

## EDITORIAL

With this issue, I take over for a second spell of editorship of **ARD**. This time I am delighted to say that it is a shared responsibility: Mayreen Mahoney, of the Institute of Development Studies, sole editor for the last dozen issues, stays on as compiler of the "Notes & news" section; and Diana Guthrie at the Institute of Education, University of London, comes in as Editorial Assistant. Their various addresses and contact numbers are included on the inside cover, but I should emphasise that any member of the team will be happy to be contacted about any aspect. The need for a team does not initially mean an expanded journal, although this may happen: rather it is a reflection of the increasing difficulty that individual SCOLMA members find in putting aside enough time from the demands of their day to day activities for SCOLMA work.

The contents of this issue reflect both parochial concerns, with the report on SCOLMA's activities during 1992/93, and the wider scene with details on the proposed European Centre for African Documentation at Cergy-Pontoise, a feature on Africa at IFLA in Barcelona, and reports on conferences in Dakar and Nairobi. Spanning both is the expanded text of the talk that Pat Larby gave to the 1993 Annual General Meeting of SCOLMA, where, to mark her forthcoming retirement, she was persuaded to speak of her years in African studies and librarianship spent in Africa itself, in the USA and for the last 22 years as Librarian of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in London. A member of the SCOLMA Committee since 1972, she served as its Secretary from 1973-1976 and again from 1979-1990, and to the many international visitors to London and the Institute during that time, she was the visible embodiment of SCOLMA. SCOLMA owes her a great deal, wishes her well in her retirement, and, reluctant to lose her expertise, is delighted to have persuaded her to be co-opted to the Committee and to take over as Book review editor of **ARD** as noted above.

I hope that the journal will continue to reflect the interests of the membership, and appeal to members and subscribers around the world to contribute articles, news, items for note or review, and comments on features that they would like to see.

J.H. McIlwaine