

## FRED M. DONNER

**Fred M. Donner** was fully engaged in teaching during the autumn of 2001, but spent most of Winter and Spring Quarters in Amman, Jordan, at the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR), on an ACOR-National Endowment for the Humanities grant. This enabled him to escape his duties as chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and other university obligations, for a time so as to concentrate on drafting the bulk of a short book to be called *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*. Amman proved to be an ideal location for such work, and in the four months he spent at ACOR, he was able to write a rough-draft of four of a projected five chapters. The presence of excellent colleagues nearby at the University of Jordan made his stay there even more rewarding. It was, of course, also possible to take side trips to many of Jordan's fascinating historical monuments, including a number of early Islamic archaeological sites Donner had not visited before.

During the year Donner also completed the draft translation of his assigned section of the *History of the Medieval Scholar al-Ya'qubi* (d. AH 284/CE 897), as part of a collective venture with about fifteen other scholars to publish all of al-Ya'qubi's works in English translation.

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