

PREFACE

In the Summer of 1977 Carleton University announced the forthcoming publication of *Florilegium*, an annual devoted to the ancient and mediaeval cultures of Europe, North Africa, and the Near East. The first issue was planned for the Spring of 1978. This, the first issue of *Florilegium*, appears, therefore, one year late -- not as a result of the editors' tardiness but because of the comparatively small number of acceptable submissions that met both the high standards of quality set by our editorial board and the particular scope planned for the annual at its initiation. Our intention was then, and still is, to welcome papers which take a cross-cultural or interdisciplinary approach to history, literature, and other relevant areas of study, which explore the continuities between the ancient and the mediaeval world, and which try to develop new methodologies or adapt those developed by other disciplines. Many of the papers in the first volume do not come as close to meeting these objectives as we would have liked; it is our hope that authors interested in this kind of research will be more widely represented in future issues.

Two other points should be made about the contents of the first volume. An early editorial decision was made to solicit papers from only a few scholars with already widely established reputations. Other contributions have been made by well-known scholars on their own initiative. Most gratifying of all, there is a good representation of relatively unknown scholars, beginning to make their way in the world of scholarship. Secondly, the contributors to this issue are all, with one exception, associated with Canadian universities and colleges. This, while also gratifying, is not the result of policy. Submissions from elsewhere are welcome and will receive equal consideration.

We hope to publish our second issue within a year. Some papers are already in hand, and others are invited. Copies of our announcement and our style-sheet are available on request. For the second

issue the editors will more strictly require that submitted papers conform to the house-style and that, if necessary, accepted papers be revised accordingly.

This issue of *Florilegium* was produced by preparing the finished papers on an I.B.M. "Selectric," photo-reducing the sheets, and then printing by photo-offset; only the titles were typeset. This method, which leaves the right-hand margins unresolved, may offend purists; but the editors decided that it is typographically acceptable. Moreover, it halves the cost of production, an important consideration in a period of stringency.

Thanks are due to the members of the editorial advisory board, to the many scholars who readily helped us as referees, to Gilles Paquet, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at Carleton University, who both encouraged us to undertake this enterprise and aided us in carrying it out, to Elizabeth Lundy, who prepared the final copy, and to Anna Wurtele, who did the final copy-editing of all the contributions.

Lastly, the editors wish to re-affirm the promise made in our original announcement. We will be interested in receiving comments and discussion upon any of the papers published in this issue and succeeding ones. If a sufficient number of these is received, up to three news-sheets communicating this material (edited where necessary) will be circulated during the subsequent year free of charge to subscribers and contributors. Thereby we hope to offer a forum for continuing and rapidly circulated discussion.

R.C. Blockley

D.J. Wurtele