

Note from the Editor

I would like first of all to offer my apologies to subscribers, contributors, to all readers and to my colleagues on the AFSAAP Executive, for the essentially unavoidable delay in the publication of this issue. I do so not least because I have no doubt that readers will find much of interest to them once it arrives.

One of the most fascinating aspects of editing this journal over a good number of years has been the way in which, notwithstanding the wide range of material that comes in from contributors, there is usually some coincidence of concerns about Africa, historical as well as contemporary, that comes through, even if indirectly, in the articles, book reviews and notes that are offered at any time. In this issue it appears to be the question of education. I am particularly grateful to Lalage Bown, who draws on her long years of experience of higher and adult education across primarily but not only East and West Africa, to review the changing situation of African universities through the late twentieth century (pp. 41-47): their progressive impoverishment through the 1980s and 1990s and the grounds for renewed optimism for the future offered at present by among other developments, the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa. It is especially refreshing to be reminded of the long historical tradition of universities as institutions of learning in Africa; and that 'the oldest such institutions with a continuing existence at present are in Africa' (p. 42). But the interest is not only in the past. John Moore's book review (pp. 78-80) provides us with reminders of the importance of education for the emergence of an African elite in this case in Southern Rhodesia through the 1920s to the 1940s. His article on rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe which also is included in this issue is a reminder of the continuing importance of access to education for African livelihoods today. William Muhumuza in his analysis of contemporary policies for the empowerment of women in Uganda also makes clear the significance of education in that respect. Scott MacWilliam's comments on the 'new liberal order' in his very positive discussion of Tom Young's *Readings in African Politics* (pp. 54-59) suggest that we might also consider education in that context.

This being my last issue as editor of *ARAS* I would like with considerable pleasure to thank Professor Helen Ware for taking over the job. Helen is presently chair of the International Agency Leadership Programme in the Peace Building at the University of New England. She has long and varied experience in and of Africa, both during her years with the Australian aid agency in its successive incarnations, and as Australian High Commissioner to Zambia (covering Angola, Malawi, Namibia and the ANC). She was also for a time at the

University of Ibadan where she collaborated with social science researchers in eleven other African countries from Senegal to Sudan. While I have always thought of her as a demographer she tells me that she trained originally as an historian while her wide range of interests in development make her an ideal person to take over ARAS.

The changeover comes at a time when the production of ARAS has become more than a single person can handle. The time has passed for a 'one woman show' and so we have established the position of Review Editor and am delighted that Dr Jeremy Martens, of the History Department at the University of Western Australia, has agreed to take on this role.

Both Helen and Jeremy will bring a range of new networks and links, institutional as well as personal, to the journal which can only be to its advantage. So all I can say is that I wish them very well. I am sure also that they will receive the same support that I have received over the years and hopefully more so. From an editor's viewpoint one of the encouraging aspects of this particular issue is that it includes a number of new contributors, including one or two from African universities. So may I also use the occasion to remind readers that ARAS is a good place to publish your scholarly and also your more generalist writings!

Finally I must thank all those who have enabled this *Review* to grow through the years to its present status. This includes my former colleagues in what was then the Politics Discipline in the Flinders University of South Australia, and above all the secretaries who in the years before I acquired even a minimum of computer literacy typed and then word-processed the journal with great skill. At Curtin University I received the same valued support in the then School of Social Sciences. Curtin University has also since 1993 supported the production and distribution of the journal for which AFSAAP as well as myself has always been grateful. Since the change to the status of a peer-reviewed journal I appreciated the support of a very helpful Editorial Advisory Board whose experience I have not I am aware always sufficiently exploited. I must also thank Uniprint at the University of Western Australia who have produced the journal in its new form since 2001 and especially Graham Harvey for his continuous support. Last but not least I have been over the past three years indebted to Karen Miller whose professional skills and scholarly approach have ensured the continuing high quality of the final production of ARAS and with whom I have found it a great pleasure to work.

Cherry Gertzel
Editor