

FROM THE EDITOR

To commemorate the fifteenth centennial of Islam *International Journal of Middle East Studies* has devoted two special issues in 1980 to Islamic subjects viewed in the broadest sense. Some of the articles for the two issues were solicited while others were submitted in the usual fashion. The result is an eclectic coverage of a wide variety of topics which range from those with a purely academic focus to others having a broad general sweep. We hope thereby to give all our readers something of special interest to them and at the same time to attract a wider range of readership beyond the academic circle.

This issue deals with subjects of Islamic law, international and personal status, with Islamics in the traditional sense, and with methodology in the modern sense. The next special issue (Volume 12, Number 4) will handle a different set of problems such as Islamic revival from the political and sociological aspects, economic development, the Islamic court, philosophy, and Iranian ulama.

Owing to the special nature of the issue we have accepted articles in a language other than English, contrary to our stated policy.

Los Angeles, California

AFAF LUTFI AL-SAYYID-MARSOT