

Vol. 8, January 2009

International Friends e-Newsletter

See the International Friends' image gallery on the BA website: www.bibalex.org/bafriends

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS' NEWS

Baltimore Friends

Baltimore sponsored a "Study Visit" for Ms. Abdelfattah and Ms. Amin. They spent one week at Enoch Pratt Free Library, and one week at the Library of Congress, in April 2008. We also sponsored a Study Visit for Ms. Mona Helmy to visit Baltimore Office of Promotion and Arts, Pratt Library, The Library of Congress, in September 2008. In October 2008, a delegation of 50 Baltimoreans attended a book donation ceremony with the Mayor of Baltimore and the Governor of Alexandria. Egyptian Corner (an on-line resource to accurate information about all aspects of Egyptian life) was also launched in October 2008.

Australian Friends



Lorenzo Montesini will be giving a presentation on Monday, 26 January 2009, at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina on "**Hitchcock's Use of Cinema, an Expression of Mass Popular Culture through the 20th Century**", to demonstrate the apogee of the cinema in the West, with special reference to the works of Director **Alfred Hitchcock**. This presentation of one hour with 80 images and music will travel through 2009 around Australia.

NEWS ON BA PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

11th Meeting of the International Friends of the BA

- The International Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina held their 11th annual Meeting, 18-22 October 2008.
- Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, welcomed the Friends and delivered an outstanding lecture on “The Global Economical Crisis”. He also thanked them for their continuous unrelenting support to the BA, and received their generous book donations.
- Gathered at the meeting were 80 Friends, representing 18 associations, from 11 countries, 7 of them from America alone.
- The meeting stood out for its multicultural activities: an Australian and a Greek exhibition; a presentation of a book by an American author; lectures on the Greek language; a Mexican concert from a German school; a Poetry session in different languages; a Nubian bard and storyteller; and an all-day audience participation in the reading of Homer’s Iliad in three languages.

The Memory of Modern Egypt



Under the auspices of Her Excellency Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, the International School of Information Science (ISIS), and the BA’s Special Projects Department, unveiled a complete digital repository of materials documenting Egypt’s rich modern history, available to all in an expansive, multidimensional online archive.

The Memory of Modern Egypt project provides an authentic and comprehensive look at culture, politics, and social life in Egypt, from the Era of Mohamed Ali in 1805, to the end of late Al-Sadat’s Presidency in 1981, that

no other single library or collection can offer. Various materials are now available in the repository with an underlying infrastructure that allows for continuous content expansion, and with an interface that facilitates easy navigation and reflects the multidimensionality of the material.

The Official Inauguration of the Alexandria Center for Hellenistic Studies

The Alexandria Center for Hellenistic Studies, a joint collaboration between the BA, the Onassis Foundation, the Vardinoyannis Foundation and the University of Alexandria, was inaugurated under the auspices of Her Excellency Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt's First Lady, on Tuesday, 27 November 2008, in a ceremony at the BA.

The inauguration included the "Approaching Heaven" exhibition, featuring Icons of the Velimezis Collection from the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and the Benaki Museum, which is held under the auspices of HE Dr. Karolos Papoulias, President of the Hellenic Republic, and was inaugurated by Mr. Theodoros Kassimis, Hellenic Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Serageldin gave a lecture on Edgar Allan Poe at the BA



To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Edgar Allan Poe's birth, Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Library of Alexandria, gave a lecture on the diversity of Edgar Allan Poe's artistic output on Sunday, 21 December 2008. The lecture provided an overview of his works, his contribution to American and world literature, and his influence on other writers.

Former President of Botswana received the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership at the BA

During a grand international ceremony hosted by the BA on Saturday, 15 November 2008, Festus Mogae, Former President of Botswana, received the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership for the year 2008. Mogae left office in April 2008 after spending two five-year terms as President of Botswana.



The Honorary Ceremony was attended by a number of distinguished figures among whom were Mohamed Ibrahim, Founder of the Prize; Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland and the UN Human Rights Committee; Joaquim Chissano, Former President of Mozambique and First Winner of the Mo Ibrahim Prize; Professor Mohamed El-Baradei, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Kofi Anan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations; Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the BA.

The World AIDS Campaign at the BA

The Library of Alexandria, the Egyptian AIDS Society, and the World Bank Public Information Center (PIC), in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, launched the World AIDS Day Campaign (1 December 2008), on Wednesday, 26 November 2008, through organizing a press conference at BA Conference Center, Small Theater. Social, media leaders, (from the press, radio, and Egyptian TV and satellite channels) and a group of experts and representatives of international and national bodies and ambassadors of goodwill participated in this event.

A BA Project Documenting the Life of Late President Sadat



“History teaches us that a hero’s actions do not die with him. The great contribution of the heroes of humanity is that their deeds have the ability to outlive them”.

Based on this saying by the late Egyptian President Mohamed Anwar El-Sadat, the BA will celebrate in the coming few days the launch of a comprehensive project documenting the life of the late President.

The event will open with a speech by Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Library of Alexandria, followed by a Culturama show, and the inauguration of the Sadat Museum, which exhibits a rare collection of his personal belongings. A digital archive documenting the life of Sadat will also be launched.

The Science Super Course Conference

The BA Center for Special Studies and Programs (CSSP) and the WHO Collaborating Centre, Pittsburgh; and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, organized to launch their new Project the Science Super Course, 5-6 January 2009.

The Science Super Course was created to build an Internet archive of PowerPoint lectures in four main scientific disciplines, namely Medicine (public health), Agriculture, Engineering and Environment. It targeted a total of 100,000 Golden PowerPoint lectures within a year and one million in three years. The aim of this Course is to provide the most updated and accessible online lectures for free. It is part of the Library’s efforts to spread knowledge worldwide.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Ismail Serageldin, learning about the art and technique of cinema!

Dr. Serageldin will dissect the secrets of the success of cinema technique and artistry, and he will show why and how some scenes and some films have marked us all and are considered masterpieces. Applying his signature technique of accessible language and enormous amounts of visual material, Dr. Serageldin will present three lectures on Cinema. Using film clips and some stills, he will show how the various elements of the art form (image, movement, color, tone, dialog, script, music, editing and other aspects) combine to produce a successful effect. From the most subtle to the most shocking, the techniques of the great masters of cinema will be discussed with many clips of rare and historical footage.

BA YOUNG ACHIEVERS



Omneya Gaber Nooh Ahmed

Head of Translation and Review Unit

Give a brief history about yourself?

My name is Omneya Nooh. I joined the BA in 2001, as an English translator, and then worked in several positions until I became Head of the Translation and Revision Unit at the BA Publishing Department. Before joining the BA, I was a staff member at the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Linguistics and Translation, Faculty of Arts, University of Alexandria.

How do you describe yourself?

I am a person who is positive about every aspect of life.

When and how did you get into this field? What is special about it?

It all springs from my passion for languages, in general.

What are the projects you are working on at present?

The BA *Annual Report* and a book entitled *The Photographic Memory of Cairo*.

Which of your projects is your favorite? Why?

- The UNESCO-sponsored Italian grant to the BA. It was a project I was involved in about three years ago and it involved translation, international coordination and PR work and strategic planning.
- Translation of the Arabic medical manuscript *Maqala fi al-Naqras* (Treatise on Gout) by Razis into English.
- Bridges Daily Updates. This involved the translation of the daily updates for the WTO ministerial meeting held in Hong Kong (July 2007). This was in cooperation with ICTSD.

Where do you get your inspirations?

From everything around me.

To what do you attribute your success?

Years of hard work.

What advice do you give your generations in order to help them achieve their goals?

When you love what you do, you will never have to work a day in your life.

What do you consider your most treasured quality?

Hard work

What is your motto?

Practice makes perfect

What do you dislike the most?

Indifference

What obstacles did you face in your pathway?

Lack of teamwork and coordination at some points.

What advice could you give to people in order to overcome such obstacles?

Set an example for others by developing a teamwork spirit within your workplace.

Are you happy with what you achieved so far?

Nobody is completely satisfied with his/her achievements, but I would say that I have done the best I could so far, and am looking forward to learn more and give more.

What do you do to keep your knowledge up-to-date?

Read as much as I can

How do you see yourself in ten years?

God only knows.

Who is your shining example?

Nobody in particular.

What more could you give to the *Bibliotheca Alexandrina* to carry on being Egypt's window on the world, and the world's window on Egypt?

I will work as hard as I can within my work scope.

On a general basis, what more could be done to keep the *Bibliotheca Alexandrina* an admired place of excellence?

Maximum priority should be given to developing the BA's intellectual content (book collections).

For your information

Visits to the Library: Entrance fee: EGP 10; Museums: EGP 20; Planetarium show: EGP 25.

Saturday to Thursday, opening hours are 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. Friday, opening hours are 3:00 -7:00 pm.

Library membership card for the International Friends is \$100, to be renewed annually. This provides free access to the Library (not the Museums or the Planetarium).

Associations may issue their own membership card and can negotiate the privileges that may be extended to their members during visits to the Library.

CALENDAR

(Visit our website www.bibalex.org/English/Calendar/Showevents.aspx?today=1)

Letters to the Editor are welcome (nahla.helmy@bibalex.org). Suggestions for the newsletter and items may also be sent to Nahla Helmy.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter please contact Nahla Helmy or Heidi Elshafei, nahla.helmy@bibalex.org , heidi.elshafei@bibalex.org