

## **EDITOR'S REPORT**

### *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

#### **RECENT AND IMPENDING CHANGES**

The Journal's co-editors informed 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.) A review of JAAC operations, including a self-study by the co-editors, was conducted under the supervision of the ASA President in 2017.

The Journal's book review editor, James Harold, will retire from the post in February, 2018. Jonathan Neufeld is his successor.

We requested, and were granted, a permanent increase in pages for journal content, providing us with some flexibility in running some articles of longer length and allowing for the possibility of annual special issues without first seeking permission from the publisher for the added content.

We should be mindful that the ASA Trustees must make a decision during the Trustees meeting of 2019 to either extend or terminate our present publishing contract. Inaction on our part in late 2019 will result in automatic renewal of the contract for five years (extending it to the end of calendar year 2025).

#### **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

We acknowledge and thank James Harold, the JAAC Book Review Editor, and his editorial assistant, Pascale Argondizza, for their excellent work. Alexa Gerber, editorial assistant, and Joshua Whicker and Carrie Polega, administrative assistants, have provided invaluable service to JAAC this year. Special thanks are due to Central Michigan University and Minnesota State University Moorhead for their support of JAAC and its operations. We also thank Julie Van Camp, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society for Aesthetics, and Kathleen Higgins,

President of the Society, for their continuing advice and assistance. We also thank Margaret Zusky and Jieying Lee at Wiley Periodicals for their assistance in a great many matters.

## **PEER REVIEW**

We recently compiled the data for submissions from February 2013 to June 30, 2017, and found that the average time to an initial decision is 61 days from submission. 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. 76, 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. 75, nos. 1-3 (Winter, Spring, Summer). No. 4 (Fall 2017, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Issue) will be shipped to ASA members in the first week of November. Vol. 76, no. 1, has been submitted to the publisher.

In Volume 75 we published 30 articles (excluding introductory essays), and 8 discussion pieces (including invited responses). There were no symposia.

In comparison, the immediately prior Volume (74) saw publication of 22 articles, and 3 discussion essays (and no symposia). Volume 73 held 25 articles, six discussion exchanges, and two symposia consisting of 9 short articles.

The tentative schedule for the appearance of Volume 76 (2018) is as follows.

Vol. 76, no. 1 (Winter): online 7 Feb 2018; print shipping begins 10 Feb 2018

Vol. 76, no. 2 (Spring): online 2 May 2018; print shipping begins 5 May 2018

Vol. 76, no. 3 (Summer): online 2 August 2018; print shipping begins 7 Aug 2018

Vol. 76, no. 4 (Fall): online 2 Nov 2018; print shipping begins 7 Nov 2018

**New Manuscripts.** We received 198 submissions between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, of which 189 were submitted as articles and 9 as discussion. (This compares with 194 article

submissions in the previous year.) Of the total submitted, 30 articles and 5 discussions were accepted for publication, and the remainder rejected. This translate to an acceptance rate for articles of 16%

For the period of our editorship, from February 2013 to June 30, 2017, the acceptance rate for articles is 15.2%.

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 the first three issues of Volume 75 we published 26 book reviews. In comparison, the previous five years saw 32 reviews, 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. Jonathan Neufeld at College of Charleston 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 was awarded in April, 2017. Emine Hande Tuna received the prize for her essay “Kant on Informed Pure Judgments of Taste.” The prize essay will be presented at the Society’s 2017 annual meeting and will be published in a future issue of *JAAC*. The next competition has a deadline of January, 2019.

### **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 is Vol. 75, no. 4: The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue (Fall 2017). It will contain twelve articles.

The next approved special issue will be Vol. 76, no. 4 (Fall 2018). This special issue is entitled *The Good, the Beautiful, the Green: Environmentalism and Aesthetics*, and is co-edited by guest editors Sandra Shapshay and Levi Tenen. 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 31, 2017.

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](http://www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com), the website that Wiley-Blackwell maintains for journals they publish. For further information see their website, [www.wiley.com](http://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](http://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, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

**Total number of articles and discussion pieces submitted:** 198

Acceptances: 35 (30 articles and 5 discussions)

Rejections: 163 (159 articles and 4 discussions)

Acceptance rate for articles: 15.9%

Acceptance rate for articles plus discussion pieces: 17.6%

(In 2015-2016 the acceptance rate was 13.4% for articles and 15.45% overall)

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

11 article submissions had multiple authors, so the total number of male/female authors in the following analysis is greater than the number of actual submissions.

**Total article submissions from female authors:** 47 (11 acceptances; 36 rejections)

Submission rate 23%, Acceptance rate 23% (adding discussions, no statistical change)

(2015-16 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%)

**Total article submissions from male authors:** 155 (24 acceptances; 131 rejections)

Submission rate 77%, Acceptance rate 15.5% (adding discussions, acceptance rate 17%)

(2015-16 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%)

**Submissions & acceptances by country:**

United States: 54 (14 articles & 2 discussion pieces accepted)

Other English-speaking countries: 45 (11 articles & 2 discussion acceptance)

(From Canada 10, United Kingdom 23, Australia 2, New Zealand 6, South Africa 4)

(Acceptances: Canada 2, United Kingdom 7 papers and 1 discussion piece, New Zealand 2 articles & 1 discussion)

Europe: 41 (1 article and 1 discussion accepted)

(From Belgium 4, Cyprus 2 (1 discussion accepted), Finland 2, Faroe Islands 1 (1 accept), Germany 1, Hungary 1, Italy 4, Macedonia 1, Netherlands 1, Norway 1, Poland 2, Portugal 1, Romania 2, Russia 2, Slovenia 1, Spain 5, Sweden 1, Switzerland 4)

Central and South America: 5 (1 acceptance)

(Mexico 1 (1 accept), Brazil 2, Columbia 2)

Asia: 34 (0 acceptance)

(From Azerbaijan 2, China 5 [2 of these from Hong Kong], India 3, Iran 3, Israel 3, Japan 1, Korea 5, Malaysia 3, Pakistan 3, Singapore 2, Thailand 3, Turkey 1)

Africa other than South Africa: 0 submissions

## Call for Papers: A Special Issue of



The Good, the Beautiful, the Green: Environmentalism and Aesthetics

Guest Editors:

Sandra Shapshay and Levi Tenen

Submissions on any philosophical treatment of environmental aesthetics and ethics are welcome, but papers addressing these questions are especially welcome:

- Do we have aesthetic reasons, moral reasons, or some combination of these for protecting the natural environment?
- How does an object's aesthetic value structure our reasons for acting?
- Are environmentally beneficial projects (e.g. wind farms) aesthetically flawed?
- How do non-western aesthetic approaches conceive of the relation between aesthetics and ethics, especially with respect to the natural world?
- Can Land Art be aesthetically flawed for negatively impacting the environment?
- What particular actions ought we to take towards the environment?
- Are moral reasons more normatively fundamental than aesthetic reasons, vice versa, or is neither more fundamental than the other?
- Can, and do, aesthetic values conflict with moral values?
- How have past philosophers conceived of the relation between environmental aesthetics and ethics?
- What role do aesthetic considerations play in *motivating* people to act for the sake of the environment?
- Does positive aesthetics rest on a moral claim?

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](http://www.aesthetics-online.org)) Upload submissions to the *JAAC* online submission website, <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jaac>, making sure they are identified as submissions for the special issue: at the prompt for manuscript type, select "special issue" rather than "original article."

If you have questions, please contact:

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**Deadline for Submissions: December 31, 2017**