

## Editorial

### **The Times They Are A-Changin'. From Paper to the Internet.**

This is not the last *CIMAGL*, but it will be the last paper issue of the journal.

#### **History**

*Cahiers de l'Institut du Moyen-âge Grec et Latin (CIMAGL)*, known as *Cahiers* to its friends, first saw the light of day in 1969. It was the brainchild of Jørgen Raasted (1927-1985), who was mainly known as an investigator of Byzantine music. He was employed at the tiny "Institute of Greek and Latin Medieval Philology" of the University of Copenhagen, created in 1958 to provide a work-place for two editorial projects, viz. *Monumenta Musicae Byzantinae* and *Corpus Philosophorum Danicorum Medii Aevi*. Raasted was supported by Jan Pinborg (1937-1982), who was at the time just laying the foundations of his status as an internationally leading scholar in the field of medieval philosophy, and already by 1970 Pinborg had become the actual editor of *CIMAGL*, though he was not to become so officially till 1972.

Raasted's best foreign language was English and Pinborg's was German, but the director of the Institute, Povl Johannes Jensen, who held a chair in classical philology, considered French the only noble international language, and so the journal got the French name that it has retained for four decades in spite of the fact that French-language articles have always been a rarity. The name has also survived the institute after which the journal was named. In 1992 a merger with the Institute of Classical Philology produced a new Institute for Greek and Latin (*IGL*), and in 2004 it was *IGL*'s turn to be merged with several other units to create the present Saxo Institute.

Raasted and Pinborg both believed it would be useful to have a not-too-pretentious journal in which the members and associates of their Institute could publish articles and editions with a minimum of delay, and hence not necessarily prepared with all the care required by most journals. A good idea capable of making a stir in the scholarly debate of the moment, and a preliminary edition of an interesting text were to take precedence over the sort of *aere perennius* – products that most scholars at the time dreamed of producing.

Instead of having the journal type-set, Raasted and Pinborg decided on off-set printing from typescript manuscripts — the Institute had just acquired a couple of electric typewriters capable of producing a reasonably homogeneous manuscript, at least reasonably when compared to what manually powered typewriters could produce. This very modern procedure had the advantage of reducing both costs and production time.

The modest cost of production was to be covered by the Faculty of Philosophy (later: of Humanities) of the University of Copenhagen via a special “Publications Account”. And so it was from 1969 till 2005. Money from the “Publications Account” was meant to help scholars employed by the Faculty of Philosophy/Humanities to have their works printed, and for a number of years *CIMAGL* only accepted articles by Copenhagen scholars (including graduate students, although they were not university employees). In 1975 Pinborg went one step further, publishing in *CIMAGL* 14 an article by a German guest and one by a Dane who had no official connection to the Institute, although he carried on his research there, as he has, in fact, continued to do for more than three decades. The next issue, also from 1975, contained an edition done by four Copenhagen scholars, but with an introduction by a total stranger, Osmund Lewry (1929-1987). Two years later a further step towards internationalization was taken by including in *CIMAGL* 21 two contributions by foreigners who had never worked in Copenhagen, but whose work was related to the research of the Copenhagen group of medieval scholars.

Until some time into the 1980s the number of issues of *CIMAGL* varied from one year to another, the average being close to four a year. Some other departments of the Faculty of Humanities started to grumble about why this particular journal from a very small department should be allowed to obtain funding four times a year. As a result, the number of yearly issues was reduced first to two, and then to one, but each halving of the number of issues was accompanied to a doubling, roughly, of the number of pages per issue.

In 1982 Jan Pinborg died and the present editor took over. By that time the journal had found the editorial line it has kept ever since with only minor changes, publishing articles and editions produced in or in collaboration with the Institute of Greek and Latin Medieval Philology or its successors (Institute for Greek and Latin, Saxo Institute). The exterior appearance of *CIMAGL* has also been almost unchanged over the years: a

soft blue cover, a page measuring about 24 by 17 cm with a column of approximately 19 by 12.5 cm. Authors have been called on to provide paper manuscripts ready for off-set reproduction, and have been rewarded for their trouble in that respect by not being fettered by any house style in matters of spelling, punctuation or foot-noting.

Over the years *CIMAGL* became established as a journal without which it is impossible to do serious research in a number of fields – if for nothing else, then because of the large number of text editions published here, many of them of a much less provisional type than originally envisaged by Raasted and Pinborg.

The year 2005 marked a turning point. The Copenhagen Faculty of Humanities abolished the “Publications Account”. In 2006 Karl-Erik Frandsen, the chairman of the newly created Saxo Institute, gave *CIMAGL* a temporary lease of life by making the Institute fund issue 77, while indicating that such funding could not be expected in the future. In 2007 it was decided to change to electronic publication, but it turned out to be a little difficult to arrange everything for the new situation, so eventually the present chair of the Saxo Institute, Ulf Hedetoft, and the editor agreed to publish one last issue on paper, the one you are now reading.

## **Future**

Henceforward *CIMAGL* will appear as an open access internet journal. Information about how to access future issues will appear in the Saxo Institute’s home page at <http://saxoinstitute.ku.dk/>, but not before the second half of 2009, when, hopefully, a new issue will be ready. Journals with which we have exchange arrangements will be contacted separately with proposals for the future shape of our collaboration.

At the same time as the switch to a more modern way of distributing information, *CIMAGL* will also start to obey another of the requirements of the present times: peer-reviewing by others than the editor. Until now the editor has held dictatorial powers to decide which articles should be published and how the original manuscripts should be changed before publication. Now he will be assisted by two co-editors and an international advisory board, the members of which will take turns to review articles submitted for publication. The new organization looks like this:

*Editor-in-chief:*

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*Co-editors:*

Christopher Martin, University of Auckland, [cj.martin@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:cj.martin@auckland.ac.nz)

Fritz Saaby Pedersen, University of Odense (retired), [fritzsp@gmail.com](mailto:fritzsp@gmail.com)

*Advisory board:*

Jennifer E. Ashworth, University of Waterloo (retired)

Joël Biard, University of Tours

C.H. Kneepkens, University of Groningen

Costantino Marmo, University of Bologna

Irène Rosier-Catach, CNRS/Paris VII & EPHE

Christian Troelsgaard, University of Copenhagen.

Under our new regime, it is not strictly required for a paper or edition to appear in *CIMAGL* that it be a result of work done in Copenhagen or in collaboration with scholars here. We shall, however, continue to demand some sort of Copenhagen relevance: papers and editions will only be accepted if they fall within the fields of interest of the Copenhagen group of Greek and Latin scholars, and we do not promise to review unsolicited contributions. So, please do not submit any paper or edition without first contacting one of the editors for a preliminary assessment of its suitability for publication in *CIMAGL*.

To all our readers, some of whom have followed the journal for nearly forty years, I say “Meet us on the net in 2009”.

*Sten Ebbesen*