

certain cases, there is no question that, in general, Sufism is integral to Islam. The closing scenes show a lone mystic walking away from the marketplace and town — where Muslims have always seen their religion as centering — out to some unidentified, ancient Iranian ruins. A pretty, romantic scene; but, at bottom, non-authentic.

There are praiseworthy aspects of this film and, in a seasoned instructor's hands, much could be achieved by using it in the classroom. The examples of art and architecture are excellent and lovingly photographed. The scenes of Muslims at prayer are well detailed and affecting. Individuals are captured in moments of unself-conscious devotion and their faces linger in memory as honest portraits. The *muezzin's* call to prayer is of exquisite beauty. But none of these things is unique to Sufism.

...Fred Denny, University of Colorado

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

As MESA nears 15 years of age, it also finds itself at a turning point in its development. The 10 years during which I. William Zartman served as Executive Secretary were years of building and expansion, with financial support coming from a number of sources but, first and foremost, from the Ford Foundation. The four years of my own service as Executive Secretary have been very different. Inflation, rapid withdrawal of Ford Foundation support for international studies, and contraction in the academic world have been the hallmarks of this recent period, and their effects have been felt by all area studies associations.

For MESA, the last four years have been a period of great financial difficulty as we have sought ways to operate effectively without outside funding. Some of the measures taken, such as cutting back on staffing, have reduced MESA's capacity to undertake more than a bare minimum of activities involving the Secretariat. Others, such as the change of location of the *Bulletin* editorial activity, have led to an improvement of our functions through distribution of responsibility. Still others, such as the new contract with Cambridge University Press, have been predominantly fiscal in nature. These measures have been successful. It now appears that we can look forward to a number of years of living essentially within our income.

Yet, much else has been happening while MESA has been concerned with its financial survival, and the Association has not participated in nor responded to these changing circumstances to any great degree. These are among the changes that have taken place:

1. There has been a proliferation of new organizations dealing with one or another aspect of Middle Eastern scholarship. Most of these groups meet annually in conjunction with MESA, but they are not part of MESA. Their existence, which is not paralleled in other area studies associations, indicates a lack of MESA response to the professional interests of many of its members.

2. Higher dues, a feeling that *IJMES* does not live up to member expectations, the necessity of choosing which increasingly costly professional associations to belong to, and a shrinking academic establishment have brought about a downturn in membership. The most notable downturn has been in the now-superseded category of Fellow, and points to the beginning of the transition from the founding generation of scholars to a new generation whose view of the Association may well be different. A recent membership drive, carried out through Cam-

bridge University Press, has predictably increased the number of Associate members whose position in MESA has never been well defined nor taken into account in planning.

3. National concern about declining levels of foreign area expertise and language training has increased markedly. The President's Commission report of last fall has given rise to renewed emphasis on international education in the Department of Education and to a successor organization, supported by various businesses and foundations, dedicated to promoting international education as an important national concern. The Executive Secretary has participated in these various new enterprises sufficiently to realize that the Middle East scholarly community is much more poorly equipped to respond to this renewed concern than are the scholars of other foreign areas.

4. The Middle East has skyrocketed in visibility and importance in the news media and in public awareness. As a consequence, the MESA Secretariat has sold more mailing lists and received more inquiries than before, but MESA has not responded in a more direct or planned fashion.

As the Association now moves into a new phase of its existence, with the worst of its financial problems behind it for the time being, an opportunity arises to address this accumulating set of changed circumstances. It is a job that cannot be left to the enterprise of a new Executive Secretary, no matter how vigorous s/he may be. What is called for is concerted and systematic planning for the next decade. This should be carried out by a task force dedicated to the task in consultation with a broad range of concerned parties. The result should be a written report on challenges and priorities for the 1980s, which could then be discussed and acted upon by the membership and the Board of Directors. Efforts of this sort are already underway in other area studies associations.

If MESA does not respond to the changing circumstances that now confront it, Middle East scholarship will run the risk of becoming still less effective in attracting government, business and university support; and the Association itself will run the risk of suffering further diminution in size and membership interest.

...Richard W. Bulliet, Executive Secretary

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
Year Ended December 31, 1979

Balance, January 1, 1979:

On deposit in Manhattan Savings Bank	\$ 36,985*
On deposit in Ephrata National Bank	1,630
Held by NYU under Agency Fund 9-190179 (overdraft)	[5,415]
Held by Local Arrangements Comm. for annual mtg.	3,928
Held as deposit by U.S. Postal Department	<u>103</u>
	37,231

Receipts:

Advertising in <i>Bulletin</i>		100
Annual meeting (1978)		661
Annual meeting gross receipts (1979):		
Advertising in program	\$ 635	
Book displays	2,800	
Registration and banquet	6,383	
Sales of papers	<u>321</u>	10,139
Direct Grants:		
Esso Middle East	1,500	
The Ford Foundation	17,000	
Ford Motor Company International	<u>1,000</u>	\$ 19,500

Institutional memberships		2,000
Institutional subscriptions to <i>Bulletin</i>		1,058
Interest on savings accounts/time deposits		3,376
Membership dues		37,370
Rental of mailing list		945
Royalties		234
Sales of publications		558
Transfer Grants:		
National Endowment for the Humanities, Library of Congress (includes \$8,844 from 1978)		81,234
	Total Receipts:	<u>\$157,175</u>
Disbursements:		
Annual meeting (1979):		
Program/postage/printing/etc.	\$2,557	
Banquet/reception/guest speaker/etc.	6,263	
Clerical help/office supplies/audio-visual/etc.	2,203	
Other	<u>1,962</u>	12,985
Audit		1,085
Ballot		515
Board and committee meetings		3,079
<i>Bulletin</i>		5,523
Grants for pre-collegiate education		1,315
IJMES (disbursements to Cambridge U Press, including billing/collecting membership dues)		24,153
Office supplies and expense		297
Printing/addressing/duplicating		1,096
Salaries/employee benefits/honoraria		11,143
Staff travel		883
Sundry expenses		208
Telephone and telegraph		1,590
Transfer Grant:		
Library of Congress from NEH (incl. \$8,844 from '78)		81,234
Visiting scholars		<u>9,460</u>
	Total Disbursements:	<u>\$154,566</u>
Excess or Receipts Over Disbursements (1979):		\$ 2,609
Cash Balance, December 31, 1979:		<u>\$ 39,840</u>
Balance on December 31, 1979, Held as Follows:		
On deposit in Manhattan Savings Bank (including time deposits of \$7,267):		\$ 41,319
On deposit in Ephrata National Bank		534
Held by NYU under Agency Fund 9-190179		367
Due to Local Arrangements Comm. for annual mtg. (including \$1,065 accts. rec. not shown in receipts):		[2,483]
Held as deposit by U.S. Postal Department		103
		<u>\$ 39,840</u>

* Includes time deposits of \$14,330.

MESA Moves West

The new headquarters for MESA will be the University of Arizona at Tucson 85721. The Executive Secretary is Michael Bonine, of the Department of Oriental Studies.

1981 MESA Meeting in Seattle, Washington

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Association will be held in Seattle, WA, Thursday through Saturday, November 5-7, 1981. November 4th will be reserved for meetings of associate organizations. Panels, state-