

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE ALCOHOL AND DRUG HISTORY SOCIETY

*Ian Tyrrell*

This inaugural issue of *The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs: An Interdisciplinary Journal* marks an exciting shift in the activities of the Alcohol and Temperance History Group. During 2004 the Group has debated and accepted through its Executive Council a change of name and focus. The Society has now been renamed the Alcohol and Drug History Society. The new journal continues the old *Social History of Alcohol Review*.

The aim will not be to de-emphasise the study of alcohol and temperance topics. The current issues demonstrate a continuing commitment to these fields. Nor do we seek to obliterate distinctions between the effects of various drugs, their different treatments, and impacts on society. The journal, and the new society backing it will rather aim to recognise the historical evolution of the ways that societies have treated drugs differently—and to explore common patterns as well as discontinuities. Historically speaking, there can be no doubt that regulators, reformers, and users crossed boundaries between a variety of mind-altering substances. We should and will now be able to study these topics together.

The shift of focus for our journal has been debated at least since the 1993 International Congress on the Social History of Alcohol, but it was not until shortly before the 2004 International Conference on Drug and Alcohol History (ICDAH) that momentum built up making a change desirable and possible.

As President of the Alcohol and Drug History Society I am

proud to be able to inaugurate this initiative in broadening our scope, welcoming new contributors, and developing important intellectual connections.

We are extremely fortunate in having Professor David Fahey to act as the interim editor-in-chief for the first two issues, before Dr. Dan Malleck of Brock University takes over. With his experience in running (with Greg Marquis) the 2004 ICDAH, he is ideally suited as editor-in-chief. The Executive Council has begun to change to reflect the new emphasis, and Dr. Jim Mills of Strathclyde University, an expert on the history of drugs, has been added to the core editorial team.

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