

FROM M.A.A. CELANI

The first *the ESPecialist* editorial I wrote back in 1980 was really a short note to introduce what was then the first Bulletin of the National ESP Project. In 1982, n° 4 acquired a glossy cover, but it was still a bulletin, as it offered mostly reports of seminars and other events organised by the National Project. In 1986, with n°13, it became a journal, with a proper executive board and an editorial council consisting of the coordinators of the ESP National Project. It also received an ISSN number, official recognition from the Catholic University of São Paulo Press – EDUC – and official financial support from the National Research Council – CNPq, which continues to this day. It was still closely linked to the National ESP Project and its periodicity was irregular, depending on material coming from the Project. In 1988, however, the journal became a biannual publication, gained a new cover, and an editorial council including distinguished representatives in the area of ESP from Latin American countries, as well as from the USA and Britain. Since then it has appeared uninterruptedly with unflinching support from voluntary editorial assistants as from 1996, when a new editorial board shared responsibility with me and we were able to release Maria Lúcia dos Reis, the secretary general of our Post-Graduate Programme in Applied Linguistics, from the extra burden of preparing copy for the printers and dealing with the administrative work that the publication of the journal entailed.

Time has come now for new blood to be injected. A 23-year run as an editor is a lot more than one should recommend for the healthy life of any journal. But circumstances have made it to be the case for *the ESPecialist*, apparently without major damage. The journal is alive and healthy and I am sure that as Leila Barbara, Heloisa Collins and I move from the executive board to the advisory board recently created it will continue to flourish under the competent direction of the new executive board, Maximina Freire, Tony Berber-Sardinha, Valeria B. M. Pinto dos Santos and Rosinda de Castro Guerra Ramos, with the latter as editor-in-chief.

Throughout all these years I have greatly appreciated the support provided by many people: our secretary, Maria Lúcia dos Reis, during those busy and difficult initial years; my co-editors Michael R. Scott, John L. Holmes, Leila Barbara, Heloisa Collins and Rosinda de C. Guerra Ramos at different periods in the life of the journal; all the editorial assistants, too many to be named, without whose support it would have been impossible to carry out the work involved; all members of the editorial board, past and present, who gave us their invaluable help in keeping *the ESPecialist* alive and useful to the LSP community in Brazil and abroad.