

Editorial Note

THIS ISSUE marks evolutions in ways the *Bulletin* handles publications and in personnel. Since multi-volume publication projects that extend over several years tend to escape the review format for individual books, we are extending the model established for reviews of recordings—interim assessments organized around genres and topics—to publications intended to serve as works of reference, survey and prospective synthesis. This issue offers interim assessments of treatments in two encyclopedias and two publication projects. We may revisit these in the future because they involve several fields in Middle East studies. This format is also suitable for reviewing a series of reports, such as in economics, where the units may be less but the whole more than a book. These occasional reviews focused on publication projects are intended to bring multi-volume works of survey and synthesis, particularly across disciplinary boundaries, within the *Bulletin's* mission to track the state of the craft in publications on Middle East studies.

For more systematic and, we hope, more complete notice of new Ph.D. degrees on Middle East subjects, we are turning to *Dissertation Abstracts*, and include the reference numbers of dissertations registered with University Microfilms—in this issue, for the past two years, hereafter annually. Listing new doctorates serves both to record new research and to welcome new members of the profession. We would appreciate being notified of any omissions or errors.

Two long-serving members of the *Bulletin's* editorial team retire this year. Michael Bonine has served the *Bulletin* (and MESA) in many capacities, if not since Creation, at least since the Flood, certainly for over a decade on the *Bulletin* and most recently for reviews of Geography and Urban Studies. And with this issue, Miriam Cooke comes to the end of a 5-year watch for Literature & Linguistics that has ranged from language instruction material and to cultural studies. The *Bulletin* has benefited from their long service, which is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, we announce the republication of the *Bulletin's* annual supplement, *Edited Works & Collections on the Middle East* (v. 1- , 1988-), in a computer-searchable format. A version with a search index is available at the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin Gopher site (gopher.cua.edu). A diskette is available from the MESA secretariat, for \$10, in IBM-format (also readable by newer Macintosh) with ASCII text files that are searchable with word-processing programs. Both contain the contents of edited works and collections listed in the printed version and will be updated annually.