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It has always been the practice of the *Journal of Inter-American Studies* to use its April issue to commemorate in some special way the founding of the Pan American Union. This year we are varying the pattern a little: instead of reemphasizing what the member states of the Organization of American States are doing, we are looking in from the outside and expressing the views of those American states—like Canada—that prefer not to join the OAS, and paying attention to the nature of the various roles that nonmember states can and do play in the OAS. Such studies not only serve to place our regional organizations in a new perspective, but also contribute fresh insights into the nature of political groupings such as these that are acquiring increasing significance in the world of today.

Ione Stuessy Wright
Editor