

## EDITORIAL

WITH THIS ISSUE of the *MESA Bulletin*, I voluntarily bring my role as an editor to a close. Since the December 1978 issue or for fourteen and a half years, I have been involved in an enterprise which has brought me a great deal of satisfaction and has enabled me to work with a lot of wonderful people. Because many individuals helped carry the load, I was able to have fun where others saw a burden. What follows is a small thank you to them.

For over a decade the most critical person has been the Associate Editor, Dr. Theodora MacKay. Additional editing, input, layout, creation of new fonts and use of Arabic script were only some of the contributions that Theo made to the *Bulletin*. Without her partnership I am certain I would have left this position many years ago. In 1980, with the help of Professor Pierre MacKay, a classicist who publishes on Arabic and Ottoman topics, we began using a computer program originally designed for the sciences called T<sub>E</sub>X. This high-powered tool, along with Pierre's help, made life significantly easier for editing and formatting camera ready copy. A special word of thanks goes to Barb Shurin who carefully typed the first issues, struggling with the crude equipment available at that time to create the feeling of a printed journal.

The most time-consuming activity involved reviews of books, films, records, and teaching materials. Since this task is impossible for any one individual, I have been very fortunate in having so many responsible colleagues—twenty in fact, serve as editors. Let me thank again: Charlotte Albright, Roger Allen, Lisa Anderson, Walter G. Andrews, Irene A. Bierman, Ellen-Fairbanks D. Bodman, Michael E. Bonine, Benjamin Braude, Miriam Cooke, Dale Eickelman, John Entelis, John L. Esposito, Leonard Helfgott, Philip S. Khoury, Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Hiromi L. Sakata, Kenneth F. Stein, Michael W. Suleiman, Mary C. Wilson, and Charlotte Wright.

Over the years hundreds of people have answered my requests for recent Ph.D.'s, the names of award and fellowship winners, the names of participants and titles of conference papers, information on organizations, and numerous other requests which have filled pages and pages of this journal. To all of those unnamed individuals, thank you. I have even received some letters from members—to give me requested information on conferences, dissertations, and awards, to complain about a review, to note an error,

and to thank Theo and myself. All letters were appreciated because they meant that the *Bulletin* was being read.

The growth in the number of academic organizations associated with the study of the Middle East has been amazing, if not overwhelming. Once again, I have tried to update the list of organizations, including the names of their current officers, their relevant publications, and their dues. In return, these organizations have generously shared with me data which I have been able to incorporate into the *Bulletin*. To all of those unnamed individuals who have aided me in this, I extend my thanks.

Various chairs of the Department of History and the previous Director of the Middle East Center covered a lot of costs for mailing, phones, and even some secretarial help without once complaining. Since these relations began before I headed both units, I know that it wasn't a function of my being in a position of power, but a genuine desire to support faculty and academic organizations.

MESA has been fortunate to have so many outstanding, warm, professional individuals who have served as staff. I have had the privilege of working with many of them including Louise C. Fields, Lucina Meyers, Bonnie Magnus Gardner, Lorraine Couture Brunnet, Wendy Wiener, Sarah Palmer, and most recently Nancy Dishaw and Elizabeth Noll. Finally, I have a special word of thanks to the those who have led MESA as its chief executive officer. Richard Bulliet, whom I have known since graduate school, responded to my suggestions on how to improve the *Bulletin* by having the Board of Directors appoint me editor and, most recently, Anne H. Betteridge has responded efficiently and with good humor to all my requests. I have a special word of thanks to Michael Bonine with whom I worked during his almost ten years as MESA's chief executive officer. As a result of this professional relationship, I have gained a good friend.

I welcome Jon Anderson, 200 Life Cycle Institute, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064 (202 319-5999; FAX 202 319-6267) to the position of editor and hope all of you will extend to him the same support you have graciously given me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Z Baruch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.