

Foreword

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Scientia Militaria: the South African Journal of Military Studies, initially known as *Militaria: Periodical for Military History*, was published for the first time in 1969 by the Military Archives, but through negotiations between the faculty at the Military Academy and the Director of the Military Archives the Journal found a new home in the Faculty of Military Science in January 1997. Several committed academics served as editors, including the likes of Deon Visser, Ian van der Waag, Theo Neethling and Francois Vreÿ. They and many others before 1997 sustained the publication of this journal over the last 40 years. To all of those who have contributed to the sustainability of the journal, be it through the writing of articles, the securing of funds, or by serving on the editorial board, we express our greatest appreciation for making sure that *Scientia Militaria* could appear as a biannual journal.

The journal received full DOE-accreditation with effect from 2000 and started to attract a broader academic audience, locally as well as internationally. Over time contributors changed their topics, to cover matters not only pertaining to security issues in Africa or Southern Africa, but globally. Current topics stem from issues that are sensitive and relevant to military affairs today, such as the issue of child soldiers, diversity and the transformation of military forces not only in South Africa but globally, conflict resolution and the importance of military psychology throughout peacekeeping missions, the role of China in Africa, or piracy to name a few. There was also a shift from issues directly relating to military affairs and military history to a broad range of multi-disciplinary topics.

The faculty of Military Science is in the business of generating ideas, new knowledge and the dissemination of knowledge. *Scientia Militaria* is an invaluable vehicle through which we can disseminate informed information relevant to the military science discipline and contribute to the expansion of the body of literature on the security sector. The knowledge that is made available through the publication of *Scientia Militaria* is also applied to enrich the learning experiences of students in

our classroom and serves to inspire them to contribute and build on existing knowledge.

Scientia Militaria as a peer reviewed journal provides opportunities for Africans to get their work published when there is a common complaint of lack of publication opportunities for scholarly work. It provides a space for African voices to raise their own issues and in so doing we are helping to lay the foundation for indigenous perspectives.

I am hoping that one can accept the challenge to get the journal internationally accredited in future. Nevertheless we are proud of the history of this journal and proud to be the current owners of it. May it continue to function as a marketing tool that enhances the image of this faculty. Furthermore we hope that the research published helps to solve security issues and serves to educate not only security sector personnel, but also transform the perspectives of all citizens of our 'global village'. For now however, congratulations and long live *Scientia Militaria*.