

## Editorial Note

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Nearly two decades ago, four historians (Lloyd Bonfield, Richard Wall, Larry Poos and Robert Lee) met with officials of the Cambridge University Press to attempt to persuade them that the profession, and the Cambridge University Press, urgently required a new journal of demographic, social and legal history. This was no mean task, for our plea occurred some years before the veritable boom in journal-building that has marked the closing years of the last millennium. The risk was taken; the proposal was approved by the Syndics; and *Continuity and Change* was spawned.

With the publication of Volume 16, one member of the existing editorial troika steps down. Professor L. R. Poos moves from the position of Editor to that of member of the Editorial Board. Our visions of Larry will, however, remain transfixed: red pen in hand ‘massaging’ (as he was wont to call it) the style of contributors; or faxing detailed comments on papers in timely fashion, (usually) urging or earnestly cautioning against acceptance; or proceeding down the slender corridor of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure during a great British summer with an issue in tow under an arm. The survivors can only say that it has been both a privilege and a pleasure to have laboured beside him.

Secondly, after nearly 35 years at the Cambridge Group as a key member of its second generation, Richard Wall and the editorial office of *Continuity and Change* have moved to a new academic home, the Department of History at the University of Essex. Richard’s current research project into widows across time and European cultures will be as fundamental to our understanding of social structures as was his work on household forms. For the first 15 years of its existence, the editorial office

of *Continuity and Change* was located at the Cambridge Group and the support the journal has received from successive directors of the Group is gratefully acknowledged. In recent years, however, a decline in research funding, and increased costs thereby imposed on the journal, prompted a search for a new base. Relocation to the Department of History at the University of Essex has also enabled us to speed up the processing of contributions through the appointment of Belinda Waterman as editorial assistant.

Thirdly, the editorial team has been strengthened by the addition of two new Editors: Professor Stephen Hoch of the Department of History at the University of Iowa and Dr Phillip Schofield of the Faculty of History at the University of Aberystwyth. The accession of Steve emphasizes the commitment of *Continuity and Change* to comparative social, legal and economic history. Steve's work on Russian demography and peasant society is highly regarded, and he brings with him a vast network of contacts in Slavic studies. And how else might Larry be replaced than with a kindred spirit? Phillip is a social historian who is 'law-minded', and works on peasant social relations in late-medieval England.

Finally, the journal now welcomes a new Book Reviews Editor, Dr Elizabeth Foyster of the Department of History of the University of Dundee. For the past decade or so, the reviews process has been in the capable hands of Dr Jeremy Boulton of Newcastle University. The Editors gratefully acknowledge his sterling work with the often thankless task of chasing up publishers and reviewers to fill space that can expand and contract quite unpredictably.

*Continuity and Change* remains committed to realizing its original goal – to provide a forum for scholars working on sources and on problems that straddle the divide between and amongst the various constituent elements of social and economic history: cultural, demographic, economic, gender, legal, rural, urban ... The journal will continue to encourage the publication in English of scholarship on European and non-Western societies. But ultimately the complexion of a journal is directed by its readers and contributors. Let the dialogue continue.