

## Foreword

The appearance of the current fascicule of *Studia Islamica* in an electronic format represents a rebirth for this scholarly journal. For the first five decades of its existence, *Studia Islamica* appeared with dependable regularity twice annually: 101 fascicules since its inception in 1954 until the winter of 2005. Over the past five years *Studia Islamica* traversed a period of turbulence and uncertainty that prevented the publication of its planned issues and brought its very existence into question. Its long-time Parisian publisher, Maisonneuve et Larose, confronted a series of severe financial and administrative difficulties that ultimately lead to its demise. Because of some lingering legal constraints, the editors were unable to move the journal to any other French publisher; thus, the reappearance of *Studia Islamica* in its new electronic format.

The editors are grateful for the patience and understanding of *Studia Islamica's* subscribers, readers and contributors throughout this difficult and uncertain interval in the journal's history. The rich intellectual and scholarly tradition of the founders of *Studia Islamica* – Robert Brunschvig, Joseph Schacht, Gustave E. von Grunebaum, and also the very recently deceased Abdel-Magid Turki – will continue to serve as an inspiration to this journal's work.

A.L. UDOVITCH and Houari TOUATI,  
December, 2010

