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Editorial

With this third issue of volume 3 of *Voluntas* we are initiating a new practice. *Voluntas* will henceforth be published three times a year. This particular third issue comes to regular subscribers, at no additional cost, with the compliments of the editors.

This additional issue signals a number of important things. It provides tangible evidence of the success of *Voluntas* in attracting high-quality papers concerning the voluntary or non-profit sector in international perspective. Second, the additional issue in fact indicates an excess supply of such papers. We have been pleasantly surprised by the journal's success in uncovering hitherto unknown talents or unknown areas of research, and we certainly hope to continue this trend. From volume 4, there will be three issues per year, plus the occasional supplementary issue when topics justify it and funds permit.

The move from two to three issues a year – representing a 50 per cent increase in the number of pages – partly accounts for the higher subscription cost next year, though much of the increase is due simply to cost inflation. Subscription rates have not been altered since they were set in late 1989. (With the downward spiralling of sterling against other currencies, a *Voluntas* subscription could well cost less in real terms in 1993 than it did in 1990!)

At an important conference in Indianapolis in March this year, it was decided to establish an international society of researchers working on the voluntary, non-profit or third sectors around the world. The *International Society for Third Sector Research* (ISTR) will be officially launched in 1993, with brochures and membership opportunities shortly reaching as many scholars across the world as it is possible to identify. This is a very important step. We are therefore delighted that *Voluntas* will be closely associated with the ISTR, although the precise terms of the association remain to be agreed.

The international networking of researchers and research in the non-profit sector continues apace. The Indianapolis conference (reviewed by Marilyn Taylor in this issue) and the papers published in *Voluntas*

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during 1992 amply demonstrate that. We would also draw your attention to two upcoming conferences. The first, in Barcelona in May 1993 (see page 310), is an independently organised event which, it is hoped, will promote research and social action in parts of Europe hitherto largely untouched by such activities. The second conference, in Budapest in summer 1994, will be the first of the biannual ISTR conferences. It is hoped to make the Budapest gathering a major event in the history of our subject.

Finally, we already have a number of very impressive papers for *Voluntas*, volume 4, to be published next year, though we are also very keen to receive others. One of the issues next year will address the Independent Sector's *Nonprofit Almanac*, formerly *Dimensions of the Independent Sector*. Given the basic need for measuring underlying activities and trends, and the Independent Sector's impressive record in the US over many years, we believe that this future issue of *Voluntas* warrants special attention. In addition, there are many excellent papers on and from a number of countries which will more than justify your renewed subscription to *Voluntas*!

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