

## Editorial Comment

This volume of *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* marks a break with the traditional format of the journal. After eight volumes which have presented a wealth of contributions to the field, the composition of the journal will change to cater for a wider variety of material: henceforth both longer articles and miscellaneous short notes, as well as a section of critical studies intended to take up current issues of theoretical and methodological interest, will be included, preceded also by a short editorial comment.

This change in presentation is the result chiefly of two considerations: the relatively limited space available in journals devoted to either or both of the main areas of study covered by *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* for short comments, the presentation of limited but valuable discussion of particular points — whether philological, historical or technical — not of article length; and the lack of any real debate, certainly within the various areas encompassed by 'Byzantine Studies', but also in the field of modern Greek history and literary studies, of fundamental theoretical issues which have become so important, and have been discussed to such advantage, within other fields of study in history, archaeology, cultural studies and modern literary theory. This is not to say that such issues have not been raised, nor that no-one is interested in such matters. Neither is it to insist that theoretical debates are of necessity either more interesting or more important than other aspects of scholarly work. But it is to note the significant absence in the fields dealt with here of any questioning of principles and methods, of any dialogue between modes of thinking and ways of approaching problems. And it is the encouragement both of such debate as well as of the work traditionally associated with this journal that the editorial board hopes to promote in future issues.

The potential range of such discussion is, of course, very wide, and the journal cannot hope to deal comprehensively with all the problems that might be seen as relevant by potential contributors. Neither is *BMGS* necessarily the right place for work which deals exclusively with problems of a general theoretical nature, relevant to our fields but not necessarily addressing the specific problems encountered within them. There exists already a variety

of journals which provide a suitable forum. On the other hand, many of the recent or current debates in the fields of history or literature will be of interest to readers of *BMGS*; and so space will be devoted to elucidating the nature of such debates, the problems they deal with, and their relevance to Byzantine and modern Greek studies. This volume introduces a number of such themes which we hope will promote interest in current debates by situating them within a wider context and by making them more accessible. We hope that they will at least suggest some approaches to common problems and promote further discussion.