

THE EDITOR'S DESK

I would like to take this opportunity to express a few words of welcome to our readers and contributors and share with them some of our hopes for the future. *IJMES* joins the ranks of journals appearing in the field of Middle East studies in the hope that it will stimulate and convey originality of thought and research in the areas of study which are of particular interest to its readers. Never have the opportunities been greater for significant and meaningful studies of the Middle East from the birth of Islam to modern times. More and more medieval manuscripts are being uncovered and made available, and by means of microfilms and Xerography they are being placed within the easy reach of scholars who only a short decade ago might have considered themselves to be isolated from such basic sources for their work. Governmental archives of amazing depth and quality now make possible the kind of exhaustive and informed research on the Middle East which formerly was possible only for researchers on the history of Europe and America. And a tremendous wealth of detailed information on current political, economic, and social conditions and events exposes the contemporary Middle East to us in an unprecedented way. At the same time, the disciplines of the social sciences and humanities alike provide the modern scholar, regardless of his particular field, with a kind of analytical equipment which enables him to use and understand such sources with far more relevance than was possible even only a few short years ago. And the consequent need for knowledge of the languages of the Middle East, an essential and irreplaceable part of the apparatus required for research in the field, is being satisfied by the development of Middle East training programs in universities everywhere. It is my hope that *IJMES* will become a major vehicle for scholars all over the world to share the scholarly findings which must inevitably result.

Contributors. To this, our first issue, I am pleased to welcome a particularly wide range of distinguished contributors: Sir Hamilton A. R. Gibb, James Richard Jewett Professor of Arabic, Emeritus, at Harvard University, now living in retirement in Oxford, England, and author of *Modern Trends in Islam, Islamic Society and the West* (with Harold Bowen), and *Studies on the Civilization of Islam*; Charles Issawi, Professor of Economics at Columbia University, and author of *Egypt at Mid Century* and *Economic History of the Middle East*; Gabriel Baer, Associate Professor of the History of the Muslim Countries and Director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and author of *Studies in the Social History of Modern Egypt, Egyptian Guilds in Modern Times*, and *A History of Landownership in Modern Egypt*.

Future issues: Among the articles which will appear in volume 1 are Marshall

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G. S. Hodgson, 'The Role of Islam in World History'; Ercümen Kuran, 'Küçük Said Paşa (1840–1914) as a Turkish Modernist'; George Makdisi, 'The Marriage of Tughril Beg'; Lenn E. Goodman, 'Ghazâlî's Argument from Creation'; Issa J. Boullata, 'Badr Shâkir al-Sayyâb and the Free Verse Movement'; M. T. Ozelli, 'The Estimates of Private Internal Rates of Returns on Educational Investments in the First Turkish Republic, 1923–1960'; Sami A. Hanna, 'The Egyptian Mind and the Idea of Democracy'; Stephen Duguid, 'A Biographical Approach to the Study of Social Change: Abdullah Tariki as a New Man'; William I. Shorrock, 'The Origin of the French Mandate in Syria and Lebanon: The Railroad Question, 1901–1914'; and H. A. R. Gibb, 'The Heritage of Islam in the Modern World', parts II and III.

Recent deaths: Our first issue would not be complete without some tribute to four pioneers in Middle East Studies who passed away during 1969: Arthur Arberry (Cambridge University), Lajos Fekete (University of Budapest), Arthur Upham Pope (Asia Institute), and Joseph Schacht (Columbia University). Their contributions were monumental, and all those interested in the field are forever in their debt. Formal notices of their lives and contributions will appear in later issues. Nor can we forget Lady Helen Stark Gibb, whose wisdom, sympathy, and generosity inspired generations of students, colleagues, and friends of Sir Hamilton Gibb.

STANFORD J. SHAW