Letter from the President

2012 has been a year full of activity for the Syrian Studies Association.

The SSA has prepared a new constitution for discussion at our board meeting at MESA. We have made some big changes. We felt that the SSA needed to modernize the way it selects officers and carries out elections. To that end, we have democratized our process. From now on, the SSA will ask the membership to nominate and vote on all officers.

Voting has taken place for a new Secretary/Treasurer, Member-at-Large, and Prize Committee Chair, all of which will be announced at MESA.

For the Dissertation Prize, to be announced at MESA, we had a whopping nine entries. Steve Tamari, the head of the Prize Committee writes that the entries cover “a host of issues from WW I to Palestinian refugees, to music, and Sayyida Zaynab. All are written by women, too! We have entries from Ireland, England (3), Sweden, USA (3), and Canada. The fields represented are sociology, political science, music, anthropology, and religious studies.”

Here are the entries:


Fred Lawson and Heghnar Watenpaugh have organized a terrific panel that will follow the SSA business meeting on Saturday, November 17, 2012. Titled “Perspectives on the Syrian Uprisings”, it will include: Rebecca Joubin, Seda Altug, Max Weiss, Keith Watenpaugh, and Ben Smuin.

Andrea Stanton, Bulletin Editor and Beverly Tsacoyianis, Book Review Editor, have put together another excellent issue of the SSA bulletin.

Joshua Landis
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