

## Editorial

I am very pleased that the MESA Executive Committee, on which I serve, voted unanimously to dedicate this volume to the memory of Malcolm H. Kerr. Most people knew him for the quality of his publications, which included *Islamic Reform*, *The Arab Cold War*, *The Elusive Peace in the Middle East*, edited volumes, and numerous articles. Others were fortunate enough to have him as a teacher at UCLA, AUB, or AUC. He cared about our profession and took numerous administrative posts, including the presidency of MESA. His deep and sympathetic understanding of the problems facing the modern Arab world brought him back to Beirut, the city in which he had been born. In his love and concern for the Arab world he was supported by his family, especially his wife, Ann, and to them go the Executive Committee's sincere condolences and sympathy.

This issue of the MESA Bulletin illustrates the first stage in the use of full typesetting facilities for production. It is set in Computer Modern typefaces, using the new version of Donald Knuth's T<sub>E</sub>X system for technical text.\* This system, which has been used for mathematical typesetting at the American Mathematical Society for several years, is now becoming one of the most important tools for general scholarly publication. Under the direction of Pierre MacKay of the Departments of Classics, Near Eastern Languages, and Computer Science, the "T<sub>E</sub>X for Arabic Script" project, funded in part by Bell-Northern Research and Northern Telecom Inc., has undertaken the software support of this and similar publications with the eventual aim of once more making publication in non-Latin scripts generally available to scholars. Nagari and Tamil fonts are already available, and it is hoped that Arabic and text Greek will be offered in the near future. For this issue, pending the availability of genuine phototypesetting facilities, photo-offset masters are produced on a Versatec plotter, which generates magnified output, so that subsequent photographic reduction will give a sharper image. The technique can best be described as pseudo-typesetting, but it is a major step towards our final goal.

A few of you have dropped me a note with the title of your dissertation or proposed thesis on it, or with other news. I would urge more of you who do not find your name and PhD work or other news listed to send the data to me. Another area in which I need more help is in listing papers given at conferences. Again, a few of you have sent me copies of programs, but we can always use more, to make our coverage as complete as possible.

\* T<sub>E</sub>X is a trademark of the American Mathematical Society.

For those of you still confused by our book review procedures and policies, I will use this opportunity to review them. Books are sent to the MESA office at the University of Arizona, where they are eventually listed in the *Newsletter* under "Books Received." (If your recent book has not been listed there, it means we did not receive it. Please keep us in mind when your press asks for a list of places to send copies for review or send one yourself if your press is not in a position to do so.) Information based on a quick perusal of a submitted volume is sent to one of the book review editors. I have a large staff so I can reduce my own work load, and each of these editors is a specialist in the field he or she covers and knows who is working in it better than I do. By the time the *Newsletter* has been sent out, we have assigned the listed books to reviewers. Finally, whenever an individual sends to me or MESA Headquarters his/her CV as a potential reviewer, copies of the CV are sent to every book review editor to permit the widest circulation of the name. Additional names are always welcome.

Theodora MacKay has again played a critical rôle in producing this volume. Advice in layout and design came from Felicia J. Hecker, Publication Director, University of Washington Near East Publications. April Richardson designed the front cover and the title page. I wish to thank them. The American office of AUB very kindly supplied the cover photograph of Malcolm Kerr, and Michael Hudson permitted us to reprint, with minor changes, a piece he had written at the time of Kerr's death.