

Editorial

With this issue, my term as editor of the *MESA Bulletin* begins. I am both excited by and apprehensive about carrying on a publication so ably steered by my predecessors, Jere Bacharach, Jon Anderson, and Ann Lesch. I owe Dr. Lesch special thanks, for she not only ran a well-organized and efficient editorial office, but also went far beyond her responsibilities not only by putting together much of my first issue, but also by spending several days together with her assistant, Linda S. Thomas, at Ball State helping the new staff learn our database and walking us through the many other procedures that comprise editorial work. Consequently, this issue is as much Dr. Lesch's effort as it is mine. In it you will find some one-hundred book reviews and articles on Zionist culture, the Arab-Israeli peace process, and the challenges facing medieval Near East Studies.

With help from the Office of the Dean of Sciences and Humanities, the Office of Research, and the Departments of English and History, the *MESA Bulletin* offices at Ball State University are up and running. We are housed in a modest house nestled in a wooded area on a distant edge of campus where, thankfully, few think to discover us. Here, the editorial staff undertakes the correspondence, editing, and decisionmaking that result in the publication of the *Bulletin*.

We expect to initiate few changes in the *MESA Bulletin's* form or substance. We will continue publishing short research, state-of-the-art, and review essays in addition to reviewing as exhaustively as possible the myriad books, audiovisuals, and electronic supports that our field produces. We do hope to introduce two innovations with the next issue. One is the inclusion of short essays summarizing the results of the annual MESA meeting's "Thematic Conversations;" the second is on the one hand to solicit and review more books published in the Middle East and in Middle Eastern languages and on the other to ask more scholars working in the Middle East to review books published in the English-speaking world. We look forward to your continued, gracious, and enthusiastic support in these and our other initiatives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.