

EDITORIAL

RETROSPECTS AND PROSPECTS

"Rabbit's clever," said Pooh thoughtfully,

"Yes," said Piglet, "Rabbit's clever."

"And he has Brain."

"Yes," said Piglet, "Rabbit has brain."

There was a long silence.

"I suppose," said Pooh, "That that's why he never understands anything."

Winnie-the-Pooh

It has been the good fortune of this journal to have had an editor who not only had "Brain" but understood things as well. During Dan McDougall's editorship, *THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT* came of age in matters of format, of administrative efficiency, and of intellectual experience. Perhaps some gains should have been expected by the JET's eighth year of publication (1974); however, the marked changes from 1974 to 1977 are well beyond any mere fleshing-out of an original blueprint.

Although the JET has been from its establishment a referred journal and has published mainly external authors, scholars outside Alberta and Canada were slow to appreciate its commitment to selecting the *best* "discussion of educational ideas" — without regard to source. Under Dan's energetic leadership, all this changed. Both in terms of number and quality, the JET now has available a good variety of submissions from across North America.

Changes in format reflected not superficial innovations but the determination to publish more and at times longer articles. The book section introduced during Dr. Ralph Miller's term as editor became a significant part of the journal with Dan's support and warm encouragement. The introduction of French language abstracts indicated the increased administrative efficiency required by such refinements of the journal's practices.

In his efforts, Dr. McDougall was ably assisted by the editorial committee who undertook the arduous task of reading and selection of an increasing flow of articles. As a non-participant observer, I wish to express my admiration for their dedication to an academic enterprise that brought no rewards except the three issues of the journal produced each year. Mrs. Marion Harper, administrative secretary, made possible the smooth operation of the journal's correspondence, editorial meetings, and printing schedule. She also provided the continuity and the handling of late submissions that made the book editor's life easier.

After the achievements of Dan McDougall's tenure as editor, *THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT* faces new problems. As with other journal of standing, it is faced with rising costs of publication in a time of fiscal restraint and economic stagnation. In order to maintain or preferably increase the quantity, quality and range of articles, more adequate and hopefully new funding must be secured.

As a Canadian journal whose "total context is international", we see the JET as a means by which Canadian scholarship can be made better known to foreign academics and educationists. In particular, the book section has featured review essays on the state of educational disciplines in Canada or which examined Canadian scholarship in an international context. To those scholars who honoured requests to prepare such essays, we express our appreciation. And we are confident that future solicitations will evoke the same generous response.

If our tenure as editor is as successful as that of Dr. McDougall's not only will financial problems be resolved but the final completion of the work undertaken by Dan and his associates will be accomplished. In that sense, we will have achieved the hopes of Dean Harold Baker and his colleagues who in 1967 established *THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT* at the fledgling University of Calgary.

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