

Foreword

This issue contains papers read at the International Conference on Documentary Editing, held at the Rockefeller Archive Center, North Tarrytown, N.Y., on 11–14 April, 1985, under the auspices of the Commission on Documentation of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science. The conference was made possible by the financial support of the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation of New York City and of the Rockefeller University, of which the Archive Center is a part. The publication of the papers has been assisted by a subvention from the Rockefeller Archive Center. We are very grateful to all of these, and especially to Joseph W. Ernst, Director of the Rockefeller Archive Center, who was a most efficient organizer and kind host, making the conference an extremely agreeable one.

Members of the Society have from time to time suggested that, as has happened in the past, the Journal should devote special issues to particular themes. There are problems connected with this, but documentary editing seemed an important topic well worth such concentration. Almost all historians of science have to exercise editing skills at some time or other, and all must use standard editions. We live in an era both of great editions, and of rapid technical changes which raise the ambitions of editors. We hope, therefore, that all our readers will find much to interest them here.

There will this year be three further issues of the Journal, which will appear quarterly. We hope that this pattern will then become the norm, perhaps with further special issues from time to time. This will entail an increase in subscriptions, but over the last seven years, when prices generally have risen by 100 per cent, our subscriptions have gone up by less than fifty per cent, and we hope to continue to give good value and to do justice to our field.