

## EDITORIAL NOTE

THE change in editorship of the *Journal* which takes effect with the current volume has provided an opportunity to overhaul its design for the first time since John Bestall of Sheffield University, who became editor in 1957, established the present page-size and the systematic use of footnotes for historical articles in 1961. They were replaced by end-notes in 1971, when the introduction of the earliest form of photographic typesetting made footnotes more expensive than in the days of metal type. With modern digital typesetting and page make-up there is no reason to retain the inconvenience of end-notes.

After John Bestall's untimely death in 1973 the county archivist, Miss Joan Sinar, edited the *Journal* for a few years until her failing health obliged her to resign. From 1977 her senior assistant Dudley Fowkes took over in name as well as fact. He remained editor until 2016 and for much of that time also edited *Derbyshire Miscellany*. Like Bestall and Miss Sinar, he was joined by a succession of archaeologists as co-editors. Regrettably, no tribute to his thirty years' service as editor (longer than that of any of his predecessors since 1879) appeared in the *Journal* when he too was forced to retire because of ill-health.

This issue of the *Journal* represents a fresh start, with an improved design, editorial responsibility divided between an archaeologist and a historian (as has long been customary for the principal county journals), and academic standards maintained by rigorous refereeing and editing, including copy editing to established rules. The scope of the *Journal's* content will not change. The new editors welcome contributions (long or short) on all aspects of the county's past, from both those engaged professionally in the study of archaeology and history and those with a lay interest in either subject.

CW  
PJR  
RJS