

Editorial

The Journal has appeared in various shapes and sizes since the first issue came out in 1962, containing 96 pages and a single book review. The covers of the parts, as is usual with journals, have steadily come to give more information; and the appointment of Book Reviews Editors has meant that that part of each issue has enormously increased. But throughout these years the Society has been its own publisher. The growth of the Society, which we hope and intend to maintain, and the poverty of British universities, have meant more humdrum work and interesting liaisons with printers for the Editor and his Editorial Board; the appearance of the Journal has indeed been a kind of perpetual miracle. The Journal has also steadily grown in size, from two issues of 96 pages to three of 128 pages; and we hope to maintain this size, giving us space for reviews without leading to an excessive backlog of research papers.

This is therefore the first issue under the new dispensation in which Blackwell Scientific Publications will be our publisher, and we hope it marks a kind of quantum jump. It should give the Editor more time, perhaps to think; the immediate result is a change in the appearance of the Journal as we desert our Baskerville typeface for one designed for photo composition. The control of the contents of the Journal rests with the Society and its Editor; we hope the only change will be an increase in legibility.

The editor found himself invited to give a personal view of the state of History of Science in Britain for a foreign journal; and from this year, in addition to our series on Collections (which moves overseas in 1986 for the first time) there will begin a series of occasional essays on the state of our discipline in other places: intended as personal views rather than official guides. We hope that as in the past all our contributors will show that it is possible to combine readability with the highest standards of scholarship.

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