

***Majlis al-Shi'r* -The Arabic Poetry Group**

Sponsored by: The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
&
The Whitney Humanities Center

This group meets on a weekly basis to discuss selections of representative poems in the Arabic original (with occasional comparison to Persian, Spanish, and Hebrew.) The authors read range from pre-Islamic to contemporary poets. The main points of emphasis are the textual analysis of the poems, the study of linguistic and thematic structures, and the situating of the poetry within its historiographical and literary context. Our audience is composed of students of all departments, both graduates and undergraduates, who enjoy Arabic Literature in a relaxed atmosphere. Lunch is served.

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Meetings:

Spring 2004

- 2/ 9/ 2004
Bilal Orfali
The Majnūn Legend - Selections from the Dīwān of Majnūn Laylā [d. 687]
- 2/ 16/2004
Bilal Orfali
The 'Udhri Ghazal in the Umayyad Period -Selections from Jamīl Buthayna [d.701]
and Majnūn Laylā [d. 687]
- 3/22/2004
Bilal Orfali & Racha Omari
Abū Nuwās [763-813] responds to the Mu'tazila (Abū Nuwās' poem "da' anka
lawmī")
- 3/29/2004
David Assouline, Bilal Orfali & Racha Omari
What is meant by *shu'ūbiyya*? -Selections from Qur'ān and 'Abbāsīd poetry

- 4/5/2004
David Assouline & Bilal Orfali
Asriyyāt Abū Firās- Selections from Abū Firās al-Ḥamdānī's [832-867] prison poems
- 4/12/2004
Bilal Orfali
The poem “*ghayru mujdīn fī millatī wa-‘tiqādī*” by Abū al-‘Alā’ al-Ma‘arrī [873-1057]
- 4/19/2004
Professor Beatrice Gruendler
Bashshār's Anti-Ghazals in Context -Two Poems by Bashshār b. Burd [713-783] “*yā manẓaran ḥasanan ra’aytuh*” and “*tajālaltu ‘an fihrin*”

Fall 2005

- 9/30/2004
Bilal Orfali
Motifs of *Rithā’* in Classical Arabic Poetry -Selections from pre-Islamic, Umayyad and ‘Abbāsīd periods
- 10/8/2004
Bilal Orfali
Lamenting Cities –Selections from Classical and Modern Arabic Poetry
- 10/15/2004
David Assouline
Selections from *Kitāb al-Muḥāḍara wa-l-mudhākara*
- 10/22/2004
Mushegh Asatryan
The Women’s Voice in Ghazal -Selections from ‘Umar b. Abī Rabī‘a’s poem “*amin āli Nu‘min*”)
- 10/29/ 2004
Keivan Karai
Selections from the Arabic and Persian poems of Mawlānā Jalāl al-Dīn al-Rūmī [1207-1273]
- 11/5/2004
Yusuf Samara
I am the Truth- Selections from al-Ḥusayn b. Manṣūr al-Ḥallāj [858-922]
- 11/12/2004
Bilal Orfali

Wine and the Ṣūfī terminology -Selections from the *khamriyya* (wine poem) of ‘Umar
b. al-Fāriḍ [1181-1235] “*sharibnā ‘ala dhikri l-ḥabībī*”

- 11/16/ 2004
Professor Beatrice Gruendler
A Taste of the Abstract: Did ‘Abbāsīd audiences appreciate *takhyīl*?

Spring 2005

- 1/21/2005
Bilal Orfali
“Rita and the Rifle”: A Poem by Mahmoud Darwish
- 1/28/2005
Moushegh Asatryan
“Stop, Let Us Weep”, The Mu‘allaqa of Imru‘u al-Qays
- 2/4/2005
David Assouline
Ibn Sahl al-Andalusī’s Muwashshah Poetry
- 2/11/2005
Annette Lienau
Jawārī Poetry in the ‘Abbāsīd Court: The Case of Faḍl al-Yamāmiyya
- 2/18/2005
Rebecca Johnson & Bilal Orfali
Mahmoud Darwish Remembering al-Sayyab
- 2/25/2005
Bilal Orfali
“Night and Horses and the Desert”, al-Mutanabbī at the Court of Sayf al-Dawla al-Ḥamdānī
- 3/25/2005
Professor Hala Nassar
al-‘Urūba: A Poem by Muḏaffār al-Nawwāb
- 4/1/2005
Bilal Orfali
“Martyr of Divine Love”: The poetry of Rābi‘a al-‘Adawiyya
- 4/15/2005
Dr. Bassam Frangieh

‘Ayn al-Shams: A poem by ‘Abd al-Wahhāb al-Bayyātī

- 4/29/2005
Professor Beatrice Gruendler
Pardon Those Who Love Passionately: “A Theologian's Endorsement of *Shahādat al-Ishq*”

Fall 2006

- 9/16/2005
David Assouline
Selections from “Eleven Planets”: by Mahmoud Darwish
- 9/23/2005
Alexander Treiger
Selections from “Eleven Planets”: by Mahmoud Darwish
- 9/30/2005
Samuel Noble
Selections from “Eleven Planets”: by Mahmoud Darwish
- 10/7/2005
Rebecca Johnson
Selections from “Eleven Planets”: by Mahmoud Darwish
- 10/21/2005
Bilal Orfali
Selections from “The Speech of the Red Indian”: by Mahmoud Darwish
- 10/28/2005
Bilal Orfali
Selections from “The Speech of the Red Indian”: by Mahmoud Darwish
- 11/4/2005
Samuel Noble
Anti Ramadan poems by Abū Nuwās [763-813]
- 01/20/2006
David Assouline
Ibn Quzman’s *zajal*
- 01/27/2006
Bilal Orfali
Impact of Umayyad Ghazal on Early Sūfī Poetry

- 02/01/2006
David Assouline
al-Zaqqaq of Valencia
- 02/15/2006
Bilal Orfali
Ibn al-Rūmī's Invective Poetry
- 02/22/2006
Professor Hala Nassar
Darwish's Ambivalent Attitudes Toward the Arab City