

Letter from the Centre

On the next pages of this issue, please find our modest contribution to the search for talent in our field. European expansion is an infant among historical studies, and we believe that when students begin working on their master's theses, they are already well on their way toward specialisation – probably not one of us in twenty has followed his M.A. thesis with a Ph.D. dissertation in a totally divergent field.

So we are interested in encouraging this commitment among scholars of the younger generation, and we wish to make ourselves known to them. The prize as it stands is modest – but so are our own resources. We hope, though, if this beginning is a success and attracts enough entries (and if *Itinerario* itself flourishes), to expand the contest to a whole tier of prizes. For even if the financial reward itself is less than substantial, the fact that such a recognition has been extended should help the recipients in attracting attention and gaining future fellowships. Our board and editors will make the choices, and it is not beyond the realm of possibility that we will want to print the winner's contribution, should it fall within the range of subjects and length of our regular articles.

With regard to what we have just written above, *Itinerario* lives on your articles as well as your subscriptions, and we wish you would query us as to whether what you are working on might not fit our specifications, which, after all, are not very narrow. We seek articles on any phase of interaction between Europeans and non-Europeans, of travels, colonies, navigation, archaeology, marine or otherwise, racial admixture, intellectual developments, religious adaptation, intercontinental trade, or even intracontinental trade if carried on within the context of European expansion overseas. The only stipulation is that it lends itself to a general interest among expansionists. For example, we once rejected an article, though solidly written, about the sugar industry in Cameroon, but only because it was 'surgically' on that place and *did not attempt to go beyond the immediate area or suggest its relations to sugar plantations or production of history in other areas*, either of Africa or elsewhere. To wit: it could easily have sweetened our editorial content had it been more applicable to our special theme. As it was, we suggested a journal of African economic and social history to its author and hope it was welcomed there. In short, potential contributors have plenty of room for their original contributions within our pages – so long as we believe an article on almost any subject would be of some degree of interest beyond its immediate subject matter.

The Editors