

NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION



My guiding principle in transliterating Arabic has been to ease the difficulties of nonspecialist readers. Most Arabic words and names have been rendered into Latin letters according to a simplified version of the system used in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. I have omitted case endings and diacriticals, except the “‘ayn,” and I have used the simpler “-iya” suffix instead of “-iyya.” The prefix “al-” is used only when I mention a person’s full name; it is dropped in references to the last name alone. For consistency, I have followed the vocalization of formal Arabic in names that are often pronounced differently in colloquial Arabic; for example, I write “Marja” Square for the place known locally and often written as “Marjeh.”

I have departed from this system to use common English spellings of better-known Arabic words and place names, and to follow the spellings of personal names preferred by many of the Lebanese and Syrians mentioned in the text. Hence, I use “Rose” instead of the strictly transliterated “Ruz” for the woman’s first name. Some inconsistencies inevitably occur. In bibliographical citations, I have used name spellings that appear on articles or books written by Arabs in English or French; however, when the same author published in Arabic, I have used a standard transliteration because that is how the name is listed in library catalogues.

