

## Editorial

The dramatic facelift which *Inferno* has undergone this year is a result of a process designed to raise the profile of the magazine and to achieve a wider readership than that which it previously enjoyed. The last volume was, in itself, a break with tradition in that the editors made the decision to invite submissions from other universities within Scotland. The response was extremely gratifying and the resulting magazine attained new standards in terms of both content and presentation.

The success of the previous volume has proved to be something of a mixed blessing in that the new editors were faced with the challenge of not only equalling, but also surpassing the formidable standards already set. This task was also made more difficult by the fact that the new editors faced a backlog of work as a result of their own commitments and research interests which took them away from St. Andrews at various times throughout the last year. This has resulted in the rollover of this issue into 1999, two months behind schedule. However, it is hoped that the improvements instituted this year will justify the belated appearance of the present volume.

At an earlier point in its history, *Inferno* was in danger of coming to an extremely premature end as a result of a failure to impress upon students the need for such a magazine. I believe that *Inferno* provides an essential opportunity for students who are considering a career involving art history to publish their own work and to give themselves a much needed advantage in a voraciously competitive field. At a time when a student's research and publication record are paramount, the benefits that *Inferno* can offer simply cannot be ignored. Now that the message is getting across, I am proud to report that the future of the magazine appears extremely healthy. For the first time in its history, the magazine has been forced to hold submissions over until the next issue (due December 1999), leaving the next editor(s) of *Inferno* in the enviable position of being able to begin work at their convenience. *Inferno's* fire is burning brighter than ever.

Philip Cottrell, Editor.  
February 1999