

Editorial

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1 of *ARIEL* appeared in January, 1970; with this issue, Volume 20, Number 1, we attain our 20th anniversary. I want to use the occasion to outline something of the early history of the journal, and in particular to pay tribute to one of its past editors, George Wing, who this year retires from the University of Calgary, and to whom this number is dedicated.

ARIEL arrived in Calgary, appropriately enough, by an aerial route, its planning carried out by correspondence and personal contact back and forth across the Atlantic between its begetter, Derry Jeffares of Leeds University, and Dean Brian Wilson and Dr. Earl Guy, Head of the Department of English, assisted by such other faculty members who might for independent reasons be passing through Leeds or London at an appropriate time. This activity in the late 1960s led to the first number under founding editor Derry Jeffares, who brought to the journal along with admirable energy and enthusiasm his background as editor in several capacities and a global network of personal contacts. His Calgary associates Earl Guy and James Black worked mightily in the North American context. The work of these three made possible the assumption of the first Calgary editorship by George Wing from January 1973 to December 1976.

George Wing and the other early editors worked in conditions very different from those enjoyed by the current incumbent, without the assistance of a professional proof reader, word processing facilities, government grants and printers who would take on the responsibilities of page make-up. The journal's office space was cramped, and much of the editing activity took place on desks

already pre-empted by batches of student themes and (especially in the case of George Wing) theses, along with the dispatches, reports and correspondence that take up so much of the academic's working day. In the copious free time remaining research was carried out. The early editors did have, however, what continues today, valuable assistance from support staff, whose names, Lydia Logan and Mavis Page, should be recorded here. These undertook not only normal secretarial duties but also, in handling such tasks as orders and subscriptions, those of business managers.

George Wing's experience as Victorian scholar, particularly of Hardy and Dickens, gave him the necessary training for his Calgary responsibilities with *ARIEL*; what it could not give him, however, was what only he could provide: generosity, fair-mindedness and a wide ranging curiosity which encouraged the global reach of *ARIEL*. Under his editorship scholars felt free to offer submissions on material from any place of origin and any historical period, knowing that their contributions would be handled with characteristic thoroughness and dispatch. The practice of special numbers begun by Derry Jeffares was continued, with issues on Canadian Literature in 1973, on Australian and New Zealand Literature in 1974, on Poetry in 1975, and on American Literature in 1976, the Australian and New Zealand number in particular as one of "the first of its kind" becoming something of an academic cult classic. George Wing not only showed responsiveness to the changing imperatives and needs of the profession of literary studies, he was also, in more ways than can be adequately described, someone who took the initiative in such ventures. We wish him a glorious retirement.