You have before your eyes the last issue of the first phase of SVMMA. Revista de Cultures Medievals. This adventure began back in 2011 when, shortly after the creation of the Institute for Research on Medieval Cultures (IRCVM), its board decided to launch a high-quality journal in order to promote the Institute’s reputation on the international scene.

The main guidelines of the publication were discussed in multiple meetings in which both experienced, veteran scholars and younger, more impetuous researchers participated. We decided to preserve and respect the original languages of the authors and, at the same time, offer the texts in English in order to enhance their impact and international dissemination. Hence, all articles are published in two languages. We decided on a biannual schedule, and designed the different sections and the structure of miscellaneous and monographic issues. It was no easy task to set up the different committees that were to make up the editorial structure –the scientific, management and editorial committees– which had to take into account the cross-disciplinarity that characterises the Institute itself. Finally, it was necessary to provide the publication with a technical editorial team, define the editorial process (reception, evaluation, revision, acceptance, translation, typesetting and publication of papers), design the editorial image of the journal, and look for the means to fund the whole thing.

All in all, it took almost two years to publish the first issue of the journal in the spring of 2013 and the second in the autumn of the same year, with articles written specially by members of the scientific board and other renowned researchers linked to the IRCVM.

Since then, we have published 17 issues –7 of which have been monographic– including a total of 68 articles out of the 89 that have been peer-reviewed, and numerous book reviews, and we have also publicised publications by IRCVM members and doctoral theses. Every autumn we have released the yearly activity report of the Institute, and every four issues we have published the names of our external reviewers, 142 in total.

In terms of journal recognition, we have managed to position ourselves in the Emerging Sources Citation Index of the Web of Science platform and we are also listed in Scopus, Linguistic Bibliography, CIRC, ISOC, REDIB, MIAR, LATINDEX, CARHUS Plus +, DIALNET Plus,
DOAJ and ERIHPLUS. We appear in the SJR, ScImago Journal & Country Rank, and Scopus Sources metrics and we hold the Dulcinea and SHERPA / RoMEO Open Access labels.

But the experience of steering this ship, of sharing stumbles and achievements, of always finding the necessary help to move forward in difficult times, has been far more important than statistics and rankings can ever hope to be. In all these years we have been very well assisted by all those people who have been involved in the project, sending us reviews, providing information about their publications and theses, proposing reviewers, revising articles, coordinating monographs, writing editorials, preparing the typesetting, translating and designing. There is no need to name names, we would certainly leave someone out and that would not be fair.

So, as we said above, this is the end of one phase and the beginning of another, with new people in charge of taking the project forward, with renewed energy to face a new era that should bring about the definitive consolidation of the journal with the aim of turning it into an international reference in the field of Medieval Studies.

I would like to conclude by thanking you all for your collaboration, your help and warmth, and wishing good luck to the people who will be responsible for the continuity of SVMMA. Revista de Cultures Medievals from the next issue onwards.

Thank you very much, it has been a pleasure, and please allow me to break with our tradition and sign this editorial.

Marta Sancho i Planas