

## John Armstrong

Professor John Armstrong retired as editor of the *Journal of Transport History* in September 2001 after thirteen years at the helm. During that time John steered the journal with great industry and purpose. The journal reached a number of important milestones on his watch, including its fortieth anniversary, which was celebrated with a special edition in September 1993. John wrote then that he hoped that he would pass the journal on to his successor ‘as well found and seaworthy as when he took it over’. He may rest assured that he succeeded!



Professor John Armstrong

The study of transport history began to face new challenges during John’s editorship. While clearly remaining a discipline firmly positioned within the framework of economic and social history, it is now absorbing new influences and methodological ideas, for example from the history of technology, from cultural history and from gender studies. The present issue on Gender and Transport History, which brings together the work of six authors under the guest editorship of Dr Margaret Walsh, will be the first of a series of special numbers dedicated to particular themes.

In the spring of 1998, when the journal was relaunched in a new format with a striking new cover, John wrote that transport history ‘should be innovative and controversial. It needs to develop, or borrow from other disciplines, novel theories, techniques and approaches to the subject’. The new editor shares this view entirely and, while ensuring that the traditional style of work on transport history will always find a home in the pages of the journal, he will also encourage and endeavour to publish work which seeks to break new ground.

Peter Lyth