

Editorial

In 1986, *Phonetica* instituted an editor for North America, in order to increase public relations with the scientific community in the United States and Canada, to solicit more papers of high quality from researchers in these countries and to speed up the reviewing process of submissions from outside Europe. John Ohala was the first to take over and to get things moving. When in 1989 he felt the time was ripe for him to hand over to someone else he suggested Randy Diehl and persuaded him to become his successor. In 10 years of hard work and great motivation for the journal and for the scientific study of speech, Randy helped to shape *Phonetica* into a leading publication forum for phonetic science integrating speech signal analysis with linguistic and psychological perspectives. It is particularly due to him that the publication of the journal is now back on schedule. The publisher, the editorial board and the readership owe him a great vote of thanks.

With John Kingston the third 'generation' of North American editors has taken over, effectively with this volume, but in preparation of a smooth transition both the old and the new editor have been collaborating since September last year. And both they and the general editor have joined forces, in conjunction with Olle Engstrand, to put together papers from a symposium held in honour of Björn Lindblom on the occasion of his 65th birthday in June 1999, as a Festschrift to appear in this year's volume of *Phonetica*. This collaborative project has been as enjoyable as it was productive, at the same time rounding off the previous editorship and introducing the new editor for North America.

Many thanks, Randy, and all good wishes for the work ahead, John.

Klaus J. Kohler

My first reaction to being asked to take on the North American editorship was 'of course', but then I hesitated when I realized how hard an act I had to follow. I only hope that I can in time reach the standard that Randy has established. I look forward to working with Klaus to make *Phonetica* the first journal phoneticians and linguists think of when they want to get their work out or when they want to find out what has been done on a phonetic problem.

John Kingston