

Editorial

Militaria has indeed seen many changes since the first issue appeared in 1969. Since then, it has been a mainstay in the debate on matters relating to South African military affairs. Oscillating between a military-history and a multi-disciplinary content, *Militaria* has over the past 28 years, seen 105 issues and has contained some 520 multifarious articles. Despite immediate popularity in military and civilian circles (circulation increased by 50 percent in 1971 and has since been maintained at around 3000), *Militaria* became a quarterly and then a biannual journal, instead of appearing once every second month. This was caused by a number of related forces, not the least being financial stringency and the changing needs of the then South African Defence Force.

A number of improvements were implemented, particularly after 1992. These included the refereeing of articles, which now had to be based upon primary research; and the targeting of a larger academic audience, both locally and abroad. Following the transfer of *Militaria* to the Faculty of Military Science of the University of Stellenbosch (Military Academy) in 1997, the editorial board was expanded to include distinguished experts and *Militaria* is now being positioned with the ultimate goal of accreditation with the Bureau for Scientific Periodicals. This will place *Militaria* in the same league as subsidized journals and will be instrumental for the effective recruitment of the right-type of material for publication.

The transfer to the Faculty of Military Science, presents further challenges. The journal, sporting a new name as *Scientiae Militaria*, will again become a multi-disciplinary journal catering for a wider berth: being a vehicle for articles on all matters relating to military affairs albeit with a focus on Southern Africa. This will stimulate the debate on military affairs within the South African National Defence Force and also throughout Southern Africa; and, in turn, the debate between the Faculty of Military Science and its counterparts, locally and abroad. The editors also recognize the contribution the journal can make with regard to the development of a professional National Defence Force by not only honing reading, writing and critical-thinking skills; but also in drawing the “guardians of South Africa’s constitution” into the centre of the debate on subjects varying from strategy and tactics, to constitutionalism and human rights.

The editors eagerly face the challenge of producing a journal of real value to opinion leaders and the broad public alike; yet, perhaps most of all, to the international military community, so that our world may become a safer and more prosperous place.

In view of the creation of a “new” journal, the relocation of *Scientiae Militaria* to Saldanha and the appointment of a new firm of printers, a single issue will appear for 1997.

Lt Col I.J. van der Waag
Executive Editor