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On Changing Gears

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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ON CHANGING GEARS

It is not without a great deal of trepidation on our part that we end four years of producing a newsletter and launch a journal. The change is somewhat like giving up a bicycle for a sportscar: you are vaguely aware of how to drive it but aren't sure you can keep up the payments or obtain enough fuel for it. Still, as the teenager gives up a bicycle for a car, we believe that our field is emerging from its adolescence and now has more sophisticated requirements. When Norman Ball and I began producing the Bulletin in 1976, we put together a list of some fifty possible readers. Since then the list has more than tripled and is still growing. If this newsletter has played a part in bringing together a loose network of researchers, then we feel we have accomplished something considerable.

The newsletter will not die; it will be incorporated into the journal. While we have always had just enough money and help from a few friends to get out four papers a year, we face rather more formidable odds in the new venture. Initially, we hope to finance the journal from subscriptions and advertisements. Of course, if we are not to price the journal out of existence, we must continue to rely upon cheaper format, but what counts is what is between the covers. Arnold Roos and I, aided by a number of advisory editors, intend to purvey quality articles, but this will require (at least at first) an act of faith on the part of the scholarly community. It will take some courage to publish an article in a journal that no one has ever heard of but we invite you to take the plunge. Only time will tell whether this venture was premature, but Arnold and I are eternal optimists and we look forward to your assistance, contributions, and criticisms.

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