Islamic Law and Jurisprudence, a festschrift in honor of Professor Emeritus Farhat J. Ziadeh of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization has just been published by the University of Washington Press. In this book, edited by Professor Emeritus Nicholas Heer, eleven distinguished scholars consider the contribution of Islamic legal concepts and practice to the human quest for legal rationality. Essays in the volume are grouped in three sections: Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic law and its influence on European legal systems, and Islamic law in contemporary Muslim states. Scholarly contributions to the volume were written by William Ballantyne, Ian Edge, David Forte, Wael Hallaq, Ann Mayer, George Makdisi, John Makdisi, David Pearl, Jeanette Wakin, Bernard Weiss, and Farhat Ziadeh.

Spoken Uyghur, by Reinhard Hahn, a Ph.D candidate in the Asian Language and Literature Department, has recently been published. Uyghur is an Eastern Turkic language. Most of the seven to ten million native speakers of Uyghur live in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of northwestern China, where Uyghur is the also the lingua franca of various other ethnic groups. A smaller Uyghur-speaking community is politically and culturally active in Soviet Central Asia. As the predominant indigenous language in a crucial area that bridges the frontiers of two superpowers and as a language of great interest to comparative linguists, Uyghur is becoming increasingly important.

Spoken Uyghur will be one of the standard works on modern Uyghur. Despite the pioneering work of Gustav Raquette and Gunnar Jarring, the language has been relatively neglected among Turkologists outside the Soviet Union and China, and there is no comparable Western work on the modern standard language. With this book, both scholars and those who simply want a basic working understanding will gain access to Uyghur as it is spoken today.

continued on page 7

The Near East Reports... from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington

Volume 3

December 14, 1990

From the Chair:

It gives me great pleasure to present the third issue of our Department's Newsletter. As has been the custom with the previous issues, one of our students has been responsible for producing it. This time, Bill Clark worked together with Mr. Mamoun Sakkal, Affiliate Instructor in the Department. Mr. Sakkal is an architect and designer who is well known for his typographic and calligraphic art work. He designed the cover for the Farhat Ziadeh-Festschrift, Islamic Law and Jurisprudence (see p. 8) and he will also be assisting us in the publication of a catalogue for the exhibition of miniature paintings "Dragons, Heroes, and Lovers: Revival of Manuscript Painting Traditions in Uzbekistan and Iran." The exhibition, featuring the work of two living master-artists, Shahmahmod Muhammedjnov of Tashkent and Mohammad Bagher Aghamiriri of Tehran, will take place in the Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle, September 5 through October 20, 1991. The Department is proud to cooperate with the Museum, the Center for the Humanities, the Middle East Studies Program and the School of Art at the University of Washington in bringing this exhibition of miniature paintings from the Eastern Islamic World to audiences in the Pacific Northwest. Two community groups are co-sponsoring the event: the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Committee and the Association of Iranians in Washington State. Above all, the Department gained the invaluable assistance of Ms. Pamela Miller, who is volunteering her time and experience as project director and curator of the exhibition.

The forthcoming exhibition will be a highlight of the Department's continuous efforts to bring the Near East and Central Asia to the University community and the community at large. During 1989-1990 the Department sponsored a number of lectures and presentations. For 1990-1991, the Department has been organizing a College Seminar Lecture Series on the timely topic "East and West in Modern Near Eastern Literatures: Tradition and Innovation" (see p. 7).

It has been most gratifying that the events of our various student organizations, the Uzbek Circle, the Hebrew Circle, the Persian Circle, and the Student Organization for Inner Asian Studies, have been regularly attended by members of the community. A new student organization, the Turkish Circle, began its activities in October 1990 and has already attracted the attention of the Turkish community. An Arabic Circle will also be established in the near future. The Department is convinced that by giving full support to these student groups it provides for exceptional learning experiences for the students.

Ilse D. Cirtautas

Photo: Mike Low
Professor Cirtautas and Professor Stilo at the Nowruz Spring celebration
In September, 1990, the Department received six new graduate students from both the United States and abroad.

Randall Olson comes to the Department from Peshawar, Pakistan, where he did research in several Central Asian languages. His main interests are in Persian. He is continuing with his research in second language acquisition and studying in Tashkent.

Suji Yildiz Velonavich comes to the Department from the University of Michigan where her concentration was in Turkish. She is specializing in the study of Hebrew, and has a history of teaching students to gain a clearer idea of the culture for use in the public schools and for the public at large. Muazzez Eren is currently our Teaching Assistant for Turkish.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sandra Cambpell, a native Seattleite, received her M.A. in the summer of 1990 after several years of study, which included a summer at Istanbul’s Bogazici University. She is now working on her Ph.D. and is the Teaching Assistant for Arabic language courses.

John O’Farrell, who came to us from Indiana University, also received his M.A. in summer 1990. He finished part of his requirements while on the exchange program with Tashkent State University. He and his wife, Connie, have stayed on in Tashkent to teach English. He is continuing with his Uzbek language studies as well as doing ethnographic research. His goal is to write a book about Uzbek culture, which has been greatly appreciated during the past several years.

Muazzez Eren has a doctorate in human genetics and has been very active in promoting Turkish and Turkish culture through the University of Washington and Tashkent State University. On March 23, 1990 a major expansion of the exchange program was announced by the two universities. This new agreement will allow both graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Washington to study Uzbek or Russian in Tashkent for $250 per month. The new agreement recognizes the unique relationship between the sister cities of Tashkent and Seattle and is designed to further augment the original exchange agreement between the two universities. Students from other United States universities may participate in these exchanges, if they are approved by the faculty at the University of Washington.

During the current academic year two graduate students, Alan Fahnestock (Russian and East European Studies) and Anthony Qualin Fahnestock (Russian and East European Studies), are in Tashkent as participants in the exchange program.

As part of the exchange program, the Department is hosting two graduate exchange students from Tashkent State University, Ibrat Usmonov and Rawshan Dalilova (see picture on p. 5). Professor Farhat Ziadeh, who arrived with his wife Gulchehra, who arrived with his wife Gulchehra, (see picture on p. 5) Professor Cirtuperato continues to maintain close contact with Tashkent State University and the Uzbek Academy of Sciences and the Uzbek Writers Union. During her recent visit in Tashkent, in September 1990, she was received by His Excellency, the President of Uzbekistan, Islom Karimov.

Professor Nicholas Heer retired from the University on June 30, 1990 after more than thirty years of service as Chairman of the Department and as Graduate Advisor. He continued to serve as the Department’s Graduate Program Coordinator. The book he edited, Islamic Law and Jurisprudence: Studies in Honor of Farhat Ziadeh was published in October 1990 by the University of Washington Press. We are pleased to announce that Professor Heer, and that he is enjoying his retirement because of the increased freedom it gives him to get to those projects he never had time for during his busy days at the Department. We wish him well, and hope to see something of his labor in the near future.

Professor Aron Zysow served on the Faculty Senate and several Departmental and University committees. He received a Graduate School Research Project Summer Grant in support of his work on the “Evolution of the Shi’ite Doctrine of Concensus.” He also developed and taught two new courses, “The Qur’an in English,” and a course on “Arabic Grammatical Texts.” He currently serves as the Department’s Graduate Student Advisor.

Professor Farhat Ziadeh, although retired, continued to maintain his extensive contacts with the scholarly communities in the Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East. He presented papers at national and international conferences and contributed to the field of Islamic Law and Institutions through editorships, articles and book reviews. He has just returned from Egypt, where he was invited by the University of Zagazig to supervise the Ph.D. exams of this year’s graduates.

Professor Ibr Cirtuperato continued to serve as Chair of the Department. Her administrative duties included among others: development of a second B.A. track program, pursuit of a Ph.D. program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, and supervising graduate students. Since 1990 she again conducted an intensive Uzbek language program (first and second year), funded in part by a grant from the Social Science Research Council. A highlight of the program was the presence of the Uzbek poet and writer, Professor Hakkak, who arrived with his wife Gulchehra (see picture on p. 5) Professor Cirtuperato continues to maintain close contact with Tashkent State University and the Uzbek Academy of Sciences and the Uzbek Writers Union. During her recent visit in Tashkent, in September 1990, she was received by His Excellency, the President of Uzbekistan, Islom Karimov.

Professor John Flanagan has recently joined the faculty, having just completed a year at Harvard. As an Arabist he will be teaching first and second year Arabic as well as courses in Islamic Civilization, Islam and modern Arab literature. His research interests span a variety of interests, including historical linguistics and dialectology, Arabic poetry and literary theory both medieval and modern. He has recently submitted a number of entries for forthcoming entries for publication in the Encyclopedia of Cultural Literacy. Another project currently in progress is a translation of the autobiography of Ibn al-Haythm for publication in the upcoming Autobiography and the Islamic Tradition (ed. by Dwight Bailey). Ibr Cirtuperato continues to teach a book length manuscript entitled Twilight of the Gods, which will represent a total reworking of the contents of pre-Islamic poetic tradition.

Professor Ahmad Karim Hakak, the Department’s Undergraduate Advisor, devised and offered two new courses last year: “Translation and Literacy” and “Introduction to Islamic Civilization.” He continued as a regular contributor to The Encyclopedia Iranica and published
DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

The Department sponsored a variety of special lectures and events and was host to several distinguished visitors during 1989-1990:

October 25, 1989 - Professor Herbert Ellison from the Henry Jackson School of International Studies and Professor Ilse D. Cirtautus lectured on "Glasnost and Perestroika in Uzbekistan."

October 28, 1989 - Uzbek Tea Reception welcoming Murad Alimov and Mirzifoth Agamov. Students and friends of the Department gathered to welcome these two exchange students from Tashkent State University. There was a performance of traditional Turkish and Central Asian music and dancing.

February 2, 1990 - Turkish Classical Music performed by the Eurasian Ensemble. Co-sponsored by the Turkish Student Association, the Ethnomusicology Division of the School of Music, and the Middle East Center of the Jackson School of International Studies.

March 24, 1990 - Celebration of Nowruz (Persian New Year) and The Twentieth Anniversary of the Department. Featuring Middle Eastern and Central Asian music performed by students and faculty of the Department. In addition, Emiko Nakamura put on a lovely performance of Central Asian dancing. (See picture on p.65) There were also exhibitions of Middle Eastern modern and graphic art by Mohammad Daoudi and Mamoun Sakka, members of Seattle's Arab Community.

May 3, 1990 - Isenbike Togan, Professor of History, Washington University, St. Louis, gave a lecture on "The Impact of the Mongolian Empire on Inner Asia: The Development of Mogulistan in Eastern Turkey."

May 4, 1990 - Mohammad Reza Lotfi gave a vocal and instrumental concert of traditional Iranian music. The concert was sponsored by the Department as well as by the Association of Iranians in Washington State and the Iranian Students Cultural Society.

May 24, 1990 - A panel discussion was organized for the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Committee on the topic of "Current Issues and Developments in Uzbekistan." Both faculty and students were represented on the panel.

June 10-12, 1990 - Gender and Text: Feminist Criticism and Modern Jewish Literature. Professor Naomi Sokoloff was the co-director for this three day international conference, held at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York. The conference was co-sponsored by the Department and the Jewish Studies Program, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington.

July 13, 1990 - Professor Ilse Cirtautus lectured on "Erkin Vohidov: the Poet and Community Leader."

July 23, 1990 - Elyor Eshmuhammedov, Tashkent, and Yermak Shirinbaev, Alma-Ata, film directors from the Central Asian Republics, gave a lecture on "Uzbek and Kazak Cinema," detailing the present status of cinema in their republics.

October 12, 1990 - Professor Muhammad Siddiqi, UC Berkeley, gave a lecture entitled "Self and Other" in the Arabic novel: The Dynamics of Cultural Encounter." For the College Seminar Series "East and West in Modern Near Eastern Literatures: Tradition and Innovation," organized by the Department.

October 18, 1990 - The Department, in cooperation with the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Committee, presented a membership meeting for the general public. Professor Aldon Bell, History, talked about "Tashkent Today: An Inside Look into Uzbek Politics, Culture, Religion and Contemporary Life." November 16, 1990 - Professor Terry DeYoung, Yale University, lectured on "Tradition and Innovation in Advudin's 'Sirs Qushaysh'" for the Department's College Seminar Series.

December 7, 1990 - Professor Fedwa Malti-Douglas, University of Texas, presented a lecture, "Feminism and Religion: Nowar Al-Sa'dawi," that was also part of the Department's College Seminar Series.

ACTIVITIES OF OUR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Uzbek Circle

The Uzbek Circle meets every Friday. Highlights of the past year included:

October 6, 1989 - Welcoming of Uzbek visitors from Tashkent and Urumqi, Xinjiang.

October 13, 1989 - Will Dirks, the Department's first exchange student with Tashkent, spoke of his experiences while a student at Tashkent State University.

January 23, 1990 - Megan Gorman, another exchange student recently returned from Uzbekistan, gave a presentation about her experiences at Tashkent State University.

March 30, 1990 - Professor Behzod Yuldashev spoke about his life as a scientist in Tashkent. He is a member of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences.

April 17, 1990 - The Uzbek Circle hosted a reception for two distinguished guests from Tashkent: Rustam Musaev and S.D. Morozov, both vice-presidents at Tashkent State University.

April 20, 1990 - Environmental Problems in Uzbekistan. Tursun Rashidov, Vice President of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences presented a video and slide presentation on the Aral Sea and other environmental issues.

October 19, 1990 - Goga Abramovich Hidayatov led a stimulating discussion on the nationalities question in the Soviet Union.

November 2, 1990 - Discussions with Ibrat Usmonov and Ravshan Dalimov, exchange students from Tashkent University.

Some upcoming events include:

January 18, 1991 - Professor Paul Buell, Western Washington University, will give a talk on "Kazakhstan Today."

February 15, 1991 - Shawn Lyons will present a paper on "Ethnic Utopia: Re-reading Sharaf Rashidov's The Victor."
Persian Circle

This past year marked the beginning of the Persian Circle. Students interested in learning about Persian language and culture met bi-monthly. Their program included:

April 13, 1990 - Dr. Leonard Herzenberg, Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad, gave a lecture on his recent trip to Central Asia. Herzenberg, Institute of Linguistics, University of Washington, presented a paper and a slide show on "Women and the Representation of Women in Persian Literature." He discussed how women were dealt with by men in the different forms of Persian theatre.

May 9, 1990 - Impressions of Soviet Tajikistan. Professor Alexander Karim Hakka, talking about his recent trip to Central Asia.

May 29, 1990 - Professor Walter Andrews gave a lecture on "The Language and Culture of Inner Asian Studies." The Department hopes that many in the Seattle community will take advantage of this opportunity and attend these lectures.

Student Association for Inner Asian Studies

For the past several years students interested in Inner Asian Studies at the University of Washington have formed a group called the Student Association for Inner Asian Studies. Students and interested members of the community gather to hear students and visitors present papers and ideas, followed by a reception.

Upcoming events include:
- May 4, 1990 - Dr. Isenbike Togan, Professor of History, Washington University, presented a lecture and a slide presentation on "Women in Central Asia." The Department is planning to revive a lively and productive colloquium on Inner Asia that was conducted on a weekly basis at the University of Washington for many years.
- June 8, 1991 - Professor Walter Andrews and Mehmet Kalpakli will lead a discussion on "Computer Link to Turkey."
- January 13, 1991 - Mehmet Kalpakli and Walter Andrews will give a presentation on "Ironian Poetry."

Turkish Circle

This past fall quarter also saw the beginning of the Turkish Circle, which meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Some of their upcoming events include:
- January 9, 1991 - Walter Andrews and Mehmet Kalpakli will lead a discussion on "Computer Link to Turkey."
- January 23, 1991 - Mehmet Kalpakli and Walter Andrews will give a presentation on "Ironian Poetry."
- February 14, 1991 - Zulfiya Tokuchakova, graduate student, Russian and East European Program: "Trekking through Central Asia."

Arabic Circle

Plans are underway for the Arabic Circle to begin later this year. We will keep you informed as events develop.

Some of the papers and talks presented over this past year include:
- May 4, 1990 - Dr. Isenbike Togan, Professor of History, Washington University, presented a paper on the funerary customs of the Uyghurs in the Ili district in Northwestern China.

POETRY

Every year our newsletter is proud to publish some original poetry from among its ranks of faculty and students. Here are two.

LAKES UNION GESE

Lake Union geese glide with the breeze, greets the morning sunlight. Skiffing along, white, slippery, aloft, unheeding the gale.

The Bearing Star awaits repair at dock. Snow blankets land on the water. The kisses and scars of the feathery canoes last a lifetime.

MORNING GLORIES

Morning-glories do not heed the blade’s edge: next morning, they will bloom again.