EDITORIAL

Having devoted an entire issue of the journal (and some overflow into the following one) to the current state of Yiddish, there was an obvious logic in attempting to do the same for the state of Ladino. But whereas the sound of Yiddish, albeit in a vulgarized form, is familiar, and access to texts and scholars working in the field is relatively easy, Ladino presents an entirely different set of problems. It has no obvious speakers to promote it today in Anglo-Saxon countries, and the subject belongs more to the realm of specialized studies. So the Editorial Board was delighted when Hilary Pomeroy agreed to help us in suggesting possible contributors. Hilary Pomeroy teaches courses on the culture and history of Sephardi Jewry in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University College London, and has chaired the British Conference on Judeo-Spanish Studies, an international scholarly resource, since 1995. Once the list began to come together, it became obvious that it needed particular expertise to edit the issue effectively, and Hilary generously accepted the invitation to take on this task.

This was originally intended to be a single issue of the journal, but Hilary's many contacts and her wish to offer as comprehensive a view as possible of the current state of the field led us to the early decision to devote two full issues to the subject. This has been an enormous undertaking, especially on top of her many other academic commitments, and the Editorial Board is particularly grateful for her work, above and beyond anything we could have hoped for. As usual the practical aspects and liaison with the publisher have been ably undertaken by Jenny Pizer. I am happy to hand over the editorial reins for these two special editions to Hilary Pomeroy.

Jonathan Magonet