



The Organization of AIYS in 1977-1978  
An Archival Document

In 1977, due to the inspiration and introductory planning of McGuire Gibson at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, AIYS was born. Before settling on AIYS, the acronym was suggested as ACYS (American Center for Yemeni Studies) and AIRY (American Institute for Research in Yemen). The latter acronym was dropped when someone pointed out that it was too close to the term "ayr" in Arabic. By July, 1978 the term American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) was adopted.

One of the founding members of AIYS was anthropologist Jon Swanson, who conducted ethnographic research in the Southern Highlands of Yemen. Jon has sent AIYS the documentation he has of the first meetings creating the institute. AIYS is grateful to Jon for this archive, which is preserved in this pdf.

A history of AIYS written by Dr. Gibson is available on the AIYS website at <https://www.aiys.org/history-1>.

Research Institute in Yemen

Steering Committee Meeting

August 8, 1977

AGENDA

1. Write formally to all institutes of Middle Eastern Studies that might be interested; contact any other insitutes (not in Middle East Studies) that might join.
2. Draw up and finalize papers of incorporation.
3. Propose ranks of membership and voting principles.
4. Draft by-laws for consideration of a formal first meeting.
5. Make formal contacts with U.S. and Yemen Governments.
6. Prepare a prospectus for use in membership recruitment and fund-raising.
7. Call a first formal meeting as soon as possible.
8. Keep all interested scholars informed of developments.
- 9.

<sup>mail</sup>  
B. Mail WENNER MAP!

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American Center for Yemeni Studies

Steering Committee Meeting

September 10, 1977

AGENDA

- ✓ 1. Incorporation
- ✓ 2. Temporary Board of Directors
- ✓ 3. First Meeting of Center *April 14 day after Oriental Society Mtg. in Chicago*
4. Goals for Gibson in Sana'a
5. Prospectus
6. Acting Head of Steering Committee (during Gibson's absence)
7. Recruitment [ *Recruiting* ]
8. Contact with D. Rockefeller— *responded but that*

Proposed Research Center/Institute in Yemen  
Organizing Meeting  
July 25, 1977

MINUTES

McGuire Gibson greeted the participants and discussed briefly the genesis of the meeting. His trip to Yemen in March had encouraged him to contact scholars on this campus whom he knew had research interests in Yemen and a preliminary meeting to canvass opinion regarding the creation of an institution in Yemen was held. There appeared to be support for the idea of setting up an organization to represent American researchers in Yemen. It was decided to hold a larger meeting of researchers from around the country.

Mr. Gibson reported that he had applied for and received a visa easily to the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen). He was able to travel widely in the country and found it, from an archeologist's point of view, of great interest. There also were obvious rich opportunities for research in anthropology, economics, agriculture, geography, history, hydrology and other fields. In meetings with the American Ambassador, Dr. Thomas Scotese, and Dr. Abdel-Karim Iryani, Minister of Education, he learned that the Yemen Arab Republic Government is very interested in strengthening ties with American scholars. Dr. Iryani wishes to encourage American scholars to undertake research there partly in the hope of training Yemeni scholars, i.e., through joint research projects. As an additional gain, he hopes that some American scholars might be willing to teach at Yemeni universities while they are in the country. Dr. Iryani, who holds a Ph.D. from Yale (in Genetics) was formerly Minister of Planning. He is considered an effective administrator. He encouraged the formation of an American research center in Yemen.

There is already a Yemeni Cultural Center in Sana'a. It was funded by the Ford Foundation and its relationship with foreign centers is not clear at this time. Dr. Scotese, who will be leaving Yemen in about a year, is enthusiastic about a center of American research and has offered full cooperation. His departure is the reason for the haste with which this meeting has been called.

The political situation in Yemen was reviewed and the role that the American Ambassador could actually play in setting up the institute was discussed. It was felt that a research center must receive approval from Yemen's President, perhaps in the form of a presidential decree. Some concern was voiced regarding the

group's ability to contribute substantially toward Yemeni goals in higher education. Given the inflation in Yemen, the level of funding to maintain an institute would be rather high, perhaps \$30,000.00 per year. Mr. Gibson felt that there is a potential for Yemen to assist in some ways, perhaps in the provision of housing or funding that would support fellowships. A member of the group suggested that the fairly large number of Yemenis in this country would contribute to the organization. The French, Germans, and English are all interested in setting up programs in Yemen; each would receive some form of support from their governments. But similar connections with their governments has created problems for them in other Middle Eastern countries. The consensus of opinion was that any organization formed should be independent of the U.S. Government. The patterns followed by the American research centers in Cairo, Istanbul, and Tehran will be the model for the Yemeni center.

#### Function of Center

General agreement was reached that a center would aid individual researchers in obtaining visas, research permits, and perhaps, providing a hostel. It was noted that the consequences of failure must be given careful consideration and that there were alternative forms of organization such as an Association of Yemeni Studies. If funding were provided by the Government of Yemen what role would Yemen officials and scholars play in the "institute?" Certainly the organization should maintain its independence and avoid involvement with Yemen's politics. What contribution could the center make to the Yemen scholarly community? It was noted that AID already provides full salary for American scholars who wish to teach at Yemen universities. It was agreed that the organization would incorporate in the United States. Mr. Gibson was authorized to seek legal advice as to how this should be done.

#### Membership/Dues

Funding remains basic to the success of the center. It was felt that support from universities, given the present financial problems they face, would be problematic. Knowing this to be a potential problem, the scope of the center should encompass a wider range of disciplines than the established centers have. We should be able to draw upon universities that do not support other centers.

In the discussion it was agreed that \$2,500.00 would be an unrealistic institutional membership fee, that perhaps a \$1,000.00 fee would be established with voting rights. Other ranks of membership with lower fees, different rights, degrees of voting

power for organizations and individuals might be set up. The range suggested in discussion was from \$100.00 to \$250.00 with a lower fee for individuals without voting rights. It was the consensus that we could not support a center on university memberships alone, but this support would form the basis for application to foundations or government.

The Center need not be fully operational at once. It was pointed out that other centers began with one man in place, but without a building. It was suggested that the best way to proceed was to seek funding for a research project and submit a proposal for a center in connection with it. Mr. Gibson stated that the Oriental Institute is attempting to organize a small survey team to work in Yemen within the next twelve months. This project might serve the purpose of representing the center.

It was proposed that scholars from a variety of disciplines should make a survey of research possibilities and goals in Yemen and report to the group. Given Scotese's imminent departure from Yemen and the consequent loss of his enthusiastic support, it was felt that we already had the ingredients of such a report within the group. The MESA Bulletin (1975) has already carried a summary of research, and Hamdani in the ARCE Newsletter of Winter, 1975 published a review. Among the participants were several who had done research in Yemen and they were asked to present memos on research potential in their areas to a Steering Committee.

#### Steering Committee

In order to implement the suggestions of the meeting, formulate a structure, and incorporate the center, a Steering Committee was approved. It was agreed that for convenience the committee be drawn from the Midwest. The members are: McGuire Gibson (University of Chicago), Clifford Gurney (University of Chicago), Abbas Hamdani (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee), George Mendenhall (University of Michigan), Jon C. Swanson (Wayne State University), Manfred Wenner (Northern Illinois University), and Marvin Zonis (University of Chicago).

The duties of the Steering Committee shall be:

1. Write formally to all institutes of Middle Eastern Studies that might be interested; contact any other institutes (not in Middle East Studies) that might join.
2. Draw up and finalize papers of incorporation.

3. Propose ranks of membership and voting principles.
4. Draft by-laws for consideration of a formal first meeting.
5. Make formal contacts with U.S. and Yemen Governments.
6. Prepare a prospectus for use in membership recruitment and fund-raising.
7. Call a first formal meeting as soon as possible.
8. Keep all interested scholars informed of developments.

The following people will be asked to contribute memos on research priorities:

Robert Fernea (University of Texas at Austin)  
Joseph Greenman (University of Michigan)  
Abbas Hamdani (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee)  
John G. Kennedy (University of California at Los Angeles)  
Wilferd Madelung (University of Chicago)  
Gerald Obermeyer (American University in Beirut)  
Jon C. Swanson (Wayne State University)  
Manfred Wenner (Northern Illinois University)

The meeting ended with a discussion of ways of contacting potential members in other organizations and individuals in the government who might know of possible donors.

8/3/77

Organizing Meeting, Proposed Research Center/Institute in Yemen  
July 25, 1977 at The University of Chicago

List of Participants

1. Austin, Ralph (University of Chicago)
2. Bates, Michael (American Numismatic Society)
3. Biggs, Robert (University of Chicago)
4. Butzer, Karl (University of Chicago)
5. Dorsky, Susan (Case Western Reserve)
6. Fernea, Robert (University of Texas at Austin)
7. Friedman, Karen (DeNoyer-Geppert, Inc.)
8. Gibson, McGuire (University of Chicago)
9. Gragg, Gene (University of Chicago)
10. Greenman, Joseph (University of Michigan)
11. Hamdani, Abbas (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee)
12. Humphreys, R. Stephen (University of Chicago)
13. Johanson, Donald (Cleveland Museum of Natural History)
14. Lintner, Steven (Johns Hopkins University)
15. Madelung, Wilferd (University of Chicago)
16. Osborne, James (University of Chicago)
17. Stevenson, Thomas (Wayne State University)
18. Swanson, Jon (Wayne State University)
19. Tuttle, Marlene (University of Chicago)
20. Tuttle, Russell (University of Chicago)
21. Wenner, Manfred (Western Illinois University)
22. Wente, Edward (University of Chicago)
23. Wheatley, Paul (University of Chicago)
24. Whitcomb, Donald (University of Chicago)
25. Windfuhr, Gernot (University of Michigan)
26. Wirt, Donna (University of Michigan)
27. Zonis, Marvin (University of Chicago)



Mr. Swanson



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

SOCIAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

August 16, 1977

Dear

At our last meeting I proposed that the planned American Center for Yemeni studies adopt at its inception a strong position against its potential use as a front for intelligence activity. It was argued at that time that in practical terms it would be virtually impossible to keep the Center free of such activity and the matter was dropped.

Nevertheless, on further reflection I have concluded that, however futile, we should take a stand against intelligence related activities in the Center. It seems to me that in no other way can we assure the Yemeni people and their government that our intentions are in fact to pursue purely scholarly research and that we are not spies. At the same time to the extent that we make every effort to purge our organization of intelligence ties we protect legitimate scholars from charges that they are engaged in some kind of nefarious political activities. Based on my own experiences and those of some of my colleagues in the field this is especially important for social scientists working in a country which has had no contact with social scientific research.

Finally, it should be remembered that Yemen has suffered enormously from a cold war which seems to burn white hot only in the most obscure, weak, and defenseless parts of the world. I should not like our proposed Center to, in any way, become a party either directly or indirectly in political machinations which might result at some future date in renewed misery for the Yemeni people.

For these reasons I propose that our Center adopt as part of its by-laws a clause which states explicitly that any person or persons overtly or covertly associated with intelligence gathering activities be excluded from membership in the Center. Furthermore, I should hope that the by-laws provide for the creation of an ethics committee to scrutinize the research undertaken and to review any alleged cases of unethical conduct which might arise.

I feel strongly that these amendments are essential to the success of the Center and I will be most interested to hear the reaction of other steering committee members as regards this matter.

Sincerely,

Jon C. Swanson

JCS:lm

cc: Dr. McGuire Gibson, U. of Chicago  
Dr. Clifford Gurney, U. of Chicago  
Marvin Zonis, U. of Chicago  
Dr. Abbas Hamdani, U. of Wisconsin at Milwaukee  
Manfred Wenner, Northern Ill. U.  
George Mendenhall, U. of Michigan



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MILWAUKEE/P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
BOLTON HALL

(414) 963-4361

22 August 1977

Professor Jon C. Swanson  
Social Science Program  
College of Liberal Arts  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Dear Jon,

Thank you for your letter of August 16, 1977. As I came late for the last meeting of the Steering Committee of the American Center for Yemeni Studies, I did not know that the issue of the possibility of intelligence-related activities in the proposed Center was raised. Hence my silence.

I agree with you that there should be a clause in the by-laws of the Center debarring members who are found to be involved in such activities for several reasons:

- a) Yemeni officials are very sensitive to such matters and if our organisation has to be safe, receive help from them and to grow, such a clause will, by giving assurance and confidence, win the support of these officials and of the Yemeni public in general.
- b) intelligence people, in any case, work under cover. Our Center is not supposed to be cognisant of their activity. If such people come in, they do so at their own risk. After all, this is the rule of their own game and they are expected to be stout-hearted about it and face expulsion.
- c) I believe that in the broader interests of America and of our influence in Yemen, any intelligence activity in such cultural and intellectual organisations as our Center would be highly counter-productive, will work against us instead of for us, and as you have rightly pointed out, hamper the work of legitimate scholars.

On the question of the appointment of an ethics committee to scrutinise research I would beg to differ, because no intelligence work can show in open research and it is in the essence of liberal scholarship that an individual should choose his own field of work. Any research that is not genuinely scholarly need not be funded in the first place. Moreover, the question of ethical standards is so broad that getting involved

PAGE TWO

in discussions over it may really divert us from the real purpose of keeping intelligence-work out of our Center. Despite this disagreement on a procedural matter, I do wholeheartedly endorse your concern for honorable conduct and fair play. In keeping with this concern the Executive Committee of the Center can later draft some guidelines for a proper conduct expected from the Center's members and the scholars working in Yemen.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Abbas Hamdani

cc: Professor McGuire Gibson, University of Chicago  
Professor Clifford Gurney, University of Chicago  
Professor Marvin Zonis, University of Chicago  
Professor Manfred Wenner, Northern Illinois University  
Professor George Mendenhall, University of Michigan

AH/is

To: The Steering Committee for the Proposed American Center for Yemeni Studies

From: Joseph Greenman

Re: Impressions and observations drawn from Chicago meeting

I would like to express my satisfaction with the result of our meeting. You may count on my continued cooperation and support in any way that may be of service to our organization. The rest of this correspondence will be devoted to thoughts that I hope will be of use.

As all present at the meeting agreed, the opportunity for research in Yemen in a wide variety of fields appears excellent. In order to perpetuate this atmosphere, though, it seems that the issue of our Center's benefit to the Yemenis will have to be more directly addressed than those present seemed willing to acknowledge. Be assured that it is not my intent to be the advocate and defender of Yemeni interests in the proposed Center, since this task is obviously outside my jurisdiction and because the Yemenis are far more capable than I, or any foreigner for that matter, to decide what is best for their country. Rather, my emphasis centers on this issue because, frankly, it seems to be a topic that many of the participants at the meeting felt could be "put off until later." I, on the contrary, did not share the general concern about funds since it seems highly probable that it will be dealt with expeditiously by our colleagues entrusted with the task, who have proven themselves adept in such matters previously.

While the American star in Yemen is definitely in its waxing phase I believe Yemeni officials do to be both too proud and aware of the country's needs to tolerate indefinitely a foreign institution whose sole concern is to provide a vehicle for scholars to wander around the country collecting esoteric information. This problem could become even more acute if it is perceived that these scholars subsequently disappear, except for the social disruption which inevitably occurs when a "researcher" enters a town or village which had heretofore scarcely received attention from the central government, let alone a foreign scholar.

Minister of Education Iriani's suggestion that the Center might serve as a potential source of at least part-time faculty members for the Sanaa University seems to be a rather strong expression of the type of recognition he expects for his cooperation in helping to establish an American Center for Yemeni Studies. Several Yemeni officials expressed their desire to see this institution join the ranks of respected universities in the Arab World. Iriani's dual appointment as Minister of Education and President of the University seems to be a carefully-planned step toward realization of this goal. The responsible parties in the Yemeni government were certainly well aware of his American educational background when placing him in this critical position. When viewed against this backdrop, the current suggestion to found an institution which would bring American scholars to Yemen, and then to have Mr. Iriani himself articulate to the Ambassador the "possibility" that some of these educators might serve as temporary faculty at the Sanaa University, leaves very little room for interpretation in my mind.

Without doubt, among the proposed Center's principal functions will be to insure the personal safety of the scholars as well as the successful completion of their projects, to as great an extent as possible. Therefore, I believe it is quite important, even at this early stage, to attempt to discern the attitude of the Yemeni National Security toward our Center.

Mr. Muhammad Khamsi, the director of this agency at the time of my visit, is an individual whose power and authority is far more pervasive than is readily perceived. He generally maintains a low profile, and though theoretically subservient to the edicts of the Ministry of Interior, seems to wield an independent influence which makes him a true force to be reckoned with. This power seems to endure regardless of the position of his opposition, except for the very highest level of the executive. This observation has been made as a direct result of my personal experience and I shall be happy to enter into the particulars of my situation if other Center members are interested. In any case, it seems that only a Yemeni official could ascertain and accurately evaluate this attitude. I would strongly recommend that Mr. Iriani be made aware of our concerns and his suggestions as to the proper protocol to follow solicited. Professor Kennedy might also provide valuable insights on this subject.

Another topic which I believe should be broached with the Yemenis directly, as an indication of our desire to be made aware of the needs and priorities they perceive, is the feasibility and desirability of involving Yemenis in the US, and those who might desire to come in the future, in our center. While I realize that some of my personal beliefs might be deemed "overly-sha'abi" by some colleagues who believe in the sanctity of the Ivory-Tower approach to academia, my extensive personal dealings with Yemenis in the US and abroad leave me totally convinced of their pragmatic nature. Furthermore, it was stressed to me by the several Yemeni officials I encountered in the process of securing my residence visa and clearance for my project, that "pure research" has little or no place in a country on Yemen's rung of the ladder of technical development.

To demonstrate our sensitivity to their developmental concerns it seems that a clearly-stated program of practical benefits to be derived by the Yemenis from our Center is a sine qua non for its successful implementation. While my original inclination had been toward a program which might prepare Yemeni students to study in the U.S. by undertaking a TEFL course combined with some type of orientation, professor Mendenhall has, what I believe to be a much better idea, namely, that our institution should be patterned something like the American School of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan, in which a variety of courses are offered which coincide with students' pursuits at the local University and which are in the domains of interest of scholars who are undertaking research in the country. In any case, I believe Dr. Mendenhall will be prepared to describe the operation of the school. His description at the informal meeting which he, Dr. Windfuhr, and I held subsequent to the Chicago meeting left me quite convinced as to the appropriateness of his suggestion.

Finally, I would like to bring up the topic of the type of research I would like to see come out of our Center. While all of the social sciences I'm certain will be well represented, there are several other fields I believe could be approached in the hope of broadening our scope and, as a result, drawing wider attention to our efforts. Ideally, I would hope a Primatologist could be attracted to come to Yemen to study in detail the variety of baboon which is indigenous to the country. Dr. Lawrence Swift, a British veterinarian who was our neighbor in Hodeida, was quite

2  
- fascinated by the species, which he claimed is unknown elsewhere. Even the most basic statistics about these creatures are unknown, and I believe their unique status as the only apes on the Peninsula makes them of sufficient interest to warrant a full investigation. Though I cannot even guess if someone of her stature would be interested in such a project, drawing someone with the reputation of Dr. Jane Goodall, who has done extensive studies on baboons in Africa, would certainly bring positive attention to our efforts. There are certainly other types of wildlife in Yemen which would like study as well and, though I've mentioned baboons as a particular example, I believe we will be missing a good opportunity to attract attention, and of course financial support, if we fail to approach individuals in the biological-zoological fields as well as social scientists.

Musicology is yet another field which I believe would take great interest in examples of that branch of art which is practiced in Yemen. Though totally unsophisticated in this field, I have had pointed out to me by Arabs from other countries upon hearing some of my field tapes, that certain types of music heard in Yemen are unknown outside the country. Though I am not certain how this could be translated into a study project it seems obvious that a specialist, perhaps an ethnomusicologist, could come up with something that would receive support, especially from one of the Arab sources.

While this has been little more than a summary of the many ideas and suggestions I have for the proposed American Center for Yemeni Studies, it is hoped that it will provide some food for thought for the steering committee. I reiterate my desire and readiness to cooperate with you in any way possible and I look forward to the results of your meeting with great anticipation. I thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

  
Joseph Greenman

P.S. One last matter that deserves attention from the steering committee was raised to me in a letter from John Baldry, an independent British scholar who has published articles on Yemen in Arabica and other scholarly journals. The question is that of the role which non-Americans will be allowed to play in our Center. Mr. Baldry mentioned that Cambridge has also discussed the establishment of a studies' center in Yemen and wondered out loud if some sort of international cooperation might not be a beneficial approach for all parties concerned; perhaps there could be some kind of "international takeover" of the existing Center for Yemeni Studies. Personally, I do not have any particular feeling on the subject, but I think it is a question that will be raised elsewhere before long, and thus, dealing with it at this initial stage might avoid later animosities which could result from misunderstanding.

September 6, 1977

Dear Colleague,

The Steering Committee for the Center for Yemeni Studies met on August 8th and worked on by-laws and other matters. Enclosed is a copy of the proposed by-laws which will be presented for adoption at the first meeting on April 13, 1978. We would welcome any comments on the by-laws.

Manfred Wenner is preparing a prospectus for future recruitment of institutions, individual members, and patrons.

Incorporation of the Center in Illinois is going forward.

At this point, we need definite commitments from institutions wishing to become Charter Members (Sect 1.02). Would you now approach the appropriate officials in your institution to gain definite commitments from them on membership?

Sincerely yours,

McGuire Gibson, University  
of Chicago  
Clifford W. Gurney, University  
of Chicago  
Abbas Hamdani, University  
of Wisconsin at Milwaukee  
George Mendenhall, University  
of Michigan  
Jon C. Swanson, Wayne State  
University  
Manfred Wenner, North Illinois  
University  
Marvin Zonis, University of  
Chicago

Encl.

AMERICAN CENTER FOR YEMENI STUDIES

Steering Committee Meeting

September 10, 1977

MINUTES

Attending: McG. Gibson, A. Hamdani, J. Swanson, M. Wenner, M. Zonis; recording: K. Miller

I. Incorporation

Gibson stated that there were reasons for incorporating now. a) There will soon be in Washington, D.C. a meeting concerning the funding of all U.S. centers in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Far East. If we want to be included in the discussion, the Center has to be incorporated. R. McC. Adams is one of the principal organizers and has been given our draft by-laws. As soon as possible, he should also have a copy of the article of incorporation.

The incorporation papers can be ready for signing by Tuesday of next week.

In discussion, it was decided to have Gibson, Hamdani, Swanson and Wenner sign the papers of incorporation.

b) In order to start collecting dues with a tax free status, it is necessary to incorporate.

II. Temporary Board of Directors

According to the attorney, in the incorporation papers a Board of Directors is needed. These can be replaced at any time. Gibson and Zonis decided to give the whole Steering Committee as Temporary Directors, to be replaced when the first official directors are named by charter institutional members and elected by individual members. The Committee gave its approval.

It was agreed that a proposed date of April 14, 1978 just after the American Oriental Society meetings should be the Center's first meeting. It will be held in Chicago because of its central location.



### III. Recruitment

The Committee read and made changes in a letter to be sent to prospective Institutional Members. This will go out with a copy of the prospectus and the by-laws. A similar letter to all those who had attended the July 25th meeting, or had expressed interest in further contact, was sent out last week asking that individuals attempt at this time to obtain membership of their institution. Zonis will talk about the Center at the Middle East Studies Association; Swanson will speak at the Association of Arab-American University Graduates; Gibson will do so at the American Institute of Archaeology meetings in December.

### IV. Funding

Gibson and Zonis reported on a trip to Washington, D.C. and contacts with the State Department including new Yemen Desk Officer, Barbara Bodine; Andrea Farsakh, Arabian Peninsula Desk for Cultural Affairs Office, and Marshall Berg, Head of Cultural Affairs.

Miss Bodine is new to her job and was interested, but could not give much help as yet. Mrs. Farsakh is enthusiastic and gave much encouragement and information. Mr. Berg promised support at least for the salary of the resident director in Sana'a, perhaps in the form of a Fulbright. Three of the Committee members said they knew Berg and Farsakh and would take the opportunity of discussing further support in meetings where one or the other will appear.

It was agreed that we should start thinking of candidates for the Resident Director, someone of standing in the field, not just a graduate student. This is necessary for carrying on negotiations with the Yemeni bureaucracy.

### V. Upcoming Visit of Gibson to Sana'a

Gibson said he would stop in Sana'a on way to a field season in Iraq, probably around September 17-18 and elicited advice

on things to be done in Sana'a. He sees main tasks as a) contact with Dr. Eryani, Minister of Education, to get Center a permit to exist and work in Yemen, and a possible building; b) discussion with Ambassador Scotese on procedure to follow in seeking permission, possibility of further financial support, and gaining of permit for Oriental Institute's field team (for April-June, 1978), plus clarification of general issues; c) discussion with Director General of Antiquities on field season.

Wenner offered to donate part of his personal library for the Center in Sana'a. Others pointed out that the establishment of a research facility would be a strong incentive for the Yemen Government to give approval. There ensued a discussion of present library facilities in Sana'a, including facilities in the Yemeni Cultural Institute, established by the Ford Foundation. Hamdani suggested the possibility of our Center's obtaining a room or two in the Institute for its office, at least initially. Gibson said he would inquire about this, but added that the relationship of the Yemen Cultural Institute to any foreign center cannot at present be predicted. He then said that the British are going ahead with plans for a center and recently has had word of a definite move by the Germans to do the same.

Zonis stated that he may be able to stop in Sana'a on the way back from Tehran in late December to further the Center's interests.

#### VI. By-Laws

The draft of the by-laws was read word by word, corrections made, and changed in small parts. This version will be sent with the recruitment letters to major Middle East Centers and institutions that may have interest in joining.

VII. Prospectus

M. Wenner read his draft of a prospectus and it was discussed. He will rework it, submit it for inclusion with the recruitment letter we are sending out. He agreed to continue working on a fuller statement for a brochure to appear at a later date.

VII. Acting Head of Steering Committee

There are many things to be done in near future, including follow-up of institutional recruitment, then individual memberships, asking for nominations for Trustees-at-Large and processing ballots. All this must happen if Trustees-at-Large are to take office at the first meeting. It was proposed and accepted that M. Zonis act as head of the Committee during Gibson's absence.

AMERICAN CENTER FOR YEMENI STUDIES

Corporate BY-LAWS

*Amended  
Sept 10, 1977*

ARTICLE I

MEMBERS

Section 1.01 Membership - Both institutions and Individuals are eligible for membership in the corporation. Institutional Members and Members shall be entitled to representation on the corporation's board of Trustees. Associate Members and Patrons shall not be so entitled.

Section 1.02. Institutional Members - The Charter Members of the corporation

shall be the first Institutional Members. Generally recognized academic and educational insitutions engaged in any aspect of Yemeni Studies shall become Institutional Members of the corporation, upon application to the Secretary and election by a majority of the Trustees at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Board. The President shall give each Trustee written notice of the application for Institutional Membership at least ten days prior to the vote. The Charter Members of the corporation (as listed above) shall designate the first members of the Board of Trustees except for the Trustees at Large who will be elected by mail ballot by the Members.

Section 1.03. Patrons - Individuals as well as businesses and corporations are eligible. This is a non-voting membership.

Section 1.04. Individual Members - Individual scholars shall be eligible to become Members with voting rights to elect Trustees at Large. Associate Members will include students and interested lay persons. All individual memberships shall be subject to such additional qualifications as the Trustees may from time to time establish.

Section 1.05. Annual Dues - The annual dues payable by members are hereby fixed as follows for the academic year July 1 to June 30:

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| → Institutional Members | \$250 <i>and up</i> |
| Patrons                 | 250 <i>and up</i>   |
| Members                 | 25                  |
| Associate Members       | 10                  |

The Trustees shall have the power by majority vote to increase or decrease the annual dues from time to time. All members shall be treated equally with respect to dues within a given class of membership. No increase in dues shall be retro-active, or effective as against a member who after receiving notice of the increase serves upon the Secretary written notice of resignation.

Members who, within ninety days from the time dues duly levied are payable, do not pay such dues shall upon a vote of a majority of the Trustees be removed from membership. The financial obligation arising out of membership in the Center shall be limited to membership dues.

Section 1.06. Resignation of Members - Any member may resign upon written notice to the Secretary and will thereby be relieved of liability for dues for the following academic year but not for the year of resignation.

Section 1.07. Relationship Between Members and the Corporation - The Board of Trustees shall be the sole representative of the corporation in dealings with individuals or other organizations. No member shall attempt to represent the corporation whether in making any statements for publication or otherwise unless the Board of Trustees shall by resolution have specifically approved the action.

Section 1.08 Exclusions & Restrictions - C 801 comes here!

## ARTICLE II

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 2.01. Board of Trustees - The business of the Center shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2.02. Number - The Board of Trustees shall consist of a Trustee representing each Institutional Member and Trustees-at-Large who will be elected by majority vote of the Members. The Trustees-at-Large shall number no less than five but not more than one third of the total number of Trustees. Trustees and Trustees-at-Large shall serve for a period of three (3) years.

Section 2.03. Powers - All powers of the corporation except those specifically reserved or granted to the members by law, by the Certificate of Incorporation, or by these By-Laws, are hereby granted to and vested in the Board of Trustees.

Section 2.04. Appointment of Trustees - Each Institutional Member shall be represented on the Board at all times by one

Trustee. The appointment of a Trustee shall be made in writing to the Secretary and shall become effective upon receipt. A Trustee shall serve until replaced by the Institutional Member who has appointed him/her.

Section 2.05. Trustees-at-Large - Any individual Member may nominate himself or another Member as a Trustee-at-Large. Nominations shall be called for by the President in a mailing to all Members six months prior to the Annual Meeting at which new Trustees are due to take office. Four months prior to the Meeting, the compiled list of nominees shall be sent to Members and the ballots returned by mail. Members will be asked to mark preferences, with the most preferred individual receiving a one (1), the second a two (2), and so forth. The five persons, or the required number of persons needed to equal one-third (1/3) the number of Institutional Trustees, receiving the lowest accumulated scores will be elected.

The Trustees-at-Large, inducted at the annual meeting, shall possess all the rights, duties, and powers of the other Trustees. All references herein to Trustees shall include Trustees-at-Large unless otherwise specifically provided.

Section 2.05A. Honorary Trustees - Advisory non-voting Honorary Trustees may be elected by the Board to serve for a period of three (3) years.

Section 2.06. Resignation and Removal - A Trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Secretary. Resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any other time specified therein. A Trustee-at-Large may be removed by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 2.07. Replacement of Trustees - An Institutional Member may at any time replace its appointed Trustee by giving notice in writing to the Secretary stating the effective date and designating a replacement. Whenever an appointed Trustee

is no longer able or willing to serve, he/she shall be replaced by the Institutional Member which he/she represents.

ARTICLE III  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 3.01. Officers - The Officers of the Institute shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected by mailed ballot by the Board of Trustees prior to its annual meeting. Each officer shall serve for two years or until his successor shall have been duly chosen and qualified.

Section 3.02. President - The President shall have general supervision over the business and operations of the corporation, subject to the control of the Board of Trustees. He/she shall ~~serve as chairman~~ of the meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3.03. Vice President - The Vice President shall act as the President in the absence or disability of the President and shall perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned him/her by the President or the Board of Trustees.

Section 3.04. Secretary - The Secretary shall: record all votes of the Trustees and the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees in a book or books to be kept for that purpose; see that notices are given and records properly kept and filed by the corporation as required by law; be the custodian of the seal and see that it is affixed to all documents to be executed on behalf of the corporation under its seal; and perform such other duties as may ~~from time to time to time~~ be assigned him/her by the Board of Trustees or the President.

Section 3.05. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall have charge of all receipts and disbursements of the corporation and shall



of provide for the custody of its funds and securities. He/she shall have full authority to receive and give receipts for all money due and payable to the corporation, and to endorse checks, drafts, and warrants in its name on its behalf, and to give full discharge of the same. He/she shall deposit all funds of the corporation except such as may be required for current use in such banks or other places of deposit as the Board of Trustees may ~~from time to time~~ designate, and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may ~~from time to time~~ be assigned to him by the Board of Trustees or the President.

Section 3.06. Other Officers and Representatives - The Board of Trustees may appoint such other officers and representatives as it shall consider necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of the corporation, and they shall have such authority and perform such duties as the Board of Trustees may ~~from time to time~~ assign to them.

Section 3.07. Other Committees - The Board of Trustees may at any time appoint additional committees consisting of Trustees or other persons to perform such duties and make such investigations and reports as the Board shall determine. Such committees shall <sup>unless otherwise directed by the Board</sup> arrange their own organization and times and <sup>should be conveyed to the</sup> places of meetings unless otherwise directed by the Board. The Board of Trustees may, either at the time the committees are formed or at any later time, name alternates to serve in the absence of any member of any committee.

Section 3.08. Delegation of Powers - The Board of Trustees may by resolution delegate to any officer or to any committee the power to appoint, and to prescribe the duties of, additional officers and representatives.

Section 3.09. Resignation - Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Trustees or to the Secretary. The resignation shall take effect on the date of

receipt of notice or at any time specified therein and unless otherwise provided the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 3.10. Removal of Officers - Any officer or representative of the corporation may be removed by a majority of the Board of Trustees whenever in their judgment the best interests of the corporation will be served thereby.

#### ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

Section 4.01. Annual Meeting - The Board of Trustees shall meet annually for the purpose of organization, and for the transaction of such business as may be appropriate. The meeting shall take place on such date and at such place either within or without the State of Illinois as the President or a majority of Trustees shall decide.

Section 4.02. Special Meetings - Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be held whenever called by the President or by a majority of Trustees. Such special meetings shall be held at such place or places that the President or a majority of Trustees shall decide.

Section 4.03. Notice - Notice of annual meetings stating time and place, and notice of special meetings stating time, place and general nature of the business to be transacted, shall be given by the President in writing to each Trustee at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 4.04. Quorum - The presence of a majority of the Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business at all meetings.

Section 4.05. Voting by Proxy - A Trustee may vote on any matter to be taken up at a meeting which he/she is unable

to attend by submitting a written proxy to the Secretary.

Section 4.06. Organization of Meetings - At every meeting the President, or in his/her absence, the Vice President, shall act as chairman and the Secretary, or in his/her absence a person appointed by the chairman, shall act as Secretary.

Section 4.07. Parliamentary Procedure - "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the reference for parliamentary rules in case of discrepancy.

#### ARTICLE V

##### REMUNERATION, BONDING, BORROWING, DEPOSITS, AUDITS, FINANCIAL REPORTS

Section 5.01. Expenses and Remunerations - The officers and the Trustees shall receive no remuneration as such but may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses as circumstances allow.

Section 5.02. Bonding of Officers and Representatives - The Treasurer and such other officers and Representatives as may be determined by the Board of Trustees may be bonded in such amounts as the Board of Trustees may determine. *decide*

Section 5.03. Deposits - All funds of the corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the corporation in such banks or other depositories as the Board of Trustees may approve or designate and such funds may be withdrawn only upon checks or other instruments signed by the Treasurer, or by such persons as may be authorized as signatories by the Board.

Section 5.04. Annual Audit - The accounts of the corporation shall be audited at least once each calendar year by an independent accountant selected by the Board of Trustees.

Section 5.05. Financial Reports - At each annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Treasurer shall report on the

finances of the corporation. This report shall include information on gifts received and grants made by the corporation.

Section 5.06. Fiscal Year - The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from July 1 to June 30 (cf. Article I, Section 1.05 Dues).

#### ARTICLE VI AMENDMENT

Section 6.01. Any or all provisions of the By-Laws of the corporation may be amended, altered, or repealed by a majority of the Trustees at any meeting duly convened after due notice to the Trustees giving a summary of the proposed amendments.

#### ARTICLE VII NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICES

Section 7.01. The Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three individual Trustees. The Nominating Committee will present to the officers in writing the names of candidates for each office with the exception of the Treasurer, to be filled by election by the Trustees at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall submit its written nominations to the officers two months prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 7.02. Individual Trustees may offer nominations from the floor of the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees for the election <sup>to</sup> of any office.

ARTICLE VIII  
EXCLUSIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Section 8.01. Persons or organizations associated with intelligence ~~gathering~~ activities are excluded from association with the Center. The President may, if necessary, appoint a committee to review allegations of wrong-doing.

NOW, ~~§~~ 801 is  
1081

October 4, 1977

To: Members of the Steering Committee, American Institute for Research in Yemen

From: Marvin Zonis

In Re: Current Business

I want to communicate to you several pieces of news as well as try to attend to some old business.

1. It is imperative that we begin seriously to solicit charter members from institutions and individuals for the Institute. If you remember at our last meeting, we thought it most efficacious if members of the Steering Committee would write a note on the bottom of the form letter seeking such memberships to those in the profession with whom they were personally acquainted. So that I can organize the solicitation, would you please send me a note as soon as possible with the names of the individuals to whom you would be willing to write directly. We shall prepare all the materials here and send you an addressed envelope with all the inserts. All you will have to do is write a handwritten note on the bottom of the form letter and then mail it off. I feel that we will enhance our positive response rate if such personal notes go out to as many people as possible. Please send me the names of your fellow scholars on Yemen to whom you would be willing to write.
2. Mac Gibson passed through Sana'a on his way to his field project in Iraq and called here with news of his visit. Several important pieces of information were forthcoming. For one thing, "centers" are now out in Sana'a. The government has apparently closed down a number of centers and the Ford sponsored Cultural Center is apparently now in trouble. It is clear that the name of our organization should not contain the word "center." Mac cleared with Eryani the name and they came up with "American Institute for Research in Yemen." I would imagine that none of you should have any objections to that becoming official name of the Institute.
3. The Government of Yemen has formally agreed to the establishment of the Institute and is sending written confirmation of that agreement.
4. The University of Sana'a has agreed to give us a house in that city at their cost for use as a headquarters for the Institute. If we should ever be in a position to build our own facilities, they will grant us suitable land.

5. They welcome the formal establishment of the Institute, obviously and look forward to our sending a resident director to staff the Institute in Sana'a. We should be thinking about someone who would be appropriate for that position to take office in the summer of 1978. Would you please give some thought to that.

Please do remember to send me the names of the colleagues to whom you feel comfortable in writing for memberships. As soon as we can get this moving we will be able to have a viable Institute.

John Tom:  
I'll assume name  
change is OK with you  
unless I hear to the  
contrary let's get going  
with fund raising please  
send me names of people  
you'll send notes to  
Murray

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN YEMEN

Steering Committee Meeting

February 4, 1978

MINUTES

Attending: M. Gibson, A. Hamdani, M. Wenner, and M. Zonis

Absent: C. Gurney, G. Mendenhall, and J. Swanson

1. Gibson Report on Meeting With Dr. Eryani

Mr. Gibson opened the meeting with a report of his September, 1977 meeting in Sana'a with Dr. Eryani, the Minister of Education. A full discussion of the proposal to establish a research facility in Yemen was held and Dr. Eryani proposed the establishment of a facility in Sana'a under the auspices of Sana'a University. He promised to provide a building to house the facility, to gain customs-free status for the Institute and to give his cooperation to researchers. Dr. Eryani in his capacity as President of Sana'a University has the authority to set up such research institutes. He felt, after some inquiries, that he could authorize the Institute by signing a memorandum of the conversation. Dr. Eryani also evinced his great interest in having American scholars teach temporarily at Sana'a University, full or part-time. He asked that visiting researchers consider such arrangements and promised a remuneration commensurate with American levels.

2. Post-Meeting Developments

Dr. Eryani has just recently signed the memorandum and plans can go forward officially for the establishment of an Institute, including the installation of a Resident Director in the fall of 1978. There is one small difficulty. The proposed name, American Institute for Research in Yemen, causes some embarrassment because its acronym in Arabic appears to be an obscenity. The Institute has been asked to propose another name. No final decision was reached by the Steering Committee regarding the new name.

3. Funding

Funding other than memberships is, as yet, largely in the form of promised or potential aid. Personal contacts have been made with the executive officers of several banks in Chicago and New York. As a result a number of funding proposals have been submitted which are presently under consideration. The Cultural Affairs office of the U.S. Department of State has ear-marked a substantial annual sum for the Institute beginning with the 1978-79 fiscal year. This amount, by itself, will allow us to approach possible Resident Directors. Funding for a fellowship program, expanded facilities in Sana'a, and other purposes must await the



Institute's formal organization and approaches to funding agencies.

#### 4. Membership

Membership is, as yet, lagging. There are verbal and written promises from a large number of institutions, but actual membership fees have been committed only by U.C.L.A., Utah, University of Colorado, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Northern Illinois University, and the University of Chicago. The Committee has received verbal assurances of membership from scholars that the following universities intend to join: the University of Washington at Seattle, University of Texas at Austin, University of Michigan, Wayne State, Georgetown, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and the University of North Carolina. Institutions requesting more information or actively considering membership include SUNY-Binghamton, Princeton, Berkeley, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Arizona, and the American Institute of Archaeology.

The Committee decided to circulate a further appeal to the institutions asking for definite commitments. The urgency of this commitment is obvious since the Annual Meeting is to be held in less than two months, and arrangements for it must be completed. It was also decided to reduce the individual memberships from \$25.00 to \$15.00. Associate members will still be assessed \$10.00. The Steering Committee agreed that the minutes of its meeting should be sent to all persons who had expressed interest or had attended our first meeting last July in order to bring everyone up to date.

#### 5. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 14, 1978, a Friday. It was decided that it should be held in Toronto in conjunction with the American Oriental Society Meetings. This will enable us to ensure that one group of actual or potential individual members will be able to attend. The original meeting place, Chicago, is not that much more centrally located than Toronto.

#### 6. Nominations for Officers

The annual meeting, according to the proposed by-laws has as part of its business the election of officers, a slate is to be proposed by a Nominating Committee. Given the fact that the by-laws are not yet in effect and the full procedure cannot be implemented, it is proposed that for this initial meeting, the Steering Committee name three persons to act as a Nominating Committee. After some discussion, it was decided to name one of the Steering Committee and two persons who had evinced interest in an Institution from our first mailing. M. Zonis from the Steering Committee, M. Bates (American Numismatic Society), and John Kennedy (U.C.L.A.) have been asked to act as a Nominating Committee and to present a slate at the Annual Meeting in April. It

was emphasized that nominations for any office can also be made from the floor of the meeting. The Nomination Committee would welcome advice and nominations from individual or institutional members.

#### 7. Trustees-at-Large

The annual meeting also, according to the by-laws, is the site of the induction of Trustees-at-Large, following nominations and balloting procedures done by mail. Again, because we have a very incomplete list of individual members, who nominate and elect Trustees-at-Large, we cannot carry out the prescribed procedure. It has been proposed that nominations and balloting be done at the meeting itself. After the balloting, the Trustees-at-Large will join with the Trustees in discussing the proposed by-laws and electing officers.

#### 8. Resident Director

Mr. Eryani's formal recognition of the Institute means that the organization may now proceed with the appointment of a Resident Director to take office in Sana'a in the fall of this year. Gibson reported that Yemeni and other informed opinion suggest that the Resident Director should be an individual of standing rather than a junior scholar. The Committee agreed that such a person would be more effective and that experience of similar institutes elsewhere confirmed this. The Committee decided that a decision concerning this matter should be made as soon as possible since a senior scholar would need some time to complete his arrangements. The Steering Committee agreed to begin looking for a Resident Director immediately and will welcome advice and nominations from its Trustees and individual members. It was hoped that the choice of a Resident Director would be confirmed at the Annual Meeting.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN YEMEN

5848 S. University Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637

February 7, 1978

Dear Colleague:

Since our last mailing, there have been a number of developments affecting the American Institute for Research in Yemen. The most important of these is the signing by the Yemeni Minister of Education of the agreement establishing the Institute.

Some progress has been made on funding. The Chase Manhattan Bank and the Morgan Guarantee Trust Company are considering us for grants in aid. We already have a commitment by the Cultural Affairs Office of the Department of State for substantial funding which will allow us to have a Resident Director in Sana'a beginning in the Fall of 1978.

We have received membership fees or written promises of fees from the following institutions: U.C.L.A., University of Utah, University of Colorado, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Northern Illinois University, University of Chicago and the University of Michigan. We have verbal assurances of membership from the University of Washington (Seattle), University of Texas at Austin, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, University of North Carolina and Georgetown. A number of other institutions, including the American Institute of Archaeology, University of Arizona, State University of New York at Binghamton, and Princeton have expressed strong support, but have not yet made a commitment.

We would like to have definite commitments from both institutions and individuals as soon as possible. Enclosed you will find a form for an Institutional Membership that your institution might find convenient to use. There is also a form for individual membership. Please note that the individual membership fee has been reduced to \$15.00. Associate memberships remain at \$10.00.

The first meeting will be held on April 14, 1978 in Toronto. It was decided to have it there in order to accommodate members who would be participating in the American Oriental Society meetings (which end on April 13th). Details on the meeting will be sent to all members in the next few weeks.

The Steering Committee would like to express its gratitude for your continued interest and for efforts made by you to enlist members.

Sincerely yours,

Steering Committee for the  
Formation of the Institute

McGuire Gibson, University  
of Chicago

Clifford W. Gurney, Univer-  
sity of Chicago

Abbas Hamdani, University  
of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

George Mendenhall, Univer-  
sity of Michigan

Jon C. Swanson, Wayne State  
University

Manfred Wenner, Northern  
Illinois University

Marvin Zonis, University of  
Chicago

Encls.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR YEMENI STUDIES

5848 South University Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
(312) 753-4548, 753-2425

31 July 1978

Dear Colleague:

I have recently returned from Sana'a where I was working out details of the Institute's standing in Yemen. There have been major changes in the government since our agreement was made last September, and our Institute has been somewhat affected by them. As was reported by Manfred Wenner at the meeting in Toronto, the Institute has been brought under the general umbrella of the Yemeni Studies Center which has in turn been reorganized under a board composed largely of officials in the University of Sana'a. We as a research institute are related directly to the Center. I met with members of the board of directors of the Center, explained our structure and aims in Sana'a, and received assurances of cooperation and good will.

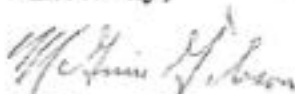
The arrangements for a house in Sana'a are still in effect. Jon Mandaville, our first resident director, will choose and equip a house this fall. There may be some delay in making the house fully operational, but within a few months there should be a hostel facility of limited capacity for Institute members.

We do not as yet have funds for fellowships or similar purposes. We are still making preliminary contacts. There is, however, one source of possible funding that some of you may wish to tap. Manfred Wenner and I have been in contact with USAID officials who are supportive of research in Yemen. AID has a number of projects in Yemen, mostly in rural development, but is lacking base data on which to make projections. Most of the opportunities are for advanced graduate students, with individual grants in the neighborhood of \$10,000. Although there is no a priori limitation on the disciplines or subfields which are eligible for support, it is our belief that the greatest opportunities are in the following areas: agricultural economics, anthropology, demography, sociology, women's studies, hydrology or land-use, environmental research. Of special interest is any research on remittance and the effect of migration of workers. Anyone interested in additional information should contact Manfred Wenner (312-357-3412) or me as soon as possible.

Robert Stookey will chair a special session on Yemen at the MESA meeting in Ann Arbor in November. We will take the opportunity to have a short business session some time during those meetings. Further details will be given in subsequent mailings.

Michael Bates is preparing the first issue of the AIYS newsletter which should appear in December. He would like to have items on current research, published articles, and forthcoming work for inclusion in it. Please write directly to him at the American Numismatic Society, Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets, New York.

Sincerely,



McGuire Gibson  
President

Institutional Members

Representative

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. University of California at Berkeley    |                                |
| 2. University of California at Los Angeles | Isma <sup>c</sup> il Poonawala |
| 3. Archaeological Institute of America     |                                |
| 4. Carnegie Mellon University              | Frank Nowak                    |
| 5. University of Chicago                   |                                |
| 6. University of Colorado                  | Ragaei El Mallakh              |
| 7. Georgetown University                   | Irfan Shahid                   |
| 8. Harvard University                      |                                |
| 9. University of Michigan at Ann Arbor     |                                |
| 10. New York University                    | Dale Eickelman                 |
| 11. Northern Illinois University           | Manfred Wenner                 |
| 12. University of Pennsylvania             |                                |
| 13. Princeton University                   | John H. Marks                  |
| 14. University of Utah                     |                                |
| 15. Wayne County Community College         | Mostafa M. Afr                 |
| 16. University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee   | A. Hamdani                     |
| 17. Yale University                        |                                |

Prospective

University of Arizona  
 Arizona State University  
 Cleveland Museum  
 Portland State University  
 SUNY- Binghamton  
 University of Texas at Austin  
 University of Toronto  
 Washington State University

TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE

Ray Cleveland (University of Regina)  
 Albert Jamme (Catholic University)  
 John Kennedy (U.C.L.A.)  
 Stephen Lintner (U.S. Geological Survey)  
 John Mandaville (Portland State)  
 R. Bayley Winder (N.Y.U.)

OFFICERS

McGuire Gibson- President  
 Manfred Wenner- Vice-President  
 Michael Bates- Secretary  
 Howard Hallengren- Treasurer

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR YEMENI STUDIES

5848 South University Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
(312) 753-4548, 753-2425

May 1, 1978

Dear Colleagues,

On April 14, the Institute had its first meeting in Toronto. Trustees-at-Large were elected by the individual members present, the by-laws were adopted with minor changes and officers were elected. Minutes of the meeting are being reproduced and will be sent to you in a few days.

Attached are lists of institutional members with their trustees, trustees-at-large, and officers. Note that in several cases, no trustees have yet been named by institutions. We have written assurances from all institutions listed that they will join, but most must wait until the new fiscal year to do so officially. It was decided at the meeting to hold open charter memberships until July 1 and to make dues payable as of that date. Therefore, those institutions and individual members who have already paid will not be reassessed until July, 1979. It was also decided at the meeting that since we are more interested in increasing membership and interest than in trying to raise money with dues, that we should reduce associate memberships (students and laypersons) to \$5.00.

Please note that as of now we are officially called the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. This new title has been adopted because of difficulties in Yemen with the proposed name.

It was suggested at the meeting that there be a special session on Yemeni Studies at the Middle East Studies Association meeting in the Fall. Michael Bates agreed to organize the session and has been in touch with MESA. He needs very detailed information on participants, abstracts, and so forth immediately. Anyone wishing to present a paper should contact him at once, by phone if possible, at the American Numismatic Society, Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets, New York, 10032 (Phone: 212-234-3130). If the session cannot be scheduled as part of the MESA program, he will organize a parallel session some time during the time of the MESA meetings.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR YEMENI STUDIES

5848 South University Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60637

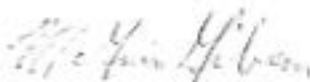
(312) 753-4548, 753-2425

-2-

We have already made some efforts to raise funds. In a few weeks, there should be definite answers on one or two applications. Manfred Wenner is preparing a brochure to use in recruiting and publicity.

We already have enough funds to name a Resident Director for the facility in Sana'a this fall. We have already received applications from three scholars and would like to solicit more. It is already late in the academic year and people need time to arrange leaves, so immediate action should be taken on this also. We hope to make a decision on this matter in two weeks.

Sincerely yours,



McGuire Gibson  
President

MG: th



A. A. U. G

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

You probably have heard that a group of scholars have begun the formation of an American Center for Yemeni Studies. Beginning on a very informal basis, by contacting scholars who have done or are interested in doing research in Yemen, the group met in Chicago on July 25th, and set up a Steering Committee to formulate by-laws, carry out incorporation procedures, write a prospectus and make contacts with governmental bodies. *Y.A.R.*

The Steering Committee has completed work on a proposed set of by-laws. These by-laws will be presented for adoption at the first <sup>annual</sup> meeting of the Center to be held in Chicago on April 14th.

Knowing of your institution's involvement in studies that are directly related to Yemen, or to the Near East, or to fields that find ready research opportunities in Yemen, we would like to invite your institution to become a charter member of the Center at \$250.00.

We hope to hear from you soon. Please contact us c/o Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, 5848 S. University Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Sincerely yours,

McGuire Gibson, University  
of Chicago  
Clifford W. Gurney, Univer-  
sity of Chicago  
Abbas Hamdani, University  
of Wisconsin at Milwaukee  
George Mendenhall, Univer-  
sity of Michigan  
Jon C. Swanson, Wayne State  
University  
Manfred Wenner, North Illi-  
nois University  
Marvin Zonis, University of  
Chicago