

This Issue of the *Annual*

NOT MUCH TO REPORT, except to record my growing indebtedness to the many well wishers of the *AUS*. First and foremost, thanks to the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), and especially its current President, Professor Brian Spooner, for its willing and expeditious financial support of the *AUS* in these times of dwindling local institutional assistance.

I'd also like to recognize here, though he would prefer to remain anonymous, my friend Professor Carlo Coppola. In the last decade his professional interests have veered toward administrative work at his home university, but his concern for Urdu Studies has not diminished as a result. If anything, it has grown. Without any prompting by the *AUS*, he has assisted it with financial contributions uninterrupted for the past five years.

The assistance rendered by Rakhshanda Jalil, Mehr Afshan Farooqi, Christina Oesterheld, and Laurel Steele has been more in the nature of writing for the *Annual*, at my request, and often at very short notice. They all have a special claim to my gratitude.

Lastly, one person whose contribution to the *AUS* is less obvious, but without whose unwavering dedication and indomitable strength none of the past four issues would have been possible, is Jane Shum. Words cannot begin to express what all the readers of the *AUS* and I personally owe to her. Poring over closely printed manuscript pages, proofreading again and again, checking the accuracy of footnotes, improving readability, ensuring editorial consistency, managing the *AUS* website, hour after hour, week after week, month after month, often even from home and on weekends, with no thought for adequate compensation, individual credit or public acknowledgement—Jane, your gifts are many and my words are inadequate.

I can now move on, feeling somewhat less burdened. Let me remind everyone that the *AUS* is now available on-line at <http://www.urdustudies.com>. The work of the website has added to the *Annual's* already overtaxed human and financial resources, but the decision to take on this additional work was prompted by the desire to make the *Annual's* contents as widely available as possible. We have placed all the back issues that were published under my editorship in the “Archives” section on the website and also provided a link there to the first

seven volumes edited by Professor C.M. Naim. Please don't hesitate to invite interested Urduwallahs among your friends and acquaintances to visit the *AUS* site. A number of useful items have also been made available under "Resources" and we will continue adding items as time and energy allow. A pictorial bibliography of recent publications about Urdu in Western languages is now being prepared.

While a "Transliteration" guide is regularly included in each issue, those submitting items for publication rarely follow it. This adds greatly to the time required to edit materials, especially when the original Urdu word must even be guessed at. Please add the diacritics indicated in the guide by hand on the paper copy sent and, ideally, also send copies of submissions by e-mail. It would help too if Urdu words were written out in Urdu script in the margins of the paper copy and if photocopies were included for passages in Urdu, Persian, and Arabic.

Finally, it has become quite cumbersome to transliterate and italicize Urdu words retained in the text, especially those that are available either in *Webster's* unabridged dictionary or in Nigel Hankin: *Hanklyn-Janklin*. Starting with this issue we are dispensing with italics and transliteration for the words that are listed in these sources. While consulting *Hanklyn-Janklin* for the meaning of an Urdu word, it is best to look it up first under "Word Required" in the "Index." If the required word is listed there, the right hand column ("Head Word") indicates the entry under which the word should be found. □

M.U.M.