

**From the Editor's Keyboard:**

With this issue, we have completed the editorial transition at the *Bulletin*. I am happy to be able to announce four new Associate Editors: **Asma Afsaruddin** of Notre Dame University has taken on the "Religion and Islamic Law" list; **Michael Frishkopf**, of the University of Alberta is the new Associate Editor for "Music;" **Alison B. Snyder** of the University of Oregon will take charge of "Art & Architecture;" and **Biröl Yeşilada**, of Portland State University is now responsible for "Turkey & Central Asia." I want to welcome them, and thank them for taking on this task. I also would like to thank retiring Associate Editors F. Gregory Gause, III, Bernard Haykel, Amy Newhall, Anne Rasmussen and Glenn Robinson for their work on the *Bulletin*.

This issue of the *Bulletin* brings together essays ranging from the state of the field since September 11<sup>th</sup> to Ibn Khaldun's observations on language acquisition; from the work of Solomon Bayevsky and 19<sup>th</sup> century European accounts of the Indian Ocean trade to archival collections in Lebanon, and a discussion of Syrian musical traditions. While the topics are wide-ranging, they share a common focus on archival and other sources that are available for scholars wishing to expand their knowledge and conduct research in these areas. I hope you find this issue of the *Bulletin* useful, and enjoyable reading. As always, I welcome feedback from readers and authors.

I also encourage all readers to submit manuscripts on research and pedagogy in Middle East studies for consideration for publication in the *Bulletin*. You can contact me at: John VanderLippe, MESA Bulletin, Department of History, JFT 916, SUNY-New Paltz, New Paltz, NY 12561. Phone: (845) 257-2681. E-mail: [bulletin@newpaltz.edu](mailto:bulletin@newpaltz.edu).