

To: Members of the CASCA Executive Committee; Members of the Advisory Board of Anthropologica; Members of CASCA in General

From: Andrew Lyons, Editor-in-Chief/Rédacteur en chef, Anthropologica

Re: Annual Report

Date: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

I am pleased to submit this yearly report of activities.

## **A. ISSUES PUBLISHED**

### **Volume 51(2), November, 2009**

This issue contained twelve full length articles and a shorter piece. It also contained eight book reviews.

Joshua Barker, Tania Li and Gavin Smith (all of the University of Toronto) were guest editors of a thematic section on the effects of forms of political violence, entitled “Ethnographic Approaches to the Study of Fear.” Dr. Catherine Lutz’s 2008 keynote address on “Anthropology in an Era of Permanent War” appeared, appropriately enough, alongside these contributions. The issue contained two volunteered papers.

### **Volume 52(1), May 2010**

This issue was three weeks late because of its record length (222 pages). It contained eleven full-length articles, nine shorter pieces or articles, a museum review, a review forum and nine book reviews.

Sylvie Poirier (Laval) worked as Guest Editor of the thematic section on “Cultural and Political Imagination in Indigenous Communities in Canada and Australia,” assembling a collection of six strong papers during the year before she assumed the role of Editor (Manuscripts in French). She also wrote the excellent introduction to this collection. This issue also contained five volunteered papers on a substantial range of topics.

The new, occasional column, *Reflections*, is the creation of Jasmin Habib (Waterloo) and the distinguished scholar, Ed Bruner (Illinois). **52(1)** contains Bruner’s “My Jewish Childhood” and Habib’s introduction.

The *Ideas* section, “The State (or *Overstated*)”, appeared six months late in order that it might accommodate an extra commentary by Akhil Gupta (UCLA) and a brief response by Gavin Smith to the four scholars who had commented on his work. The *Review Forum* contained three essays on a controversial work by Widdowson and Howard, *Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry*.

I wish to thank Dr. Sylvie Poirier (Editor – Manuscripts in French), Dr. Leslie Jermyn (Managing Editor), Michel Tanguay (translator) and the staff of Wilfrid Laurier University Press for their help with all these issues.

## **B. ISSUE IN PRODUCTION**

The November issue, Volume 52(2), will contain a thematic section entitled, *My Own Boss? Strategies of Resistance and Accommodation of Rural Producers to Neo-liberal Governance*. The Guest Editor is Dr. Birgit Muller (EHESS, Paris). It contains five articles in addition to Dr. Muller's introduction. The issue will also include Dr. James Waldram's 2009 Weaver- Tremblay Address to the Vancouver conference of CASCA as well as two or three volunteered papers, a museum review and a number of book reviews. The IDEAS section will contain Dr. Vered Amit's essay, *Community as Good to Think With: The Productiveness of Strategic Ambiguities*, as well as five commentaries on that paper. This will be a "normal-length" issue of Anthropologica, because a substantial backlog of thematic sections has now been cleared.

## **C. FUTURE ISSUES**

**Volume 53(1)** will contain a thematic section on *Changes of Place: Interrogating the Continuities and Disjunctures of Movement*. Guest editors will be Vered Amit (Concordia) and Karen Fog Olwig (Copenhagen). It will examine different forms of spatial mobility such as student travel, tourism, relocation of retirees, emigration in general and return migration.

**Volume 53(2)**, which will appear in eighteen month's time, should contain a thematic section, edited by Dara Culhane (Simon Fraser University). Articles for this collection are currently undergoing the review process. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Editorial Advisory Board will discuss a draft proposal from Marie Nathalie LeBlanc (UQAM) entitled, *Anthropology in the Era of New Information and Communication Technologies/ L'anthropologie à l'aire des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication*. We are continually searching for new material for our *Ideas* and *Reflections* sections.

## **D. FUNDING QUESTIONS**

Next year we will receive the last and final instalment of our current SSHRC Grant. The deadline for the next SSHRC competition will presumably be June 30, 2011. It is indeed fortunate that our grant for the triennium increased by approximately 75% in the last competition because we incurred about \$7800 in legal costs (\$6,300 to escape Robertson vs. Proquest litigation, and about \$1500 for review of the new contract with JSTOR). I should note that the current SSHRC procedure which makes the Editor-in-Chief's university the administering authority for the grant (rather than CASCA) causes continual errors and a degree of inconvenience. So far, however, we have survived.

## **E. CHANGES TO THE EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD**

There have been some major changes recently. The Board has lost four members: Marie-France Labrecque (Laval, our former Editor, Manuscripts in French), Gavin Smith (Toronto), Harvey Feit (McMaster) and Guy Lanoue (Montréal). We thank all of them for their many years of loyal service. We have gained six new members: Thomas "Tad" McIlwraith (Douglas College), Vered Amit (Concordia), Mario Blaser (Memorial), Sylvie Fortin (Montréal), Naisargi Dave (Toronto) and Gray Graffam (Waterloo). Dara Culhane (Simon Fraser) will join us later this year.

## **F. SUBSCRIPTION BASE**

We have 462 individual subscribers through CASCA and 236 institutional subscribers who are billed by Laurier Press. This means that our circulation is virtually unchanged from last year (when the figures were

449 and 242, respectively) although I should note that 27 of our institutional subscribers are yet to pay their dues.

**G. THE REVIEW PROCESS.**

Between 90 and 95% of our authors receive a report on their manuscripts within three months of submission. When this is not the case, there is usually a problem with the paper.

This is a summary of decisions taken since the Vancouver CASCA:

(1) Outstanding Business from 2008/2009

In mid-May last year we were awaiting revisions from three authors whose work was to appear in the recently published Poirier collection as well as one author of a volunteered paper. The first three authors successfully completed revisions over the summer; in one case the revisions were primarily editorial – supplying a map. The fourth author successfully submitted his revisions late in the year.

No less than 13 papers were being adjudicated at the time of the last CASCA. These included a paper for the Poirier collection (accepted after revisions) and the five papers in the Muller collection (one paper was accepted without revision, two were accepted after revisions, and two papers were, after a few months, successfully re-submitted with considerable revisions). Seven volunteered papers had a mixed outcome: three were accepted for publication after successful revisions and two of them are now in print; three authors were given the option to revise and re-submit, and one successfully did so; one paper was rejected outright.

(2) New Submissions

Since the Vancouver conference, another 21 papers have completed the adjudication process, and another 10 are currently being assessed. In addition, the authors of three volunteered papers were advised that their work was not yet ready for the adjudication process. The 21 papers that adjudicated included two from the Poirier collection (accepted after revision and now published), Waldram’s address (accepted after minor revisions) and all eight from the Amit/Olwig collection (one accepted with no changes at all, two accepted after minor revisions, four currently being revised after conditional acceptance, and one that should be resubmitted soon). The 10 volunteered papers that went to reviewers again had a mixed outcome: two were given conditional acceptances, and one paper has been successfully revised; five received verdicts of “revise and resubmit” – one author did re-submit but withdrew the paper after receiving a request for further work; there were two outright rejections.

Statistically the breakdown of decisions regarding papers received last year is as follows (figures in brackets cover successful revisions or resubmissions):

Papers Received 37

Accepted with no changes or very minor changes	2
Accepted subject to revision	17 (12)
Revise and Resubmit	12(3)
Reject outright	3
Editorial rejection or postponement	3

**G** (continued)

Revise and Re-submit decisions imply that papers need considerable work from authors, but about a quarter of authors do re-submit successfully. Most authors receiving this decision do not re-submit. If one discounts successful re-submissions, the rate of eventual acceptance for *Anthropologica* is 59%. This reflects the preponderance of thematic sections which are usually of high quality. The acceptance rate for volunteered papers is 30%, which is not unusual for a refereed journal. We would like to receive more volunteered papers.

The ten papers that are currently being adjudicated comprise the six papers for the Culhane collection and four volunteered papers.

## **H SUCCESSES AND CONCERNS**

During the last year we can claim to have produced two quite strong issues. The November, 2009 issue primarily contained work commissioned by Dr. Lem. The current issue primarily reflects the work of Lyons and Poirier and the watchful eye of Jermyn.

On Friday, I received notification that *Anthropologica* is now on JSTOR with a three year moving wall. The contract with JSTOR was negotiated by me in the Fall of 2009 with the assistance of Mr. Dan Glover of the law firm, McCarthy Tétrault. *Anthropologica*'s visibility will be much increased by this development.

Late in August I was advised informally by Wilfrid Laurier's legal counsel that we should hire Mr. Glover in order to join a syndicate seeking exclusion from the class action over copyright between Heather Robertson et al and Proquest et al, particularly given the fact that Dr. Darnell had never received any response to her letter to Proquest's lawyers, and the legal situation was hazy. Along with more than 100 journals and non-profit groups, CASCA ended up paying money to be excluded explicitly from a legal action which should never have involved us in the first place. We received formal notice of exclusion in mid-October. I have delayed a response to a proposal from EBSCO HOST, a research data base, until Dr. Adlam advises me that we can afford more legal fees, and I am currently attempting to renegotiate the terms of our agreement with Proquest. Meanwhile, all our authors are now asked to sign a formal contract shortly before publication.

In my last report I made reference to the Department of Canadian Heritage postal subsidy program. For better or worse, postal subsidies are no longer available to scholarly journals. The application for these grants involved days of work. They were not cost effective!

Lastly, I should note that my term as Editor-in-Chief comes to an end next year. I have enjoyed my work with *Anthropologica* greatly, but I shall not be seeking another term, and will also be resigning from the Advisory Board after the next CASCA. It is imperative that a search be conducted for my successor during the next few weeks. It would be a good idea for an Editor-Elect to be in place by January so that the SSHRC application can be completed without undue difficulty.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lyons, EIC (2008-2011), *Anthropologica*.