

EDITOR'S NOTE

Volume five of *Bildhaan* is a tad different than earlier issues. First, we are pleased to offer, in print, pieces that appeared, though updated, on electronic sites that cater to readers on Somali affairs. Second, we are formalizing a section that, in the future, will record documents, no matter how controversial, that we deem to be of critical value for constructive debates on the nature and directions of the Somali people and society. Third, Abdi and Ahmed Samatar's writings are overrepresented. Though we promise *not* to make this a habit, we feel the pertinence and timeliness of all three pieces to be compelling enough. Fourth, *Bildhaan*, as we promised in the inaugural volume in 2001, is open to both scholarly and artistic contributions. Fifth, in the spirit of the editorial essay in this volume, we plan to *occasionally* publish opinion pieces—including responses to the editorial included here—that reflect on contemporary and substantive issues. Consequently, we invite our readers to submit well-written and carefully reasoned pieces (around 3,000 words) for consideration.

We are expecting some exciting pieces for *Bildhaan* in 2006. These include commissioned articles that will examine critical elements, such as reconciliation and security, education, health, economy, and governance, in the unavoidable tooling up for a successful transition for Somalia. We are also planning to publish extensive interviews with representatives of Somalia's great artists and senior scholars/researchers. We urge our readers to submit scholarly articles or poems, short stories, and other creative work. We need you to make this a better and richer journal. In addition, we hope you will spread the good word on *Bildhaan* to your reading friends, schools, and libraries.

Finally, on behalf of *Bildhaan*, I would like to express profound gratitude to Professor Lidwien Kapteijns for investing a large amount of her time and multiple competencies in the making of this volume. Her editorial attention is always optimum, but this year's contributions have gone beyond anything to be expected, even from a founding and active member of the editorial board.