John Pullen: HETSA Editor 1987 - 1991

With the passing of the first decade of the History of Economic Thought Society of Australia, and the successful conclusion of the Sixth Conference held at Monash in July under its auspices, it is time to think briefly of the other main initiative of the Society: regular publication of the HETSA Bulletin over these ten years. When the Society was formed in 1981 at the Armidale Conference, a regular Bulletin or newsletter as well as a bi-annual conference was part of the objectives. John Pullen, who was a major proponent of this initiative and until July the Bulletin’s editor, deserves tremendous credit for regularising publications of this forum for members and almost the sole activity of the Society between conferences.

The first editor was John Wood, one of the initiators of the formation of the Society (with John Pullen and Ray Petridis). He edited the first five issues, when, despite initial intentions, the Bulletin averaged just over one copy a year. As an interregnum measure I edited issue No. 6 in 1986 when John Wood was too busy. In 1987, the editorial mantle passed to John Pullen who produced eight issues in four years hence achieving the original goal of publishing twice a year. John has continued the original tradition of filling the Bulletin with book reviews, news and notes, conference reports, and, in addition, he has assiduously sought articles from the all too few regular contributors who grace its pages. The high printing standards he has set will undoubtedly be maintained by his successor John Lodewijks, whom we all wish success in carrying on the good work. With our growing membership, it should not be too difficult to fill the issue on a regular basis. Let us hope that with our new name we can have a regular, twice yearly History of Economics Review filled with book reviews, articles, and notes and news of Society activities and information relevant to Australian historians of Economics, thereby continuing the good work of John Pullen and, if possible, improving on it.

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