

Editorial

The term “British Studies” in the title of this new *Journal* is intended to have the broadest possible connotation, both in a geographical and a cultural sense. “British” refers to that unique historical association of peoples with England as its center, in the British Isles, in the old Empire, and in the modern Commonwealth around the world. “Studies” are conceived by the historians who make up the editorial staff and Board of Advisers as extending to all the organized fields of knowledge which are cognate to, or draw upon, history.

Although as thus defined the scope of this *Journal* is very wide, limitations will be placed on its contents. What is essentially or primarily factual, descriptive, or narrative will be presented only if it is significantly new. Analysis, synthesis, interpretation and exploratory exegesis will be the characteristic functions of the *Journal*. It will aim to select articles from contributors working in various disciplines and sharing such scholarly ideals as critical acumen, historical insight, and distinction of style. The *Journal* will not be concerned with the printing of documents as such, or of book reviews in the ordinary sense. Instead, there will be review articles which put into a large context recent books of especial consequence, and bibliographical essays which appraise recent publications in a particular field. To further its general purpose of providing a medium for the exchange of scholarly views, the *Journal* will give space to letters meriting attention.

The editors of the *Journal* will not seek to discourage controversy in its pages. They realize that candid scholarship at times necessarily involves disputation. On the other hand, they hope, by their approval of articles, to differentiate between honest scholarly divergence and the savage thrusts of academic vendetta. Editorial discrimination will, of course, not alone determine the nature of the *Journal*. While the editors will propose questions for critical examination, they are fully aware of the extent to which the contributors themselves will shape the enterprise. The appearance of this *Journal* is an expression of confidence in the future of creative scholarship in the field of British studies.

In the humanities and social sciences in the United States, British studies have a place second only to American studies. This

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has been one reason for the decision to edit and print this *Journal* in the United States, but contributions will be welcomed from the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and wherever else an interest is found in British civilization.

The editors of the *Journal* wish to record their gratitude to the Conference on British Studies for its sponsorship, to Trinity College, Hartford, for its cordial endorsement, and to Mr. Frederick E. Hasler of New York for the imaginative generosity which makes this venture possible.

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