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Editorial

In the first issue of *Acta Tropica* in 1944, the founding editors wrote in their foreword: “As one thought often evokes another, so the production of the new review ‘*Acta Tropica*’ is more or less due to the foundation of the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel. Still, notwithstanding the practically common history of their origin, the new review is intended to be not merely the organ of the Tropical Institute, but an independent *international scientific review treating of the whole sphere of tropical science*. As, however, the expression ‘tropical science’ is a comprehensive term embracing every sort of scientific work tending to discover or make known anything concerning life in tropical regions, ‘*Acta Tropica*’, unlike most scientific reviews, will not be confined to one single branch of scientific research.”

The scope of the journal covered the broad field of Tropical Science and Tropical Medicine during more than three decades.

Acta Tropica looks now back over 45 years and the same number of published volumes. In 1977, with volume 34, a change of Publisher took place. Schwabe & Co. Ltd, Publishers, Basel/Stuttgart, took over from the “Verlag für Recht und Gesellschaft”, Basel. In collaboration with the Editors, they created a new design of *Acta Tropica*. There were also other changes; the scope of *Acta Tropica* was revised and condensed to *Biomedical Sciences* relevant to human health, including veterinary medicine and biology in the tropics. In addition, peer reviewing of submitted papers was introduced, and the scientific standard of the journal could be substantially improved.

With the increasing worldwide interest in and research efforts into tropical diseases, the Editors of *Acta Tropica* and the Swiss Tropical Institute feel that the journal must broaden its horizons and become more widely known and established internationally. To this end a change to a larger, more international Publisher has been arranged, and so from the first issue of 1989 (Volume 46) *Acta Tropica* will be published by Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam.

This is not to reflect negatively on the Publisher of the last twelve years, but should be seen as the beginning of a new phase in the development of *Acta Tropica*. We have always had a pleasant and efficient working relationship with Schwabe, and on behalf of the Swiss Tropical Institute and the Editors, Readers and Authors, I would like to thank them here for their endeavours for the

journal and also for their friendly co-operation during the period of negotiation and transition.

Although Elsevier will introduce a new format and design, the Aims and Scope of Acta Tropica will remain unchanged. We look forward to the continued support of our present Readers and Authors and to welcoming new ones, and are confident that this change will help to make Acta Tropica even more relevant and successful in the years to come.

Hermann Hecker
Editor-in-Chief