
EDITORIAL

We are very pleased to report that, since its launch, *Modern Italy* has proved to be a considerable success, and this is underlined by the fact that ASMI's membership has increased considerably over the last eighteen months. This success owes much to the zeal of members in persuading colleagues and institutions to join ASMI and in recommending that their libraries subscribe to the journal. We can only hope that ASMI members continue the good work in future. With this aim in mind, we have included a copy of the subscription form in the current issue. Similarly, we hope that readers will encourage publishers to advertise appropriate works in the journal. All enquiries regarding either subscriptions or advertising should be addressed to Mrs Susan Rands c/o the Editor.

After a monographic issue dedicated to 'The Italian Crisis', *Modern Italy* now assumes what will be its usual form. The editors have selected four articles on a range of topics (political history, political sociology, social history and cultural studies) whose variety reflects the increasingly broad range of our members' interests. However, we do not exclude the possibility that some future issues will be dedicated to a single theme. In this issue, we are especially pleased to have published an article by Nicola White who is researching a PhD on Italian fashion at the University of Kingston. We hope that other postgraduate researchers will be encouraged to submit articles for consideration in subsequent issues.

The second issue also sees the introduction of a section entitled 'Contexts and Debates' which is a development of some of the valuable work done by the old ASMI Newsletter. It will provide a forum for the publication of, for example: interventions in contemporary issues; reports on important seminars and conferences; the presentation and analysis of source materials; 'landmark' historiographical essays previously only available in Italian; transcripts of debates between scholars; reflections on individual texts, films or artefacts. Readers are invited to suggest contributions for this section. We would also welcome your suggestions for improvements to the journal in general.

The Editorial Committee would like to thank Mrs Georgina Marshall for all her work as editorial assistant over the last two years, and to welcome her successor Mrs Susan Rands. Thanks are also due to Anglia Polytechnic University and to the British Academy for their continuing financial support.

John Pollard