I am very pleased to present the Annales of the 15th Congress of the International Association for the History of Glass (AIHV) to you. Their publication has been achieved through the work of many people and AIHV is greatly indebted to all of them. The include the authors, the editor and associate editor at The Corning Museum of Glass who received the papers and undertook the preliminary editing, the referees, and the General Secretary of AIHV who drew the volume together and Peter Ellis who was responsible for the final stages of production. These Annales, which are offered to Ernesto Wolf in recognition of his generous support for AIHV over many years, contain 56 papers representing a cross-section of the current research and scholarship in the history of glass from the 2nd millennium BC to the 20th century, with a notable emphasis on studies of glass in the Islamic world.

The 15th Congress, which was arranged to coincide with the major exhibition of Islamic glass, Glass of the Sultans, was held in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in Corning at The Corning Museum of Glass on 15th–20th October 2001. It took place very soon after the destruction of the World Trade Centre on 11th September, and this horrific event inevitably affected the number of people able to be present. Nonetheless, it was an excellent and very memorable congress which was attended by 140 delegates from North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Seventy-three oral and poster presentations were given and visits were arranged to Newark Museum, The Cloisters, and the Dorflinger Museum, and to Glass of the Sultans, and to other exhibitions, collections and demonstrations in New York and Corning. Lisa Pilosi and the other members of the organising committee, Stefano Carboni, Jane Spillman and David Whitehouse, and their numerous helpers, worked tirelessly to make the congress a great success. We are deeply grateful to everyone involved and to the Robert Lehman Foundation, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Corning Museum of Glass for their generous sponsorship and support.

Several changes to AIHV have taken place over the past two years. Many of the tasks of the Assistant Secretary and Editor have been taken on by the General Secretary and the Treasurer; the use of email for communication has increased greatly and the website — www.AIHV.org — has been established. Keith King, General Secretary from 1995, and J ohn Krul, Treasurer from 1996, resigned at the General Assembly in October 2001, and Hilary Cool and Jan-Egbert Kuipers were elected as officers to replace them. On a sad note, the deaths of two prominent members of AIHV were announced, both of whom will be greatly missed. Gioia Meconcilli Notarianni from Bologna in Italy, was the president of AIHV from 1995–1998, and invited the 14th Congress to Venice and Milan, and Gladys Davidson Weinberg from Columbia, Missouri, in USA, was a founder member and long-time participant in and contributor to AIHV congresses.

Plans for the 16th Congress are now well in hand. It will be held at Imperial College, London, on 8th–13th September 2003 (for details, see the www.AIHV.org and the www.historyofglass.org.uk websites), and I hope that you will all be able to join us there.

JENNIFER PRICE
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