Dear AAMES members:

With the support of its members and volunteers, AAMES is growing and we need to continue in moving forward. As you are aware, without your active involvement, AAMES would not go far. It is your professional organization and all of us have to take active and constructive participation in it.

ACRL has asked me to start the process of appointing members (and chairs where needed) to various committees like Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Conference Program Planning, Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, and Publications Committee.

As the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of AAMES, I invite you to participate in the work and collegiality of the Section by volunteering to serve on an AAMES committee. Look at the Committee Charges to familiarize yourself with the goals of each committee. [http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/aames/aameshomepage.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/aames/aameshomepage.cfm)

I sincerely suggest you to please fill in the volunteer form specifying the committee(s) you are interested in serving, and send forms/interest to me at your earliest. The volunteer form is available at: [http://www.acrl.org/volunteer](http://www.acrl.org/volunteer)

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks for your kind cooperation.

Best wishes

Rajwant Chilana

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect ACRL/AAMES 2008-09.

An unparalleled, priceless, open repository of ancient, classical, medieval, and Renaissance era manuscripts, incunabula, ephemera, rare books, esoterica, and fine art resides within the underground domain of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

Under the auspices of Saint John’s Abbey & University in Minnesota, HMML maintains as its primary mission the photographic conservation and preservation of antique manuscripts resulting from intellectual and spiritual endeavors of monastic research communities.

Born of Benedictine ethos from the genesis of a core collection of German bibliographic donations more than 150 years ago, Hill Manuscript & Museum Library (formerly known as Hill Monastic Manuscript Library) has expanded its image holdings to more than one million in digitized format and on microfilm reels, in religious and vernacular subject areas. Augmenting its virtual archives are physical content in the form of artifacts and collectibles of principally devotional purpose: carvings, icons, furnishings, liturgical book arts of monastic scribes, textiles, chants recordings, original folios, and calligraphic works of contemporary artists.

Of particular interest to this ALA/ACRL section would be HMML’s manuscripts projects undertaken in Armenia, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Israel, Lebanon, South Africa, Syria, Tibet, and Turkey. By design a ‘library of libraries’, access to HMML’s textual and visual resources can be best understood and approached as ‘collections of collections’. Dispersing international teams of researchers, technicians, and photographers in collaborative global endeavors, HMML cooperates with institutional and individual partners and donors who are in possession of the original documents. In the filming and digitization of the manuscripts, HMML also sometimes acquires by purchase the original source works. HMML’s Armenian collec-

(Continued on page 3)
Librarianship Endeavors in Kenya

Kenya is an important country to research librarianship practices because of the high rate of illiteracy in the country. Much of Kenya is a pastoral society in which people move from one area to another and many children do not attend school. Therefore, when thinking of Kenya, a person wonders what Kenya has to offer in terms of librarianship.

Two specific librarianship endeavors unique to Kenya are the Camel Library Service and book boxes.

Camel Library Service


The Camel Library Service originated on October 14, 1996 in Garissa town, which is in the North Eastern Province of Kenya by the Kenya National Library Service (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). On April 13, 1999, the Camel Library Service was replicated in Wajir town (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). The camel mobile library is meant to provide access to books for pastoralists surrounding Garissa, five to ten kilometers away from the regional library, to help fight illiteracy (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). Currently the North Eastern Province has an 85.3% illiteracy rate versus 31% in all of Kenya (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). This program is also meant to support education, since 48.4% of primary school age children do not attend school (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). It is better to expose children to literacy rather than nothing because of the low school attendance.

For each camel mobile library, there are four boxes containing about 300 library materials, which are loaded onto three camels, along with a tent, two chairs, a table, and umbrellas (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). A librarian is in charge with two assistants as well as a camel herdsman (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). There are currently a few constraints, which the camel mobile library faces: lack of materials in local languages, harsh climate, camels becoming indisposed, and inadequate funding (“Camel mobile,” n.d.). These constraints will be discussed in more detail.

Atuti surveyed 250 library users of Garissa about the Camel Library Service, of which 160 questionnaires were usable for the study (1999, p. 4-5). 72% of camel library users were males, which could be due to the higher percentage of male enrollment in Kenya’s schools (Atuti, 1999, p. 4-5). (Continued on page 4)

A Bibliography of Afghan Librarianship


Little more than a printed sound bite, this brief news article highlights a number of Iranian initiatives in the year 2003. For a detailed look at Iranian support for library-related initiatives in Afghanistan, see “Iran and Afghanistan’s Reconstruction.”


Although several years out-of-date at this time, so far as I know, this article is the only survey of the libraries in Afghan government ministries. Although unpublished, this document may be available from the library of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU).


The political agenda of this article, too, deserves some consideration, although, again, the article is factually accurate. While giving only the briefest glimpse of the state of some of the libraries in 2002, the hopes described in this article pro-
Digital Divine contd. . .

(Continued from page 1)

tion includes microfilmed content obtained via the libraries of University of Tübingen, the Mechitarist Congregation in Vienna, and the Armenian Apostolic Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Lebanon. An additional preservation project - at the Institut du Clergé Patriarcal de Bzommar has produced a superlative collection of manuscripts in the Armenian, Syriac, and Arabic languages.

A handlist compilation, along with combined search methodologies employing manuscript, text within manuscript/works, and image criteria produced stunning results of HMML’s Chinese microfilmed manuscripts collection, revealing a genealogy of gods and early kings (for example), from holding institutions in Germany and Austria.

The earliest Ethiopian projects were filmed on location at the National Archives & Library of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), Church of Our Lady Mary Zion (Axum), Enda Midael (Eritrea), and the Maqale monasteries. Microfilm copies are deposited within Addis Ababa University, National Archives & Library of Ethiopia, and the Library of the Ethiopian Orthodox (Tewahedo) Church. Digitization of over 240 codices and 294 prayer scrolls composed in the liturgical language of Ge’ez has been the result of the work of the Ethiopian Manuscript Imaging Project. Patrons may discover HMML to be a research source for seekers of Harari (Ethiopian Islamic) manuscripts and a place to explore literary links among Coptic/Greek/Latin loan-words and calques of Afro-Asiatic language families of Ethiopic/Hebrew/Arabic/Amharic.

Sacred Hindu and Buddhist manuscripts comprise HMML’s Indic inventory. Original source materials of Vaishnava literature written on paper and palm leaf have been captured and conserved in Vedic and classical Sanskrit, Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Telugu. Scanned materials derive from holdings of the Ehrenfeld private collection, Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Banares Hindu University, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Universitätsbibliothek, Institute for Vaishnava Studies of American University, Musee du Louvre, New York Institute for Advance Studies of World Religions, and elsewhere.

Coptic missals, religious poetic renditions, hymns, a treatise on metaphysics, an Arabic historical commentary on Governor Pilate of Jerusalem, a geographic dictionary, antiquated copies of Islamic lunar calendars and the Qur’an are found within the astounding archives of HMML’s Egyptian collection. Procured during treks to Coptic Orthodox monasteries between eastern and western deserts, or on various exploratory Sinai sojourns to view magnificent collections which reside in their originating religious homes between the Mediterranean and Red Seas, or while in the course of establishing contacts with MELCOM (the Middle Eastern Librarians association) and Bibliotheca Alexandria, HMML serves as both a web-based repository and a document depository. Patrons can peruse rare findings and supporting metadata attachments in an array of literary and liturgical languages, dialects (Greek, Christian Arabic [Mellite, Maronite, et alii], Persian, Osmanian-Turkish, Arabic-Persian, Coptic, Coptic-Greek, classical Arabic, French, Spanish), tongues, translations, and transliterations (Greek-to-Arabic, Syriac-to-Arabic). HMML’s texts and artworks images are as vast and disparate as the regions in which they were photographed (Cairo, Montserrat, Barcelona, Lisbon, Rome, Berlin, Gottweig, et cetera).

Archived materials from Ghana and adjoining territories are rendered on reels in Arabic. Legal custody of some primary sources remain in the possession of University of Ghana, Cathedral Museum in Malta, and the Syriac Catholic Parish of Aleppo.

Among HMML’s treasures, patrons can pursue a search for 9th century fragments and folios of local chant repertoires such as the lost melodies of the Rite of Jerusalem and other musical compositions such as Old Latin chants. Visual archival materials from this region include floor plans and architectural details of worship sites as well as a 13th century parchment capture. Biblical texts can be read in Ge’ez, Hebrew, Latin, and Old French. Reproductions of microfilmed inventory from Israel created in collaboration with Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Ethiopian Archbish-

(Continued on page 5)
Librarianship Endeavors in Kenya contd. . .

(Continued from page 2)

48.2% of library users were younger than 15 years old, 35.2% were between 15 and 20 years old, 11.2% were 21 through 34 years old and 5% were 35 to 44. 99% of users lived within three kilometers of the Camel Library Service stop, which is probably due to 93% of library users traveling to the stop on foot (Atuti, 1999, p. 4-5).

Some of the users (38%) wanted the Camel Library Service to have a larger quantity of books (Atuti, 1999, p. 4-5). 17% of users wanted more frequent service, in addition to the stop once every two weeks and an overwhelming 95% of users felt they needed the camel service (Atuti, 1999, p. 4-5). Overall, this study showed that camels provide an adequate alternative in Kenya to a motorized mobile library, which would not be realistic in Kenya because of the lack of roads and the constant upkeep of the vehicles. Atuti recommended more camel mobiles in Madera and Wajir (1999, p. 4-5). Wajir was later made into the second location for Camel Library Service as stated previously. In addition to this survey, people have been responding positively to the Camel Library Service (Gitahi, n.d.). Teachers at the schools close to where the camels stop report that there has been a dramatic impact seen through an increase in national examination scores as well as an improved standard of education (Gitahi, n.d.). The Camel Library Service had 3,500 registered users as of 2005 (Gitahi, n.d.). As a result of this success, the Camel Library Service staff would like to own a holding ground where they can graze the camels permanently when there is a drought, as well as a motorcycle to assist camel clerks (Gitahi, n.d.).

There has been a fictional novel written about Camel Library Service, which has resulted in the Camel Book Drive. The Camel Mobile by Masha Hamilton is set in Garissa, Kenya and is about Fiona Sweeney, a woman who traveled to Kenya to run the camel mobile library (Hamilton, 2007). Masha Hamilton began the Camel Book Drive in February 2007 (Hamilton, 2007). Garissa has benefited with over 2,000 books as of August of 2007 (Hamilton, 2007). With the addition of the Wajir Camel Library Service, more books and donations are needed to help spread the service; the Camel Library Service is also hoping to purchase a female camel to breed with the currently owned male camels (Hamilton, 2007). Masha Hamilton will be speaking on Sunday, June 29, 10:30 am –

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A Bibliography of Afghan Librarianship contd. . .

(Continued from page 2)

vide an interesting contrast with the reality five years later.


This article gives an overview of the state of libraries and the profession in Afghanistan before the Taliban. Unfortunately, as Belfort Urguidi states, there’s not a lot of information from after 1978. Although it updates Sharify’s article (below), it is generally inferior in depth.


In this article, Camins-Esakov gives an overview of the state of various libraries in Kabul, accurate as of December 2007. Although incomplete even at the time it was written, this article provides a reasonable overview of many of the more important libraries in Kabul. It does not, however, contain information on library-related initiatives.


Garner’s article highlights a few of the better-known Western library-related initiatives in Afghanistan (particularly Kabul). Although focusing on Western library-related initiatives to the exclusion of local and Iranian ones, Garner’s article provides a useful orientation to opportunities for additional Western contributions to established programs.


This appears to be an irregularly-issued serial published by the government of Iran detailing their contributions to the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. It includes efforts in all sectors, so identifying relevant data requires a small amount of effort, but this is the only listing which gives a full overview of Iran’s work on the reconstruction of Afghan libraries and library-related institutions. I have looked at both December 2004 and January 2006 editions, but newer may have been published. These documents are available in electronic format from the AREU library, but due to infrastructure issues, such large files can only be provided to scholars who are able to visit the library in person.


Written based on second- and third-hand reports, this article is of doubtful author-
Digital Divine contd. . .

Saint-Ésprit at Kaslik in Lebanon where a state-of-the-art library, conservation studio, and digital photography studio were implemented. The Melikian Collection rounds out HMML’s Syriac-Aramaic digital assets.

Procured from the Grey Collection housed in what has now merged as the National Library of South Africa in Cape Town, microfilmed manuscripts of medieval and Renaissance era from this region can be viewed in multifarious languages, among them, Ethiopic, Arabic, and Siamese. A reel scan in Arabic produced from Université de Dakar in Senegal is also accessible.

A compilation of discretely sectioned limited offerings of the Tibet collection indicates library locations in England and Germany. No supplementary visual resources were retrievable.

A diplomatic document authored by a Sultan of Turkey and text describing military defense strategies of the people of Rhodes against Ottoman attacks are elements of original records from Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Austria, Universitätssbibliothek in Germany, the National Library of Malta, and Rum Patrikhanesi in Turkey. These are rendered in Latin. HMML visits to southeastern Turkey have allowed for the opportunity to view 1200-years-old manuscripts owned by the Syriac Christian community and interview with the scribe of a 1950s liturgical manuscript still in use by his congregation.

Time and space do not allow for exposition of HMML’s newly upgraded, supremely-powerful search system. Its main, online Manuscript database augmented by its Vivarium Digital object database and presentation tool allow for highly-customized browse-and-search criteria with such specificity that access can be obtained at the level of Deep Web discovery. Format and syntax standards do present a challenge, however. Two dilemmas were encountered by this patron:

Several searches for fragment matches of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection of Cambridge University produced no results, even utilizing text string terms such as Genizah, Cairo, Egypt, Old Cairo, Cambridge, Judeo-Arab, and variations thereof. Knowing that the Genizah Collection is hosted at Trinity College rather than Queen’s College at Cambridge, rendered the results, but via a Google search strategy. An English Libraries handlist mentions the collection.

Also, the drawback of such a powerful search tool is the comprehensive production of, for example, a 632-page result on the Malta series. A viewer can proceed only sequentially, singly, page-by-page with just a ‘previous’ and ‘next’ option. Off-campus, guest access is allowed via MnPALS OPAC navigation. Rare books which are catalogued yet still in in-process status are obtainable via Curator. HMML maintains varying agreements with its myriad institutional partners; some images are copyright-restricted. Reprographic services, digital dissemination, on-site investigations, and campus lodging for visiting scholars are readily accommodated.

By LaVerne L. Poussaint

The author has previously worked on retrospective conversion projects at Columbia University’s Avery School of Architecture, de-accessioning assignments at University of Pennsylvania’s BioMedical Library and is currently committed to several Project Gutenberg e-texts, among them: Apollonius of Tyana.


Patrons can read scanned Syriac transcriptions of the regional Greek Byzantine Rite. Pending adequate funding, the Lebanese Orthodox collection will be supplemented by two other proposed photography projects: the Patriarchate in Damascus and the Monastery of Our Lady of Saidnaya. A digitized catalogue of the Balamand Collection is available online in Arabic; the manuscripts are written in Arabic and Syriac. HMML took on the technical management tasks of other Middle Eastern preservation projects commenced at the Bibliothèque Orientale de l’Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut. A catalogue can be deciphered in French and Arabic. Additionally, the Syriac and Arabic collections have been augmented by programs at the Greek-Catholic Archbishopric in Aleppo, Syria and at Université du Liban.

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From the Editor

Happy Spring!

It gives me great pleasure to bring you three wonderful articles in this issue of the AAMES Newsletter (the last one I will be editing). Digital Divine by LaVerne L. Poussaint presents a description of the fine collections of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library in Minnesota. An annotated bibliography of Afghan librarianship prepared by Jared Camins-Esakov is for anyone interested in librarianship from that region of the world. Librarianship Endeavors in Kenya by Breanne Geery presents you with some of the unique experiences of librarianship in Kenya and perspectives for our profession. The images interspersed throughout this newsletter are carefully chosen public domain images from http://commons.wikimedia.org/ unless otherwise noted.

The response from members and contributors has been very good for this issue, but I would like to reiterate the Vice-Chair’s message regarding volunteering and extend the welcome to you to send in your contributions and/or join the AAMES publications committee.

Thank you.

Triveni Kuchi
AAMES Editor, ACRL/ALA.

Librarianship Endeavors in Kenya contd. . .

(Book Boxes)

Book boxes are a pilot project in the schools surrounding the Katarina community library. These schools combined their resources to buy books that are then circulated on a rotational basis from school to school by the Katarina community library. There are 22 schools participating in this project, which provides access to 3,705 different titles for students throughout the year (“Services”, n.d.). Within a year, students are expected to read 36 books from nine boxes delivered to a school in that time (Kimani, 2000). The book boxes began through a community effort because they decided to raise money for books for their children, rather than for building a new library center (Kimani, 2000).

Book boxes are metal boxes used to transport books to primary schools (“The school book box”, n.d.). The Divisional Library Personnel at Karatina community library help coordinate the circulation of these book boxes from school to school by bicycles, hand carts, and sometimes motorcycle (“The school book box”, n.d.). Most students cannot afford books since his or her parents pay for the required uniform, which stretches their finances to the limit (“The school book box”, n.d.). The use of book boxes allow students to read many more books than they would otherwise have access to; this has encouraged a language level improvement in students of the participating schools (“The school book box”, n.d.). These book boxes are fairly cheap and viable for remote areas of low development, although there is a lack of funds for new materials to add to and replace the current collection (“The school book box”, n.d.).

Conclusion

Kenya is an amazing country, still largely untouched by industrialization and development. The people of Kenya are mostly illiterate and have an oral history. This is slowly changing among the children of Kenya because of the unique program initiatives by the Kenya National Library Service. Because there are mostly dirt roads (where there are roads) throughout Kenya, it is extremely hard to maintain a vehicle. Some innovative Kenyans decided to try a Camel Mobile Service, which has been a decidedly successful venture. The book boxes have been very beneficial to students unable to afford a book, by allowing them to read 36 different books in a year. The future of librarianship and literacy in Kenya is bright.

(Continued from page 7)
(Continued from page 6)


Written by arguably the most important librarian in pre-Taliban Afghanistan, this article describes the state of the Kabul University Library under the Taliban.


In this report, Rawan describes her observations of the Kabul University Library in April 2002. She also makes a number of recommendations, some of which were implemented, many of which were not. A more extensive treatment of the problems and her recommendations is found in the following report.


This report extensively expands on Rawan’s earlier report above. In addition to discussing several other university libraries in Kabul, Rawan gives progress reports and makes specific recommendations regarding numerous relevant resources. Again, not all the recommendations were implemented, but the article gives a good idea of what was (and, in many cases, still is) needed at university libraries in Kabul.


Sharify’s article provides a narrative of developments taking place in Afghan libraries during the 50s and 60s. Although most assuredly out of date, it provides a good idea of where the libraries of Afghanistan came from, before the establishment of a Soviet-backed communist government in 1978. The bibliography in this article provides a list of a number of relevant publications for those interested in the state of libraries in Afghanistan during the 1950s and 1960s.

By Jared Camins-Esakov

The author continues to seek out relevant publications about Afghan librarianship for updating this bibliography. You may get in touch with him at jcamins@gmail.com.

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Librarianship Endeavors in Kenya contd . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Bibliography . . .


ture_gallery/05/africa_kenyan_camel_library/html/8.stm


International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications.


By Breanne Geery

Intern, Schaffner Library, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL 60611-3071. geerbrea@dom.edu

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Global Scholarly Communication: 
The International Accesses and Accessibilities

You are invited to the AAMES 2008 Annual Program on Saturday, June 28, 2008 at 1:30-3:30 p.m.

This international panel on global scholarly communication is an opportunity for library professionals and information specialists from different parts of the world to exchange ideas and methods on the issue. The panel will try to catch the core course of information delivery and the key factors behind it, and in turn discover the essential value of information delivery on a worldwide stage. This program is co-sponsored by the ACRL Scholarly Communications Committee and the ACRL International Relations Committee.

Speakers

Cui Meng, Director, Institute of Information on Traditional Chinese Medicine;  
Ann Okerson, Associate University Librarian, Yale University; 
Deepa Banerjee, South Asian Studies Librarian, University of Washington; 
Hong Chen, Librarian, UCLA; 
Joy Kim, Curator, Korean Heritage Library, University of Southern California; 
Anchi Hoh, Special Assistant to the Chief, Library of Congress Asian Division; 
Elizabeth Kiondo, Associate Professor, University of Dar es Salaam; 
Eun Kyung Kwon, Director, University Library, Daegu University; 

Moderator, Jim Cogswell, Director of Libraries, University of Missouri

See Programs at: http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrevents/acrlatannual.cfm

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