

EDITORS NOTE

After many years of discussion, false starts, quibbles about scale and cost, the Australian Society for the History of Medicine will have its own bulletin — or do I mean “journal”? Perhaps we might think of it as a bulletin in the process of (rapidly) becoming a journal.

The title, *Health and History*, is simple and inclusive. Given that a number of other medical history journals continue to circulate, we need develop a distinctive and internationally significant character for our Society's new offspring. We think that there is still space for a new publication. The international journals rarely publish on Australian or Asian topics: we are in an excellent position to develop and to publish historical accounts of disease and health care in the Asia-Pacific region. Other journals have a publishing legacy that tends to favour a rather narrow definition of health care: we can, from the beginning, declare our interest in the rigorous historical analysis of the enormous variety of health care. While most journals stick to the essay/book review format, we can experiment with briefer commentaries, or longer symposia, or special issues (perhaps with guest editors).

These are the innovations we offer. But we are still eager to publish more traditional material — indeed, any material of high quality that will interest our readers.

Health and History should provide an informal forum for discussion of the issues that concern members of the ASHM. We hope to be as provocative as we are scholarly and informative. The notion of a bulletin allows us to include a variety of forms, including works in progress, historiographic surveys, commentaries, news, manifestos, pleas, review essays, and recollections.

All of the essays will be sent out for peer review, and we will make sure that those published are recorded in the major indexes and finding aides.

But now we need your support and your contributions!

Warwick Anderson
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