

## EDITORIAL

*Religious Studies* was founded in 1965 by H. D. Lewis. It was one of the first journals to be devoted primarily to the philosophy of religion and it at once achieved the highest reputation in the field. Many articles have attained the status of classics, and the Journal has become an essential reference work for serious students in the subject. It has always been a non-confessional journal, welcoming papers from members of any or no faith. And, while its main emphasis is philosophical, this is interpreted fairly widely to include all discussions of religious belief and practice which have a bearing on questions of truth and rationality in religion.

Stewart Sutherland became editor of the Journal in 1983 and continued the policy of publishing first quality papers related to the philosophical study of religion. Only his appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of London has made it impossible for him to continue as editor and it will take two philosophers to continue the work of their distinguished predecessors.

We intend no major changes in the ethos of the Journal, so firmly established by its previous editors. We have included a statement of the Journal's primary focus on the philosophy of religion on its inside front page. But this merely acknowledges the established pattern of submitted and accepted articles down the years. We shall, as in the past, continue to accept good papers in other branches of the study of religion provided that they are of more than specialist interest.

We shall aim for a fairly rapid publication of papers – ideally no author should have to wait more than 12 months from submission of a paper to its publication. This necessarily means that many excellent papers will have to be rejected simply because of pressures of space and numbers of submitted articles. Publication in the Journal will in itself be a mark of high achievement and subscribers can continue to be sure that they are reading some of the best treatments of current issues in the philosophy and study of religion.

We shall be content if *Religious Studies* retains the same high reputation at the end of our stint that it has enjoyed under our predecessors.

*Department of Theology and Religious Studies,  
King's College London*

PETER BYRNE  
KEITH WARD