlu, the modern city
- İstiklal caddesi, 2006

Istanbul



- Péra Palace Hotel, 1925

Istanbul



- Pera Palas Oteli, inside the lobby
- Farzaneh Zareie (CNRS, Paris), Nathalie Rodriguez (Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire des Langues Orientales, Paris), Mastaneh Ebtehaj (St Antony's, Oxford)

Istanbul



- Pera Palas Oteli
- Celeb plaque on door

Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Centre



- Premises of the Ottoman Bank, Galata

Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Centre



- Opulence and splendour of past days
- Lobby and chandelier

Opening the conference



- Presidential address, 19 June 2006

Istanbul conference, 19-21 June 2006



- The Melcom International membership assembled

Conference programme

- Presentations of individual libraries
- Oriental manuscripts: preservation, cataloguing, digitisation, research projects
- Oriental manuscripts: illumination and calligraphy
- Modern Oriental collections: online cataloguing projects, bibliographies and other online resources
- Teaching skills in bibliography
- Visits to local libraries

Planning future conferences



- Discussion over lunch
- Nuria Garaeva, Kazan State University, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation
- Projected venue for 2009

Visiting local libraries



- Visit to the Sermet Çifter Research Library of the Yapı Kredi Bank, Istanbul
- Asim Zubčević (University of Sarajevo), Francis Richard (Musée du Louvre), Peter Colvin (SOAS, University of London), Charles Melville (Cambridge)

Visiting local libraries



- Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Turkey's largest manuscript library
- Conglomerate of former private or mosque libraries
- c. 80,000 Middle Eastern MSS, mostly Arabic

Visiting local libraries



- Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, housed in the former Derwish convent of the Süleymaniye Mosque, Istanbul

Visiting local libraries



- Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi
- Part of card catalogue

Visiting local libraries



- Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi digitisation projects
- Any requested MS digitised on CD-ROM within 7 days, average price US \$80
- Zeutschel OK 301 Microfilm Camera System

Visiting local libraries



- Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi
- Rare manuscripts and calligraphy specimens
- Muhammad Isa Waley (British Library), Olga Vasilyeva (Russian National Library, St Petersburg)

Visiting local libraries



- Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi
- (Right) Dr Nevzat Kaya, Director
- (2nd from left) Aylın Beşiryan, Ottoman Bank, local convener

Visiting local libraries



- Köprülü library, est. 1662
- Situated in the Old City, close to the Grand Bazaar

The local booktrade



- 'ADA' on İstiklal caddesi, a modern bookshop with Turkish & foreign books, Audio CD and DVD, and a 'cappuccino opportunity.'

The local booktrade



- 'Turkuaz' ('Turquoise'), an antiquarian bookseller off İstiklal

MELCOM INTERNATIONAL

- Projected conferences:
 - 2007 – Sarajevo, Bosnia – University of Sarajevo
 - 2008 – Oxford, UK – St Antony's College
 - 2009 – Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation – Kazan State University
 - 2010 – ?
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- Board elections in 2007