

## **Minutes of the Business meeting and announcements**

Agenda :

1. Remarks of the President
2. Assessment by the Secretary
3. Financial report by the Treasurer
4. The new website
5. Election
6. The revised Constitution
7. Next conferences
8. Other points and announcements

### **1. Remarks of the President**

Arnoud Vrolijk, the President of MELCOM International expressed his satisfaction and gratitude to our hosts Amina Rizvanbegović-Džuvčić (Bosnaic Institut) and Asim Zubcević (Dept of Islamic Studies, University of Sarajevo) as well as the participants, both speakers and attendees, without whom this conference would not have been such a success.

### **2. Assessment by the Secretary**

Sara Yontan Musnik, the Secretary, thanks the local organisers with whom cooperation towards the preparation of the conference proved to be both efficient and pleasant. The result has been successful on all levels, namely the programme including very interesting visits and highly professional presentations.

There were 54 registered participants in Sarajevo. Out of the 24 scheduled papers, seven speakers had to withdraw for different reasons. One of the reasons was the difficulties in obtaining an entrance visa to BiH. However our conveners have done more than their best to facilitate this issue. This point, however, should be reminded and emphasized on future circulars: participants should check travelling conditions and make their own arrangements enough ahead of time.

Furthermore, SYM invites the speakers (17) to submit their papers in electronic format to be posted on the MELCOM International website (by July 31<sup>st</sup>).

Finally, she notes down two major **recommendations**:

- a) By Andràs Riedlmayer who launched a call to the professional community in order to initiate and/or participate in the cataloguing and/or filming of all the small collections of documents kept in mosques or *tekkes*.
- b) By Iman Khairy, to participate with remarks and comments, in the Arabic Dewey Project of Bibliotheca Alexandrina

### **3. Financial report by the Treasurer**

Mastaneh Ebtahaj, the treasurer, presented details of the financial activities of Melcom International as below:

- a- The final account of 2006 conference: after paying the incurred expenses, i.e. hiring the conference hall and settling the catering bill, the remaining cash was a total of €1875. That made the balance, brought forward in June 2006, a total of €4675, including €2800 previously deposited at the Postbank, the Netherlands.
- b- An estimated account of 2007 conference (the finalised report will be submitted at the next conference): a total number of (paid) participants were 54; 39 booked for the conference dinner; and 35 signed up for the organised excursion to Mostar. In total €2984 was raised, out of which the conference made a cash payment against the following incurred expenses: a bill of €795 was settled for the conference dinner on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>, a coach hire to and fro Mostar including a guided tour of the city on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> came up to a total of €381, plus an organised lunch for the day at €343.
- c- Finally, the treasurer reported that the Melcom International account has changed its location from the previously held at Post bank, the Netherlands, to the University of Oxford. The transfer was officially finalised in May 2007.

#### **4. The new website**

As of 2007 the new website of Melcom International hosted at the University of Oxford in England replaces the old one hosted by the University of Bamberg : <http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/melcom-intl.shtml>. In fact the content of the site has not changed ; only the graphics and the layout have. Moreover, it is bilingual English and French.

Arnoud Vrolijk thanks Andreas Drechsler who has acted as the liaison for the Bamberg page.

Farzaneh Zareie asks why be hosted by a larger site instead of having an independent site. The answer is twofold (a) Technical support (b) Security of the site.

The MI Board in general and Mastan Ebtehaj in particular is open to all remarks and suggestions to improve the new site.

#### **5. Election**

Arnoud Vrolijk's second term as President of MI ends at the end of the present conference while the Secretary and the Treasurer have another year to go to finish their respective terms. Arnoud Vrolijk agrees to run for a third term with the agreement of the Conference, but specifies that he may not complete his three-year term due to private reasons. The Conference re-elects him unanimously.

#### **6. The Constitution**

The text of the revised constitution, drafted by Derek Hopewood and Mastan Ebtehaj, was available to all participants through the Conference. Arnoud Vrolijk and Derek Hopewood successively explain the difference between the original one and this one: the new version is supposed to be simpler, more synthetic and reflect the reality. The Conference adopts the new text.

#### **7. Next conferences**

**2008** : 23-25 June - Oxford, St-Antony's College, Convener : Mastan Ebtehaj  
Mastan is negotiating a bloc booking of rooms at a college in the campus for which a prepayment would be necessary as early as November 2007. A circular with regard to accommodation will be released next September.

**2009** : Kazan, State University of Kazan, Convener : Nuria Garaeva  
Nuria could not come this year however she hopes to join us next year. The official invitation was faxed to the MI Board last year in Istanbul

Latifa Benjalloun Laroui who, during the Conference, gave a talk about the library of the Prince Abd el Aziz ibn Saud Foundation in Casablanca, Marocco, suggests we hold the next conference there. She is ready to ask the colleagues of this institution to host us.

## **8. Other points**

Geoffrey Roper, representing MELCOM International at Eurames announces the 30th Deutscher Orientalistentag-DOT to be held on 24-28 September 2007 in Freiburg /Breisgau . This conference is jointly organised by DAVO (The German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation), Eurames (European Association for Middle Eastern Studies) and BRISMES British Association for Middle Eastern Studies)

Marie-Geneviève Guesdon announces the digital version of *Les nouvelles des manuscrits du Moyen-Orient* (ISSN 1167-2250) whose URL will be [www.manumo.org](http://www.manumo.org) (operational as of July 2007). For those who are not familiar with the publication, it is now independent of FiMMOD and deals with all aspects of manuscripts in Arabic script, publications, book reviews, conferences, etc. and offers more than a hundred links to related websites.

Nikolaj Serikoff informs us of a new scheme launched by the Wellcome Library jointly with the SOAS, called "The Oriental Manuscript Week" whereby once a term (ie three times a year) manuscripts will be presented from a vast geographic coverage (Islamic Spain to non Islamic Japan). Follow up : <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/>

Andreas Drechsler who is now at the head of the Orient Institut Libraries in Beirut sums up the two types of catalogues available :  
Holdings acquired until 1995 can be retrieved in an [image catalogue](#) . The image offers alphabetical and subject search types. After typing in the name or the subject the nearest term will be indicated as an entry point which you can access then. To get to the term you are looking for you then have to move forward in using the numbers at the bottom of the image. All holdings acquired since 1995 will be accessible in the near future through an OPAC.

Still in 2007 the library will present a PICA-OPAC that will be part of the biggest German Union Catalogue [GBV](#) which itself provides access to international library catalogues and databases.

Through the intranet the library provides four computers for its users that enable catalogue inquiries and provide access to Index Islamicus and Encyclopaedia of Islam Three (subscription still planned in 2007). Lists with the journal and CD-ROM and DVD holdings are offered as PDF

