

EDITORIAL

This last issue in SCOLMA's Silver Jubilee Year coincides with the retirement of one of the most distinguished figures in the field of African (and indeed all Commonwealth) Studies and librarianship, Donald Simpson, who left his position as Librarian of the Royal Commonwealth Society in December 1987. A member of the select group who actually founded SCOLMA in 1962, its Chairman from 1964 to 1968 and again from 1973 to 1977, first Editor of its journal as *Library materials from Africa* from 1962 to 1967, and patient chronicler of its activities in numerous articles and conference papers, most recently and light-heartedly in his address to the SCOLMA Silver Jubilee Dinner (reproduced in *ARD* 44, 20-22) it is not surprising that our present Chairman, in "introducing" him at the last named function should have disdained the customary biographical notes by saying simply: 'to many of us, Donald Simpson is SCOLMA'. This of course would be to do less than justice to his immense contributions to many other fields of study, and the Editor hopes to pay what readers of this journal may regard as the most appropriate tribute by persuading Donald to collaborate in compiling a bibliography of his own writings to appear in a future issue.