

# Editorial

New brooms, they say, sweep clean. It is inevitable that a change of editor and a change of location will also produce changes in the appearance and contents of the journal. However, there is also the adage 'if it's working: don't fix it!'. So, while changes there are, we hope you will also find that most of what you expect from your journal is still being delivered.

Some changes made themselves:

Don Brech has given up International notes by virtue of his appointment to Hong Kong. Paul Brunton has requested retirement from Reviews, and Ann Pederson, recouperating after the *tour de force* of actually getting *Keeping Archives* into print has handed over Publication notes. This is a good place to thank them all for past services rendered. It is also a good place to say that we are delighted that Maggie Shapley is continuing to edit News Notes.

It is also customary for a new Editor to make some kind of policy statement—a manifesto of intentions and hopes. However, in the context of thanking some of those who contribute greatly to our profession, I would rather paraphrase John F. Kennedy and say: "Don't ask what your editor is going to do—ask yourself what you can do for your Society". For it is a fact that the names of contributors tend to crop up again and again and we read of the same people being active as Convenors, running workshops and the like. It is also true that rounding up articles and papers for *Archives and Manuscripts* is the Editor's biggest headache. As Julius Sumner Miller used to ask so eloquently: "Why is this so?"

It may be diffidence—the belief that one has nothing of interest to say, or that one is too new to the profession for what one does have to say to be worth hearing. Both these are nonsense. This profession is too disparate in its functions for any one archivist's experience to be exactly the same as any other's—we can all learn, and we can all only benefit from the exchange of information. New members of the profession may also, by reason of their fresh perspective on 'old' issues, have something to say that we can all benefit from hearing. Take courage, and write! Any journal is only as good as the quality of the contributions it receives—let us try together to make *Archives and Manuscripts* as good as it can possibly be.