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NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

Articles of up to 8,000 words, as well as shorter reports and correspondence to the editor, are welcomed. Two copies of the manuscript and another captured on disk should be submitted to

The Editor: Zambezia
University of Zimbabwe Publications
P.O. Box MP 203
Mount Pleasant
Harare
Zimbabwe

REFERENCING

Footnotes are preferred, but referencing by authors, dates and bibliography is acceptable where this is the norm in the relevant discipline. Page references should always be given unless the reference is to a whole book or article.

In either case, full bibliographic information about the source must be given, including:

- In the case of books: surname and initials of the author(s); title of book; place (city/town) of publication; name of publisher; date of publication; edition (if applicable).
- In the case of a collected work: surname and initials of the author(s) of a contribution referred to; title of the contribution; surname and initials of the editor(s); title of book; place (city/town) of publication; name of publisher; date of publication; edition (if applicable); first and last page numbers of the contribution.
- In the case of a journal article: surname and initials of the author(s) of the article; title of the article; title of the journal; date (year) of publication; volume number; issue number (unless the volume is consecutively paginated); first and last page numbers of the article.

In cases of doubt, it is always preferable to give too much information rather than too little.
A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As the new editor-in-chief of Zambezia, having assumed the journal's editorship in January 2000, I hope to build on the excellent work done by my predecessors in order to ensure that the journal continues to improve in the quality of the articles it publishes and in the way the journal is presented, packaged, and disseminated. I see my task, therefore, as one which involves processes of both consolidation and innovativeness as I work with all stakeholders to promote excellence and to develop Zambezia into the prime humanities journal publishing research on the Zambezia region. Crucial to the realisation of this dream are the contributors, without whom no journal can exist, let alone aspire to international recognition and respect. It is for this reason that I particularly wish to encourage scholars from the entire spectrum of the humanities and from all corners of the globe, who work on topics relating to Zimbabwe and its neighbours, to submit their articles for publication in Zambezia.

In line with the spirit of innovativeness and believing that the journal's traditional white cover was rather bland and unattractive, I consulted with the Publications Office and the Publications Committee of the University of Zimbabwe on the need for a new cover design and layout. The result is the cover that graces the present volume. Any comments on this new packaging will be greatly appreciated.

To the contributors, I wish to assure them that their manuscripts will be handled expeditiously and with maximum professionalism, fairness, and transparency. Because Zambezia is a refereed scholarly journal, the editor has to rely on the assessments of reviewers who are specialists in the subject area covered by the manuscripts submitted for consideration. As every journal editor knows, some reviewers take their time in submitting reports on articles they have been requested to assess, resulting in delays in decision making and communication with the authors. I aim to work closely with reviewers of articles submitted to Zambezia to encourage them to submit their reports within one calendar month so as to minimise the time between the submission of an article by a contributor and the editor's decision on its fate.

In the interest of maintaining fairness and objectivity, Zambezia has always operated a "blind review" system of assessment. Under this system, the name of the contributor is not released to the reviewers and, similarly, the reviewers remain unknown to the contributor, unless, of course, they have specifically given permission that their names may be disclosed. This ensures that articles are reviewed on
their merit and not because of who has authored them. *Zambezia* will continue to operate under this tried and tested system.

In conclusion, let me say that I firmly believe that *Zambezia* already has a strong record of accomplishment as a quality humanities journal, which addresses useful and important issues of interest to both the specialists and the lay readers. My task, as I see it, is to build on this strong foundation so that *Zambezia* becomes the journal of first choice for scholars in the region and abroad, working in the Humanities, through which to disseminate their research findings. It is my fervent hope that contributors, readers, and friends of *Zambezia* will all assist me in making this dream a reality.

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Editor-in-Chief
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