

Editorial

In the first issue of Volume 4, March 1984, I wrote very appreciatively of the contribution Dr Rex Taylor had made as the founding Reviews Editor. During the first three volumes he established a lively and scholarly reviews section in *Ageing and Society*. The Abstracts service, regular review articles and a catholic range of book reviews marked his contribution to this forum of gerontological debate. He was succeeded by Dr Peter Coleman, who in turn after three further volumes has relinquished the role.

Peter Coleman brought to the task his twin academic concerns in psychology and social work, combined with a deep commitment to enlarging the discourse of European gerontology. Drawing upon a wide network established during his years of working with Joep Munnichs in Nijmegen, he has done much to bring to an international English-speaking readership research from The Netherlands, Austria, Italy, France and Scandinavia. But this has not been done at the expense of contributions from the UK, Australasia and North America.

Horizons have been widened on other fronts than the geographical. The popular Abstracts section has embraced a much wider range of subject areas and academic disciplines. Similarly, Peter's breadth of interest has stimulated a range of impressive review articles on subjects as diverse as counselling, the environment, retirement, ageing in medieval times, domiciliary care, reminiscence and nursing elderly people.

Those who are acquainted with Peter's own published work will know that it is distinguished by a clarity of conception and expression which is enviable. Also, like him, it is intellectually honest and always unduly modest in its claims. These qualities have made his period as Reviews Editor one which has consolidated and creatively extended that part of the journal to which most readers turn first. They have also made it a great pleasure and privilege for me to have worked with him. As a mark of their gratitude for his contribution, the Centre for Policy on Ageing – one of the two sponsoring bodies – has appointed Peter to a personal membership of the Editorial Board, where his wide experience and knowledge will continue to be of considerable benefit.

This issue presents the first product of the new Reviews Editor. Dr Tony Warnes, Reader in Geography at King's College, University of London and a senior figure in the new Institute of Gerontology, brings yet another set of perspectives. Like his predecessors, he is eager to re-affirm the multi-disciplinary and international character of *Ageing and Society*. It is good to welcome another scholar of international standing to add his distinctive imprint to the journal.

Malcolm L. Johnson,
Editor