

A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

I consider it a privilege to have been asked to assume the post of Editor-in-Chief of *The Canadian Journal on Aging/La Revue canadienne du vieillissement*, as it enters its fifth year. Assumption of this position customarily calls for an affirmation, or reaffirmation, of editorial policy. While this journal was established with formal goals set by the *Canadian Association on Gerontology/l'Association canadienne de gérontologie*, these are not defined with excessive precision, and that is all to the good.

Four years ago, in Volume 1, Number 1 of the Journal, Blossom Wigdor briefly described the goals and working objectives of *The Canadian Journal on Aging/La Revue canadienne du vieillissement*. "The Journal", she wrote, "is intended to be a refereed research journal to meet the needs of Canadian gerontologists from various disciplines engaged in the study of aging and the aged, and practitioners in the field." I would like to reaffirm these objectives and elaborate them.

The *CJA/RCV* should be thought of as a SCHOLARLY journal. Some, perhaps most, of the material found in articles published here will be SCIENTIFIC, but all of it will be scholarly. I want to encourage the publication of scholarly works from the humanities as well as from the sciences. Gerontology is a mansion of many rooms, some of which connect. While continuing to publish research papers from the social and life sciences, the Journal encourages submissions from any and all scholarly disciplines, including philosophy, ethics, literature, history, classics and any other research-based area of inquiry. The only restriction is that work must be research based and judged to be of scholarly merit through a rigorous, blind, peer review process.

The *CJA/RCV* is pleased to publish material from scholars who are members of CAG/ACG or not; from Canadians or non-

Canadians; about aging in the Canadian context or not. While it is natural that Canadian gerontologists will wish to publish much of our work in this Journal, my vision is that the Journal should become Canada's "international" journal of gerontology, providing a two-way window linking Canadian and international scholarship in aging.

Needless to say, we will continue to publish articles in either of Canada's two official languages and, while the reality of Canadian life makes it difficult to function with ease in both French and English, we will make every effort to communicate in the language preferred by the authors. To the extent that Canadian gerontology may be blessed with distinctive research or research reporting styles because of our cultural and linguistic heritage, I hope that this Journal will reflect such distinction.

The scholarly integrity of the Journal has from its inception rested on peer review. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide fully blind review. In the normal case a paper will be reviewed by no less than two blind reviewers under the direction of an Editor appropriate to the subject area. The Editor-in-Chief oversees the entire process, makes the final decisions based on recommendations from the Editors and composes each edition. The review process will be discussed at length in a subsequent editorial.

The present Editorial Board has no intention to tamper with success. "If it works, don't fix it" is our principle and, we feel, the *CJA/RCV* works very well. However, a few changes will be evident in this and future issues. The volume of manuscripts accepted and now under review justifies an expanded number of pages which, in the typical case, will mean one or more additional articles per issue. Readers will now find a brief biographical note about each author and their current research interests. We thought this would be

a good way for the research community to come to know more about one another.

Perhaps the most important change will require some time to fully implement. We intend to provide a stimulating book review section. Book reviews will be longer, more analytical and, we hope, stimulating. Because book reviews can be important ways to introduce research in one of Canada's languages to the other, the reviews will be accompanied by brief abstracts in the other language, whichever that may be. From time to time, books that are particularly important will be reviewed in a symposium by more than one reviewer. While this section is being developed, the Editor-in-Chief will act as Book Review Editor, working in collaboration with appropriate Editors.

The *CJA/RCV* is now indexed and abstracted in a wide range of sources which inform the world about the contents of our Journal. For this reason authors are now asked to provide key words for abstracting purposes.

I know I can speak for all members of the Canadian Association on Gerontology/ l'Association canadienne de gérontologie in expressing appreciation to Blossom Wigdor, outgoing Editor-in-Chief, for a job well done. It is difficult to establish a new journal, and to establish its reputation for scholarly integrity. As this journal enters its fifth year, it is clear that it has not only survived through its difficult, foundational years, but prospered. I would also like to particularly thank David Schonfield, whose term as Editor for Psychology has ended. The quality of psychological papers which has appeared in the Journal is a testimonial to his contribution. Finally, we can all be grateful for the continuing support of The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada/le Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada for its continuing, generous aid.

Victor W. Marshall
Editor-In-Chief