

From the Editor's Keyboard...

With this issue, we welcome five new Associate Editors: Najwa al-Qattan, Mine Çınar, Houman Sadri, Omid Safi, and Brannon Wheeler. I thank retiring Associate Editors Linda Darling, Fatemeh Moghadam, and Sami Ofeish for their excellent work on the *Bulletin*, and I look forward to working with the new Associate Editors, each of whom brings to the *Bulletin* not only their expertise, but their ideas and plans for future issues.

In addition to Laurie Brand's Presidential Address and synopses of some of the Thematic Conversations from MESA 2004, this issue contains essays and review essays on topics ranging from language instruction to the music of pearl divers in the Gulf, to sources for the study of Egypt, Iraq, Israel and Syria, along with 39 reviews of books, films, music and multi-media projects.

Over the next year and a half, we will be working on the *Bulletin's* volume 40, both issues of which will also serve to celebrate MESA's 40th anniversary. We plan for issues 40/1 and 40/2 to contain essays and reviews devoted to the 40th anniversary celebration, and welcome suggestions and submissions in line with this theme. Please contact me with your ideas, at bulletin@newpaltz.edu. Meanwhile, I hope you find this issue of the *Bulletin* both enlightening and entertaining.

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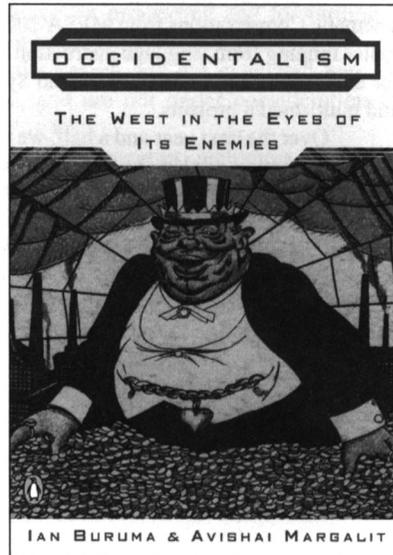
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