

***Chair of Westasian History at the University of Erfurt Professor Birgit Schaebler visits LERC***

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center welcomed to its premises Professor Birgit Schaebler, Professor of History and Chair of Westasian History at the University of Erfurt in Germany.

Highly educated with stints at Berkeley, University of California, and a Master's in History, Islamic Studies, Political Science from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Professor Schaebler stayed on at Erlangen-Nuremberg to obtain her Ph.D. in History, with minors in Islamic Studies and Political Science in 1994.

A prolific writer, Professor Schaebler has published numerous books dealing with history, globalization, culture, ethnicity, integration, Muslims, Islam, and religion, especially in Syria and Iran. Her many articles, although studying different countries, all touch upon the same themes gaining her a widely respected recognition in her chosen fields.

She has been awarded various fellowships, scholarships, research affiliations, membership in professional associations, as well as being a much sought-after lecturer and international conference participator.



Professor B. Schaebler (right) with LERC Chief Indexer Mrs. L. Haddad at the Lebanese Emigration Archives and Database (April 2011).

Professor Schaebler visited LERC at the high recommendation of Ms. Mara Albrecht, a PhD Candidate and a colleague at the University of Erfurt, who visited LERC last fall. Professor Schaebler discussed with Director Hourani LERC's activities and research infrastructure, Director Hourani's own work on the Lebanese Kurds in Lebanon and Germany, and Professor Schaebler's work and interest in the Kurds among other common research interests. Both agreed to continue their discussion concerning joint research ventures.

LERC was delighted to introduce such a renowned authority to its electronic archives and was pleased with the favorable interest that Professor Schaebler showed when viewing its collected materials.