helped to shape a field. Makdisi’s scholarship has shaped the field of classical and medieval studies in several important ways, and the impact of that scholarship can be traced in these articles. Since reprinting involves no major editing, however, a collection such as this one inevitably contains much repetition, and also analyses which have not been that widely accepted. Among the latter are Makdisi’s arguments positing a possible connection between the development of the madhāhib (which he pointedly calls “professional guilds”) and the institutional structure and methodology of Islamic legal instruction, on the one hand, and the “inns of court” of medieval England, the rise of colleges and the scholasticism of the medieval European universities on the other. The argument is not a strong one, as it is largely based on parallels which seem more like simple coincidence: for example, that the English “inns of court” were originally attached to churches, just as “inns” (khāns) housing students of Islamic law were often connected to the mosques in which their instruction took place. The author himself seems to hedge his bets, commenting, for example, that it is not so much that the Islamic example may have influenced the English one, as that some Englishmen among the Europeans in the East at the time of the Crusades may, “on coming into contact, in these countries, with a system of law based, like their own, on custom, distinct, like their own, from civil (Roman) law and canon law, gradually [have become] aware of an affinity between these two ‘national systems’” (“The Guilds of Law in Medieval Legal History. An inquiry into the Origins of the Inns of Court,” p. 247). One senses here a personal desire on the part of the author to link the history of medieval Islam with that of medieval Europe. That in itself may be an admirable endeavor, but the specific arguments adduced in the final articles in this collection are not convincing. But neither are they necessary to establish the depth of Makdisi’s impact on our understanding of classical and medieval Islamic law, theology and education, an impact discernible in the pages of this book.

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I know how difficult it was in the early and mid-seventies to search for relevant sources for undertaking research on Islamic urbanism. Now, two decades later, it is a great pleasure to see this valuable bibliography available to scholars and students in the fields of archaeology, geography, history, architecture, urban planning, sociology, anthropology, art history, and other disciplines.

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Islamic Law and Society 4,2
The compilers are geographers by academic background, and although there is a focus on geographic literature, the work also covers the literature on the historic and contemporary Middle Eastern city, of interest to the disciplines indicated above. In their introduction the editors explain the basis and motivation for this compilation (p. 13):

In attempting to comprehend city structure and urban societies, geographers (as well as other scholars) must certainly also rely upon studies by individuals from many different fields. It is, in fact, this realization that the literature of these fields often is somewhat unknown to the scholars of an individual discipline, which has led to this rather ambitious compilation.

And (p. 15), "...the primary purpose of this bibliography is to facilitate research on the Middle Eastern city and Islamic urbanism...."

Over one hundred academic journals were covered, mainly in English, French, German, and, to a lesser extent, Spanish, although only when relevant to the Iberian Peninsula. Works in Dutch, Greek, Italian, Scandinavian, Arabic, Persian and Hebrew are not included, although references are given to some titles in Turkish.

The geographic area covered is most of the Islamic world, although the main concentration is on the "core area" of the Middle East and North Africa. The editors emphasize that it is in this region in which "Islamic Urbanism" historically has been most important. The period covered is from the time of the Prophet until the present day; however, certain works that deal with the pre-Islamic period are included because they are useful for understanding later urban issues and patterns.

The bibliography contains a total of 7584 entries, grouped under six sections and numbered consecutively throughout the volume. The first section of the collection "Theoretical and General Titles" includes 612 titles, followed by North Africa (2069), the Middle East (3192), Central, South, and Southeast Asia (751), Africa (441) and Europe (519). Thus the "core area" of North Africa and the Middle East comprises 5261 titles, and that represents 69.37%, well over two-thirds of all entries. It is also interesting to note that according to statistics provided by the compilers, 12% of all titles were published before 1950, 7% in the 1950s, 14% in the 1960s, 25% in the 1970s, 35% in the 1980s, and 6% of the titles listed are from the early 1990s. These numbers indicate that 66% or two-thirds of the entries were from the 1970s to the early 1990s. This is an indication of the substantial growth of interest by scholars in this field in the two decades of the seventies and eighties. It is because of this growth that this compilation is most welcome at this time. The survey covers titles through about 1990. A number of entries from the early 1990s are included and/or referred to in the introduction to each section.

According to information provided by one of the compilers in early 1995, they hope to issue an update with additions and corrections, perhaps including entries through 1995. At that time, they also hope to issue a computer disk with the entire bibliography on it, which will make the bibliography even more valuable. I anticipate that the software will be able to instantly list articles