

Letter from the Centre

One of the perennial topics within our precincts has been when and if *Itinerario* should become a 'journal'. Somebody named it a 'bulletin' ten years ago when it began — and that appellation has persisted, even though no one really seemed to know exactly what a 'bulletin' was. Then along came Mrs. De Graaff, our new commercial printer, and our special issue on the 'origins of planning' (1986/1). It seems that in the shuffle, we forgot to include the false title page with the man, cherub and ormillary sphere — and the word 'bulletin' on it. So, *de facto*, we became a 'journal' without realizing it!

Or did we? Did being a 'journal' mean that we could never again add light touches? That we had to give up our family of corresponding editors, even though, like a true family, most of them never correspond? That we couldn't pillage little line drawings from other publications and have the fun of finding just the right evil-looking vulture to paste in a story on the French Sahara? On second thought, the idea of a journal somehow became cold and forbidding. There seemed only one solution: to remain simply *Itinerario*, which like Popeye the sailor man, probably doesn't need the support of an additional title anyway.

Speaking of distinctive traits, we now have another: beginning with this issue, we carry the first Newsletter of the European Science Foundation, which has recently undertaken to coordinate all expansion, colonial and imperial studies within the countries belonging to the Council of Europe. From now on, this will be a regular feature, immediately recognizable through its contrastingly tinted pages.

After two back-to-back special issues, due more to conjuncture than to any intent, we return this issue to a regular number, containing our usual departments and articles. But in the next one, and for two more years, we will alternate regular issues with the proceedings of the Cambridge-Leiden-Delhi-Yogyakarta conferences.

The editors