

PRESENTATION

The 12th number of D.E.L.T.A marks a 12th anniversary. It is clear that D.E.L.T.A is here to stay. This Special Issue, comprising the abstracts of the papers published in the 10 first numbers (1985 to 1994) was organised to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), which is D.E.L.T.A's home base. The editors of D.E.L.T.A offer this collection, representing the history of one of the Journals published by PUC-SP, as a small but appropriate tribute to one of the oldest and most productive centres of development and publication of research in Brazil, an institution that has played an important part in the recent history of Brazil, and which has always been keen to encourage new talents as well as supportive of established ones.

D.E.L.T.A was born inside PUCSP's Applied Linguistics Programme, and owes its continued presence to many, both inside and outside PUC-SP.

I shall here attempt to mention some of those outside PUC-SP:

In the first place, I should congratulate the whole community of linguists, the journal's *raison d'être* and reason for its vitality, for having submitted work which shows how creative the field can be. It is due to their efforts that D.E.L.T.A has come to occupy its present position among the international journals: an overview of the work published, which is what this issue provides, makes this clear.

The Editorial Committee has been crucial in supporting the authors by anonymously reading their papers and offering suggestions.

It is essential to thank the various supporting agencies of various kinds, which have helped D.E.L.T.A through the years: FAPESP, which helped the start-up, and CNPq, whose support has never failed. Abralín, our association, has sponsored us throughout.

Finally and above all others, Mary Kato is to be thanked. Mary took on the role of editing D.E.L.T.A from the start. She was the central intellectual source of stimulus, as well as the organising spirit; she it was who kept a keen eye out for deadlines and issued the necessary reminders; she contacted referees; she even ended up correcting manuscripts, and converting disk-files as well as dealing with the printers. It is thanks to her that Brazilian linguistics and PUC-SP have played such a major role in D.E.L.T.A. This year, Mary has left the role

of Editor, and become a member of the Organizing Committee, which, we are glad to say, means that she still remains with us. Rajan and I, who have been honoured with the task of taking on the Editor's role, wish to thank Mary both in our own right as well as on behalf of PUC-SP and the wider community of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics.

Leila Barbara