Preface

The appearance of this number of *Renaissance and Reformation* marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the journal. It is appropriate that such an auspicious event be recorded by rehearsing briefly the history of our journal to recognize the contributions of its founders and previous editors.

Renaissance and Reformation was founded in 1964 by Professors Natalie Davis and James McConica to function as a forum for both work in progress and completed scholarship in the interdisciplinary areas of the Renaissance and Reformation. Initially, it grew out of the regular meetings of the Toronto Renaissance and Reformation Colloquium at which scholars in our field met every other month to share discoveries, test hypotheses and report conclusions. Davis and McConica felt these important meetings should have a vehicle through which to communicate with members of the Colloquium not present and to other Renaissance and Reformation scholars unable to travel to Toronto.

Renaissance and Reformation began as a mimeographed newsletter but developed in just six years to a saddle-stitched, if modest, thrice yearly publication. By then, a new editor, Prof. J. Molinaro of the University of Toronto Department of Italian Studies, had assumed the position of editor, a post he held until 1976 when he was succeeded by Prof. Van Fossen, my predecessor.

In the early years, the journal tried to meet the needs of scholars not only in the Toronto area but all over Canada. Also, the increasingly national quality of our journal was signalled by the more frequent submission of French articles, beginning in the early 1970s. Thereafter, *Renaissance and Reformation* became truly bilingual, a fact which in time resulted in a francophone associate editor being added to the editorial board and the responsibility for book reviews being divided between an anglophone and a francophone.

Moreover, *Renaissance and Reformation* began attracting submissions from scholars of international stature not only in Canada but also abroad. This growing stature was equally reflected in our increased subscription list. In part as a response to this success and to the growing pressure on our limited space, the decision was taken to print quarterly, a policy which we still follow.

When I became editor in 1985, more women were added to our editorial board and there was a conscious policy adopted to broaden our appeal, seeking high quality submissions in such disciplines as History, Art History and Reformation Studies, areas where our representation was insufficient. Also, the journal initiated the publication of a special issue each year which would be the selected proceedings of major interdisciplinary conferences held in Canada on aspects of the Renaissance and Reformation. The results of this policy have been gratifying: 1986 saw the publication of *The Language of Gesture in the Renaissance*; 1987, *Poetry and Religion, 1545-1600*; 1988, *Sexuality in the Renaissance*; and now in 1989, *Confraternities in the Renaissance*.

It is our hope that *Renaissance and Reformation* will continue to develop over the next twenty-five years and continue to serve the community of Renaissance and Reformation scholars in Canada. Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank publicly all of those who have made our journal such a success, all past and present members of the editorial board, contributors, readers, reviewers and colleagues who have provided advice over the years.

Kenneth R. Bartlett
Editor