

# EDITORIAL

It is a pleasure to begin my first editorial for *Utilitas* with expressions of gratitude. The existence and excellence of *Utilitas* owe almost everything to Fred Rosen's tireless work over the last decade. As one of the many readers who has learned from and enjoyed so much in the journal, let me thank him for that. Special thanks are due from me to him and to the Bentham Committee for the honour of being his successor. High standards have been set, and I shall do my best to continue them. Fred remains as Consultant Editor, and I have no doubt that he will keep me on the straight and narrow.

The efforts of several other people in particular have eased my passage into the editorial chair. Professor C. L. Ten, whose own work on punishment is well known, serves as Guest Editor for this special issue of *Utilitas*. He has collected some outstanding papers from several perspectives on a wide range of important topics concerning punishment.

If Catherine Fuller, until recently Editorial Assistant to Professor Rosen, had not invited me to discuss with her how to prepare the typescripts for publication, not only would I have made many more mistakes than I did, but I would almost certainly have regretted taking over the editorial reins. I am most grateful for her advice (particularly that to purchase the *Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors*, my copy of which is already very well thumbed!) and for her readiness to answer hastily e-mailed queries. Pamela O'Connor at Edinburgh University Press has also been most helpful. And I ought to say how pleased I am that Brad Hooker and Paul Kelly have agreed to stay on board as Associate Editors.

On behalf of the journal itself, I must also thank, on their retirement from the Editorial Committee, Richard Brandt, Ian Christie, Joseph Hamburger and D. D. Raphael for their assistance and support over the course of several years. I am delighted to welcome onto the Committee Desmond King and Robert Sugden.

I belong in the 'Moral philosophy' pigeonhole, and shall continue my predecessor's policy of publishing high-quality work in ethics and political theory in those areas in which utilitarianism has made a special contribution. But that, as anyone who has dabbled in the history of utilitarianism will know, is almost every area. Readers of *Utilitas* have told me how much they benefit from its interdisciplinary and wide-ranging content. I plan to continue publishing articles in intellectual history, economic theory, jurisprudence, and any other area which I believe might interest readers and advance our understanding.

RSC