

## Editorial Foreword

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Interest within the scientific community in the historic development of the special fields of science probably has been sharpened by the extremely rapid rate of current scientific growth and by the striking nature of the conceptual and technical changes which one witnesses almost daily. A sense of time and history is often now sought by the working scientist and by students in the sciences.

The past decade has also seen the history of science emerge as an active field of research and teaching in the universities. New standards of scholarship have been established and new areas of interest have been explored. While the physical sciences have long served as the paradigm for work in the history of science, and several specialized journals have published articles in this field, this imbalance is now being redressed. Many historians of science are now turning their attention to the complex and often challenging problems of the history of biology, and a new generation of scholars has taken biology as the focus for their historical analyses.

Contemporary scholarship in the history of science makes changed demands upon the author; these are demands for methodological awareness and realization that other fields of historical study have brought new sophistication to the writing of history. While hard data will always serve as the basis of history, the simple narrative is no longer acceptable, particularly when dealing with the emergence of ideas. The best history will be characterized by penetrating and critical analysis of changing concepts and altered methods of experiment and observation. Biology, in particular, must be studied in terms of its relationships with the other sciences and with the intellectual currents of its day. It may be examined as well for its interaction with the institutions of the society which spawns it.

*The Journal of the History of Biology* will attempt to serve as a forum both for the working biologist and the historian of the biological sciences. All periods of history will fit within its

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scope, and special attention will be paid to the developments of the last half-century. Authors are invited from the laboratory as well as the library. In the first instance the *Journal* will be published semiannually. Suggestions, comments, and criticism are invited from potential authors and readers alike.

Everett Mendelsohn