

## EDITORIAL

One of the important functions of the Bulletin is to share with the members information on recent conferences, appointments, lists of completed and proposed Ph.D.s, and similar types of data. I collect most of these data by writing to conferences and asking for programs and by requesting the staff at major Middle East Centers to send me lists of recent Ph.D.s, appointments, etc. I feel that many individuals who have participated in conferences and meetings where papers on the Middle East have been presented are not listed; that students at institutions other than the dozen major ones are missed; and that individuals who have been promoted or who have received fellowships or employment (including non-academic posts) are missed because my sources do not have the appropriate information. As always, I conclude that it is only through your help that I can share these data with the rest of the readership. Please send letters or short notes to me:

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with copies of recent conferences, information on appointments, promotions, fellowships, Ph.D. topics, or any other data you feel would be appropriate to share with the membership.

With this issue Ken Stein steps down as book review editor for History and Political Science. He has had a very heavy burden over these last three years, having sent out hundreds of books to reviewers in North America, Europe, and the Middle East. I greatly appreciate all his help, and wish him well as he devotes some of his energies to work in the new Carter Center at Emory. As mentioned in the previous issue, books related to Iran and Afghanistan will now be assigned for review by Len Helfgott of Western Washington University. I am pleased to announce that Ben Braude of Boston College has agreed to serve as book review editor for works on history and political science of the Arab East and Turkey including the Ottomans. Books on the Maghrib will be handled by Lisa Anderson of Harvard. As always, we encourage you, the readers, to submit your name and c.v. to MESA headquarters so that your file may be circulated among all the book review editors. A few of you have requested that specific books listed in the MESA Newsletter under books received be sent to you. In almost every case, the books have been assigned by the time the Newsletter reaches you and thus we cannot fulfill your requests.

The putting together of each Bulletin takes a lot of time and energy, and we have always been able to meet Cambridge University Press deadlines because of the outstanding work of Theo MacKay. With the use of word processors we are able to spread the work over a longer period of time, reducing the last minute rush, but still being able to rearrange the articles, book reviews, and news of members in the form we want. Key to all of this has been the work of Jordis Young, and we wish to thank her. To turn the computer file into a printed page in which two types of script are used may seem easy, but it has been fraught with problems, and we are very fortunate that Doris Ringer has made her expertise available in order to reduce if not eliminate these problems. The Mesa Bulletin is the product of many hands; it can improve and be even more helpful to the profession by your input.