

London Middle East Institute, SOAS

Annual Report 2005/2006



INTRODUCTION

The LMEI has continued to grow since our last report in August 2005 as is evident from the Programme of Activity listed below and our statement of accounts. We have also taken on an additional member of staff to help with the administration of our burgeoning programme of events. Highlights of the period include the 15 May symposium on Islamic finance sponsored by Merrill Lynch through its Global Private Clients Division, and attended by HRH the Duke of York, and the third event in the Soudavar series on the Idea of Iran, held on 10 June. Both events are resulting in publications. The Middle East in London magazine has been taken in-house and is now produced by SOAS post-graduates who work for us part-time, together with LMEI staff and our Editorial Board. In the last two months the LMEI has reached agreement with the London based publisher, Saqi Books, to produce four volumes in 2007. Two of the books will be based on conferences (that on the role of families in the Gulf, and one on British-Egyptian relations since Suez, to be held in November), one on oil and democracy in Iraq that was the result of a DIFD consultancy, and one by Bill Hale entitled Turkey, the United States and Iraq.

We are gratified by the success achieved this year and are appreciative of the contribution made to that success by SOAS and everyone associated with the LMEI, including the Board of Trustees. We continue to see growing awareness of the LMEI in governmental, academic, business and regional circles, and are pleased that this awareness, in addition to our public programmes, repays some of the goodwill shown towards us by SOAS.

MISSION STATEMENT

The aim of the LMEI, through education and research, is to promote knowledge of all aspects of the Middle East including its complexities, problems, achievements and assets, both among the general public and with those who have special interest in the region.

In this task it will build on two essential assets. First, it is based in London, a city which has unrivalled contemporary and historical connections and communications with the Middle East - political, social, cultural, commercial, scientific and educational. Secondly, the LMEI is closely linked to SOAS, the only tertiary educational institution in the world whose explicit purpose is to provide training and scholarship on the whole Middle East from prehistory until today.

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

Visit by HRH The Duke of York

HRH the Duke of York visited the London Middle East Institute on 17 January 2006 to become familiar with its activities and personnel and to participate in a roundtable discussion on contemporary issues in the Middle East. Since 2001 HRH The Duke of York has served as Special Representative for International Trade and Investment for the Department of Trade and Industry. HRH was received by the Principal of the School of Oriental and African Studies, Professor Colin Bundy and several representatives of the LMEI Board of Trustees and Advisory Council. During his meeting at the LMEI the Duke of York emphasised the importance of non-governmental institutions such as the LMEI in contributing to public interest in and knowledge of the Middle East in the UK. He placed particular emphasis on the need to bring together Middle Easterners with UK based specialists to exchange views and explore means through which important contemporary issues can be addressed more effectively. The personal interest of the Duke of York in Islamic law and its application in global financial dealings, in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and in the current political situation in Iraq stimulated a lively debate on these and related issues. It was these fruitful discussions which led to the organisation of a symposium on Islamic Finance later in the year.





Mahrous Abdou Weaving
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The LMEI organised a wide range of events and programmes throughout the academic year 2005-6, many in partnership with other institutions. What follows is a list of our events in a thematic order.

IRAN

14 Jun **Iranian Presidential Elections: and their Implications for Domestic and Foreign Policy**

Ali Ansari, Univeristy of St. Andrews; Andres Ilves, BBC Persian Service; Roger Hardy, BBC; Anna Enayat, St Antony's College, Oxford. Chair: Ziba Moshaver, LMEI; Professor Robert Springborg, LMEI.

21 Oct **Rumi; Love and Peace**

Iranian Music and the recitation of the Mathnawi and Shams organised by the London Academy of Iranian Studies and The Centre for Promotion of Persian Language and Literature (CPPLL) in association with the London Middle East Institute. Lecturers: Prof. Simon Weightman, SOAS; Prof. James Morris, Exeter University; Dr. Elahi Ghomshei, Tehran University; Dr. Seyed G. Safavi, SOAS.

15 Nov **Iran's New President: a conservative revival?**

Mr. Sadeq Saba, Iranian Affairs Analyst, BBC

25 Nov **A Celebration of Parvin Paidar's Life (1949-2005)**

Speakers: Dr. Deniz Kandiyoti; Prof. Sami Zubeida; Dr. Soroush Javadi; Dr. Sanem Nafisi; Dr. Sima Motamen; Simin Azimi; Shahrn Tabari.

09 Dec **The Future of Democracy in Iran**

Organised by the London Middle East Institute Speakers: Prof. Elaheh Koolae, Department of International Relations, Tehran University and former reformist MP in Iranian Parliament (2000-2004); Dr. Ali Ansari, Reader in the School of History at St. Andrews and Associate Fellow at the Middle East Programme, Chatham House; Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Independent Scholar and Research Associate specialising in gender, Islam and the law at the London Middle East Institute; Dr. Elaheh Rostami-Povey, Department of Development Studies, SOAS

25 Apr-24 Jun **Layered Lives: Iranian Armenian Contemporary Arts**

Organised by the Armenian Institute in association with the London Middle East Institute. An exciting sampling of the variety of visual arts created by Iranian Armenian artists. We include artists from Iran, new to London, established artists representing earlier stylistic movements, as well as artists from the contemporary diasporan scene.

27 Apr **Opening Exhibition & Reception**

A variety of visual arts created by Armenian Iranian artists. Veronica Castro, curator, Iran Artists Nairi Sahakian, curator, diaspora artists

29 Apr **Lecture - History of Armenians in Iran**

Speaker: Professor Theo van Lint, Calouste Gulbenkian Chair of Armenian Studies, Oxford University

Film Screening - Lullaby

Filmakers: Veronica Castro and Abdollah Guivian

Lecture - Art and Iranian Armenian Identity

Speaker: Nairi Sahakian, curator of contemporary Armenian art

Armenians in Contemporary Iranian Film

Film screenings followed by Q & A with the directors: *Salandar* by Varuzh Karim; *Ghare Kelisa & Armenians in Iran* by Anahit Abad

One Thousand and One Journeys

Armenian dance, poetry & music - Presented by Shakeh Tchilingirian Major & Peter Barker

9 - 31 May **The Legacy of the Constitutional Revolution in Iran: a hundred years of struggle for democracy**

Lecture Series organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation & the London Middle East Institute. Convened by Ziba Mir-Hosseini.

9 May **Reflections on Modern Iranian History (Part of Lecture Series)**

Fred Halliday, London School of Economics

12 May **Islam and Democracy in Iran: Eshkevari and the Quest for Reform**

by Ziba Mir-Hosseini and Richard Tapper (Book Launch).

Organised by I. B. Tauris Publishers, the London Middle East Institute and the Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief

The authors were joined by Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari, Mohsen Kadivar and Abdolkarim Soroush for a panel discussion on the *The Reform Movement in Iran - where is it now?*

12 May **Shi'a Political Thought and the Challenge of Democracy: From the Constitutionalism of Akhund Khorasani to the Republicanism of Ayatollah Khomeini (Part of Lecture Series)**

Mohsen Kadivar, Tarbiyat Modaress University, Tehran

17 May **Can Theocracy and Democracy be Reconciled? Ayatollah Na'ini's Proposals on Iranian Constitutionalism and their Relevance (Part of Lecture Series)**

Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari (lecture in Persian)

IRAN

23 May **The Ideological Crisis of Nationalism and Islam: from the Constitutional Revolution until Today (Part of Lecture Series)**

Daryoush Ashouri, Independent Scholar

27 May **A Celebration of Maria o'Shea's Life with Horemie Music**

Organised by the Kurdish Studies Forum in association with the London Middle East Institute.

31 May **Cancelled: Iranian Women Caught between Religious and Secular Despotisms (Part of Lecture Series)**

Fateme Sadeghi, Azad Islamic University, Tehran

10 Jun **Soudavar Memorial Symposium - The Idea of Iran: The early Sasanian period**

Speakers: Michael Alram, Vienna: *Early Sasanian Coinage*; Prudence Harper, New York: *Image and Identity: Early Sasanian Art and Iconography*; Touraj Daryaee, California State University, Fullerton: *The "King of Kings" who is from the "Race of Gods": the idea of kingship in the early Sasanian period*; Philip Kreyenbroek, Göttingen: *Zoroastrianism in the Early Sasanian Period*; Yuri Stoyanov, Research Fellow, Council for British Research in the Levant, Jerusalem: *Interrelations between Iranian religious traditions and Christian heterodoxy in the late Parthian and early Sasanian period*; Dietrich Huff, German Archaeological Institute, Eurasia Dept. Berlin: *The plan of the city of Ardashir Khorreh and Ardashir Papakan's state ideology*.

21 Jun **Layered Lives: Iranian Armenian Contemporary Arts - Closing Concert: Chilingirian Quartet with Patricia Rozario, Soprano; Haydn quartet opus 77 no 1**

John Taverner; Akhmatova songs (quartet and soprano); Ludwig Bazil (Iranian Armenian) – Quartet; Ludwig Bazil - Sayat Nova pieces for Soprano and Quartet.

23 July **Centenary of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution: a review of the past with a view to the future**

Organised by Forum Iran in association with the London Middle East Institute.
Speakers: Massoud Behnoud: *Journalism and Constitutional revolution*; Majid Tafreshi: *The importance of British archives in writing the history of the Iranian constitutional revolution*; Mostafa Zamani-Nia: *The representation of the Iranian constitutional revolution in Iranian Cinema*; Gholam-Reza Salami: *The progress and structural development of local and central governments before and after the revolution - Case Study: Farmanfarma's Rule in Azerbaijan*; Fatema Soudavar (Farmanfarmaian): *A research on social and economic development of the revolution through development of influential families – Case study: Malekoltojar family*; Ahmad Seyf: *A total*

crisis that paved the way for the constitutional revolution – A look at the economic grounds of the revolution; Alireza Mir Ali-naghi: *The content and social and artistic impact of the music (tasnif) of the Constitutional revolution era*

3-5 Aug **Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies**

Organised by the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS); Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF) and the London Middle East Institute (LMEI).
A biennial conference that includes contributions in all fields of Iranian studies, especially new areas of investigation and/or novel approaches to traditional fields. More than 300 presentations will be made within the context of 80 plus panels. Ordinarily four papers are presented at a panel. The primary language of the conference will be English. Panel topics include: Achaemenid Era, Agrarian Transition, Ancient Art, AntiSemitism/Bahaimism, Archaeology, Arsacid Era, Christian/Safavid Relations, Cinema, Clergy, Culture and Cultural Policies, Demography, Diaspora, Economic Growth and Development, Education, Far East/Persian Relations, Foreign Perceptions, Gender, Geography, Historiography, History from Below, Ilkhanid Era, Intellectual Life, Internet, Julfans Abroad, Languages, Literature (classic, contemporary, mystic, epic), NGOs, Pahlavi Era, Politics and Political Culture, Public Opinion, Qajar Era, Reconstruction, Regional Issues, Religion, Russian/Persian Relations, Safavid Era, Saljuk Era, Sasanian Era, Science and Technology (ancient and modern), Secularism, Urban Change, Zoroastrinism.



Layered Lives: Iranian Armenian Contemporary Arts

IRAQ

9-10 Sep **Debating the Draft Constitution of Iraq**

Organised by the Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies. Participants included both international and Iraqi jurists and representatives of minority and various political groups. Hosted by the London Middle East Institute.

12 Oct **The Iraqi Constitutional Referendum: Path to Peace or Civil War?**

Panel debate organised by the London Middle East Institute. Participants: Ambassador Elizabeth McKune, Director, Arab Media Outreach Center, US Embassy, London; Mr. Martin Hetherington, Research Analyst, FCO; Dr. Charles Tripp, SOAS; Dr. Faleh Jaber, Director, Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies & Birkbeck College.



Prof. Charles Tripp, SOAS, taking part in an LMEI panel debate on Iraqi Constitutional Referendum

18 Oct **In Search of an Exit Strategy for the Iraqi People: compromise, disintegrate or Islamize?**

Professor Isam al Khafaji, University of Amsterdam

01 Nov **Annual Lecture of the British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) Show Trials in Iraq: theatres of power**

Dr. Charles Tripp, Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS

21 Feb **Regime Change in Iraq: the Causes and Consequences of Failure**

Dr Dodge, Department of Politics, Queen Mary, University of London and the International Institute

22 May **Playing With Our Lives: The Realities for Women in Iraq and Afghanistan**

Organised by Act Together: Women's Action for Iraq in association with the London Middle East Institute. Speakers: Nicola Pratt, Lecturer in Politics, University of East Anglia: *Gender policies of the US and UK in Iraq*; Deniz Kandiyoti, Reader in Development Studies, SOAS: *Reconstruction and gender politics in Afghanistan*; Rabie Al Abayachi, Iraqi women's activist and filmmaker:

Women's activism in Iraq now; Nadje Al-Ali, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Exeter: *Iraqi women's activism in the diaspora*; Excerpts of *Baghdad Days* by Hiba Bassem shown by Maysoon Pachachi, filmmaker and co-founder of a free-of-charge film-training centre in Baghdad, Independent Film & Television College.

17 Jul **Iraq Women's Rights Under Attack: occupation, constitution and Islamist extremism**

Organised by Act Together: Women's Action for Iraq in association with the London Middle East Institute. Speakers: Sundus Abass, Director of Women in Leadership Institute, Baghdad: *Campaigning for Women's Rights in Iraq Today*; Suad Al Jazairy, Iraqi journalist and woman's rights activist: *The Iraqi Women's Movement, Political Parties and the Media*; Mubajel Baban, founding member of Iraqi Women's League: *Drafting the Constitution and Family Laws in 1959*; Nadje Al-Ali, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Exeter; *Iraqi Women's Rights in Historical Perspective*. Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

21 Sep **Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum**

Organised by The British Friends of the Forum of the Israeli Palestinian Bereaved Families for Peace and hosted by the London Middle East Institute. Meeting presided by Irranca Davies MP, KLT, SOAS

23-24 Sep **Fear of the Other & the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Organised by Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace-UK, co-sponsored by The Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities. Hosted by the London Middle East Institute Outreach Programme.

11 Oct **UNRWA – 55 Years After its Foundation and the Palestinian Refugees in the Peace Process: the implications of Gaza disengagement**

Mr. Robin Kealy, Former British Consul General in Jerusalem (1997-2001) and British Ambassador to Tunisia (2002-2004)

04 Nov **A Decade after the Assassination of Prime Minister Rabin: Israeli politics and the peace process**

Lecture organised by the London Middle East Institute to mark the 10th anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's death. Speaker: Dr Colin Shindler; Chair, Centre for Jewish Studies, SOAS.

26-27 Nov **The Question of Palestine in International Law**

Organised by the SOAS Palestine Society in association with the London Middle East Institute. Special Guest: Dr. Manuel Hassassian, Palestinian General Delegate to the United Kingdom. Speakers: Professor Richard Falk, Albert G. Milbank Prof. Emeritus of International Law,

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Princeton University; Dr. Lisa Hajjar, Associate Professor of Law and Society, University of California; Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Department of Economics, SOAS; Ms. Catherine Jenkins, Department of Law, SOAS; Mr. Peter Hansen, Former UNRWA Commissioner-General; Dr. Karma Nabulsi, Research Fellow, Nuffield College, University of Oxford; Prof. John B. Quigley, Presidents' Club Professor of Law, Ohio State University; Prof. Atif Kubursi, Prof. of Economics, McMaster University; Ms. Catriona Drew, Lecturer in International Law, SOAS; Dr. Yousef T. Jabareen, Advocate, Human Rights Lecturer, and Legal Consultant for Mossawa Centre; Mr. Hussein Abu Hussein, Advocate, Chairperson of Ittijah-Union of Arab Based Community Organizations; Ms. Orna Kohn, Advocate, Adalah-The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel.

Chairs: Prof. Stephen Chan, Dean of Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, SOAS; Ms. Catherine Jenkins, Lecturer in Law, SOAS; Ms. Catriona Drew, Lecturer in International Law, SOAS.



Palestine Film Festival 2006

28 Nov **Early Elections in Israel: implications for Arab-Israeli peacemaking**

Speaker: Dr. Shai Feldman, Director of the Crown Centre for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University

01 Feb **Middle East Critical Issues Series: The Palestinian Elections & their Consequences**

Speakers: Mr. Ziyad Abu Zayyad, former Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council; Dr. Azzam Tamimi, Director of the Institute of Islamic Political Thought; Mr. Robert Pelletreau, former Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East.

28 Feb **Discourses of Martyrdom at the Intersection of the Local and the Global**

Laleh Khalili, Department of Political Studies, SOAS

05 Apr **The Israeli Elections and their Consequences**

Organised by the London Middle East Institute. Speakers: Douglas Murray, Journalist and Author; Emanuele Ottolenghi, Research Fellow and Lecturer in Israeli Politics, St. Antony's College, Oxford University and the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies; Iain Wright, Labour MP for Hartlepool.

21 Apr-5 May **Palestine Film Festival 2006**

Organised by the Palestine Film Foundation in association with the London Middle East Institute.

30 May **The Hamas Revolution: Regional Impact and Western Response**

Organised by the London Middle East Institute
Speaker: Alastair Crooke, Director, Conflicts Forum

06 June **Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) Public Meeting**

With Al Zaytouna cooperative representatives, Taysir Arbasi and Jihad Abdo

Conference on "The Question of Palestine in International Law"

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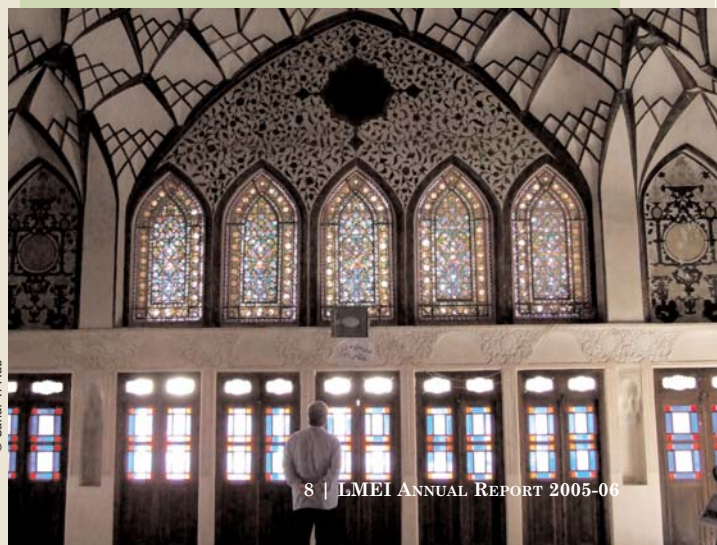


AFGHANISTAN, JORDAN, SYRIA, THE MAGHREB & THE GCC

- 20 Oct **Reading the Peninsula: issues in translating Arabic Literature**
Lecture organised by the Society for Arabian Studies and hosted by the London Middle East Institute. Speakers: Dr. Paul Starkey, Head of Arabic Department, University of Durham.
- 25 Oct **War and Ethnicity in Afghanistan: an anthropological perspective**
Dr. Alessandro Monsutti, Graduate Institute of Development Studies Geneva
- 29 Nov **Afghanistan in 2006: the end of Bonn and the beginning of...?**
Mr. Zahir Tanin, Editor of BBC for Afghanistan
- 31 Jan **The Marginalisation of the Mediterranean: EU policy towards North Africa**
Mr. Francis Ghiles, European Institute of the Mediterranean
- 07 Feb **Jordan's Democratisation Programme: promise versus performance**
Dr. Alan George, Senior Associate Member, St. Antony's College, Oxford University
- 09 Feb **Syria: a third option**
Lecture/Open Dialogue organised by the Syrian Media Centre in association with the London Middle East Institute
Speaker: Dr. Yahya al-Aridi, Director, Syrian Media Centre
- 07 Mar **Defying the Hegemon: the US-Syrian Crisis and World Order**
Ray Hinnebusch, St. Andrew's University
- 14 Mar **Middle East City Networks in the World System**
Bruce Stanley, LMEI Research Associate
- 16 Feb **Sea Life in the Gulf in the 9th and 10th Centuries AD**
Society for Arabian Studies in association with the London Middle East Institute. Speaker: Prof. Valeria Piacentini
- 24 May **Annual General Meeting of The Society for Arabian Studies**
Organised by the Society for Arabian Studies and the London Middle East Institute. Followed by the lecture: *Arabia's History in the Nineteenth Century: a list of petty wars and intestine broils* by Dr. Paul Dresch

TURKEY

- 03 Nov **Re-Orienting the Renaissance: Cultural Encounters with the East (Book launch)**
Edited by Gerald MacLean. Organised by Palgrave Macmillan in association with the London Middle East Institute
- 10 Jan **Religion, Nationalism and Secularism in the Post-Ottoman Space**
Mr. Bruce Clark, the Economist
- 20 Jan **2006 TASG Annual Lecture: Turkey, the United States, and Iraq**
Organised by the Turkish Area Study Group and the London Middle East Institute
Speaker: Prof. William Hale, Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS and Visiting Prof. at Bilkent University
- 24 Jan **Turkey and the European Union in the Broader Context of Enlargement**
Mr. Michael Lake, Former EU Ambassador to Turkey and subsequently Hungary. Organised by the London Middle East Institute Turkish Studies Programme. Sponsored by Nurol Bank. Convened by Dr. Benjamin Fortna.
- 20 Jan - 10 Mar **Seminars on Turkey**
Organised by the London Middle East Institute Turkish Studies Programme
Sponsored by Nurol Bank. Convened by Dr. Benjamin Fortna
- 20 Jan **'The Land Problem' Revisited: land and population movements in 19th century Anatolia**
Yücel Terzibaşoğlu, Boğaziçi University
- 03 Feb **Ethnic Turks as Actors in the German Public Sphere**
Christoph Schumann, University of Erlangen
- 10 Mar **New Messages in Turkish Pop Music, 1989-2002**
Yossi Eli, Tel Aviv University



PERSPECTIVES ON RELIGION

- 4 Oct **The Role of Islam in the Politics of the Middle East**
Dr. Zaki Badawi, The Muslim College
- 9-30 Nov **11th Annual Jewish-Muslim Lecture Series**
Loyalties: personal and communal
Organised by the Maimonides Foundation and the Leo Baeck College-CJE in association with the London Middle East Institute.
- 9 Nov **Political Leadership**
Speakers: Ivan Lewis, Labour MP for Bury South); Khalid Mahmood, Labour MP for Birmingham. Chair: Rosalind Preston OBE, Board of Deputies of British Jews
- 16 Nov **Academic Debate**
Speakers: Prof. Victor Seidel, Goldsmiths College; Prof. Humayan Ansari, Royal Holloway University
Chair: Dr. Colin Shindler, Centre for Jewish Studies, SOAS
- 23 Nov **Youth and Young Adults**
Speakers: Gemma Lieberman, Founder, Maimonides Student Forum, Manchester University; Rashad Yaqoob, Co-Founder, City Circle
Chair: Maleiha Malik, Lecturer in Law, King's College

- 30 Nov **Religious Leadership**
Speakers: Rabbi David Meyer, Brighton and Hove Reform Synagogue; Imam Gul Mohammad, Secretary General, British Muslim Forum
Chair: Sr Margaret Shepherd nds. Director, CCJ
- 6 Dec **A Dialogue between Activists: Islam and Politics: new thinking in the Middle East and Britain**
Organised by the London Middle East Institute
Speakers: Dr Randa Slim, Vice President USD; Abou Elela Madi, founder of Hizb al Wasat; Atef al-Joulani, Editor of Al-Sabeel; Ihtisham Hibatullah, Muslim Association of Britain; Zuheir Salem, Director of the Arab Orient Institute
Chair: Basil Eastwood
- 17 Jan **Shipwrecked Souls: Islam, Plato and the Brethren of Purity**
Prof. Ian Netton, Department of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Leeds
- 2 May **The Novel Eye: Historical Novels and Muslim Settings**
Organised by the Aga Khan University - Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU - ISMC) in association with the London Middle East Institute. Reading by and conversation with Gamal al-Ghitani.
- 15 May **Legal and Regulatory Environments for Islamic Finance**

Organised by the LMEI with the support of Merrill Lynch

The symposium examined how pressures for oversight have been responded to by the development of legal, regulatory and accounting systems and looked at what implications those systems will have for the further expansion of Islamic finance, whether in the UK, the Middle East, or elsewhere in the world.

Speakers: Clement Henry, Professor of Government, University of Texas; Kristin Smith, Research Associate, School of Public Policy, Georgetown University; Michael Hanlon, CEO, Islamic Bank of Britain; Neil Miller, Partner, Head of Finance, Norton Rose; Anthony Dutton, Partner, Norton Rose; Reem Mohammad Asaad, Senior Product Development Analyst, National Commercial Bank, Jeddah; Shahul Hameed, Head of Accounting, International Islamic University, Kuala Lumpur; Yusuf Karbhari, Reader in Accounting & Director, Asian Accounting, Finance and Business Research Unit, Cardiff Business School.

HRH The Duke of York visiting the LMEI Symposium on "Legal and Regulatory Environments for Islamic Finance"

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THE MIDDLE EAST IN LONDON

During the course of the year our magazine was brought in-house and is now produced by three post-graduate students together with the assistance of LMEI staff and our Editorial Board. MEL has been, and continues to be, a challenge but one that has been rewarded by some excellent contributions on a range of subjects from art and music to cookery and publishing, some thoughtful political analysis of the region and insights into the rich culture that is the Middle East in London. The listing of Middle East Events in London continues to grow and to provide our readership with a useful diary of events. Members of the LMEI can access the entire contents through the website.

If you are interested in subscribing to *The Middle East in London* magazine please contact the Executive Officer on lmei@soas.ac.uk, T 020 7898 4330.

Editorial Board of The Middle East in London

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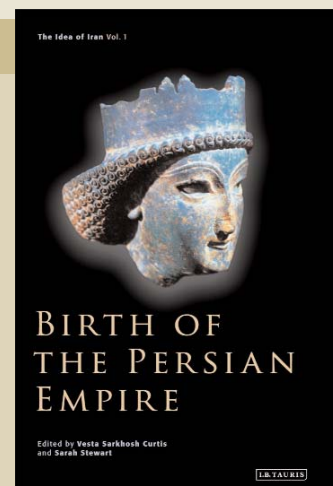


BIRTH OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis and Sarah Stewart. Published by I.B. Tauris.

Of the great ancient civilizations, that of Persia is the least known and the most enigmatic. This book explores the formation of the first Persian Empire under the Achaemenid Persians. It brings together a multi-disciplinary view of ancient Iran in the first millennium BC and concentrates on the art, archaeology, history and religion of a geographical area far beyond the present borders of modern Iran in the period beginning just before the formation of the Persian empire in the middle of the 6th century up to its collapse following conquest by Alexander the Great in the late 4th century BC. Eminent scholars here give a critical approach to some of the traditional interpretations and discuss topics which help the reader towards a better understanding of the formation of the Persian empire. This is the first volume in the "Idea of Iran" series which will be a four-volume collection encompassing the history of that country.

Volume 2: *The Age of the Parthians* will be launched on 25 November at the 4th symposium in the series 'The Idea of Iran'.



FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

The LMEI has reached agreement with the London based publisher, Saqi Books, to produce four volumes in 2007. Two of the books will be based on conferences (that on the role of families in the Gulf we held last year and one on British—Egyptian relations since Suez, to be held in November), and two will be based on manuscripts that were originally intended for our occasional papers series (one on oil and democracy in Iraq that was produced as a result of a DIFD consultancy, the other by Bill Hale, *Turkey, the United States and Iraq*.)

For a full list of publications contact the Executive Officer at lmei@soas.ac.uk

Consultancy projects

On 15 June 2005 SOAS Interface and the LMEI submitted to the MOD a bid on a tender for a one year contract to provide weekly analyses of the Arab media. The LMEI was successful in winning the contract with the MOD contract which will expire on 30 June 2006.

In August 2005 the LMEI together with the Commonwealth Journalists' Association, and the support of the Global Opportunities Fund of the FCO, *Engaging Islam* programme, continued its series of Middle East journalists training programmes. The aim of the two workshops, which targeted both the print and broadcast media, was to provide assistance in preparing journalists to cover forthcoming elections in Afghanistan and Egypt.



CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS (CCAC)

With the emergence of the independent states of Central Asia and the Caucasus, SOAS, University of London has expanded its teaching and research resources for these important regions. SOAS currently hosts a multi-disciplinary team of scholars working on Central Asia and the Caucasus, the largest grouping in any single institution in the U.K. and Europe. The principal role of the Centre is to promote, coordinate and disseminate information relating to, the academic study of Central Asia and the Caucasus across the disciplines and to act as a resource for academic, governmental, non-governmental and business constituencies with an interest in Central Asia and the Caucasus. It does so through the research and publications of its staff, new teaching programmes, an established seminar series and special events.

Chair, Advisory Board: Paul Bergne

Chair, CCCAC: Deniz Kandiyoti

Contact: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/centreinfo.cfm?navid=5>

WATER STUDIES AT SOAS

Water has been a research focus at SOAS since 1970 and especially since 1985. Its regional focus has been the Middle East and North Africa because this was, and remains, the region most challenged by its negative water balance. During the 2001-2002 academic year the Water research group at SOAS merged with related activities at King's College London and became the KCL/SOAS Water Research Unit. Currently the water research unit is headed Tony Allan. Ten researchers focus on the socio-economic, trans-boundary and legal aspects of water resources management. The unit has an international reputation in first - water, food and trade. Secondly - institutions and water policy reform in the water sector. Thirdly - trans-boundary water conflict and conflict resolution. The interdisciplinary nature of these themes requires inputs from specialists in other disciplines such as politics, economics, international finance, development studies and law.

Coordinator: Tony Allan E ta1@soas.ac.uk

KURDISH STUDIES FORUM

The Kurdish Studies Forum is an interdisciplinary forum for everyone whose research or work relates to Kurdistan. In May 2005 the forum celebrated the life of Dr. Maria O'Shea founder of Kurdish Studies Forum, who passed away on 28th April 2005 due to her cancer illness. In the next academic year, the forum hopes to host more cultural events, including another conference on Kurdish culture.

Convenor: Media Zahawy.

Contact: E mediazahawy@hotmail.com M 07944297484 or c/o LMEI at SOAS.

CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES

The Centre for Jewish Studies organizes book launches, workshops, conferences and lectures on subjects relevant to Israeli and Jewish Studies. During the academic year, 2005/6, the lecturers included David Cesarani, Anthony Julius, Shalva Weil, Benjamin Pogrud, Charles Small on subjects as varied as 'Resonances of the Blood Libel'; 'The Triumph of Military Zionism'; 'The Representation of Jews, Israel and Zionism in Indian Muslim and Pakistani Discourse' and 'Israel as an anti-Apartheid State'.

During the autumn term 2006, there will be a series of lectures on the theme of 'Jewish Everyday life and Popular Culture'. These will be held on Tuesday evenings at 5.30 pm. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Chair: Dr Colin Shindler

Contact: Dr Shindler on cs52@soas.ac.uk or telephone 0207 898 4358.

THE CENTRE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

The Centre of Islamic Studies in SOAS was established in 1996, and aims to promote scholarship and research in all areas of Islamic Studies, past and present. The study of the Qur'an and Hadith from the Arabic texts, and the analysis and translation of Islamic texts from Arabic into English form the core activities of the Centre. The Centre also deals with Islamic thought in European, African and Asian languages and promotes the study of Islamic culture and relations between Muslims and the wider world. The Centre runs an MA Islamic Studies programme and encourages the study and understanding of Islam by means of lectures, seminars, conferences and publications. It also provides academic links and exchanges between institutions and scholars of Islam in Muslim countries, Europe and the rest of the world. It publishes the *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* biannually, through Edinburgh University Press, and the *London Qur'an Series*, through IB Tauris. It runs a biennial conference on *The Qur'an: Text, Interpretation and Translation*. Forthcoming publication: *A Dictionary of Qur'anic Usage* by Elsaid Badawi and M. Abdel Haleem, Brill, 2007.

Director: Professor MAS Abdel Haleem, King Fahd Professor of Islamic Studies in the University of London.
Contact: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/centreinfo.cfm?navid=18>



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CENTRE OF ISLAMIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN LAW

The Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, established in 1990 in recognition of the growing importance of law in both its Islamic and Middle Eastern dimensions, undertakes the analysis of the various systems of law at work in the Islamic and Middle Eastern world as well as an active interaction with Middle Eastern and Muslim lawmakers and scholars.

Directors: Mr. Nicholas Foster and Mr. Ian Edge.
Contact: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/centreinfo.cfm?navid=17>

LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE BUILDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Law, human rights and peace building in the Middle East
Sir Joseph Hotung International Human Rights

The research programme is based in the Department of Law and works in close co-operation with the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, and the Centre for Law and Conflict. The aim of the programme is to promote a greater understanding of the legal dimensions of the relationship between Palestine and Israel, including the role and responsibilities of third parties, through independent and scholarly research.

Director: Professor Iain Scobbie.
Contact: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/lawpeacemideast/index.html>

PHD THESES ON THE MIDDLE EAST COMPLETED AT SOAS IN 2005-2006

NAME	THESIS
2005	
Mahmoud Fathulla Ahmad	<i>THE TENSE AND ASPECT SYSTEM IN KURDISH</i>
Sana' Tahir Ali Al-Jamali	<i>THE CITY IN THE NOVELS OF FU'AD AL-TAKARLI</i>
Ahmet Sedat Aybar	<i>THE SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF CREDIT INFORMATION PROCESSING: LENDING PRACTICES OF TURKISH BANKS</i>
Saniye Dedeoglu	<i>HIDDEN HANDS - INVISIBLE WORKERS: WOMEN'S WORK IN ISTANBUL'S GARMENT INDUSTRY</i>
Ashjan Mohammad H Hendi	<i>ENGAGEMENT WITH HERITAGE IN THE CONTEMPORARY POETRY OF WOMEN IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA</i>
Nilanjan Sarkar	<i>THE POLITICAL IDENTITY OF THE DELHI SULTANATE, 1200-1400: A STUDY OF ZIA AL-DIN BARANI'S FATAWA-I-JAHANDARI</i>
Rashed Ahmad Bin Shabib	<i>TORTIOUS LIABILITY IN THE SHARIA AND MODERN MIDDLE EAST LAW WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO UAE LAW</i>
2006	
Ibrahim Abdulla Al Ansari	<i>THE RENEWAL OF ISLAMIC LEGAL THEORY - MODELS OF CONTEMPORARY IJTIHAD</i>
Suaad Ahmad E Alfitouri	<i>ASPECTS OF THE RELIGIOUS AND MYTHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF PRE-ISLAMIC POETRY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE MU'ALLAQAT</i>
James Peter Chance Howarth	<i>NEO-SUFISM IN MODERN ARABIC POETRY: A STUDY IN THE POETRY OF SABD AL-WAHAB AL-BAYYATI, SALAH 'ABDAL-SABUR AND ADONIS</i>
Nazan Cicek	<i>THE EASTERN CRITICS OF THE "EASTERN QUESTION": THE YOUNG OTTOMANS 1866-1871</i>
Ioannis Nikolaou Grigoriadis	<i>TURKISH POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION</i>
Abdollah Guivian	<i>RELIGION, TELEVISION AND CULTURE IN POST-REVOLUTIONARY IRAN</i>
Raja Lahiani	<i>EASTERN LUMINARIES DISCLOSED TO WESTERN EYES. A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE TRANSLATIONS OF THE MU'ALLAQAT INTO ENGLISH AND FRENCH (1782-2000)</i>
Sharmina Mawani	<i>THE CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITIES AMONGST YOUNG ADULT NIZARI ISMAILIS IN TORONTO AND MUMBAI</i>
Jane Elizabeth Mitchell	<i>REPRESENTATION OF CHANGE AND GENDER IDENTITY: A STUDY OF WOMEN IN EGYPTIAN CINEMA 1959-1998</i>
Iain Michael Pickett	<i>SOME ASPECTS OF DIALECT VARIATION AMONG NOMADS IN SYRIA AND LEBANON</i>
Panagiotis Poulos	<i>INHERITING INNOVATION: A STUDY OF TAKSIM WITHIN A 20TH CENTURY LINEAGE OF TANBUR PLAYERS</i>
Frodge Saugestad	<i>INDIVIDUATION AND THE SHAPING OF PERSONAL IDENTITY. A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE MODERN NOVEL.</i>
Oliver Paul Scharbrodt	<i>RECONCILING RELIGIOUS DISSIDENCE IN EARLY BAHA'ISM AND IN THE SALAFIYYA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF 'ABDUL-BAHA 'ABBAS (1844-1921) AND MUHAMMAD 'ABDUH (1849-1905)</i>



IN MEMORIAM - ZAKI BADAWI

The LMEI deeply regrets the death of Zaki Badawi on 24 January 2006.

His death, at the venerable age of 83, marks a sad loss for both Muslim and non-Muslim communities. After taking a BA in psychology at University College, London, graduating in 1954, Mr Badawi undertook a PhD as an external degree from London University (with a SOAS adviser), on Modern Islamic Thought. Mr Badawi enjoyed a long career of teaching Islamic studies globally and held many important positions as a leading Islamic scholar. As a lecturer, Badawi was well received on many occasions by the SOAS community, who enjoyed his lectures (always given without a text, for this man had a remarkable memory and full confidence in his abilities).

Zaki Badawi had a full life. Wherever he went he was ever resourceful, and left his mark. He was always confident that his vision, his aspiration and his activities were firmly based on the teachings of Islam. Badawi's legacy will remain a fitting tribute to a truly remarkable man.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The LMEI would like to thank all those individuals who have volunteered their time, resources and energies to expand its programmes and making them a success. Special thanks goes to the members of our Editorial Board, in particular to our dedicated designer, Mr Marco Pinfari and editorial coordinator Ms Shaghayegh Azimi. Thanks are also extended to all the SOAS staff who have assisted the LMEI in its operations, including the catering section, the AV and the IT departments, the Print-room and the Post-room, as well as the Estates department. For one more year, our thanks are extended to Ms Jane Wood and Mr Brett Cornforth for their assistance with the Institute's finance.

Particular thanks should also go to Rod Sampson, Vice President of Global Private Clients, at Merrill Lynch for the generous sponsorship that he organised for the Institute, enabling us to host our successful symposium on Islamic Finance in May.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 July 2005

	Unrestricted Funds 2005 £	Restricted Funds 2005 £	Total Funds 2005 £	Total Funds 2004 £
Incoming resources				
Donations, sponsorship and similar income	256,092	11,988	268,080	276,887
Activities to further the charity's objects:				
Training programmes and professional services	232,302	-	232,302	89,143
Conferences, events and publications	42,084	-	42,084	17,509
Affiliations	6,763	-	6,763	14,589
Activities for generating funds:				
Advertising	2,917	-	2,917	583
Total incoming resources	540,158	11,988	552,146	398,711
Resources expended				
Charitable expenditure:				
Training programmes and professional services	217,111	-	217,111	130,037
Conferences, events and publications	149,190	-	149,190	155,651
Affiliations	30,488	-	30,488	32,602
Scholarships	-	11,988	11,988	-
Management and administration	43,189	-	43,189	42,737
Total resources expended	439,978	11,988	451,966	361,027
Net incoming resources	100,180	-	100,180	37,684
- Net income for the year				
Total funds brought forward at 1 st August 2004	37,684	-	37,684	-
Total funds carried forward at 31 July 2005	137,864	-	137,864	37,684

The Statement of Financial Activity includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 July 2005

	2005 £	2004 £
Current assets		
Debtors	7,557	10,967
Cash at bank and in hand	281,540	120,785
	289,097	131,752
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	151,233	94,068
	137,864	37,684
Net current assets		
	137,864	37,684
Unrestricted funds	137,864	37,684
Restricted funds	-	-
	137,864	37,684
Total funds		
	137,864	37,684

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Prof. C. Bundy
Chairman

Date 03/05/2006



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Formerly known as the Advisory Board, the Advisory Council was re-constituted in 2005 and assumed, having agreed to take on enhanced responsibilities for development. The LMEI would like to extend thanks to all members of the Advisory Boards and Advisory Council, past and present, for their invaluable support over the years.

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Ziyad Abuzayyad and Ambassador Robert Pelletreau at the LMEI discussing about the Palestinian Elections



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Individual Affiliations

Individual affiliates pay £30 per year, for which they receive an annual subscription to The Middle East in London, inclusion on email and mailing lists for notification of upcoming events, and special rates for LMEI conferences and publications.

If you are interested in becoming a Corporate, Institutional or Individual affiliate of the London Middle East Institute, please contact the Executive Officer on Imei@soas.ac.uk or 020 7898 4330

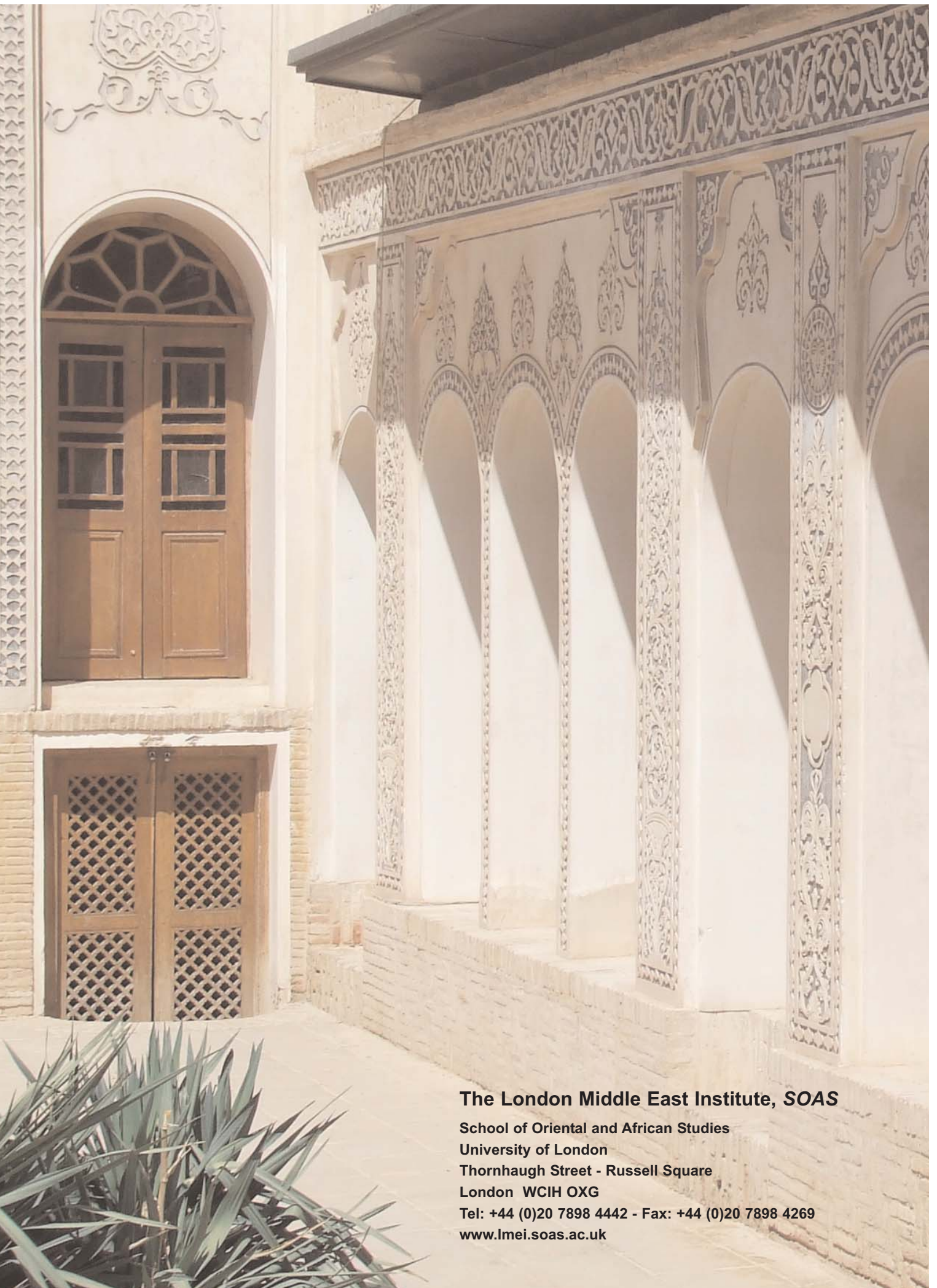
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For details of the Institute's activities, including lecture programmes, conferences and publications, and information on how to become an affiliate of the LMEI please contact:

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