

Editorial note

This is the ninth edition of the *Yearbook*. When the first issue was published in 1974 it received wide acclaim as an indispensable aid for urban historians, carefully tailored to meet their needs, and a significant milestone of historical scholarship. Its self-confessed purpose then was to sustain the disciplined approach to urban history by acting as a forum of discussion and providing a thorough information service covering research and publication across as wide a field as can properly be handled. These objectives are as relevant and significant today as when they were first stated.

The editorial board has gained considerable experience and expertise over the years in endeavouring to fulfil the objectives of the *Yearbook* and has sought to improve the quality of its contents and appearance and extend its coverage. The bibliography in particular has been considerably extended in recent years and is now truly international in scope. In times of rapidly rising costs it has proved impossible to maintain the exceptionally low price levels of the early issues, but we believe that the *Yearbook* must surely be regarded as offering excellent value for money. There is a well-attested demand for the services it provides, but the editorial board is conscious that all those interested in maintaining these services need to ensure that demand is made effective. The *Yearbook* is an independent publication of the Leicester University Press and its success must ultimately depend on the subscriptions of individuals and institutions. Copies of the *Yearbook* can be ordered through your bookseller or in case of difficulty direct from the Leicester University Press.

The editor would also appreciate more feedback from subscribers, and more unsolicited contributions. For this year it was decided that in addition to articles it would be worthwhile risking a sense of déjà vu by publishing verbatim two of the more important conference lectures of 1981 not least because they were both on the neglected medieval period. The editor is grateful for these contributions and to other contributors for responding to invitations, but he continues to be interested in receiving articles in keeping with the nature of the *Yearbook* – as, for example, bibliographical surveys, comparative studies, discussions of major themes, or of methodological issues and approaches, or of the use of historical sources. Intending contributors should contact the editor at the School of Education, 21 University Road, Leicester.