

## EDITORIAL

It is not every editor who is fortunate enough to have his three immediate predecessors on the Editorial Board! This makes my task much easier and, unlike "real journalism", I do not even feel they are standing behind me, knives in hand. Grateful thanks, therefore, to Derek and Jonathan and, especially, to Gordon who continues to liaise with the printers, a task for which I am entirely unequipped.

Recently, we have been discussing exactly what role the Journal should play. Broadly we are agreed that its main purpose should continue to be the reporting of BILA activities throughout the year. At the same time, there is, of course, the risk of fossilization. To that end, I will, during the coming months, be expanding our list of Reporters so as to ensure that it more accurately reflects the full range of activities undertaken by the insurance industry.

The January edition follows its predecessors in having, as its central theme, a Report of the BILA Conference in September. I am extremely grateful to Messrs Martyr, Corcos, Walker and Merkin for producing typewritten notes of their talks, in some cases when no such notes existed prior to a letter from the editor requesting them! I am also grateful to David Owen for undertaking the difficult task of reporting the BILA Debate, an event which, unfortunately, I was unable to attend.

It would be interesting to know from members whether, in future years, they would like further such Debates to take place or whether they would prefer the previous pattern of having a major talk in the morning followed by the Conference updates in the afternoon?

Grateful thanks also to Professor Cockerell for agreeing to provide an Obituary of Derrick Owles and to Vic Blake for agreeing to allow us to publish the contents of his talk to City Forum concerning progress, following the fire, on the London Underwriting Centre. I trust that members will find this interesting.

In the meantime, Happy New Year!

Roger Doulton