

## FROM THE EDITOR

This is a special issue honouring a great humanist and a remarkable scholar, Albert Hourani. A few years ago a group of Mr. Hourani's former students got together and decided to honour him as our teacher, mentor, and role model, by dedicating to him a special issue of *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (*IJMES*). Those involved in the project from the outset were Kevork Bardakjian, Philip S. Khoury, Afaf Marsot, André Raymond, and Mary C. Wilson. As the project grew, with more and more participants wishing to become involved, Kevork Bardakjian and Mary Wilson generously withdrew their contributions. Dr. Wilson has, however, compiled the bibliography of Mr. Hourani's works that is included in the issue. The rest of us joined together to produce seven articles with a common theme; that of urban politics, changes, and movements. We offer this issue to Albert Hourani in lieu of a Festschrift as a mark of our esteem for his scholarship, and as an expression of our deep affection for him. Mr. Hourani has always encouraged his students to strike out on their own and follow their own distinct line of research. Indeed, his greatest gift to each one of us was to help us develop whatever individual potential we had as scholars. I have always maintained that he was the one who taught me to think. It is fitting that our tribute to him should differ from the norm and that rather than offer him a tome, we offer him an issue of *IJMES*. We hope he will enjoy it.

This is the last issue of *IJMES* coming out under my editorship. As of next year, 1985, Professor Peter von Sivers at the University of Utah will be the new editor. We wish him success and luck.

Three prior issues of *IJMES* have been built around central themes. Two of these deal with Islamic themes and were published in 1980 in commemoration of the Fourteenth Muslim Centennial. The third was a more recent issue devoted to Iran. We hope that special issues with a theme or focus will continue to be a feature of *IJMES*.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Middle East Studies Association for giving me the opportunity to serve as editor of *IJMES* for the past five years. I have enjoyed the responsibility and appreciated it. *IJMES* has been housed at the University of California at Los Angeles for the past fifteen years, with benefit to both the journal and the university; it is now time for *IJMES* to move elsewhere.

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