

Editor's note

We've changed the look of our journal — for practical purposes, basically. The design of both the cover and the title itself have raised problems with indexing and with just how the public understands the scope of our publication. The name *Manguinhos* — a reference to the Moorish castle where our center is housed — was an easy and obvious choice, and it is under this title that many libraries have catalogued the journal. Unfortunately, scholars who may be interested in subject matters related to the history of science and health but who have no idea what the word *Manguinhos* means often end up overlooking our publication. Furthermore, it is not rare for potential collaborators to hesitate in submitting their papers because of the apparent primacy of the journal's link to a public-health institution.

We have decided to place greater emphasis on the first half of the title, which expresses our project so much better. Owing to their beauty, the *Manguinhos* castle and other elements of this architectural setting continue to inspire the journal's graphic design.

História, Ciências, Saúde is proud to be one of the periodicals published by the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz but it does not deal with health issues alone. The tripod 'history, the sciences, health' holds room for a much broader variety of topics and disciplinary perspectives, brought together not arbitrarily but as a result of the objective and paradoxical process that has engendered narrow specializations while at the same time fostering imbrications, amalgams, and unprecedented dialogue among disciplines, the sciences, and fields of knowledge.

The presentation of articles themselves has also been altered in order to facilitate the publication of offprints and of historiographic

texts, the latter usually containing a large number of references (which are no longer located only in the margins but now also occur as endnotes).

Our 'Debate' department has a neater look as well. Quotations will be highlighted in the margins, calling the reader's attention to the topic under discussion. Images will be used to reinforce contents and to add a little seasoning to an otherwise cold black-and-white page. The two debates published in this issue were held live. They were recorded, transcribed, edited, re-edited, checked... and some errors may still have survived. This doesn't mean we've abandoned the other method — more controlled and concise debate across the distance and in writing.

The department 'Books & Networks' received a promotion. Our intent is to lend it greater prestige and encourage more authorial, denser reviews of published works.

There are other details which will perhaps leave the reader with the feeling that the journal is a bit 'lighter'. Changes will continue — such as the inauguration of special issues — while trial and error moves us progressively closer to an ideal form that will still respect what is an essentially sound original project and which has already produced a fine magazine.

It is important that our readers collaborate, if only to make the 'Letters' department a little less anemic. Let us know your impressions of these formal alterations and of the ever original contents of *Manguinhos*. No!... Make that *História, Ciências, Saúde*.

Jaime L. Benchimol

P S We've managed to get this issue out only one and a half months late. By the next one — July-October 1997 — we intend to be in step with the journal's cover date.