

FRED M. DONNER spent a good deal of time during the fall serving as co-

chairman of the Program Committee for the 17th Annual Conference of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, which was attended by about 1200 people when it convened at a downtown Chicago hotel on Nov. 3-6, 1983. During the spring he read two papers. The first, on "Early Islamic Administration," was presented to a colloquium on "From Late Antiquity to Early Islam" held at Princeton in March, and the second, "Nomads in Near Eastern Society, 400-800 C.E." was read before the colloquium on "The Mediterranean World in Transition" at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, in April. He served as a member of the editorial board for the project to translate al-Tabari's 4000-page Arabic chronicle into English, and as a consultant on another project striving to assemble a new reader for teaching the history and culture of the Middle East.

Although the preparation of several new courses and other teaching responsibilities absorbed much of what time remained, he did complete and submit for publication an article on "Islamic Funerary Monuments," as well as a second article, "Some Early Arabic Inscriptions from al-Ḥanākiyya, Saudi Arabia," which has appeared in the centennial volume of *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. An article on nomads in the Near East, an outgrowth of the Wisconsin colloquium presentation, is still being revised.