

Editorial

GHIȚA IONESCU DIED ON 28 JUNE 1996 JUST AS THE SUMMER issue of the journal went to press. There was time only to record the fact of his death alongside a photograph. In the present issue readers will see an article by John Pinder discussing his work and it is hoped to devote a later number to an appreciation of the uniquely multi-faceted nature of his contributions to political science and political thought.

Ghița was one of the founders of *Government and Opposition* and its editor throughout the thirty-one years of its history. In the later period he was assisted in the editorial role by the late Ernest Gellner and by Isabel de Madariaga. The death of Ghița and the consequent necessity to reorganize the editorial tasks have led Professor de Madariaga to resign from the joint editorship but the Editorial Board is pleased to report that she has agreed to remain on the Board and continue to offer the journal the benefit of her advice and counsel as a founding member of the journal. The Board would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution she has made to every aspect of the journal's production since its inception.

An occasion such as this is clearly one of sadness but it must also be an occasion for reaffirming the fundamental aims which Ghița Ionescu set for the journal at its outset. *Government and Opposition* was intended as a journal which provided an opportunity for both academics and political practitioners to reflect on the longer-term significance of events and developments. Under Ghița's leadership there have been contributions from political scientists, anthropologists and sociologists amongst academics and from politicians, diplomats, international bankers and businessmen amongst practitioners, drawn from many nations and several continents. This reflected his view that the study of government should focus on the significant shifts in the location of power in industrial and post-industrial countries which have characterized the modern era, the analysis of which required a grasp of both theory and practice. This will continue to provide the intellectual framework within which

the Editorial Board will seek to guide the journal.

Government and Opposition will also endeavour to keep faith with another feature of Ghița Ionescu's work and editorship – the interest in new political developments and innovative political thinking. Over the years the journal has, for example, devoted many articles to the analysis of the capacity of the modern state to cope with the imperatives of the international economy. Ghița's own view was that national political institutions were not attuned to the real centres of contemporary decision-making and he gradually embraced the languages of globalization and interdependence to express this. At the same time he recognized that the interpretation of these phenomena was a continuing matter of disagreement and debate which has been reflected in recent articles and the conference and special issue on 'Globalization' in 1993. The governance of the global economy, the role of international organizations and the implications for nation-states and for democracy are, accordingly, topics that *Government and Opposition* will hope to continue to monitor in future publications.

As a journal of comparative politics the remit of *Government and Opposition* has been very wide. It has always sought to maintain a regular coverage of developments in Western Europe and in the European Union as well as of the democratization processes of the former communist Eastern Europe. The journal intends to sustain its interests in this field but also to extend its coverage of political developments in other parts of the interdependent world which Ghița Ionescu so consistently sought to investigate and understand.

In summary, *Government and Opposition* remains a journal of reflection and comment on significant contemporary issues and developments. There is a number of broad areas of interest in which it publishes. Without intending to be an exhaustive list these include:

developments in the theory and practice of democracy, including significant elections and their consequences for governments and oppositions;

the politics of industrial and post-industrial societies, includ-

ing the nature and extent of globalization and interdependence;

European politics, including the politics of the European Union and developments in the post-communist countries of East and Central Europe;

major issues of public policy, especially when looked at from a comparative perspective.

Government and Opposition is a refereed journal which makes extensive use of its Editorial and Advisory Boards as well as of outside referees where appropriate. It also commissions contributions where it aims to ensure coverage of a significant political event or development. There is a further tradition of special issues devoted to specific themes, often arising from conferences organized by the journal. Currently it is planned to return to the journal's roots by re-examining 'Opposition' in contemporary politics. *Government and Opposition* continues to invite contributions from academics and political practitioners in the broad areas of interest described earlier. An indication of the journal's preferred style can be found in the Instructions for Authors at the back of the journal.

The concluding chapter of *Politics and the Pursuit of Happiness* – perhaps Ghița Ionescu's most personal book – opens by stating that 'politics is a sphere of activity situated at the intersection of the other spheres of social activity'. The most appropriate tribute to his achievement will be the endeavour of the Editorial Board of this journal to publish work of scholarship and interpretation which reflects that recognition.

Geraint Parry