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## Editorial

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### **The Editorial Board Completing its Fifth Year**

The Editorial Board of GESNERUS has been unchanged for the five year period 1993 to 1998 with Vincent Barras (Lausanne), Marcel H. Bickel, Urs Boschung (Bern), Huldrych M. Koelbing, Heidi Seger (Zurich), Hans K. Schmutz (Winterthur). The editor-in-chief welcomes the opportunity to say a hearty *thank you* to his five colleagues for a smooth and pleasant cooperation as well as for the individual contributions each of them has made to this journal.

During the five years 1993–1997 a total of 101 manuscripts have been received; 24 had to be rejected and two are still pending, which leaves 75 that have been published, most of them after a process of revision. Of the 75 published articles a mere 10% dealt with the Antiquity and the Middle Ages, 27% with the early modern age and 63% with the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. A figure for the distribution between the history of medicine and the history of sciences would be misleading due to the wide overlap. The distribution by language was 69% German, 19% French, and 12% English, and the distribution by authors' origin was: Switzerland 47%, Germany 31%, USA (with Canada and Australia) 12%, Italy (with Spain) 4%, Britain and France 3% each. Not included in these statistics is the large number of book reviews which we owe to a great many contributors and the managerial skills of Heidi Seger. In addition, three Gesnerus Supplementa have appeared: two scholarly works and the Index Gesnerus providing easy access to the contents of the volumes 1–50 (1943–1993).

The Editorial Board's foremost preoccupation was to maintain and enhance the scholarly quality and the international standing of the journal. As with any peer-reviewed journal we owe a great debt to our cooperative referees outside the Editorial Board. Next to quality we are also trying to maintain the journal's traditional variety and its openness to new approaches. And then, alas, money! The financial situation of the journal has deteriorated in proportion to the unavoidable cuts in the support provided by the *Swiss Academy of Sciences*. The Editorial Board and the *Swiss Society of the History of Medicine and Sciences* are trying hard to keep GESNERUS afloat.

The single major event during the past five years was the journal's leaving the publishing house Sauerländer after more than 50 fruitful years in order to join the Schwabe publishers and printers in Basel. This famous company, active in both medicine and history, gave us a warm welcome and ever since has provided cooperation and support. Cooperation within the team and support for GESNERUS is also what the Editorial Board is willing to provide in the years to come.

Marcel H. Bickel