

Editorial Statement

A periodical is vital to any scholarly organization. Recently, the growth and diversification of the Association's membership, the growing ranks of scholars, and the development of specialized sections of the Association have been paralleled by a steadily increasing number of stimulating and scholarly contributions.

In response to these developments, the Executive Committee of the Association for Bahá'í Studies—North America decided to recognize and encourage this trend by starting a trilingual quarterly journal, *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies*. This refereed journal will seek to make available to the reader current studies on the meanings of the texts that comprise the writings of the Bahá'í Faith and on their application to the various areas of contemporary life and thought, as well as historical investigations of the central figures of the Bahá'í Faith and of the growth and development of its institutions.

Bahá'í scholarship is an endeavor open to everyone. The editors and reviewers of *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies* will be looking for the substance, method, and spirit of true scholarship—concern with important issues and problems, careful and comprehensive consideration of the facts, logical development of ideas, and moderate yet persuasive presentation of conclusions or interpretations.

In forthcoming issues, *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies* will publish a series of papers setting forth various individuals' concepts of Bahá'í scholarship. It is the hope of the Association that these essays will contribute to the process of refining the notion of Bahá'í scholarship.

We welcome contributions on a broad range of subjects. Papers that relate contemporary issues to the principles, history, teachings, and philosophy of the Bahá'í Faith are especially welcome. Submissions will receive expeditious and thorough external review. We ask that contributors simplify evaluation and publication of manuscripts by closely following the guidelines for contributors printed on the inside front cover of this journal. In subsequent issues, we hope to have a number of book reviews and letters in comment on papers published in previous issues. Thoughtful submissions are invited.