New Near East Center Adds Three to Faculty

Dr. Moshe Greenberg, professor of oriental studies and acting director of the University's new Near East Center, announced yesterday the addition of three faculty members to serve with the Center.

The new appointees are Mr. Herbert Green, lecturer in Middle Eastern history and politics, Mrs. Mary Lou Dyson, lecturer in Turkish, and Mr. Henry Toledo, instructor in Arabic.

Mr. Bork will teach two courses in political science dealing with the Near East, Mrs. Green will conduct a course in Turkish as well as a survey of Turkish civilization, while Mr. Toledo will teach modern Arabic.

The Center, originally the conception of the late Dr. Ephraim Speiser, is out of the planning stage and is now a "going concern," according to Dr. Greenberg.

The formal establishment of the Center was announced over the summer. It is intended primarily as a part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, however, it is open to interested and qualified undergraduates as well.

Operating under the aegis of the Department of Oriental Studies with the co-operation of the Department of Political Science,

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Penn Establishes Center for Study of the Near East

A center for the study of the modern Near East has been established at the University of Pennsylvania, provost Dr. David R. Goddard announced today.

The center, part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, will examine the linguistic, historical, political and socio-economic conditions of Israel, Turkey and Iran.

Dr. Moshe Greenberg, acting director of the center, said the Center was initially financed with a $25,000 matching grant from the Office of Education of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

He said the Center was the creation of the late Dr. Ephraim A. Speiser, a specialist in the Near East, who died on June 15. Plans for the center were under development for two years.

Near East

The Center will examine all phases of the history and culture of the Near East.

The idea behind the Center is that understanding the historical continuity of the Near East is necessary for a clear understanding of the region's present problems.

Dr. Greenberg put it this way, "The Near East cannot be understood except as the product of a long continuous history of cultures succeeding one another and superimposing upon one another. The chief feature of the Near Eastern cultures is their continuity. This center, we hope, will present the modern Near East in its historical perspective and the long standing mutual contact of its elements, its parts."

This emphasis on history's is according to Dr. Greenberg, "the unique feature in the conception in this Center, whereas other centers teach only the modern scene."

Other Near East study centers exist at Columbia, Michigan and the University of California. None, however, place the same emphasis on history and culture as Pennsylvania's.

The faculty of the Center consists of members of the University faculty whose work is related to the modern Near East. Aside from visiting lecturers and professors, the Center will draw on the regular faculty of the University to teach its courses.

In addition to Bork, Toledo, Dr. Greenberg and Mrs. Green, the Center's faculty now includes Dr. Mark Dresden, professor of Iranian Studies, Dr. S. D. Gatan, professor of Arabic, Dr. Dyson, chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and Dr. S. Z. Al, associate professor of Hebraic.

Although primarily as research and teaching operation, Dr. Greenberg noted that such activities as speakers, lectures and films for the general University community will also be sponsored in the future.

Inquiries about the Center and its program should be addressed to Dr. Moshe Greenberg, in care of the Department of Oriental Studies.

(Continued from page 1)