

EDITORIAL

1987 marks the 25th year of SCOLMA's Silver Jubilee conference on 14th and 15th May. In keeping with the theme of that conference, 'New directions in African bibliography', I have resisted the temptation for the journal to indulge totally in nostalgia. The three articles in this issue (each incidentally by a contributor new to *ARD*) look at a collection of photographs in Zimbabwe, the bibliographic control of manuscript collections in South Africa, and the use of computerized databases of printed sources in the USA, together re-emphasizing SCOLMA's continuing concern with the whole range of 'library materials on Africa' and its attempt to be international in interest. I do intend however that each issue in this Silver Jubilee year will contain something on the past, and to start with I have provided a chronological list of some of SCOLMA's activities since its foundation. This is purely a personal selection, which tries to emphasize SCOLMA's publications and its work in acquisition, while giving some indications of its involvement in other matters. I hope that the record not only of achievements but also of failures and false starts will stir the memories of some of those involved, and perhaps encourage contributions to later issues of the journal. The next issue, no. 44, will in fact be the 75th to be produced by SCOLMA in the *Library materials on Africa/African research and documentation* sequence, and I hope that I, and my successors as Editors, will continue to be able to chronicle the changing scene in African studies and bibliography and see both organization and journal reach further anniversary landmarks.

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