



List of Writers

Avivi-Weisblatt Naomi	Inspector, Central District and Arabic teacher at Tel Aviv University
Atrakchi Dalit	National Instructor, The World of Arabs and Islam, and teacher of the world of the Arabs and Islam at Ahad Ha'am secondary school, Petah Tikva
Alon Shlomo (Dr.)	Chief Inspector for Arabic and Islam
As'ad Khaled	lecturer at Al-Qasemi College in Baka al-Gharbiya
Binder Nitza	lecturer at Achva College
Bar-On Carmit	Arabic teacher at Begin secondary school, Rosh Ha'ayin
Dosh-Weinberg Irit	teacher of Arabic and Middle Eastern studies at Blich secondary school, Ramat Gan
Haskel Amalia	Arabic teacher at Tel Aviv University and Herzog secondary school, Kfar Saba
Huri Yair (Dr.)	Department of Middle East Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Tahor Elisheva	Arabic teacher at ORT Ma'alot secondary school
Tibi Mouanis	lecturer at Al-Qasemi College in Baka al-Gharbiya
Mor Rachel	Arabic teacher at Galili secondary school, Kfar Saba
Meiron Yoram (z"l)	member of journal's editorial board and Director of Arabic Studies, Givat Haviva
Meltzer Sarit	instructor of upper secondary schools in Haifa District and Arabic teacher at Leo Baeck secondary school, Haifa
Peled Lia	Arabic teacher at Harishonim secondary school, Herzliya

Once again, we invite teachers to send articles and lesson plans (preferably by email or printed and accompanied by a disc) to the following address:
Shlomo Alon, Chief Inspector of Arabic and of the World of the Arabs and Islam

Editorial Board, Journal of the Teachers of Arabic and Islam
Ministry of Education

Jerusalem 91911

Phone: 02-5603597

Fax: 02-5603596

Email: shlomal@education.gov.il
iritdw@netvision.net.il

Irit Dosh-Weinberg
Editor

The chapter “Teaching Arabic and Islam” presents new ideas and pedagogical tools for teaching Arabic in Hebrew schools.

At the beginning of the chapter, Naomi Avivi-Weisblatt sets out a proposal for improving the familiarity of the Hebrew pupil with the Hebrew-Arabic dictionary, which is supposed to improve the efficiency of using this dictionary. In the realm of classical Arabic, Nitza Binder presents another collection of translations and comments on classical texts studied in upper secondary school (from: Selection of Excerpts from Classical Arabic Literature, edited by Z. Kiester and S. Alon), while Sarit Meltzer offers an enrichment lesson to pupils on the topic of the Hamam (Turkish bath) and its place in Islamic society in the past and present. In the realm of modern Arabic, the well-known story by Ihsan Abd al-Quddus, “Ahl al-Janna,” is addressed by Sarit Meltzer and Lia Peled, by means of literary analysis and exercises for teaching the story in class.

In the chapter “Web Sites,” Irit Dosh-Weinberg reviews the content of the new web site of the Chief Inspector for Arabic and the World of the Arabs and Islam.

The chapter “Book Reviews” includes a review of books dealing with the Hebrew translation of al-Farabi’s book on the “citizens of the virtuous city,” as well as the issue of translating modern Hebrew literature into Arabic, the rules of Arabic music theory, the society in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime and a blog-novel on young women in Saudi Arabia.

The chapter “Books Sent to the Editors” examines recently published books dealing with the customs of Mizrahi Jewish communities and with the political and social changes that took place in Arab countries in 2005.

Towards the end of the issue there are the matriculation examinations in Arabic and in the world of the Arabs and Islam that were administered in the summer of 2007.



Preface

Issue No. 35 is being published prior to the 20th annual conference of teachers of Arabic and Islam, which will be held on Sunday (the fifth day of Hanukkah), 29 Kislev 5768, December 9, 2007. The journal presents the readers with the fruit of the work of researchers, academic figures and teachers, as well as matriculation questionnaires for 2007.

The chapter “Articles and Studies” features an article by Dr. Yair Huri about Egyptian writer Edwar al-Kharrat, who in the opinion of Egyptian literary critics is filling the place of Egypt’s greatest writer, the late Naguib Mahfouz. Elisheva Tahor gives examples of linguistic innovation in the Koran in which the participle serves as a verb expressing an occurrence in the future, rather than an action in the present continuous.

Dalit Atrakchi reviews the changes that have taken place in three Arab countries: Syria, Jordan and Morocco, after the death of their rulers and the rise of the rulers’ sons to power. The words of the late Yoram Meiron about the nature of Arabic studies in Hebrew schools are presented later on in the chapter, followed by an article from a Saudi web site for teachers discussing the importance of studying Arabic culture as an inseparable part of the Arabic language. Khaled As’ad and Mouanis Tibi discuss a number of methods to integrate the Internet into processes of teaching and learning.

Web sites

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Book reviews

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Translation in the Shadow of Confrontation - Norms in the Translation of Modern Hebrew Literature into Arabic between 1948-1990 by Mahmoud Kayyal | **Shlomo Alon** | 119

The Scale and the Maqam in Arabic Musical Tradition by David Muallem | **Rachel Mor** | 121

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