

Fred M. Donner

Fred M. Donner continued to serve as editor of *al-ʿUsur al-Wusta* (“the Middle Ages” in Arabic), which is the semiannual newsletter of Middle East Medievalists. He completed an article entitled “Piety and Eschatology in early Kharijite Poetry,” which is scheduled to appear in the *Festschrift* of a distinguished Arab colleague. In December 1995, he presented a paper on “The Holy Man in Late Antique and Early Islamic Syria” at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association of North America in Washington, D.C. Donner enjoyed a leave of absence from teaching during the winter quarter, which enabled him to complete, after many years’ intermittent labor, a book entitled *Narratives of Islamic Origins: The Beginnings of Islamic Historical Writing*. In it, he attempts to answer the question of why Muslims decided to write their own history, and to explain the circumstances in which the first historical works were produced. He anticipates that this work will appear sometime in 1997 in the Late Antiquity and Early Islam series published by Darwin Press.
