

Editorial

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue

Thomas W. Pierce
Editor

On behalf of the Editorial Board, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of *The International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review*. In this first issue you'll find thoughtful and thought-provoking ideas from 11 of the field's most well-respected and accomplished leaders, shared memories of a remarkable member of the reminiscence and life review community, and an insightful review of an important book. After hearing that, who could blame you for skipping ahead. Nevertheless, over the next few paragraphs I'll outline the motivation for starting the journal and speak briefly about what we hope the journal will mean to the field.

Reminiscence and life review is a complex and appealingly diverse field. It includes people from a tremendous range of disciplines, with work ranging across the most basic of research questions to the most practical of applications to intriguing fusions of the two. It is very much an international community, bringing together members from dozens of countries, representing many additional cultures and identifications, and speaking a multitude of languages. But running through this great wealth of variation is a common thread of interest in the stories people tell about their lives, the meaning of these stories, and the effects they have for both story tellers and listeners.

This commonality of interests links together people who have published their work, for the most part, in journals serving the specialty areas in which they were trained and, very likely, now work. The fact that reminiscence is accepted within these traditional areas is in every way positive and I sincerely hope that not one reminiscence-related article less appears in the journals serving these fields. Publishing in these outlets can only serve to interest new people in our field and establish reminiscence and life review more fully across the disciplinary landscape. However, in any field there comes a time when avenues of inquiry evolve to the point where the members of that specialty area need a place to speak to others as intimately familiar as they are with both the edge of their field and the tools of their trade. This is what we hope the journal will be: a place to share our questions and answers, our surprise findings and unmet predictions, our new theories and improved techniques – with those in the best position to appreciate our accomplishments and encourage us on to new and better work.

That being said, aspirations are fine, but one might well ask what the journal will actually *do*. At a practical level the journal welcomes work in a variety of formats. Papers presenting empirical research, innovations in practice, novel theoretical perspectives, and literature reviews will undergo careful and constructive peer review to ensure high levels of quality. The journal publishes reviews of books of special interest to members of the reminiscence and life review community, and we encourage original contributions of written or audio reminiscences of personally significant people, places, or events. This combination of formats offers readers the work of dedicated researchers and practitioners side-by-side with original personal narratives. This range of content is meant to reflect the diversity of our field's members and their work.

There are several groups of people I want to acknowledge for their roles in making the journal a reality. First, let me express my gratitude to the *Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review* for taking on the responsibility of publishing the journal and for the efforts of its staff in supporting and promoting it. I am likewise grateful to the 21 members of our Editorial Board for bringing their many years of

experience, across a wide variety of knowledge areas, to the task of bringing the journal to the point of publication. I would also like to recognize contributors to the Public Knowledge Project for their vision and diligent follow-through in making software of exceptionally high quality available, without charge, to groups committed to publishing online journals. Finally, allow me to thank in advance the two groups we serve: the authors who entrust us with the products of their creativity, ingenuity, and hard work and our readers, whose time spent with the contents of the journal will hopefully provide them with a wealth of ideas for future research and practice.

If a journal represents a point of contact between writers and readers, I'd like that point to be one where the members of our field have a scholarly home filled with challenge, reward, and a shared sense of purpose and responsibility. You can help us to reach this goal. Please consider this journal as an outlet for your scholarly and professional work; bring the journal to the attention of your colleagues; read and share our published papers. Let us know your ideas for improving and promoting the journal. Speaking on behalf of the Editorial Board, I very much hope that these and other experiences with *The International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review* become a valued part of your professional, and even your personal, life story.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of our Editorial Board with your ideas and suggestions. We'll look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

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