



## EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of *The Lichenologist* for nearly 12 years that does not bear the name of D. H. Brown as Senior Editor. Dennis took over this role from Prof. D. L. Hawksworth in 1989. He was ably assisted by his wife, Rosalie, who essentially functioned as a managing editor; in recognition of this, she also was appointed to the editorial board in 1991. Alert to the Journal's growing international status Dennis immediately recruited Prof. V. Ahmadjian and Dr R. Honegger onto the editorial board; this was the first time non-British personnel had been appointed as editors and since then the board has remained international in composition. In 1995 he took the significant step of increasing the publication frequency from quarterly to bimonthly. Above all else, Dennis maintained very high standards for the Journal. This might have frustrated a proportion of authors over the years. Indeed, the only occasion that I have had a manuscript returned twice for modification was from Dennis. This was irritating at the time but in retrospect I believe that the final product was a paper that was all the better for having been given such careful scrutiny. At the same time Dennis has sought to encourage would-be authors, including amateurs, who had what he considered to be the seeds of promising research ideas. He has been keen also to see the output of symposia and workshops published in the Journal even if the findings were of a preliminary nature; he saw this as a way of stimulating discussion and new research activity. Under Dennis' stewardship *The Lichenologist* has consolidated its position as the world's premier lichenological journal and it is arguably one of the few cryptogamic botany journals that are well known among plant scientists. This reflects well on all of us who research on lichens.

Dennis retired from Bristol University in 1996 and both he and Rosalie have now relinquished their positions as editors in favour of their burgeoning second careers in politics. Therefore, on behalf of The Society, the publishers, fellow editors and the lichenological community worldwide, I would like to thank Dennis and Rosalie for their hard work on the *The Lichenologist* during the past twelve years and for the service that this provided both to lichenologists and lichenology. We wish them both a long and enjoyable retirement from academic life.

**P. D. Crittenden**

