

EDITORIAL

This issue completes my two-year term as editor of the *Bulletin*. I have enjoyed the experience, particularly as it has afforded me the opportunity to acquaint myself with the wide range of publications in Middle East studies. I have aimed to publish as many reviews as possible to ensure that the *Bulletin* serves as the publication of record to which people can turn for capsule analyses of nearly all the available books on the region. Sometimes that means including reviews of lousy books or polemical tracts (if only to warn people not to assign them to their students!) as well as the many serious, scholarly analyses that are being published in the United States and abroad.

I have included in this issue, in addition to an interesting review essay on Israeli political leaders by Elie Podeh and a commentary on popular music in Turkey by Martin Stokes, three articles that focus on the Internet and computer-based knowledge. Jerry Green extends into cyberspace the Corporatist/Civil Society debate that was highlighted in the July and December 1997 issues of the *Bulletin*. Vickie Langohr offers imaginative suggestions for the use of Internet sources in teaching Middle East politics and Bruce Stanley provides data on new CD-ROMs that can assist research and teaching. I am also publishing Najwa Adra's valuable description of entries on Middle East dance in the new *International Encyclopedia of Dance* and summaries about books published in Arabic by al-Urdun al-Jadid Research Center in Amman. And Taffy Bodman has provided a surprise gift, which is hidden in the issue for your delectation.

I am pleased that Dan Goffman will become the next editor of the *Bulletin*. Dan is a fine professor of Ottoman history at Ball State University and an experienced editor. I am looking forward to working with him this summer as we transfer the office from Villanova to Muncie.

As I complete my term I would especially like to thank my assistant editor Concetta M. Seminara for her able management of the flow of books and reviews and her meticulous editing of the final text. We have enjoyed having Linda S. Thomas return from her doctoral studies at New York University to help us package the camera ready copy. I greatly appreciate the efforts of Nancy Dishaw to distribute the books to reviewers, and I'm amazed by the hard work of the associate editors. They each find reviewers for dozens of books every year even though their only compensation is an all-you-can-eat brunch at MESA's annual conference. Without their dedication, the *Bulletin* would consist of 160 blank pages.

