

Editorial Note 29/2009

Welcome to Volume 29 (2009) of the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* – the second electronic volume of the journal of the Canadian Oral History Association. The journal is published on an ongoing basis: a new volume is opened on 1 January of each year and closed on 31 December. We publish articles as soon as they have passed all editorial stages. The advantage for authors is a shorter turn-around time than print journals can offer. For readers, the advantage is that they do not have to wait for the publication of a complete issue but rather can read, listen to or watch contributions as they become available. The main reason for transforming *Forum* into an electronic journal was, however, to take advantage of the new media, which are particularly suitable to oral history. Thus, in last year's volume you could not only read individual contributions but also listen to oral historians Alistair Thomson, Mirek Vaněk, and Tomoyo Nakao talk about oral history in the Czech Republic, Japan, and in an international context. This year, we hope to publish our first video interviews.

Readers may have been disappointed that we did not publish any scholarly, peer-reviewed articles last year. We certainly were disappointed. But we found out that pushing submissions through the peer review process, which often takes painstaking but important and eventually satisfying editing, takes much longer than we had expected. As a result, however, we have several articles currently in the editing process that should become ready for publication this year.

In addition, Katrina Srigley (Nipissing University) and Stacey Zembrzycki (Concordia University), are guest editing a thematic cluster on "Remembering Family, Analyzing Home: Oral History and the Family." Stacey and Katrina received an overwhelming international response to their call and are currently awaiting papers to come in. We hope to publish the first papers in the summer.

Last year we also signed a contract with EBSCO Publishing Inc., which will assure that *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* will be indexed and made accessible on a global scale that we could never hope to accomplish through our website alone.

A very important change last year was that Kristina Llewellyn accepted our invitation to come aboard as third co-editor. Kristina is a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Women's Studies at Brock University and Research Associate at the University of Ottawa's Democratic Dialogue. She has already taken on some heavy editorial work and brought lots of great new ideas to the journal that you should see bear fruit in the next years.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank Janis Thiessen (Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and University of Winnipeg) for her continued excellent work as the Canadian Oral History Association's secretary-treasurer. Last year, she was instrumental in getting all of our members online and subscribed to

Forum and for responding to a great number of requests regarding past, current and future issues of *Forum*. Another person instrumental in this transition was Syd Weidman (University of Winnipeg), who gave us much needed technical support. He is our expert of Open Journal Systems (the software we use to publish *Forum*); without his knowledge we would not be able to run an online journal. It should be noted that at a small university with comparatively little funding for computer infrastructure and support, the work conditions can at times be trying.

At the end of this year, we will also make volume 26 (2006) - the journal's final print issue - available online and free of charge.

If you are thinking about submitting a contribution to *Forum*, please note that we publish a great variety of contributions. Next to academic articles that go through a double-blind peer review, we publish short think, discussion, and opinion pieces; works of art emerging from oral history (visual art, play scripts, poetry, fiction, etc.); annotated transcripts; and transcripts in the form of testimonies. If you have an oral history contribution that does not seem to fit any of our sections, please let us know. We cannot promise it, but you should not be surprised if we created a section just for your work!

Finally, please let us know if you would like to serve as reviewer for articles (peer review). Please contact our review editor, Sharon Wall (University of Winnipeg, s.wall@uwinnipeg.ca) if you would like to review books, exhibitions, multimedia, etc. Just email any of us with your ideas, submissions, and comments. If you would like to find out how to become a member of the Canadian Oral History Association and thus a subscriber to *Forum*, please email Janis at JanisThiessen@shaw.ca. Our rates are fairly low: Institutional (Cdn\$ 30.00); Individual (Cdn\$ 20.00); Student (Cdn\$ 15.00).

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For further information, visit the Canadian Oral History Association online at <http://www.canoha.ca>

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