

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

Beginning with volume III (1972), the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* is being expanded to 512 pages per volume, in place of the 384 pages which comprised each of its first two volumes. Since this enlargement could not be effected in time for the first issue of the new volume, the extra pages are being pro-rated over the subsequent two issues, thus resulting in issues of 144 pages each for nos. 2 and 3, before the new standard length of 128 pages is established in no. 4. While the expansion has been made possible by slightly increased charges imposed for both subscriptions and MESA membership, these also reflect the recent changes in international currency exchange rates; and the additional space could not have been utilized had it not been for the tremendous quality and quantity of articles submitted for publication in *IJMES* during the first two years of publication. With the additional pages, publication delays should be considerably reduced, and more space can be devoted to book reviews as well as other special features, which I hope will be of interest and use to our readers.

In this issue, the modern Middle East, Iran, and classical Islam are the primary objects of attention. Professor Donald L. Losman, of Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, discusses the economic effects of the boycott of Israel imposed by the states of the Arab world. Professor Losman first describes the economy of mandatory Palestine, with particular attention to the economic positions and relationships of its Jewish and Arab inhabitants. He then describes the mechanics of the boycott and analyses the results, concluding that, despite evasion and uneven enforcement, Israel has, indeed, suffered considerable loss of commercial ties as well as potential investment and trade opportunities. Dr Amal Vinogradov, of the University of Michigan, describes the role of the nomadic tribes of the Euphrates River area in the events that led to the installation of Faisal as King of Iraq in 1921. After describing the situation of the tribes within the total structure of society in nineteenth-century Ottoman Iraq, Dr Vinogradov analyses the effects of European investment in the area at that time, particularly in so far as it affected the position of the tribes and also stimulated the rise of Arab nationalist feeling in Iraq, all as background to the imposition of British rule during World War I, and the subsequent decision to put King Faisal on the throne.

Turning to Iran, the emphasis is more on its rich literary heritage. Professor Michael B. Loraine, of the University of Washington, discusses the life and career of one of the greatest of the modern Persian poets, Maliku'l-Shu'arâ Bahâr, presenting and analysing his literary work in terms of his relationship to the political and social movements of his time. Then Drs Yu. E. Borshchevsky and Yu. E. Bregel, of the Institutes of Oriental Studies of Leningrad and Moscow

respectively, describe their progress, as well as the immense problems which they have encountered, in preparing a completely revised edition, in Russian, of Charles Storey's classic study of Persian literature. In addition to analysing the major contributions and shortcomings of Storey's work, the authors describe the difficulty of even locating, let alone examining, the extant texts of even the major works of Persian literature, and of developing a system of classification for their work which will be adequate to the peculiar needs of their subject. The immense importance of international cooperation in compiling this work, as well as others concerning the literatures of the other Middle Eastern languages, is obvious, and it is to be hoped that their appeal for contributions on the part of other specialists will be heeded.

Finally, in the field of classical Islamic studies, Dr C. E. Butterworth, of the University of Maryland, seeks to analyse the manner in which Muslim political philosophers conducted their inquiries and presented their conclusions, by investigating the rhetorical writings of Averroës and examining the exact relationship between speech and political philosophic inquiry in Islam. And Dr C. Edmund Bosworth, of the University of Manchester, England, concludes his description of the situation of Christian and Jewish religious dignitaries in Mamluk Egypt and Syria by analysing the documents presented in the classic work of al-Qalqashandi concerning the appointments of the leaders of the non-Muslim *millets*.

*Recent deaths:* The field of Middle Eastern studies has lost two of its greatest scholars,

SIR HAMILTON A. R. GIBB, former Laudian Professor of Arabic at Oxford University and James Richard Jewett Professor of Arabic at Harvard University, who passed away on 22 October 1971 at Shipston-on-Stour, England at the age of 76, and

GUSTAV E. VON GRUNEBaum, Professor of Arabic and Director of the Near Eastern Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, who died in Los Angeles on 27 February 1972 at the age of 62.

While full notices of their lives and works will follow, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal sorrow at the loss of the two teachers and friends who, more than any others, inspired my academic career and provided much of the stimulus which went into the planning and development of *IJMES*. While Sir Hamilton had lived in retirement for a number of years, he followed current academic affairs with great interest, and completed the last volume of his monumental translation of the travels of Ibn Battuta shortly before his death. Gustav von Grunebaum, taken from us at the height of his creative powers, nevertheless left a vast and varied scholarly heritage which will inspire and illuminate for generations to come. He actively planned new projects during the months of his hospital confinement almost to the day of his tragic death.

I am sure that the hundreds of friends and colleagues of Professor von Grunebaum and Professor Gibb join me in expressing heartfelt condolences to their families.

STANFORD J. SHAW