

Editorial

In his introduction to the first number of this journal its founding editor, J. E. Spence, set out the purposes which it will continue to serve now that he has been succeeded in the editorship. It was, he and its other creators proposed, to be a meeting place in which all those seeking a grasp of the more fundamental aspects of events, structures and engagements in the international arena would be recognized and welcomed irrespective of their academic designations. It was further intended that the journal should not simply juxtapose the efforts of different disciplines; in every possible way it would encourage their mutual support and active connection. The rapid establishment of the identity of the *British Journal of International Studies*, the title under which the *Review* began, owed something to the evident need for its existence. It owed more to the care, sustained over many years, of Jack Spence and his editorial assistants, latterly Marie Forsyth. The distinctive voices of the disciplines have been heard; established understandings have been accorded all proper respect and attention; the young and the novel (not always the same thing) have had every encouragement; and, from time to time, lively discourses have ensued. The present editor's task is thus a clear one: to emulate his predecessor.

The *Review* is not a lavishly maintained institution. Often its administrative facilities have scarcely extended beyond the edges of an intermittently requisitioned dining table. But material factors are of relatively little significance. The *Review* depends on its friends, most particularly on an unusually catholic and helpful group of manuscript assessors. Each piece submitted is normally seen by at least two of these and they are besought to suggest improvements wherever appropriate. There must consequently be an irreducible minimum in the period between the receipt of a paper and the transmission to its author of the decision on it. The editor will be doing his utmost to establish what this minimum is. In this enterprise the assistance of contributors, the most crucial of all the *Review's* supports, is earnestly solicited: neglect of points mentioned in our Notes for Contributors is a common cause of unnecessary delay.

Generally, every effort will continue to be made to include in each number as wide a variety of items as possible. The broad and reflective will continue to rub shoulders with the highly specific; reviewers will be given sufficient space to raise academic criticism above the level of the staccato pronouncements by which it is now typified; and discussion and research notes will be fitted in as quickly and relevantly as possible. Another kind of balance will also be cultivated. The *Review* would belie its title if the community of both its authors and readers were anything other than international.

ROY E. JONES