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Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting
of the Middle East Libraries Committee International
held Wednesday, 20 April 1988
at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris

Present: Dr D Hopwood (Chairman), W Behn (Secretary),
Dr D Hopwood (country representative for Great Britain),
G Joly (country representative for France), Dr J J
Witkam (country representative for the Netherlands),
F Sastre (country representative for Spain), and
forty-nine members

The 1st AGM of MELCOM International was opened by Dr D Hopwood, the Chairman. For lack of a formal agenda, the Chairman recapitulated the development which led to the founding of the Association at the end of the 9th International Conference of Middle East Librarians at Hammamet.

The main purpose of the 1988 AGM was the formal election of a chairman and secretary. Before the election, the Secretary read a brief statement outlining the organization of MELCOM International.

- (1) MELCOM International is an association of Middle East librarians and bibliographers irrespective of employment
- (2) MELCOM International shall be run by three officers:
 - a. the chairman acting as representative of the members
 - b. the secretary who is responsible for the convening of meetings and conferences as well as for the communication with the members
 - c. the treasurer who is responsible for the funding of the conferences, and who determines the conference fee if it must be charged in order to cover current expenses
- (3) The officers shall be confirmed three years after taking office
- (4) MELCOM International hold the International Conference of Middle East librarians, and an AGM during which the next meeting shall be determined.
- (5) Papers at the Conference are accepted in English or French, and in exceptional circumstances in the language of the host country. All AGM and conference communications of a general nature shall always be made in English and French.

Since no discussion on the office of treasurer had been possible previously, its election was postponed until next year's meeting.

In the election following, members were free to write on their ballot the names of (1) chairman, and (2) secretary. Of the 49 members present 39 voted for Dr D Hopwood, the Middle East Centre, St. Antony's College, Oxford, as chairman, and 29 voted for G Joly, Société Asiatique, Paris, as secretary. Both accepted the election.

As country representatives for the Advisory Council, the following members were presented:

France: Geneviève Joly
Great Britain: Dr Derek Hopwood
the Netherlands: Dr J J Witkam
Spain: Felisa Sastre

Among the developments in member libraries the following projects were briefly discussed:

- a European repertory of photographic collections from the Middle East
- a European union list of current Islamic periodicals and an Index arabicus.

The 11th International Conference of Middle East Librarians is envisaged for July 1989 in Durham to coincide or precede the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies' 1989 all-European conference. On account of the two hundredth anniversary of the quatorze juillet, the 11th International Conference of Middle East Librarians is likely to be held before the BRISMES conference, the exact date of which will be fixed at this year's summer meeting in Leeds.

For 1990 there was an offer from Mr U Ubaydli to hold the Conference in Cyprus. A straw vote indicated that the great majority of the members favour such a venue for the 1990 Conference. However, it was cautioned that English and French were to be the only conference languages, and that access to the conference should be guaranteed to all members.