

# Editorial

Over the past eight years, I have served as English-language Editor of this journal. I am the third person to serve in this post. Professor Martin Estall of Queen's University was the first and Professor John Woods of the University of Lethbridge the second. At the June 1989 annual meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) a new English-language Editor was appointed: Professor Steven Davis of Simon Fraser University. I would like to mark this occasion with some editorial reflections.

In Fall of last year, Dr. Kai Nielsen, Chairman of the CPA's English-Language Editorial Search Committee, asked me if I would let my name go forward for a third four-year term as Editor. Having read well over a thousand manuscripts and having spent at least a day per week on the journal over the past eight years, my enthusiasm for the job was, if not waning, not waxing. After careful consideration and seeking the advice of my wife and a number of friends and colleagues, I decided that I would prefer to step down.

I have enjoyed the challenge of the editorship of *Dialogue*. The range of philosophical topics covered by *Dialogue's* contributors has been truly impressive. With the guidance of referees who were on the whole candid and thorough, I have made what I believed were the best choices from among many fine manuscripts. I am proud of what I have published. There is work here that genuinely has and will continue to contribute to that on-going dialogue we label *philosophy*. I am gratified that the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) has in its academic assessments of scholarly journals for continued funding consistently recognized the high quality of *Dialogue*. That quality is based on the contributions of authors over the past eight years; I appreciate the confidence they have shown in the journal.

I am proud too of an editorial process that has assisted many authors in the refinement of their work, whether or not in the end that work was published in *Dialogue*. Here, tribute must be paid to those who gave themselves wholeheartedly to the task of refereeing.

In terms of my editorial office, I have been undeservedly fortunate. First of all, I have had a University that so valued having *Dialogue* on

campus that it provided a full-time secretary, an office, and additional resources. I would express my deeply felt thanks to the University of Waterloo, particularly to the Vice-President, Academic and the Dean of Arts. In my view, the University of Waterloo has shown leadership in recognizing in a most tangible way that support for an editor of a distinguished learned journal is an indispensable and highly effective way of supporting Canadian scholarship. Secondly, I wish to thank my Department for providing space for an office, release-time from teaching, and most of all sound advice, moral support, and encouragement. Thirdly, I am greatly indebted to Mrs. Lynn Keller who has served as *Dialogue*'s secretary in Waterloo for most of my editorship. The secret of whatever editorial success I have had as an organizer and manager of an editorial office clearly rests with her. I have also had the good fortune to have had over the past eight years two first-rate editorial assistants, Dr. Jim Gough and Mr. Daryl Pullman.

I have also enjoyed excellent relations with our publisher, Wilfrid Laurier University Press. Their work has been meticulous. The finished product has always been excellent. My thanks then to the Press.

Before finishing these reflections, I would like to briefly review my principal editorial aims over the past eight years. My first and abiding concern has always been for the journal's quality. I have relied on the peer review process to measure that quality. In the selection of referees and decisions on manuscripts, I have taken a broad rather than a narrow notion of quality. *Dialogue* attracts contributions that reflect philosophy's diversity and range of approaches. I have tried to be sensitive to that diversity and range, to select within the constraints of space the best manuscripts submitted. I have also developed a network of skilled referees on whose judgment and thoroughness I could rely.

My second main concern, which I have always regarded as complementary to the first, has been to serve the Canadian philosophical community. I have tried to do this in three main areas. First, I have encouraged dialogue amongst Canadian philosophers with the publication of exchanges, responses, commentaries, and interventions. In cooperation with the French-language Editor, Professor François Duchesneau, a number of bilingual exchanges have been secured, scrupulously assessed, and then published. Second, within the limits set by space and the availability of suitable reviewers, I have sought reviews of the major publications of Canadian philosophers. My aim has been to make this uniquely Canadian philosophical journal the journal of record for Canadian philosophy. This is not only appropriate given the nature of our sponsoring organization, the CPA, and our main funder, SSHRC, but also in view of the high quality and unique contributions made by Canadian philosophers to international scholarship. Third, I have tried, consistent with quality requirements and considerations of editorial

balance, to encourage work on subjects that have a Canadian dimension, whether it be in the history of philosophy in Canada or in more topical considerations. In all three areas, my conviction has been that we can have a journal meeting the highest standards of scholarship that addresses in a way that no other journal can the needs of the Canadian philosophical community as well as the needs of the international philosophical community.

Finally, I would express my thanks to *Dialogue's* readers for their continued interest and also to the CPA for its support over the past eight years. To my editorial colleague, Professor François Duchesneau, may I publicly express my appreciation for his co-operation, wisdom and strenuous efforts; ours has truly been a collegial relationship. To my successor, Professor Steven Davis of Simon Fraser University, I wish every success in his tenure as Editor of *Dialogue*.

Thanks and farewell.

Michael McDonald *Editor*

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