

# Editorial

This first issue of 1984 marks a beginning and an ending for *Ageing and Society*. From its inception in 1981 the journal was published three times a year. It had always been the intent both of the publisher and the Editorial Board to move to quarterly publication once that was justified. After three volumes, during which we hope a clear identity has been established, that position has been reached. So from now onwards readers can expect to see new numbers appear in March, June, September and December.

In increasing our output by a third, the opportunity exists to be even more experimental; to publish more papers and book reviews and to be more responsive to the broadening field of ageing studies. As Editor, I hope to receive yet more high quality manuscripts. The reviews section will see an extension of the Abstracts service to cover more specialist areas. We therefore welcome increased contributions from all subject areas, disciplines and nationalities, to reinforce the journal's inter-disciplinary and international character.

Concurrently with this expansion the opportunity has been taken of consulting our readers about what they like and dislike in the present format, as well as inviting suggestions for new features. The returned questionnaires will be taken very seriously.

The ending mentioned above, is the departure of Dr Rex Taylor from the Reviews Editorship. He leaves the chair reluctantly, as a result of the transfer of the MRC Medical Sociology Unit from Aberdeen to Glasgow, which will make heavy demands on his time and energies.

Rex has contributed an enormous amount to the establishment of *Ageing and Society* as a journal which is broad in scope but rooted in sound scholarly work. His own wide interests and omnivorous capacity for reading in many specialist fields have been reflected, with great profit, in the first three volumes. His contacts with researchers and practitioners in many countries have given a truly global character to the reviews section. In the June issue – the last for which he is wholly responsible – he brings a rare glimpse of Polish gerontology in a review article which results from attending a recent seminar in Gdansk.

The Abstracts, which have proved so popular, and the review articles, have been part of Rex's concern to internationalise ageing studies. To encourage cross-national comparison and trading of ideas, he has worked hard to present new subjects and new notions to a wide

readership. Only those who have had editorial responsibilities know how difficult it is to mobilise such ideas and to convince people in distant places that they should commit pen to paper in furtherance of them. Yet he has managed to combine creative ideas with administrative conviction, to offer a lively and readable service to gerontology.

As a colleague Rex has been a source of great support and always reliable advice. His willingness to act as a sounding board for ideas and as a sharp-minded referee of manuscripts has been invaluable. His scholarship and wisdom will still be available to the journal, but in a less visible form. So, this is a proper point at which to thank him warmly on behalf of the readers of *Ageing and Society* and the Editorial Board. To this must be added my own debt of gratitude for his collaboration and his friendship.

MALCOLM L. JOHNSON