

EDITORIAL

Although we swore only four months ago that we would henceforth avoid special issues, we are also too realistic - or too weak - to resist a pervasive theme thrust into our laps. Hence the appearance of Herman Obdeyn's bibliographical essay on missions and the Partition of Africa, published in the *Intercontinenta* series (a folder and order form is enclosed), persuaded us to devote much of this issue to the varied history of Christian missions.

Our correspondent, Jack Wills, whose report on other matters appears under *Letters*, also wrote us separately, conveying the sad news of the sudden death on January 12, of our friend, Bailey W. Diffie, of a stroke in Los Angeles. We are glad we taped and published the interview with him in our last issue, for it is authentic Diffie for those who knew him. For those who did not, it gives a perfect picture of the kind of man he was; as Jack Wills said, he had a "genius for friendship". It makes one realize how much he enriched our profession. We hope and trust that his book on colonial Brazil will appear in due time, and that his colleagues will see to it that it does. For our part, we will miss the humour, often delightfully salty, and the utter simplicity and lack of guile that was his. It helped him see things more as they really were than most of us can and was his path to that one kind of greatness historians can achieve.

The fact that our Colonial Cities volume will be out before the end of the year reminds us to announce that the next workshop of the seminar in the spring of 1984 will be devoted to the theme of colonial wars.

The Editors.

