
The Near East Reports...

from the Department of
**Near Eastern Languages
and Civilization**
at the
University of Washington

Volume 1

September 26, 1988

From the Chair:

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first issue of our Department's Newsletter and its production editor, John O'Farrell, graduate student in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. With this first issue, I hope to establish the tradition that our graduate students will take turns in publishing our newsletter at the beginning of each autumn quarter, as a forum for informing our students, friends and supporters of the Department's activities.

As I look back at some of our accomplishments during 1987-1988, my first year as Chair, I would like to express my gratitude for the help and patience I received from all the faculty and students. A special note of thanks goes to my predecessor, Professor Nicholas Heer, who chaired the Department during a difficult period, from 1982-1987.

During the past year, the Department further extended its involvement in exchange programs with universities and institutions in the Middle East and in the Turkic speaking regions of Central Asia. As in the past, the Department's goal has been to provide our graduate students as well as our undergraduates the opportunity to live and study in the countries where the languages and cultures of their fields of specialization are spoken and practiced. To that end, the Department actively participates

in University-wide exchange programs (American University in Cairo, Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and maintains memberships in research societies and institutes abroad, such as the Center for Arabic Study Abroad in Cairo, the American Research Center in Egypt, and the American Research Institute in Turkey.

The Department's exchange program with the University of Xinjiang, in Urumchi, China, is continuing well. Through the combined efforts of the Department and the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Committee, an exchange program between the University of Washington and Tashkent State University is now underway, establishing the first direct exchange between a university in the United States and the Soviet Union. The exchange agreement, signed in January 1988, calls for assistance in teaching Uzbek language and literature and joint publications and research. It is always deeply rewarding for the Department's faculty to welcome back our students returning from abroad, still excited by the sights and sounds they saw and heard, having become more committed than ever to the study of Near Eastern languages and civilization. Similarly, we are also grateful to our students from abroad who contribute in many ways to a stimulating learning process in which students and faculty share.

Ilse D. Cirtautas



Near East students to study in the Middle East

Michelle Buell, one of our undergraduate students, will be spending 1988-1989 at the American University in Cairo.

Timothy Gianotti, who received his B.A. at Notre Dame, was expected to enter the Department this fall. However, he received a Fulbright scholarship to study Arabic in Jordan this year and will be joining us in autumn 1989.

To our new students

As the 1988-89 year begins the Department extends a warm welcome to the following new students. **Dana Bates** started Turkish in autumn 1987 and joined the Department as a fifth year student in autumn 1988. She is interested in Turkish literature and oral traditions. **Bob Beer** will enter the Department as an undergraduate student with an avid interest in Turkish language and music. Having spent time in Greece and Turkey, he plays the *saz*, the *Kara Deniz kemencesi* and the *kabak kemeni* and desires to promote Turkish and Central Asian traditional music. **Suzanne Mowatt** earned her B.A. in the Department and will continue her study of Turkish and Turkic languages as a first year graduate student. She was in Turkey this past summer on a scholarship through the American Research Institute in Turkey.

Arabic Coptic Hebrew Turkish Persian Uzbek Kazakh Kirghiz Uighur

Brad Wakefield, who received his B.A. in June 1988, from the Department, will start his graduate program focusing on Persian language and literature. **David Frederick** took the intensive Arabic course last summer and will continue his studies this fall. David comes with a deep understanding and appreciation of Islamic culture, having lived among the Maguindanao, a Muslim people of the Phillipines. **Jonathan Wender** studied Arabic previously and has chosen NELC as his home department, starting this autumn. **Charlene Constable** is no stranger to the Department. She completed her B.A. here in 1986. During her undergraduate studies she spent a year in Syria on a Fulbright travel grant. As a graduate student she intends to concentrate on the comparative study of Arabic and Turkish folklore and oral literature. **Mehmet Kalpakli** comes from Istanbul, Turkey. He will be studying with Professor Andrews. **Rahman Hanbaba**, a research assistant for the Language Reform Committee of Xinjiang, has been admitted as a post-Master graduate student. He is still in Urumchi, while the final preparations for his departure are being worked out. We are anticipating his arrival soon.

Best wishes to all our students for a successful and enjoyable school year!

Congratulations to:

Brian Johnson, who received his M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization in spring 1988. In the Department, Brian studied Arabic and Turkish and spent this past summer in Turkey studying on a scholarship through the American Research Institute in Turkey. He has been admitted into the Ph.D. program of the History Department at the University of Washington.

Reports from last year's new students

Hi everyone! My name is **Masafumi Adachi**, a graduate student sent by the Overseas Mission Department of Tenrikyo, Japan. I came to the U W with my wife and baby last September to broaden my knowledge and understanding in the field of Arabic and Islamic studies based on the three years of experience I have had in Cairo, Egypt. I love and thank all the faculty, staff and students in NELC who kindly helped me in every respect. Often I enjoy visiting the NELC Department, so please get in touch with me at the office.

Yaxshimisiz! Greetings! My name is **Hamit Zakir**. I am from Urumchi, The Peoples Republic of China. I don't know how I can explain the joy I felt when I received the letter telling me I had been accepted as a graduate student in the Department of NELC. The University of Xinjiang in Urumchi, where I received my M.A., has an exchange agreement with the NELC Department. In addition to becoming accustomed to living in the United States and improving my ability in the English language, I was able to present a paper, "On the Classification of Suffixes in Modern Turkic Languages," at the Central Asia Conference at Berkeley this past spring. I very much appreciate the opportunity to study under the direction of Professor Ilse Cirtautas, who is well known in my country. I plan to give my best effort towards improving the study of human civilization together with you my professors, my colleagues and my friends.

Greetings to those of you I already know and those I have yet to be acquainted with! My name is **Anne Wickwire**. I found my niche in the NELC Department in 1987 after some experimenting in various classes here at the UW and at the University of South Florida, Tampa. My academic

interests include the Middle East in general, and Iran and Israel in particular. I look forward to working with the faculty in the Department and my fellow students!

Paige Woods, who comes from Portland State University, joined the Department as an undergraduate in winter 1988. She will continue her study of the Arabic language.

Sandra Campbell earned her B.A. with Summa Cum Laude in NELC in June 1986. She received a fellowship from the Center for Arabic Study Abroad to study Arabic during 1986-1987 in Cairo. In autumn 1987 she returned and started her graduate work in the Department.

Salam alaykum! My name is **John O'Farrell**. I arrived at the UW a year ago, having completed my undergraduate degree at Indiana University. In looking back at last year, I recall that it was a full and busy one, entailing much more than I could have anticipated from the outset. My first here year consisted mainly of academic studies, employment in the Department as a work-study graduate assistant and helping with the reception of delegations which came from Tashkent. Although Uzbekistan is on the other side of the world from here, (with exactly 12 hours time difference between Seattle and Tashkent), these areas of study, work and cultural exchange have brought it nearby. Much to my satisfaction all these involvements have reinforced my interest and knowledge in the Turkic areas of Central Asia. As this new quarter begins, I look forward to an equally productive second year. In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to the faculty and the graduate school administration who helped to make last year a successful one for me. *Kop rahmat*. Many thanks!

Welcome to our visiting scholars

Hassan El-Sayed El-Arabi has come from Zagazig University, Egypt, under a special program of cooperation between Egyptian universities and Western scholars, sponsored by the Egyptian Ministry of Education. He is working here on his doctoral dissertation ("Land Ownership in Egypt during the Ottoman Rule") under the joint supervision of Professor Ziadeh and members of the Law faculty of Zagazig University.

Professors **Anvar Kadyrov** and **Nigmatulla Akmalov** are our Special Exchange Students from Tashkent State University. They will be staying here for ten months under the provisions of the recently signed exchange agreement between the UW and TSU.

Congratulations to:

Ghada Hallaq, who received her Ph.D. in July 1988. Under the supervision of Professors Farhat Ziadeh and Nicholas Heer, Ghada earned her degree through the Special Individual Ph.D. Program of the Graduate School. The title of her dissertation is, "Discourse Strategies: The Persuasive Power of Early Khariji Poetry."

Introducing our Teaching Assistants

Dilek Elcin is from Ankara, Turkey and is the teaching assistant for Turkish. She is a graduate student in the comparative Turkic program in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature. Her interests include language policies in Turkey and the Turkic regions of the Soviet Union and China.

Ablahat Ibrahim is the teaching assistant for Uzbek. He is our first exchange student from Xinjiang University, where he was a lecturer before coming to Seattle in autumn 1986. He has also served on the boards of two Turkological Societies in China: that at the national level in Beijing and at the regional level in Urumchi.

Malka Hoash was born in Israel and is the teaching assistant for Hebrew. She has a Teaching Certificate for the instruction of emotionally disturbed children. She worked in Israel for ten years in a boarding school for children from broken homes. Malka came to the United States three years ago when her

husband was offered a job here. Since then she has earned a B.A. in Jewish Studies at the UW and is now working towards a M.A. in Special Education.

Marlam Osman is the teaching assistant for Arabic. She is currently teaching first year Arabic. In addition, she is a Ph.D. candidate in the linguistics department and is working on her Ph.D. dissertation. The topic of her dissertation is "Wh-Constructions in Egyptian and Standard Arabic."

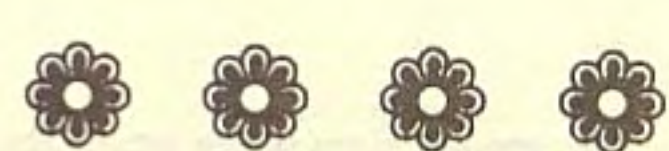
Allreza Zarrin is our teaching assistant in Persian. He is presently pursuing doctoral studies through the Department of Comparative Literature. Mr. Zarrin completed his M.A. in English Literature at the University of Colorado. He has had his poetry published several times in both Persian and English and expects another volume to be available this fall. Please find an excerpt from his book-length poem, To An Alien on page five.

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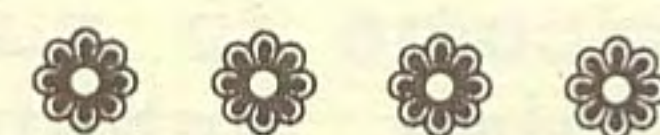
Students form Inner Asian Studies Association

During spring quarter a small but enthusiastic group of students formed the Student Association of Inner Asian Studies (SAIAS). The students come from a variety of departments such as: Anthropology, Asian Languages and Literature, Geography, the Russian and East European Studies Program, and Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. The goals of the association are: to exchange scholarly information, to hold frequent presentations and seminars on the areas of Inner Asia, to assist in developing cultural and scholarly exchanges with other universities and institutions, to serve as a support group for students coming from Central Asian universities, like those with whom the U.W. now maintains exchange programs, and to serve as an information source for schools, the local community and groups interested in the areas of Inner Asia.

In spite of its late start in the year the association held a number of unique functions before the quarter's end: "**Uzbekistan Through the Eyes of a Visitor**"...an audio-visual presentation, by John O'Farrell, graduate student in the NELC Department, "**Seattle-Tashkent Sister Schools Reception**"...for students and teachers from Uzbekistan, "**Descent of the Snow Leopard**"...a film based on an ancient Kirghiz epic song, filmed entirely in Kirghizia, "**The Tragedy of the Aral Sea: An Environmental Disaster Facing the Central Asian Republics of the Soviet Union**"...a joint lecture by Kurt Engelmann, graduate student from the Geography Department and Professor Ilse Cirtautas, chair of the NELC Department. If you would like more information about the association's activities please contact: **SAIAS**, c/o Department of NELC, Denny Hall.



About our faculty



Professor **Walter Andrews** chaired the Department's Selection Committee for the Islamic Law position and participated in the Search Committee for the History Department's chair. In addition to being invited to present papers at universities and at scholarly meetings, including the Sixth International Congress of Turcology, Istanbul, he has had three articles accepted for publication. He continues to serve on national committees, such as The American Association of Teachers of Turkish and on the editorial board of Edebiyat. He was also active in giving lectures to community groups.

Professor **Ilse D. Cirtautas**, the Chair of the Department, served on a number of University Committees, supervised graduate students, continued to serve on the editorial board of the Central Asiatic Journal, (Wiesbaden) and to do research on the oral literature of the Turkic peoples of Central Asia. She published two articles during 1987: "Sanger und Feste bei den Kasaken und Kirgisen des 19. Jahrhundert," (Bards and Feasts Among the Kazakh and Kirghiz in the 19th. Century) Asiatische Forschungen, Vol. 101 (1987) pp. 351-375 and "Kirgizskij poet-skazitel' Sagymbaj Orozbekov (1867-1930) i epos Manas" (The Kirghiz Poet-singer Sagimbaj Orozbekov and the Epic Manas), Sovetskaja Tjurkologija [Moscow, 1987: 3, 74-82], also to appear in German in the Festschrift fur Nicholas Poppe, Wiesbaden, 1988. She was also active serving the community as a board and honorary member of several associations (Seattle-Tashkent, Seattle-Izmir and the Olympia-Samarkand Sister City Associations), giving lectures and

conducting workshops for community groups, high school teachers and others. Her community engagements between October 1987 and June 1, 1988, included twelve public lectures. In June 1988, she read a paper on "The Kazakh Minstrel Aqan Seri (1843-1913)," at the 31st Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC), held in Weimar, GDR. She has been invited to participate as a consultant in a meeting devoted to the discussion of the future development of Inner Asian Studies at German universities. The meeting, sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) will take place in Bonn, Oct. 2-4, 1988.

Professor **Nicholas Heer** served as the Department's Graduate Program Coordinator, chaired our Fellowship Committee and was a member of the following University committees: National Resource Fellowship Committee, Near East Publications Committee and the Executive Committee of the Middle East Center. He supervised a number of graduate students (M.A./Ph.D.). His article on "Ibn Taymiya's Empiricism" was published in: A Way Prepared: Essays on Islamic Culture in Honor of Richard Bayly Winder, New York University Press, 1987. Professor Heer is also the editor of a volume of papers on Islamic law in honor of Farhat Ziadeh, to be published in the near future.

Professor **Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak** serves as the Department's Undergraduate Advisor. Last November, he presented a paper on the "Iranian Writers Contribution to the Iranian Revolution" at the Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Conference. This past summer he was invited to offer a

course on "Communication and Meaning" in the Department of Communication at the University of Hawaii. He has given three lectures on aspects of Iranian culture at UCLA. He delivered several lectures on Iranian and Middle Eastern topics to various community groups, and gave several newspaper, radio and television interviews to the national media. Two of his essays, one titled, "Language Reform Movement and Its Language: the Case of Persian" (Politics of Language Purism, Mouton: Leiden 1988), and the other "A Biographical Sketch of the English Orientalist James Atkinson" (Encyclopaedia Iranica, Volume III, p. 13-) have been published. He has three other essays, including one titled, "Revolutionary Postures: Iranian Writers and the Iranian Revolution," that have been accepted for publication during 1987-1988. He has recently been invited by Columbia University to present a University lecture on censorship in Iran.

Professor **Pierre MacKay** has a joint professorship in the Classics and the Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Departments. Professor MacKay is the Department's computer expert and has provided us with a detailed description of his recent work in the area of computer software and Near Eastern languages. (Please see page eight.)

Professor **Muhammad Siddiq** served on various Departmental and University committees (e.g., Committee on the Joint Doctoral Degree Program in Literature and Critical Theory). He continued his work on a book titled New Directions in the Contemporary Egyptian Novel. One of his

articles appeared in early 1988 and several book reviews were published in the Los Angeles Times Book Review. He has been asked to write a chapter on the "Palestinians in Israeli Fiction" for the book Under Israeli Eyes, to be published by Syracuse University Press and to contribute a review essay for Volume II of Books on Israel, edited by Ian S. Lustik and Barry Rubin, (Publisher: State University of New York Press). He also has been invited to write an article on "Marxism and Palestinian Narrative" for a special issue of the journal Alif, Cairo. In April 1988, he delivered the Third Annual Sayegh Lecture at the University of Utah.

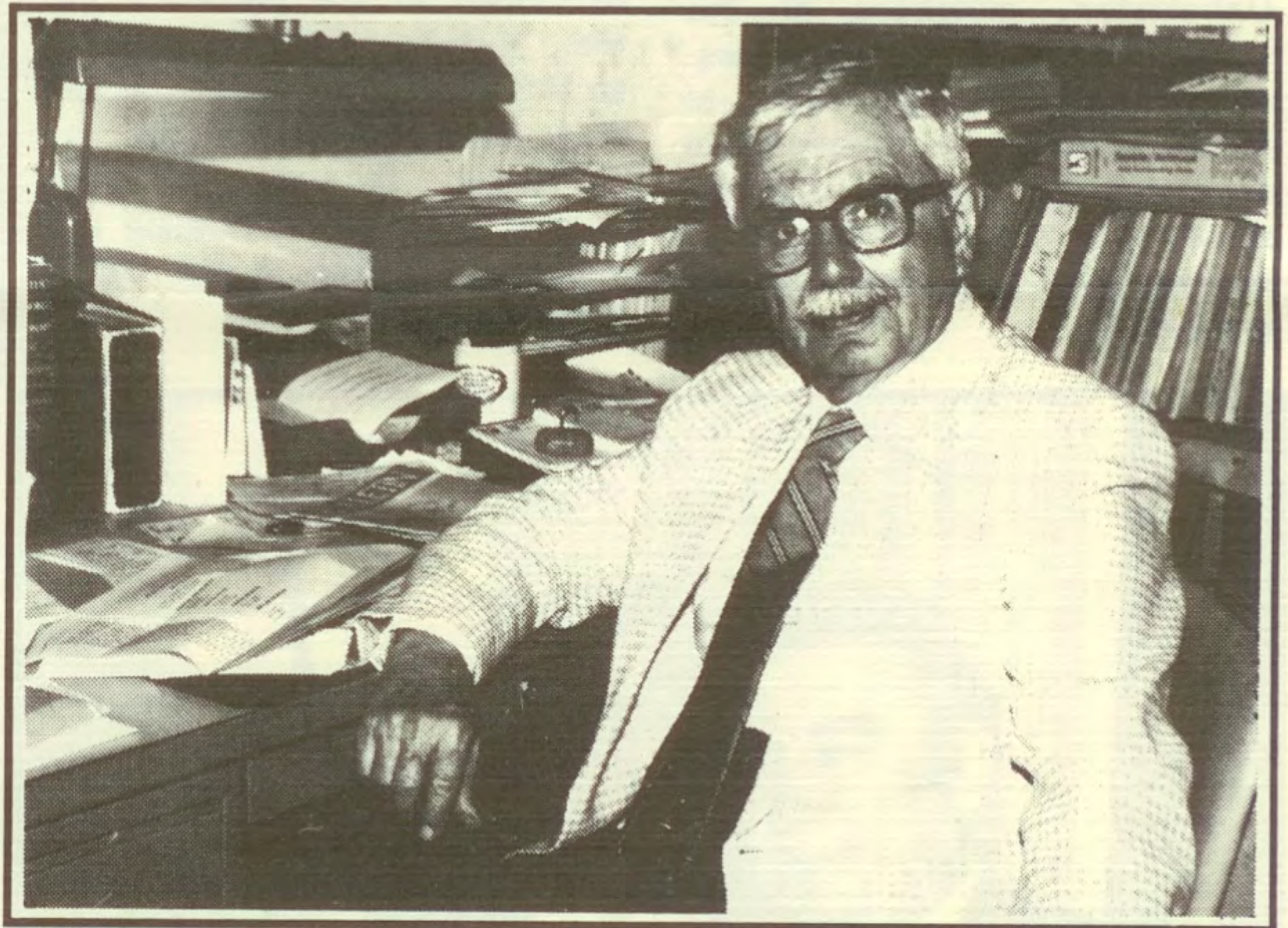
Professor **Naomi Sokoloff** completed six articles during 1987-1988, among them "Feminist Criticism and Hebrew Literature" Prooftexts 8 (January 1988): 143-56 and "The Holocaust and the Discourse of Childhood: David Grossman's See under: Love" to appear in Hebrew Annual Review, 12 (1988): 387-406. She participated in several international conferences in honor of the Agnon Centenary, one at Mt. Holyoke College and one in Jerusalem under the auspices of the International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization. She has been elected as a member of the board of directors of the Association for Jewish Studies (1986-1988) and was co-editor of the AJS Review (Volume XIII, 1988).

She is serving on the editorial board of two journals: Hebrew Annual Review and Hebrew Studies. Currently she is completing a manuscript, The Imagination of Childhood: Narrative Voice and the Language of the Child, which is under pre-contract agreement with Johns Hopkins University Press.

Professor **Aron Zysow** has just joined the Department. He has completed an article, "Two Unrecognized Karrami Texts," which will appear in the Journal of the American Oriental Society. He recently accepted an invitation to write the entry on "Muqarada" for the second edition of the

Encyclopedia of Islam. Professor Zysow holds both a Ph.D. degree in Islamic studies and a law degree from Harvard University.

Professor Emeritus **Farhat Ziadeh** serves as Director of the Center for Arabic Study Abroad. The Center is funded by an annual grant from the Department of Education. He continues to supervise graduate students and to do research on Islamic law and history of property rights. In addition, he serves on the editorial boards of three journals: Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt, Arab Law Quarterly and the Arab Studies Quarterly.



Professor Emeritus Farhat Ziadeh

Some day, there will not be a day. One night, there will not be a night. And another day, or the next night has no meaning. One must first fall in love, in order to know what love is. One must first be a lover, and then begin. People's prime-mover is love: Love of money, women, man, nil and absurdity. But my love is the love of love. My friend, understand me! This moment will pass, this moment, now, is a moment of passing, a moment of life, a moment of death, and a moment of love. A love that sprouts, in the ear of your mind.

An excerpt from the poem To An Alien, by Alireza Zarrin

The Near East Reaches Central Asia

Delegations from Tashkent visit the NELC Department

Between January and April of this year the corridors of Denny Hall were filled with activity as three receptions were held for groups visiting from Tashkent, Seattle's Sister City. When each group arrived they were hospitably greeted by students wearing Uzbek *duppis* (skull caps), as girls wearing colorful *atlas* dresses served tea in traditional *pialas* (cups). Many of the visitors were distinguished representatives of the Uzbek scholarly, literary and artistic community, including the First Deputy to the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, members of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, deans, presidents and heads of other academic and governmental departments. No less prominent were the poets, artists and dancers who also comprised the groups.

The guests must have felt at home as they enjoyed a traditional Uzbek Tea, including refreshments and plenty of fruit. They visited with U.W. students and faculty in a lounge decorated with bright *atlas* panels, while Uzbek music played in the background. Especially appreciated by the guests were the dance performances of **Ms. Emiko Nakamura**, a student of Uzbek language and culture and the director of Seattle's "Samarkand Central Asian Performing Arts Production." At one reception, Ms. Nakamura performed in the presence of **Ms. Dilafruz Dzhabbarova**, an Honored Artist of Uzbek dance, who also performed at the gathering. For years she has been a source of inspiration and impetus to Emiko in her Uzbek dancing career.

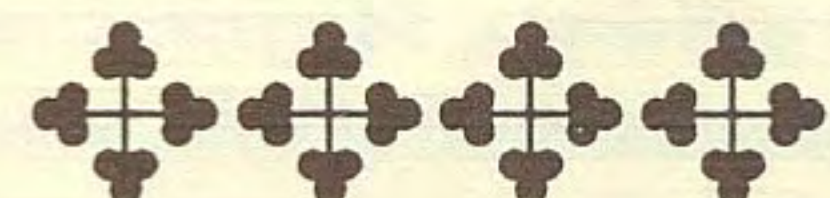


Emiko Nakamura performing an Uzbek Dance



*Associate Dean Thomas M. Scheidel
Uzbek Poet Erkin Vahidov Professor Ilse Cirtautas*

These receptions reached their finale when the third group arrived: replete with singers and musicians who were accompanied by *doira* (drum) players. This group, which came in conjunction with the Seattle-Tashkent Sister Schools exchange, was extremely talented and diverse as they performed lively renditions of Uzbek song and dance. In the Central Asian tradition, gifts were exchanged between the host, Professor Ilse Cirtautas, and the guests at all the receptions.





**Dilafuz Dzhabbarova
and Emiko Nakamura**

**Near East students
to go to Tashkent**

In conjunction with the exchange agreement signed between the University of Washington and Tashkent State University two students from the NELC Department will be spending an academic year in Tashkent.

Will Dirks, who is the "Marco Polo" of the Department, is presently in Tashkent. Will has traveled extensively in the Turkic-speaking world. Having studied Kazakh, Uighur and Uzbek, he spent the 1986-87 year in Urumchi, as the Department's exchange student. This past summer he made a second trip to Xinjiang and thereafter traveled overland to Tashkent via Alma Ata. We will look forward to hearing of his travels and study, once he returns to Seattle.

Megan Gorman, a graduate student of Uzbek and comparative literature will leave for Tashkent next January. Her area of research interest is the development of Uzbek prose.

We wish both Will and Megan great success as they begin their ten months of study and research in Tashkent!

**Uighur scholars study in the Near Eastern
Languages and Civilization Department**

Three students from Xinjiang in The Peoples Republic of China are presently studying in graduate programs at the University of Washington. **Litip Tohti** is studying in the comparative Turkic program housed in two departments: Asian Languages and Literature and Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. Litip was a lecturer for Uighur during the 1986-87 year.

Ablahat Ibrahim, who also is in the comparative Turkic program, is focusing on a comparative study of the grammar of modern Turkic languages. Ablahat, who comes from an Uzbek family, was the

teaching assistant for Uzbek last year and will continue to serve in the same capacity this year.

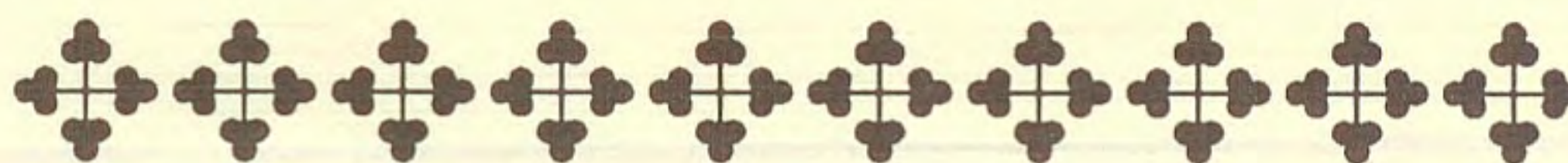
Hamit Zakir arrived last year during winter quarter. He is in the NELC Department. The morphological structure of the modern Turkic languages is his area of research interest. Language and Culture. Ablahat and Hamit are our exchange scholars through the agreement the Department has with the University of Xinjiang in Urumchi.

Each of these scholars, by way of their knowledge and insight in Turkic languages and culture have greatly enhanced the Departmental courses they have participated in.



Litip Tohti Hamit Zakir Ablahat Ibrahim

The students of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization would like to give a special word of appreciation to all those who have made contributions to our department: Thank you very much!



8 Near East Dept. Pioneers in Computer Adaptations for Foreign Languages & Scripts

In 1983, Richard Furuta, a graduate student in Computer Science, and **Pierre MacKay** took on the redistribution of Professor Donald Knuth's TEX typesetting system for Unix operating systems. Since 1985, this effort has been carried on Pierre MacKay. It was initially centered in the department of Computer Science, but it has since become partly independent. With the aid of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, it was possible, in 1987, to increase the capacity of the Sun Microsystems workstation (Osman) housed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages to the point at which the distribution could be undertaken from there.

At the present time this international distribution of free and public domain software is managed in cooperation with the Humanities and Arts Computing Center through an organization known as the Northwest Computing Support Center. The collection, validation, maintenance and redistribution of large systems for photo-typesetting, font development, multilingual document processing, and other related tasks is managed by Pierre MacKay, and these systems are shipped out all over the world on magnetic tape. The TEX system runs to about 34 Megabytes of source

code, and is in use throughout North America, Europe and the Pacific Rim countries. It provides facilities in English (and in mathematics, for which it was specifically designed), but in all the European languages, ancient Greek, Hebrew, and Turkish. Special versions are used for typesetting in Japanese.

The Turkish version is the combined work of **Walter Andrews** and Pierre MacKay, who also collaborated in the development of an Arabic Script typesetting system in 1975. There is a long-term project under way to adapt the essentials of the 1975 system to TEX. A recent article by Donald Knuth and Pierre MacKay, "Mixing right-to-left texts with left-to right texts" TUGboat [Newsletter of the TEX users Group] Volume, 8 No. 1. pp.14-25) establishes the principles for a truly general approach to multilingual and bi-directional text. See also Pierre MacKay, "Typesetting Problem Scripts". Byte Volume 11, No. 2. (February 1986) pp. 201-218. The association with the Humanities and Arts Computing Center has catalyzed the development of capacities for the Tamil language, and some of the North American Indian languages. It was the establishment of a strong center for the support of the TEX type-

setting system which provided the technical base for the development of the Near Eastern Languages Publication Series, and for the production of the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin. Both publications are typeset on the Unix Workstation associated with the Department of Near Eastern Languages. The page layout instructions were written by Pierre MacKay, along with some of the fonts used in the MESA bulletin.

In the coming year, the "TEXhax digest," an international mail forum carried on by electronic mail will move from Stanford University to the University of Washington. This service will be added to the distribution service, and increased accessibility through electronic data transfer will be offered to both the scholarly and the commercial world.

In connection with the interests of the Department of Near Eastern Languages, Pierre MacKay is presently working on the development of one joint project with Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, and on another with Technion, in Haifa, Israel. The project (for which the Turkish fonts were developed), which was started by Walter Andrews and the late Mehmet Cavusoglu, is also continuing.

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