

EDITOR'S REPORT

The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

RECENT AND IMPENDING CHANGES

The Journal's co-editors have notified the ASA Board of Trustees that they are willing to continue as editors for an additional appointment term of five years. (The current term of appointment ends Feb. 1, 2018.)

We are sometimes asked whether society membership can provide electronic access to *JAAC* without receipt of a physical copy. This option is now available to members of the Society, with a reduced price for international memberships. See the Society's website for details.

The Journal's book review editor, James Harold, will retire from the post in February, 2108. We circulated a call for applications on the Society website, in the newsletter, and in recent issues of *JAAC*. We received several applications, which are currently under review by a subcommittee of the *JAAC* Editorial Board. We hope to recommend Harold's replacement to the ASA Board of Trustees for confirmation at the 2016 ASA Annual Meeting.

At their invitation, we partnered with the blog *Aesthetics for Birds* to facilitate a discussion exchange about a recent article in the Journal. The first paper chosen for discussion was Jason Leddington's paper "The Experience of Magic," featuring an exchange about the paper between James Hamilton and Jason Leddington. The page featuring their exchange allows others to join the discussion. Additional "AFB X *JAAC* Discussions" are planned.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

We thank Dustin Mohagen and Oleana Herron, Editorial Assistants, and Mika Yamamoto, Administrative Assistant, for their expert assistance in the running of the editorial office. We are grateful for James Harold's services in the position of book review editor, and we also thank his assistants, Rebecca Brenner and Pascale Argondizza. Additionally, thanks are due to Julie Van Camp at the national office. And, finally, thanks go to Kate Caldwell, Jieying Lee, and Elizabeth Welch at Wiley-Blackwell for their assistance in a great many matters.

PEER REVIEW

Currently, the average time from article submission to editorial decision is 53 days. We are committed to the process of masked peer review, in which the identities of authors and referees are unknown to each other. In the past year, nearly two hundred scholars have served the Journal as referees for manuscripts. As is customary, their names will appear with our appreciation in the first issue of *JAAC* next year (Vol. 75, no. 1). Members of the Society who are interested in serving as referees should contact the editors.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Production Schedule. Since last year's Editor's Report, we have published Vol. 74, nos. 1-3 (Winter, Spring, Summer) and no. 4 (Fall 2016) is with the printer and will appear in early November.

In Volume 74 we published 22 articles (excluding introductory essays), and 3 discussion pieces with responses. There were no symposia or special issues.

In comparison, the immediately prior Volume (73) saw publication of 25 articles, 2 symposia of 9 short articles, and six discussions. Volume 72 held 27 articles, one discussion exchange, and one symposium consisting of 4 short articles.

The tentative schedule for the appearance of Volume 75 (2017) is as follows.

Vol. 75, no. 1 (Winter): online 7 Feb 2017; print shipping begins 10 Feb 2017

Vol. 75, no. 2 (Spring): online 2 May 2017; print shipping begins 5 May 2017

Vol. 75, no. 3 (Summer): online 2 August 2017; print shipping begins 7 Aug 2017

Vol. 75, no. 4 (Fall): online 2 Nov 2017; print shipping begins 7 Nov 2017

New Manuscripts. We received 207 submissions between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, an increase of approximately 9% over the previous twelve months. 194 were submitted as articles and 13 as discussion. Of the total submitted, 26 articles and 6 discussions were accepted for publication, and the remainder rejected.

The acceptance rate for submitted articles during 2015-2016 is about 13.4%. For articles plus discussion pieces, it is 15.45%. (In 2013-2014 it was 17.5% for articles and 18% overall, and in 2014-2015 it was 12.6% for articles and 16% overall.)

Additional data about submissions and acceptance rates is included as an appendix to this report.

Referees continue to provide constructive comments to authors. Our current working process is to assign a new manuscript to one editor, who identifies potential referees and then reviews their suitability with the second editor before issuing any invitations to referee. The comments of our referees are reviewed by both editors. These comments are often quite extensive and specific for both accepted and rejected papers, and we are gratified by the responses of authors who express their appreciation for the time and attention that referees spend on their papers. The vast majority of referees return their reports within six weeks of accepting a manuscript assignment.

Book Reviews. We review books in a wide variety of fields related to aesthetics, criticism, and theories of the arts. In Volume 74 we published 32 book reviews. In comparison, the previous four years saw 26 reviews, 29 reviews, 24 reviews, and 27 reviews, respectively.

Book reviews are by invitation. Those who would like to write reviews are encouraged to contact Prof. James Harold at Mt. Holyoke College and send their CV and an indication of the areas in which they would like to review.

JOHN FISHER MEMORIAL PRIZE COMPETITION

The biennial Fisher Prize competition is underway and will next be awarded in April, 2017. Papers will be accepted for consideration until January 15, 2017. Details on the prize are posted on the Society website, in the newsletter, and in recent issues of *JAAC*. The prize essay will be presented at the Society's 2017 annual meeting and will be published in a future issue of *JAAC*.

SPECIAL ISSUES and SYMPOSIA

We invite proposals for special issues of the Journal and for specialized symposia on topics under-represented in the Journal.

The next special issue will be Vol. 75, no. 4 (Fall 2017). This special issue celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Society and the Journal. A call for papers has been issued in the Journal and online and appears as an appendix to this report. The deadline for submission is December 1, 2016.

Symposia typically consist of three or more relatively brief papers that address a topic of current interest or that introduce a range of views on a new topic. Normally, a symposium dedicated to the discussion of a monograph or the published work of a particular author should make contributions to a topic that is not well represented in the Journal.

There is no backlog of unpublished symposia at this time.

Full guidelines for Special Issue and Symposia proposals are on the *JAAC* website under “Calls and Submissions.”

ELECTRONIC MATTERS

Electronic Publication with Wiley-Blackwell.

Worldwide, about 3,800 institutions purchase electronic access to *JAAC*. Wiley’s philanthropic initiatives extended low-cost or free access to nearly 4,600 developing world institutions. Approximately 60% of electronic access to *JAAC* is initiated by individuals outside North America.

ASA members have electronic access to the full text of current and recent issues of *JAAC* (beginning with Volume 59) through www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com, the website that Wiley-Blackwell maintains for journals they publish. For further information see their website, www.wiley.com. Authors of articles published in *JAAC* are required to sign up for Author Services when their article enters production and all authors receive a clear explanation of the benefits including the ability to retrieve the final PDF file of their article along the terms and conditions of use. Wiley-Blackwell continues to pursue its mission as one of the world’s foremost academic and professional publishers and as the premier publisher of journals of scholarly and professional societies. Its list contains more than 1,500 scholarly peer-reviewed journals. Wiley-Blackwell sponsors seminars in December in Washington, D.C., for editors and publishers in order to familiarize their clients with some of the opportunities and issues surrounding electronic matters.

Electronic Management through Scholar One.

All manuscripts continue to be submitted and edited through ScholarOne Manuscripts, Wiley-Blackwell’s preferred web-based management system. ScholarOne provides journal management to more than 500 scholarly societies. Since 2013, the copyright transfer process has been handled as a web-based interface through Wiley Author Licensing System, an online checklist.

JSTOR Digital Archives.

All issues of the Journal are available via JSTOR, a scholarly journal archive service. JSTOR is a non-profit partnership of more than 7,000 libraries and research institutions in 150 countries worldwide that provides access to scholarly materials for participating institutions. They are an archive of the printed version of over 1,500 scholarly journals across 50 disciplines, not merely of individual articles and reviews, and over one million images, letters, and other primary sources. Full search, browse, citation, print and download capabilities are available for all material in *JAAC* after a “rolling wall” of three years. Since 2008, JSTOR has waived or offered reduced fees for academic and not-for-profit institutions in developing countries and all of Africa. JSTOR sponsors seminars annually for scholarly journal editors and publishers on electronic developments and other current issues in publishing, similar to those held by Wiley-Blackwell. For further information about JSTOR, see their website, www.jstor.org.

***JAAC* Website.**

There are two *JAAC* websites. An informational website is incorporated into the general website of the American Society for Aesthetics. The website is regularly updated. The second is the *JAAC* component of the Wiley Online Library website, which provides information about Wiley-Blackwell, permissions, and electronic access to issues of *JAAC* from Volume 59 to the current issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Stecker and Theodore Gracyk

Editors

JAAC Statistics for submissions from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Total number of manuscripts submitted, excluding book reviews: 207

Acceptances: 32 (26 articles and 6 discussions)

Rejections: 175 (168 articles and 7 discussions)

Undecided: 0

Acceptance rate for articles: 13.4%

Acceptance rate for articles plus discussion pieces: 15.45%

(In 2014-2015 the acceptance rate was 12.6% for articles and 16% overall.)

21 manuscripts had multiple authors, so the total number of males/females in the following analysis is greater than the number of actual submissions.

Total submissions from males: 165 (27 acceptances; 138 rejections; 0 undecided)

Submission rate 69.9%, Acceptance rate 16.36%

(2014-15 Submission rate 71%, acceptance rate 23%)

(2013-14 Submission rate 71%, acceptance rate 19.2%)

(2012-13 Submission rate 69%, acceptance rate 17%)

(2011-12 Submission rate 76%, acceptance rate 11%)

Total submissions from females: 71 (7 acceptances; 64 rejections; 0 undecided)

Submission rate 30.1%, Acceptance rate 9.85%

(2014-15 Submission rate 29%, acceptance rate 10%)

(2013-14 Submission rate 29%, acceptance rate 17.2%)

(2012-13 Submission rate 31%, acceptance rate 14%)

(2011-12 Submission rate 24%, acceptance rate 11.7%)

Submissions & acceptances by country:

United States: 84 (14 accepted papers and 5 discussion pieces)

Other English-speaking countries: 49 (8 accepted papers and 1 discussion piece: Canada 1, New Zealand 2, United Kingdom 6)

(Submissions: Australia 4, Canada 11, New Zealand 5, United Kingdom 26, South Africa 3)

Europe: 40 (4 acceptances: Finland, Germany (2), Spain)

(Submissions: Austria 2, Czech Republic 1, Finland 2, France 2, Germany 7, Greece 1, Hungary 1, Italy 4, Norway 1, Poland 3, Portugal 1, Romania 1, Russia 1, Spain 9, Switzerland 2, Ukraine 2)

Central and South America: 7 (0 acceptances)

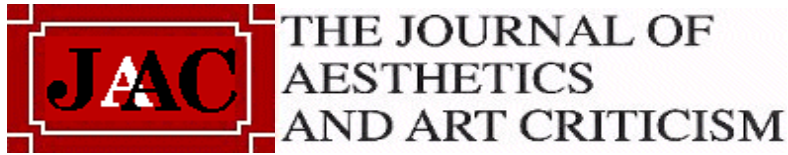
(Submissions: Brazil 2, Mexico 5)

Asia: 26 (0 acceptances)

(Submissions: China 8 [1 of these from Hong Kong], Iran 5, Israel 4, Japan 1, Korea 2, Kuwait 1, Malaysia 2, Singapore 1, Thailand 1, United Arab Emirates 2)

Africa other than South Africa: 1 (0 acceptances) (Submissions: Algeria 1)

Call for Papers: A Special Issue of



Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Issue: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?

As the American Society for Aesthetics and its official journal approach their seventy-fifth anniversary of their founding, it is fitting to dedicate an issue to this period in the history of aesthetics, as well as to its future. We invite articles for this special issue; submissions that develop applications of these broad themes are especially welcome:

- The Role of Its Own History in Aesthetics: Is philosophy of art governed by its history? Is ahistorical work credible?
- Aesthetics and the Sciences (e.g., aesthetics and psychology, aesthetics and brain science, aesthetic and evolution, experimental aesthetics)
- Art and Metaphysics (ontology of the arts, individuation of artworks, etc.)
- Conceptions of the Aesthetic (experience, properties, judgment, perception, appreciation, etc.)
- Aesthetic and Artistic Values
- Art and The Arts: What they are and how are they related?
- Criticism and Appreciation
- The relationship between Anglo-American and Continental Aesthetics
- Global Aesthetics

Articles submitted in the following areas must include a retrospective element, but they are strongly encouraged to articulate and defend a recommendation for a new research emphasis. Ideally, the retrospective element will examine the past seventy-five years.

- Art and Morality, Society, and Politics
- Representation and Meaning in the Arts
- Philosophy of the Arts: The Visual Arts, Music, Literature, Photography, Digital Art, etc.
- Neglected authors and ideas from the past the past seventy-five years
- Aesthetics and Contemporary Art

Submissions should not exceed 7,500 words and must comply with the general guidelines for submissions (see "Submissions" on the *JAAC* page on the American Society for Aesthetics website: www.aesthetics-online.org). Upload submissions to the *JAAC* online submission website, <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jaac>, making sure they are identified as submissions for the special issue. **Deadline for Submissions: 1 December 2016**

If you have questions please contact: Robert Stecker (jaac@cmich.edu) or Theodore Gracyk (jaac@mnstate.edu)