

## Editorial

Brent Dean Robbins

Over the past year, regular readers of *Janus Head* may have noticed some major changes in our journal staff. I would like to take this opportunity to catch you up on the changes that have taken place. In the Fall of 2003, my co-editors, Victor and Claire Barbetti, resigned their positions, which lead me to take on the position of Editor-in-Chief. In a variety of ways, I found it to be a difficult transition. As co-founding editors, Victor and Claire were not only essential to the inauguration of the *Janus Head* project, they are also my good friends, and it was a sad occasion to discover I would no longer be working directly with them on this wonderful journal. I can assure the reader that Victor and Claire left on the best of terms. They were simply at a fortunate moment in their lives when the dreams they had been chasing began to come true.

Victor's departure came on the heels of earning a new position at the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA). Victor, as part of the IRETA team, works in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP) in order to cultivate a repository of information related to addiction research, health policy, prevention, intervention and treatment in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to develop effective mechanisms to transfer that knowledge to the substance abuse field. He tells me his experience at *Janus Head* provided him with essential skills for success in his new position, where a good deal of his responsibilities include the development of media for the dissemination of information. I have no doubt that Victor's talent for coordinating projects will bring him much success in his current and future responsibilities.

I will never forget the crisp Spring day on the campus of Duquesne University when Victor shared with me his idea for starting a new, on-line journal, and I was quite flattered that he had me in mind to help him pull it off. I have to admit that, at the time, I was quite skeptical, but I thought

“Why not?” Now, eight years later, it is hard to imagine having any doubts about the success of our project, which has exceeded our wildest expectations at the time. Victor’s visionary ideas, natural leadership skills, and naked ambition, taken together, were the ignition that set the machine of *Janus Head* in motion. His love and talent for technology were the grease that kept it going for seven years. For the majority of those years, in fact, he was the primary leader of our organization and, more than any of the co-editors, served in the capacity of Editor-in-Chief. He could have easily taken that title and the power that goes with it, but he preferred to cultivate an egalitarian team amongst the three co-editors. It was his spirit, I think, that nurtured among us a collaboration that, in comparison to what might have been, was incredibly harmonious and seamless in execution. For that, I am very grateful and will miss working with him on each issue.

Claire, who is Victor’s wife, began originally as the Poetry and Fiction Editor of *Janus Head*. But her title was somewhat misleading, because her vision of the journal was a guiding force from the very beginning. In fact, the idea to name the journal *Janus Head* was Claire’s. It was only natural that, after just a year of the journal’s existence, she took on the job of co-editor. Claire’s contribution, I think we agree, was most importantly her aesthetic sensibility, which she brought to bear in a wide variety of ways, from the design of the covers to the selection of art and poetry. Her primary motivation to work on *Janus Head* was the opportunity it afforded her to work at a common project with her husband, whose varied interests symbolized in many respects the cross-disciplinary vision of the journal. When Victor was unable to continue with *Janus Head*, coupled with the fact that she had returned to graduate school to complete her Doctorate (even with three young children at home), Claire realized it was time for her to move on to other things. Her contribution as co-editor will be sorely missed.

As co-founding editors, Victor and Claire will continue to be advisors to *Janus Head*, and I know I have and will continue to value their advice and feedback as we enter a new era of the Janus Head project. They also leave their legacy behind with the many Board Members, not to mention contributors, who they inspired to join our project, including Alphonso Lingis, Robert Romanyshyn, Scott Churchill, and Claire’s esteemed family

members, Louise, Bainard and Christine Cowan, to name only a few.

In this time of transition, I have taken the opportunity to draw up new plans for the future of *Janus Head*. At the forefront of my plan is to fill several new positions over the course of the next year or so. I am pleased and honored to report that Robert Gibbons has agreed to fill the position of Poetry and Fiction Editor. Robert is an accomplished poet who has been a regular contributor to this journal, so I am very pleased he agreed to join our staff. Three of his poems can be read in the current issue, and the contributors pages include his brief biography.

I am also hoping to create and fill several other important editor positions, including Senior Editor, Assistant Editor, and Book Review Editor positions. Anyone is welcome to apply for these positions. Simply send a cover letter and vita via email or to our postal address.

Secondly, I have big plans for the *Janus Head* website. It remains a challenge to keep the website up-to-date with the latest in internet technology, and I believe we can do better. We had always planned to create a more interactive site, and the advances in technology are making it increasingly easier and cost effective for us to make it so. We are most certainly open to any ideas you have about how to improve the website design.

Third, several past issues of *Janus Head* which are out of print will soon be available in book form and will include new introductions and, in some cases, additional essays, poetry, fiction and/or art. The special issues on R.D. Laing, Magical Realism, and Addiction will be our first three projects.

Finally, readers will notice some changes in the format of the journal. Most obviously, each bi-annual issue will be a bit fatter, because each will include more pages, more essays, and especially more book reviews than our prior issues of the journal.

We begin with Volume Seven, Issue Two, which is an open issue. We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Our next two issues will be dedicated to the themes of Goethe's science and philosophical practice. Please don't forget to renew your subscriptions!