

EDITORIAL NOTE

WITH this issue, the editorship of the *Journal of African History* is for the first time shared between historians in Britain and historians in the U.S.A. Since its foundation in 1960, the *Journal* has been edited and published in Britain, but scholars in North America have always given it indispensable support, both as contributors and as subscribers. In recent years it became increasingly clear to the editors, and to the Advisory Editorial Board, that the *Journal* could not expect to rely indefinitely on an exclusively British team of editors; furthermore, it seemed highly desirable that the editorial team should reflect the still very considerable scale of North American involvement in the study of African history.

It is not the intention of the present editors to make radical innovations in terms of scope or emphasis. The *Journal of African History* continues to seek to publish new research on all aspects of Africa's past, from the beginnings of food production up to thirty years or so before the present: this limit is determined both by the extent of the 'closed period' in many public archives and by the numerous alternative outlets for publication on Africa's more recent past. However, the editors are keenly aware that in certain fields – such as disease, decolonization and the experience of women – the *Journal* has not adequately represented the best recent research. The editors are anxious to make good such deficiencies and invite the submission both of reports on personal research and of wide-ranging surveys, such as those on the British occupation of Egypt (1986, no. 2), the 'mfecane' (1988, no. 3), law in South Africa (1989, no. 2), the Atlantic slave trade (1989, no. 3), the South African War, and Ethiopia (in the present issue). Finally, the editors wish to register their concern that work by African scholars so seldom appears in the *Journal*, which is especially well placed to bring their research to an international readership. The encouragement of appropriate submissions is one of the main responsibilities of the Advisory Editorial Board, and appointments to it have always been made with a view to increasing Africa's own involvement in the *Journal*.

The present editors wish to record their gratitude to Dr Michael Brett, of S.O.A.S., London, for his invaluable contribution as an editor of the *Journal* from 1983 to 1989; he now joins the Advisory Editorial Board.

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