Millions of words are published every year by and about the peoples of the Mediterranean. Its face at the crux of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and its historical importance overlaid with present-day relevance means that Mediterraneans are far from the news. Many cultures, speaking many tongues, have shared interests and concerns, even if the act of sharing often seems more like smash and grab. Yet among all the words and images there are a precious few voices saying just what it is to be a Mediterranean today.

The Azur Decade: A Brief History of Mediterraneans

Moments of destiny

The first two issues of Mediterraneans bore the imprint of Didsbury Press, a small independent Manchester publishing house whose owner, Patrick Quinn, personally funded the venture. They carried an extraordinary editorial selection of contributors – novelists, poets, journalists, artists and photographers – covering an extraordinary variety of topics. From the outset, Mediterraneans published uncompromisingly in English or French, without translation. Design came from top desk-by Trevor Hatchett, edited from the garrets and pubs of South Manchester. Mediterraneans proved an immediate tour de force: ‘a new bold literary review’ wrote the Guardian. Le Monde Diplomatique called it an ‘éblouissant sommaire […] de très beaux écrits de poètes, journalistes, romanciers de la région.’

Goytisolo, Durrell, Moravia

Issue 1 of Summer 1991 had Juan Goytisolo on Cairo’s City of the Dead, Lawrence Durrell on bull-worship in Provence, Alberto Moravia in conversation, David Hirsh on Saddam before Kuwait, Carlisse Nicodici on a French soldier’s diary from the Algerian front in 1960. Mahmoud Darwish described his poem ‘Journey’ and its historical importance overlaid with present-day concern in the Mediterranean programme budget.

So it went on. By the third issue, Brown had taken himself and the review to Paris, where the official funding climate was more promising. He found a new co-editor, Hanan Davis, and set about widening a circle of supporters who eventually evolved into an advisory panel.

Alexandria, Istanbul, Morocco

More recent issues have been perhaps, less consciously from the forefront yet are hardly irrelevant. ‘Alexandia in Egypt’ (Autumn 1995) captured Mahgreb aspirations at the end of the century, with a change of king and perhaps of regime.

From the outset, Mediterraneans aimed to stimulate communication among Mediterraneans with passion but without sides, a Balkan doldrums and Duressellian ties. ‘Istanbul, Many Worlds’ (Winter 1999-2000) captures Mahgreb aspirations at the millennium, with a change of king and perhaps of regime.

Five-year programme

Mediterraneans has survived almost a decade thanks to the support of private and public funding. It commences the millennium in good spirits with the next issue, on Mar-
sielle, planned for Autumn 2000, homes both in the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme in Paris and the Frische Belle de Mai in Marseille, and high hopes of a five-year publishing programme based on two issues per year. The proposed subjects for 2001 are Haifa and Salonika.

Studies in Contemporary Islam

Studies in Contemporary Islam is a new, refereed journal focusing on Islam and Muslims in the contemporary world, published by the Center for Islamic Studies at Youngstown State University. It is published two times a year and is devoted to the understanding, review, analysis, and critique of contemporary Islamic religious and intellectual developments, the role of Islam and of significant cultural changes in Muslim societies, on the other. The journal aims to be interdisciplinary and international in its range and cover-
ge. Intended to serve as a platform for scholarly dialogue and exchange, Studies in Contemporary Islam does not promote a particular point of view or ideology. The editors are Mumtaz Ahmad (junaid@erols.com) and Mustanir Mir (mir@fricsy.edu).

The first issue (Spring 1999) includes the following articles:

* Farhang Rajaee, ‘Paradigm Shifts in Muslim International Relations Discourse’
* Anas B. Malik, ‘Understanding the Political Behavior of Islamists: The Implications of Socialization, Modernization, and Rationalist Approaches’
* Timur Yuskaev, ‘Redeeming the Nation: Redemption Theology in African-American Islam’
* Frederick M. Denny and the Late Olga Scarpetta, ‘Jailhouse Religion: The Challenge of Crime and American Muslim Prison Community’
* Mumtaz Ahmad, ‘Democracy on Trial in Malaysia’

For information, contact:
Center for Islamic Studies
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, Ohio 44555-3449, USA
Fax: +1 330 742 1600

From North and South and to reach out to broader audiences. Although literacy levels in the Maghreb are uneven, the rise, public exposure to the world of ideas remains limited. With its critical reviews, interviews and essays, Prologues aims to facilitate access to this world. The journal expresses disagreement over the way Islamic dogmas and laws are invoked and used in the political arena and advocates democratic alternatives, arguing that these are probably closer to Islamic ethics or, at the least, not incompatible with them.

A bilingual (French-Arabic) scholarly and cultural journal, Prologues has been published quarterly in Casablanca since 1993. To date, eleven issues have been published. It is distributed in particular in the Maghreb, but also reaches readers in Europe, the Middle East and North America. Abdou Filali-Ansary is the editor.