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2008 Middle East Outreach Council's Book Awards

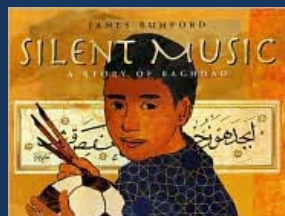
Categories: picture books, youth literature, youth non-fiction.

The Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC) announces its 2008 Middle East Book Award recipients. The CMES Outreach Library has - or will soon have - all of these books, as well as the other winners from previous years. Please come check them out - literally. Established in 1999, the Middle East Book Award recognizes quality books for children and young adults that contribute meaningfully to an understanding of the Middle East and its component societies and cultures. Books are judged on the authenticity of their portrayal of a Middle Eastern subject, as well as on their characterization, plot, and appeal for the intended audience. 2008 winners are profiled throughout this issue of the Bulletin.

CMES Speakers Bureau

Would your class or community group like to have a guest speaker address issues related to the Middle East? When possible, CMES will arrange for a graduate student, UA faculty member, or a visiting scholar to give a guest lecture to K-12 and post-secondary classes, or community groups. Contact Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Adeli for more information.

MEOC Book Awards : PICTURE BOOK category



Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad

Written and illustrated by James Rumford
(New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2008)

When bombs begin to fall, Ali drowns out the sound of war with a pen. Like other children living in Baghdad, Ali loves soccer, music and dancing, but most of all, he loves the ancient art of calligraphy. When bombs begin to fall on his city, Ali turns to his pen, writing sweeping and gliding words to the silent music that drowns out the war all around him. Gorgeously illustrated with collage, pencil and charcoal drawings and, of course, exquisite calligraphy, this timely and yet universal story celebrates art and history but also offers young children a way to understand all they see and hear on the news. *(Publishers description)*

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Spring 2009 Workshop Schedule

Saturday, March 7th, 2009

The Middle East in Focus: The Ottoman Empire

Registration now open!

This is the first in a three part series focusing on Turkey and the former territories of the Ottoman Empire. While it is open to all teachers, attendance at these three workshops is required for all those who will be traveling on the Teach *Ottoman Empire* as well as the alternates. The workshop will focus on the foundations and development of the Ottoman Empire as well as an optional Turkish language lesson. Teachers can receive 5-6 professional development credits from their attendance. **Register at www.cmes.arizona.edu/outreach.**

Saturday, April 18th, 2009

Patterns of Conquest: Spanish Rule in the Americas and Ottoman Rule in the Balkans

The second in the Teach Ottoman Empire Workshop Series, this educator workshop will focus on the Spanish conquest of Latin America and the Ottoman conquest of Europe and the Balkans.

Saturday, April 25th, 2009

Cultures in Contact: The Ottoman Empire and the Balkans

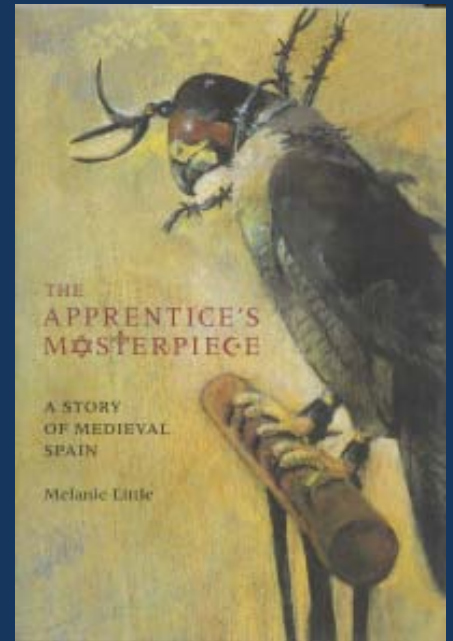
The third in the Teach Ottoman Empire Workshop Series, this workshop addresses issues of cultural diffusion in the former Ottoman territories.

Check our website www.cmes.arizona.edu/outreach for updated information and workshop registration.

Helping the Refugees of Tucson

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies Outreach Center is partnering with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) of Tucson to help the refugees from around the world who have been resettled in Tucson. We are asking teachers who attend our workshops this spring to bring at least one hygiene item (shampoo/conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste) to be donated to the International Rescue Committee for distribution to needy refugee families. If you would like more information on the IRC or would like to donate more, please contact Outreach Assistant Shauna Little at silitt@email.arizona.edu.

MEOC Book Awards: YOUTH FICTION category

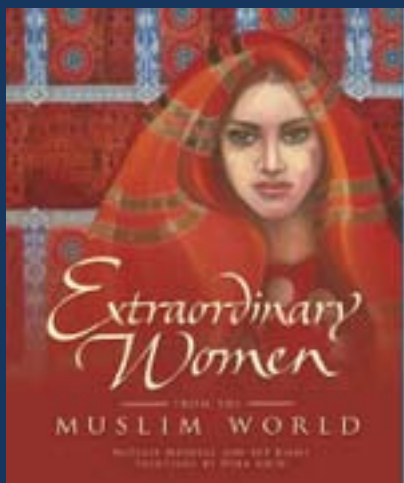


*The Apprentice's Masterpiece:
A Story of Medieval Spain*
Written by Melanie Little
(Annick Press, 2007)

Fifteenth-century Spain is a richly multicultural society in which Jews, Muslims and Christians coexist. But under the zealous Christian Queen Isabella, the country abruptly becomes one of the most murderously intolerant places on Earth. It is in this atmosphere that the Benvenistes, a family of scribes, attempt to eke out a living. The family has a secret—they are conversos: Jews who converted to Christianity. Now, with neighbors and friends turned into spies, fear hangs in the air.

Melanie Little has crafted a brilliant and elegantly written story in verse about one of the most politically complex and troubling times in human history—the Spanish Inquisition. Drawing on extensive research, Little creates memorable characters, captures the turbulent events of the period, and emblazons horrific images on readers' minds. It is the work of a master. *(publisher's description)*

MEOC Book Awards: YOUTH NON-FICTION category



Extraordinary Women from the Muslim World

Written by Natalie Maydell and Sep Riahi; Paintings by Heba Amin. (Lancaster, PA: Global Content Ventures, 2007)

Extraordinary Women from the Muslim World is an illustrative introduction to 13 Muslim women in history who have lived extraordinary lives and influenced their communities in a positive way, often overcoming extreme hardship and inaccurate stereotypes that have been placed on the role of women in Islam. The profits from the book will be donated to charities helping women and children in Western Sudan (*publisher's description*).

"An Eye for an Eye": The Code of Hammurabi

Written By: Shauna Little

Hammurabi, the ruler of Babylon from 1795-1750 BC is credited with the first preserved law code of any society. It proclaimed to all citizens what the state's (i.e. the king's) expectations were for their behavior and what the consequences would be for transgressing those expectations.

The Code itself is organized into thematic sections addressing important elements of the proper organization of society. These include the definition of crimes, judicial procedures involved in the prosecution of perpetrators and appropriate punishments to be handed down by the state, codification of the dynamics of important relationships such as father-son, father-daughter, husband-wife, and owner-slave, and descriptions of an owner's relationship to his property. The Code of Hammurabi assumes an ordering of a hierarchical society at the upper echelons of which is divine authority given living expression in the king. Underneath the king's authority were the *amelu*, who had full civil rights and thus were held to a higher standard of reward and punishment, the *muskinu*, freemen who may have been without land holdings and had to accept monetary compensation for bodily injury inflicted upon them, and finally the *ardu*, the slave class.

A significant element of the penal system in ancient Babylon was the absence of long-term incarceration. Punishments for almost all offenses were either monetary or corporal. Corporal punishments were predicated on the adage "Eye for an eye" or punishment equal to the crime; thus, if a builder erected a house and it fell in, killing the owner's son, the appropriate punishment under this system would have been the killing of the builder's son. Contracts were also a major feature of the Code used to codify a variety of transactions from transfer of property to a marriage.

For more information on the Code, please see the Avalon Project at Yale University at http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/hammenu.asp.

The Outreach Bulletin is a monthly publication of the CMES Outreach Center for K-16 teachers. It highlights important upcoming events and news relating to the teaching of the Middle East. It also includes articles on various aspects of Middle Eastern history, culture, geography, and language useful to gaining a greater understanding of the region and its people.

To receive up-to-date information please join our Teach Middle East listserv by contacting Outreach Coordinator Dr. Lisa Adeli at adeli@email.arizona.edu.