

Harlequin Arab World

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. Jad El-Hage

9 November 1984

Mr. El-Hage has been with the Company since September 1981 when he was appointed as Editorial Manager for the Harlequin Arabic language operations. He has been based in Athens but has travelled to London, Paris, Damascus and Beirut to supervise translators, authors and typesetters. Unfortunately, because of the Company's decision to cease further Arabic publishing, he will leave our Company on 31 December 1984. I would like to emphasise that his departure is entirely due to circumstances beyond his control and is in no way a reflection on his own performance and abilities.

As Editorial Manager, Mr. El-Hage, has been responsible for appointing and training a small but effective team of editors and assistants and for publishing good quality Arabic translations of the Harlequin Romances - known in the Arab world as the Abeer and Abeer Kouloub Series. His department of three was handling 130 Arabic paperbacks a year which involved controlling a network of translators, external editors, proof-readers and typesetters spread throughout Europe and the Middle East and sending camera ready material to England for printing. In addition Mr. El-Hage has developed for testing a new series of Romances written by authors from the Arabic-speaking countries and prepared a non-romance fiction project that would have been tested if the Company had remained in business.

During the three years he has been with us, Mr. El-Hage has shown himself to be a talented and enthusiastic editor. He has developed excellent relations with the translators and authors who have worked for him and he and his small team of editors have left their mark on the world of Arabic publishing with the romances that have proved popular in every market in which they were launched.

In addition to his editorial abilities, Mr. El-Hage has shown artistic talent in such areas as Arabic calligraphy, artwork and book cover design. The three series he developed - Abeer, Abeer Kouloub and Mira - are evidence of the good design and sense of colour that he has employed in preparing the series covers. They have established new standards of book design in the Arab world.

Mr. El-Hage has a relaxed and pleasant personality which has made it possible for him to work well with a small management team of diverse nationalities. I am happy to recommend Mr. El-Hage to any prospective employer and would be willing to supply further information on his character and abilities if required.



John Rendall
President
Harlequin Arab World