

## EDITORIAL NOTE

As from this year, the *Journal of African History* will consist of three rather than four issues each year. This change will not mean any further reduction of content; indeed, the Editors very much hope to expand the size of the annual volume. However, the gradual diminution of the *Journal* over a number of years had by 1984 reached a point at which it was no longer economically justifiable to distribute four issues each year. Readers should thus be able to look forward to substantially larger issues than in the recent past.

The difficulties of the *Journal* in attracting sufficient material of acceptable quality may in part reflect a contraction of research in African history, as well as more general features of university life, both within and outside Africa. Whatever the reasons, the Editors are keenly aware that the *Journal* has suffered in terms of variety as well as quantity. Regional imbalances have their own imperatives, but it may be worth stressing that the Editors would like to publish more material on pre-colonial Africa than has appeared since 1983.

The Editors would also like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the acceptability of articles is greatly enhanced if authors bear in mind the following points:

Research should be related to the relevant secondary literature. Criticism of the work of others should be specific.

Clarity and simplicity of expression is of great importance. Long sentences, and unduly long or short paragraphs, should be avoided.

The conventions set out in the Notes for Contributors should be closely observed. Footnotes should be typed in double-spacing, separately from the text, and citations made in accordance with *Journal* practice.

Typescripts or print-outs should be checked *personally* before despatch, to remove accidental errors.

Once an article has been accepted, publication normally follows within nine months or less.

*Johns Hopkins Studies in Atlantic  
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