

Fred M. Donner

Fred M. Donner spent 2008–2009 wrestling with publishers for his book, *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*, now scheduled to appear toward the end of 2009 from Harvard University Press. He is discovering that the task of locating, obtaining high-quality images for, and securing permissions to publish the two dozen illustrations for the book is neither particularly enjoyable nor swift. He was once again teaching full time after having been on leave of absence during 2007–08.

During the year he submitted an article on several fragmentary Arabic papyri from the Umayyad period (661–750) for the festschrift of a colleague. He also completed his work on one of the modules in the Oriental Institute's Web-based resource for teachers, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This module deals with "Religion in the Near East."

During 2008–09 Donner was active giving lectures and conference papers. In September he delivered the Annual Mead Memorial Lecture sponsored by the History Department at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut; it was on "Recent Views of Islam's Origins." In April he read a paper entitled "The Historian, the Believer, and the Qur'an" at a conference on The Qur'an in Historical Context at the University of Notre Dame. Later in the same month he was invited to be the speaker at the Department of History Honors Society Annual Dinner at the University of Arkansas, where he presented a talk on "The Development of Early Islamic Political Vocabulary." In May and June he gave two talks in Germany. One, at a conference on Eschatology in the Islamic Tradition held at the University of Göttingen, was on "A Typology of Eschatological Concepts." The other was a talk on "New Perspectives on the Early Islamic Conquests" delivered at the Institut für Islamwissenschaft of the Freie Universität Berlin.

During 2008 a volume entitled *The Expansion of the Early Islamic State*, for which Donner chose the articles, wrote the introduction, and provided a bibliography, appeared as volume 5 in the series *The Formation of the Classical Islamic World*, published by Ashgate. He also submitted, in 2009, the materials for volume 6 in the same series, entitled *The Articulation of Early Islamic State Structures*, which should appear in late 2009 or 2010.

The highlight of the year, in professional terms, was perhaps Donner's receipt of the Jere L. Bacharach Service Award (for service to the profession of Middle East Studies), presented in November at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, held this year in Washington, D.C.
