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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures

Report to the President for the Academic Year July 1, 1942-June 30, 1943

Personnel

In September Professor Bender resumed his duties after a leave of absence, and Mr. Ichiro Shirato, B.A. Columbia '37, M.A. '38, assumed his new duties as instructor in Japanese. At the same time Dr. Faris, after offering the summer intensive courses in Arabic, joined the Office of War Information. His classes were taken over by Edward J. Jurji, B.A. American University of Beirut '28, Ph.D. Princeton '36, lecturer in Princeton Theological Seminary. In June Dr. Rowe resigned from the University to accept a position as assistant professor of Chinese, Yale University. Assistant professor Atkins is still serving as lieutenant in the Navy.

Emergency Courses

The emergency courses in Japanese were mostly of the intensive type and all the students who took them, with one exception, were accepted for further work in this language by the Army, Navy or Signal Corps schools. The emergency courses in colloquial Arabic were likewise intensive and in most cases formed part of the Near East program -- the novel program worked out in collaboration with the Department of History and the School of Public and International Affairs. This program -- in which language, history, politics and economics are integrated and concentrated on a limited area -- served as an excellent preparation for the Foreign Area and Language Study Curriculum of the Army Specialized Training Program.

Area and Language Curriculum

On April 5 the U.S. Army sent to Princeton 75 soldiers to be trained for a six-month period in the Arabic language and the eastern Mediterranean area, including Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Transjordan, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula. The number of trainees has since been increased to 82. About two-thirds of these potential officer candidates were college graduates and had shown special aptitude for foreign languages. Princeton was the first university to be chosen for this program. Since then it has also been chosen for training another unit of about 40 soldiers (some of whom will be transferred from the Arabic) in the Turkish language and area for a nine-month period to begin July 12. This Army program suggests a new and interesting approach to undergraduate and graduate specialization and may lead to significant changes in the traditional academic procedure in the post-war period. To carry out this new program, in conjunction with the School of Public and International Affairs, it was necessary to engage the services of a number of new instructors; George M. Barakat, B.A. Bowdoin '26, LL.B. Harvard '37 (part time); Jamil M. Baroody, B.A. American University of Beirut '26; Rage Daher, graduate Collège d' Orient, Tartus '29; Goro Deeb, B.A. Colorado University '42, M.A. '42; Peter K. Dughman, M.A. University of Cincinnati '33, LL.B. Harvard '36, LL.M. '37; Shukry E. Khoury, LL.B. Northeastern University, '34; Private Ibrahim Freije, B.A. Syrian University, Damascus, '27, LL.B. '30; Habib A. Kurani, B.A. American University of Beirut '27, Ph.D. Columbia '31; Farhat Ziadeh, B.A. American University of Beirut '37, LL.B. University of London '40.

(The report in this paragraph is strictly confidential.)

Professional Activities

Professor Bender cooperated with the Office of War Information and with the American Council of Learned Societies in various language problems, especially in the study, analysis, relationship and classification of peoples and languages in Africa and elsewhere. He was reelected a member of the Committee on Indic and Iranian Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and was reappointed for a term of three years as a member and chairman of the American Oriental Society's Committee for the Promotion of Oriental Research. He also served as consultant for a similar committee in the Modern Language Association. As chief etymologist for Webster's New International Dictionary he answered editorial and public queries and kept abreast with etymological literature. As language consultant for the Mergenthaler Linotype Company he assisted in accommodating to the machine several new alphabets, especially for American Indian languages and for general or special phonetic transcription. Professor Gehman completed revision of Davis' Bible Dictionary; continued as contributing editor of American Journal of Archaeology, department of the Near East; was appointed general editor of Old Testament in a projected Bible study; elected vice president Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, member editorial board Theology Today, commissioner to General Assembly, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Jurji was elected member Executive Council, Fellowship of Professors of Missions; was put in charge of the Arabic section in the Cyclopedia of Living Literatures. Professor Hitti continued his advisory work for a number of government agencies. He was elected member Board of Trustees of Donations for Education in the Near East, member Advisory Committee on Islamic Studies of the Iranian Institute and School of Asiatic Studies, member Advisory Board of the Centennial Anniversary of the Founding of the Bahai Cause; was appointed editorial consultant for the Reader's Digest, Arabic edition. He prepared a paper on "The Possibility of Union among the Arab States" for the annual meeting of the American Historical Society which will be published in the July issue of the American Historical Review, and read a paper entitled "The Near East in World History" at the conference of the Institute of World Economics held in New York. Mr. Ichiro Shirato was appointed by the American Council of Learned Societies member of a committee to compile new teaching material for the Japanese language; he has been participating in a war research project sponsored by the Library of Congress, Experimental Division for the study of war time communications, and has been engaged in translation and interpreting work for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice.

Graduate Students and Graduates

Both of the two full-time graduate students on the Indo-European side were awarded fellowships by the University for next year. One received, in addition, a scholarship from the China Institute and a scholarship from the American Council of Learned Societies to the Linguistic Institute to be held this summer at the University of Wisconsin.

To illustrate the kind of work other than military in which some of the graduates of the Department have been engaged, mention may be made of Nabih A. Faris, Ph.D. '35, in charge of radio work and publications and head of Arabic Desk, Overseas Operations Branch, Office of War Information, New York; Allan H. Fry, Ph.D. '35, formerly chief Foreign Language Section, Office of War Information, Overseas Branch, New York, now chief Division of Cultural Analysis, Office of War Information, Overseas Branch, Washington; Captain Henry Lee Smith, Jr., Ph.D. '38, formerly expert consultant on language to the Secretary of War, now attached to the Education Branch, Special Division, Army Service Forces, where he has been responsible for the preparation of foreign language guides and phonograph records.

Advisory Council

The meeting of the Advisory Council of the Department was held on December 4 at the Princeton Club, New York City, and was attended by Mr. George M. Barakat, Professor Franklin Edgerton, Mr. Moore Gates (chairman), Madame Marie el-Khoury, Professor Arthur Upham Pope, Mr. Walter S. Rogers and Dr. Allen O. Whipple. Lt. Colonel Harold B. Hoskins was absent. Two of the University Trustees, Mr. Robert Garrett and Mr. Cleveland E. Dodge, attended the meeting as guests. Dr. Elihu Grant, who was elected member of the Council when first constituted, passed away on Nov. 2. His brother Mr. William Thomas Grant was elected by the Board of Trustees at the June meeting to fill the unexpired term. The Council received reports from the Acting Chairman on the progress of the work of the Department and discussed the desirability and feasibility of the development of Oriental studies in America in the light of the growing needs of governmental agencies and post-war policies. It was reported at this meeting that the Syrian and Lebanese American Federation of the Eastern States had sent \$500.00 to the endowment of the Philip K. Hitti Fellowship. Since then the Federation has forwarded \$266.24 and an anonymous donor contributed \$500.00 bringing the grand total to \$9959.49.

The Garrett Collection of Arabica

The new acquisition through Mr. Robert Garrett's munificence of some 6000 Arabic and 300 Turkish and Persian manuscripts, announced in last year's Report, imposed upon the Library of the University and the Department the duty of making a preliminary study and preparing a list catalog which would be of immediate use and would serve as a basis for a more comprehensive study and descriptive catalog similar to the catalogs previously compiled of the earlier collections. This joint project of the Library and the Department has thus far resulted in the cataloging of about 1000 titles. This list catalog will serve to acquaint us with what we have and to answer the queries which have been coming from scholars as to the contents of the collection.

Princeton Oriental Texts

To the eight volumes in this series, which was inaugurated in 1930, there has been added this year two new works: The Loves and Wars of Baal and Anat and Other Poems from Ugarit, translated from the Ugaritic and edited with an introduction by Cyrus H. Gordon, Ph.D., and Anti-Anthropomorphism in the Pentateuch by Charles T. Fritsch, Ph.D. '40. Volume XI, now in press, will appear under the title Arab Culture and will comprise lectures delivered at the Summer Seminar in Arabic and Islamic Studies in 1941.

Philip K. Hitti

Acting Chairman

July 1, 1943

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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Al-Amākin fi al-Maghrib al-Aqṣa, al-Sāyih, January 11, 1943.

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Horus, Royal God of Egypt, by Samuel A.B.A. Mercer. The Princeton Seminary Bulletin, vol. XXXVI, no. 1 (August 1942), p. 53.

Documents of the Primitive Church, by Charles Cutler Torrey, The Princeton Seminary Bulletin, vol. XXXVI, no. 1 (August 1942), pp. 53-54.

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The Social Background of the Old Testament, by David Jacobson. The Princeton Seminary Bulletin, vol. XXXVI, no. 4 (March 1943), pp. 38-39.

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Jurji, Edward J.

My India, My America, by Krishnalal Shridharani, The Princeton Seminary Bulletin, vol. XXXVI, no. 1 (August 1942), pp. 59-60.

The Philippines: A Study in National Development, by Joseph Ralston Hayden, The Princeton Seminary Bulletin, vol. XXXVI, no. 1 (August 1942) pp. 58-59.

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