

About the Authors

Issa J. Boullata (Professor of Arabic Literature and Language at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Montreal) is the author of several studies on modern Arabic literature and has translated a number of literary works from Arabic into English. He was editor of *The Muslim World* and *Al-ʿArabiyya*, and is currently editor of *Mundus Arabicus* in cooperation with others.

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Frederick M. Denny teaches Islamic studies and the history of religions at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has conducted field research on Qurʾān recitation and related matters in Egypt and Indonesia. His book, *An Introduction to Islam*, is used widely in North American college courses. He has published numerous articles on various aspects of Qurʾānic studies.

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Simon Jargy is Chairman of the Arabic and Islamic Studies department at the Faculty of Arts, University of Geneva. Since the 1950's, he has recorded a large amount of oral poetry and songs, mostly Bedouin, all over the Arab Near East. He has published *La poésie populaire traditionnelle chantée au Proche-Orient arabe* (Paris: Mouton, 1970), *La musique arabe* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2nd ed., 1977; 3rd ed. forthcoming), and many articles dealing with ethnomusicology and Arab oral poetry.

Muhsin Mahdi is James Richard Jewett Professor of Arabic at Harvard University. His most recent work is *The Thousand and One Nights (Alf Layla wa-Layla) from the Earliest Known Sources*, published by E. J. Brill, Leiden. The third volume of this work, which deals with the history of the text, is in preparation.

Henry N. Massie, M.D. directs the child psychiatry training program at St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco, and is on the faculty of the University of California School of Medicine. He has done cross-cultural studies of mother-child interaction in North Africa, Bali, and the United States. He is the author of *Childhood Psychosis in the First Four Years of Life* (1984).

James T. Monroe teaches in the departments of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He has written several books and even more articles on medieval Arabic literature, ranging from Pre-Islamic poetry to the *maqāmāt*, while specializing in the literature of Arab Spain, which he studies from a comparative perspective that takes into account the native Romance tradition.

Harry Norris, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, teaches a course unit on Arabic popular literature to undergraduates. He has published a study of *Strat ʿAntar* and has recorded Exeter University Tape, A 961, on this literature. He has participated in conferences in Cairo, Dublin, and Tunisia.

Dwight F. Reynolds holds a Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. He has conducted research on *Sīrat Banī Hilāl* in Egypt and is currently a Junior Fellow at Harvard University.

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Dirgham H. Sbait of Portland State University is a researcher of contemporary Arabic poetry, oral Arabic poetry, folk songs, and folk proverbs. He is an expert on the improvised-sung colloquial poetry of the Palestinian poet-singers, with special emphasis on the analysis of genres, techniques of improvisation, and the sociocultural context of the poetic texts.

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R. Marston Speight, historian of religions, adjunct faculty of Hartford Seminary, has a particular interest in the Ḥadīth literature of Islam, from the standpoint of its nature as oral expression. His doctoral dissertation and several subsequent journal articles have treated various aspects of the Ḥadīth. Most recently he has been working on rhetorical analysis of that material.

Saad A. Sawayan (King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in interdisciplinary studies. His doctoral dissertation, *Nabaʿī Poetry: The Oral Poetry of Arabia*, treats the recording of the oral traditions of Arabia and the interpretation of traditional Arabian culture and literature.

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