

EDITORIAL

Utilitas has been created from a merger of the *Mill News Letter* and *The Bentham Newsletter*, which were created in turn by the research teams working in Toronto and London on the two great editions of Mill's and Bentham's works and correspondence. In the immediate future, *Utilitas* will continue to reflect its origins, but even in this first number some important changes will be evident. In at least two articles and in several reviews, *Utilitas* has moved beyond the confines of Bentham and Mill scholarship to deal with contemporary problems in utilitarian thought, and with other figures besides Bentham and Mill. The journal will continue to develop in these directions and welcomes contributions on all aspects of utilitarian thought and its historical context.

Clearly, utilitarianism neither begins with Bentham nor ends with Mill. The title of the journal, *Utilitas*, should reflect this wider interest. Originally suggested by J. H. Burns, the title is taken from a quotation from Horace (*Utilitas, justi proper mater et aequi*—*Satirae*, I. iii. 98) who is credited by Bentham with making the first allusion to the principle of utility. Although it is arguable that Horace and Bentham were not talking about the same thing, the choice of title commits the journal to the widest possible range of topics within utilitarianism.

If the narrow focus of the newsletters is to be abandoned, their best features will be retained. The useful bibliographies of Bentham and Mill studies will appear in the second number of each volume and other bibliographies will be welcomed. The fresh research and detailed study, stimulated by the new editions of Bentham and Mill, will continue to be encouraged and, in addition, it is hoped that writers on contemporary themes in utilitarianism will draw on the insights provided by this recent research. In the current number several articles on Bentham and Mill provide new interpretations of key aspects of their thought. The journal will also continue to explore themes in and across many disciplines, reflecting the fact that earlier thinkers were not as specialized as many contemporary academics. In the current number, contributions in the fields of ethics, legal and political philosophy, the history of political thought, economic thought, and international relations are present. Future numbers will encourage other cross-disciplinary contributions.

The editor of a new journal incurs a great many debts, especially to members of the Editorial Committee and Advisory Board. In addition, members of the Bentham Project have been supportive and especially helpful in assisting with the hard, grinding work of actually producing the first number. A final word of thanks is due to J. M. Robson who

at one point agreed to serve as co-editor. His unfailing assistance and practical advice on virtually every aspect of *Utilitas* has been invaluable.

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