

Editorial Note 30/2010

Welcome to Volume 30 (2010) of the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* – the journal of the Canadian Oral History Association. As the *Forum* enters its third year as an online publication, exciting developments are underway. Early this year, *Forum* editors signed a contract with Athabasca University Press to transfer *Forum* to AUP. *Forum* will be in good company. Next to *Labour/Le Travail*, it will be one of several online journals hosted by AUP.

Moving to AUP will bring several positive changes and one big challenge. AUP has established itself as an expert press in publishing on the Open Journal System (OJS) platform. Thus, *Forum* will always be on the newest version of OJS, and AUP will troubleshoot all technical problems. AUP also has the experts to help us with designing and editing the journal, thus improving its appearance and quality.

AUP is committed to open access. So are we - but with some trepidation. Our move to AUP costs money. We need membership fees to pay for this move. We are concerned that, especially in times of financial crisis, we will lose members if the journal becomes completely open access. As a compromise, we have decided to begin with a rolling one-year window: Subscribers will have immediate access to the journal, while all others will have to wait for one year. Eventually, we would like to make *Forum* an open access journal that is immediately accessible to everyone. Open access is a major means of democratizing knowledge, and as oral historians we are committed to democratizing the production of historical knowledge.

Open access has also meant making past volumes of *Forum* accessible. At this point, one may download and save all past volumes of *Forum* as pdf files. So far, however, the articles are not word-searchable. This will change over the coming year. As yet another bonus of moving to AUP, all past issues will become keyword-searchable and integrated into the OJS archive.

Please renew your membership so that we may continue to develop the *Forum* into an energetic journal dedicated to the advance of oral history in Canada and abroad. All correspondence regarding membership, including the payment of membership fees, will continue to be handled by Janis Thiessen, the treasurer-secretary of the Canadian Oral History Association. For more information, visit <http://www.canoha.ca/membership>.

Volume 29, (2009) was an expansive one and began to demonstrate the flexibility in format that the shift to an on-line journal is making possible. Our “regular” journal issue included articles by Juan José Gutiérrez Álvarez and Juan Antonio Valladares Álvarez from the United States and Alexander von Plato and Almut Leh from Germany; an intriguing six-and-one-half hour interview with von Plato, perhaps Germany’s most prominent oral historian; two documentary pieces;

several work-in-progress reports and “Broadside” contributions; ten reviews; and one conference report.

At the same time, guest editors Katrina Srigley (Nipissing University) and Stacey Zembrzycki (Concordia University), were busy editing a special issue on “Remembering Family, Analyzing Home: Oral History and the Family.” This special issue, which will have about eight peer-reviewed articles, will be formally launched at the Canadian Historical Association’s meeting in Montreal in May 2010. However, articles will begin to be posted soon, in advance of the C.H.A., so check the journal regularly for new material. In our endeavor to democratize history, we will make this special issue immediately accessible to everyone!

We hope to keep up the same pace in 2010. You will be able to listen to interviews with Antonio Montenegro (Brazil), Pablo Pozzi (Argentina) and Karen Jungblut (Shoah Visual History Foundation, United States). Alexander Freund will travel to the International Oral History Conference in Prague in July 2010 and, provide readers with a conference report and interviews with oral historians from around the world. The editors encourage *Forum* readers to forward to them conference reports and interviews with oral historians at these conferences. Remember that “Telling Stories/Storytelling” is the theme of the C.H.A. in Montreal this year; we hope to publish several reports on this important event. Please send us your impressions of the proceedings.

We are pleased to announce that there will be another special issue in 2010: Alan MacEachern (Director of NiCHE: Network in Canadian History & Environment) and Ryan O’Connor (both at the University of Western Ontario) are busy preparing a special issue on “Talking Green: Oral History and the Environment.” We are excited to have an issue on this pressing global topic. This may indeed be the first journal issue or essay collection devoted to oral history’s intersection with environmental history.

A few personal notes: Kristina Llewellyn started a new position at the Department of Social Development Studies (Education) at the University of Waterloo last fall. We thank Syd Weidman, the OJS expert at the University of Winnipeg Library for his assistance over the last three years. We also thank Sharon Wall (University of Winnipeg), who is doing an excellent job with our review section. Thanks also to Janis Thiessen (Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and University of Winnipeg) for her continued excellent work as the Canadian Oral History Association’s secretary-treasurer. She has been instrumental in getting our members online and subscribed to *Forum*.

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P.S. If you are new to the journal, here is how it works: “The journal is published on an ongoing basis: a new volume is opened on 1 January of each year and closed on 31 December. We publish articles as soon as they have passed all editorial stages. The advantage for authors is a shorter turn-around time than print journals can offer. For readers, the advantage is that they do not have to wait for the publication of a complete issue but rather can read, listen to or watch contributions as they become available. The main reason for transforming *Forum* into an electronic journal was, however, to take advantage of the new media, which are particularly suitable to oral history.”

“If you are thinking about submitting a contribution to *Forum*, please note that we publish a great variety of contributions. Next to academic articles that go through a double-blind peer review, we publish short think, discussion, and opinion pieces; works of art emerging from oral history (visual art, play scripts, poetry, fiction, etc.); annotated transcripts; and transcripts in the form of testimonies. If you have an oral history contribution that does not seem to fit any of our sections, please let us know. We cannot promise it, but you should not be surprised if we created a section just for your work!”

“If you would like to find out how to become a member of the Canadian Oral History Association and thus a subscriber to *Forum*, please email Janis at JanisThiessen@shaw.ca. Our rates are fairly low: Institutional (Cdn\$ 30.00); Individual (Cdn\$ 20.00); Student (Cdn\$ 15.00).” (Alexander Freund et al., “Editorial Note 29/2009,” *Oral History Forum d’histoire orale* 29/2009: 1-2, 1).

For further information, visit the Canadian Oral History Association online at <http://www.canoha.ca>

If you did not view this editorial on our journal website, please visit it at <http://journal.canoha.ca>