

EDITORIAL

The transition from Jon Anderson's editorship began in mid 1997, when I invited colleagues to serve as associate editors and appointed a new assistant editor, Linda Thomas. Linda, a graduate student in History at Villanova University, has a strong background in computers and office management as well as keen interests in Middle East studies and in editing. When Jon finished the July 1997 issue of the *Bulletin*, he handed over his Bernoulli box, which contains the magical data-base without which we cannot track reviews and compose the final camera-ready copy. We were then delayed in launching this issue because I was deeply preoccupied with my sister Patricia, who died of metastatic melanoma in August, and with starting to cope with my own and her family's grief.

We completed the transition in early December, when Jon and his computer-specialist wife Nancy arrived at Villanova with their daughter Lilly sitting atop the huge MESA printer. They installed the printer and explained the mystifying array of macros to Linda and (less successfully) to my technologically-challenged self, while Lilly happily raced up and down the Villanova hallways. By then, Nancy Dishaw was efficiently dispatching books to reviewers from the MESA secretariat and keeping up a busy email correspondence with Linda.

This issue therefore represents the collective efforts of the past editor and outgoing associate editors as well as the efforts of Linda, Nancy, the new and continuing associate editors, and myself. I want to thank Jon for the smooth transition and for preparing the ten year index, which is mostly printed in this issue. The remainder will be published in July. I wish to thank the outgoing associate editors, whose dedication enabled the *Bulletin* to publish outstanding reviews: Virginia Danielson, Fred Lawson, Şerif Mardin, William Ochsenwald, Shreve Simpson, Tamara Sonn, and Susan Slyomovics.

I would especially like to thank the associate editors who have agreed to continue to assist the *Bulletin* and who therefore provide Linda and myself with valuable continuity: Michael Beard, Sohrab Behdad, Taffy Bodman, Linda Darling, and Ellis Goldberg. And I greatly appreciate the new associate editors' willingness to take time from their busy schedules to help make the *Bulletin* a quality publication: Bahman Baktiari, Susan Schaefer Davis, Gregory Gause, Dan Goffman, Amy Newhall, Sami Ofeish, Anne Rasmussen, Glenn Robinson, Denis Sullivan, and Gisela Webb. Finally, I could not have undertaken the editorship without the support of Dr. Jack Johannes, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Kail Ellis, O.S.A., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Villanova University. The released time and facilities that they provide enable me to assume this post.

