

## Editorial

This is the first issue of the Journal in which my predecessor as Editor, David Knight, has taken, if not a back seat, a lesser part. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him not merely for having fulfilled his role with such distinction, but also for his wisdom and consideration during the take-over period. As regular readers will know, it has been his energy and vision that has resulted in the recent expansion to four issues a year. During his seven years in office, he has been responsible for numerous innovations, not least among them the launch of what he described in 1986 as a 'series of occasional essays on the state of our discipline in other places'. Some of the fruits of that inspiration will appear in future issues. We have essays in preparation on the state of the art in Germany and in Spain. There is probably no greater testimony to his valued contribution than that I should have lost count of the occasions on which I have been told what a hard act I would have to follow.

My task will be that much easier in that I can count on the assistance of an enlarged and distinguished Editorial Board, the composition of which has already been announced. In welcoming new members of the Board, I should also like to thank those who have helped so much in the past, some of whom stepped down to make room for a larger foreign representation. This is not to trumpet any change in editorial policy, but to ensure that the Journal maintains a high international profile as well as continuing to satisfy a diversity of tastes. The one respect in which I have been invited to consider a possible shift of emphasis concerns the desirability of publishing more articles in the form of the 'essay review' or the 'review of a field'. In the belief that such reviews are appreciated by professional historians of science as well as those seeking access to an unfamiliar literature, I am happy to endorse such a policy and to invite suggestions, especially from willing contributors!

Finally, may I draw particular attention to the essay by Carl Perrin with which this issue begins. Many readers will have been saddened to learn of his death a year ago. Since this paper was submitted shortly before he died, we are delighted to publish it as a fitting tribute to his fine scholarship. Our referees considered it to be a work of uncommon importance and particularly asked that it should be given prominence. We are especially grateful to Mrs. Susan M. Perrin for her kind permission to publish the paper in its original form.