

## Editor's Note

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LAST SUMMER, IN PREPARATION for taking over the reins as Editor of *Cervantes*, I put in a special request to my institutional librarians, asking them to gather every back issue of the journal—most of which now inhabit the storage basement of Milner Library—so that I could physically peruse its entire history from Fall 1981 through Spring 2010 (the most recent issue then available). Initially, there was a bit of confusion when I tried to explain to the student worker who handed me a standard journal request form that I simply could not provide the “issue number,” “author name,” “article title,” and “page numbers” demanded by the form because I actually wanted to see the entire run of the journal—all in one place at one time—no matter where its various constituent segments might reside within the library system. We successfully resolved this bureaucratic impasse with the help of a faculty-librarian colleague (and without having to fill out dozens of separate request forms), and within a few days the library staff had graciously accommodated my request, placing all 58 regular and special issues of the journal on a large rolling cart parked just behind the circulation desk. And thus, last August, I spent two leisurely afternoons browsing—and occasionally reading—my way through thirty years of *Cervantes*.

It will come as no surprise to those of you who have long been affiliated with the Cervantes Society of America (and who are perhaps Founders or Charter Members of this organization) that we have much to be proud of when it comes to our official journal. Indeed, my extended perusal of three decades of published research and scholarship revealed three notable characteristics worth mentioning here, if for no other reason than to remind ourselves of the impressive legacy this journal represents. First, *Cervantes* has always served as a venue to

showcase the work of the world's most distinguished *cervantistas*, scholars from every corner of the globe who read Cervantes (with everything that the word "read" implies today) both in the original Spanish and in a multiplicity of linguistic and cultural translations and adaptations. Second, and at the same time, *Cervantes* has always welcomed the work of emerging young scholars whose energetic contribution to the journal and to the field has helped maintain the vitality of our collective enterprise. Third, *Cervantes* has always published a wide range of scholarly approaches—from philology to deconstruction, from genre theory to gender theory, from philosophy to feminism, from biographical criticism to psychoanalytic criticism (to name just a few). As Jay Allen commented in his very first Editor's preface in the 1981 inaugural issue: "I think we have to offer something rather different, above all something which addresses the peculiar difficulties of working with an author who generates such a vast and disparate bibliography" (5). Indeed we do, and indeed we have, thanks in no small measure to my predecessors in this position.

As we move into our fourth decade, my goal as Editor is to see to it that these three crucial characteristics are maintained and enhanced. At the same time, I hope to regularize several elements that have intermittently come and gone over the years (although I must admit that none of these are actually included in this particular issue). I am thinking specifically of a regular section of "Notes" distinct from the full-length articles and a regular "Forum" where readers can comment on previously published material, debate issues that exceed the confines of the traditional scholarly essay, and perhaps even formally respond to published book reviews. Beyond these elements, Howard Mancing, current President of the Cervantes Society, has also suggested the idea of occasionally inviting a featured "target essay" followed by a cluster of invited "response essays," as well as the creation of an annual award to recognize the year's most outstanding article. Moreover, at least one "special issue" idea is already in the works.

Along the way, I hope to engage in a number of projects to help bring *Cervantes* fully into the so-called information age. For instance, we recently secured Internet domain names for both *Cervantes* and the

Society, and have subsequently launched new websites whose addresses are: [www.cervantesjournal.com](http://www.cervantesjournal.com) and [www.cervantessociety.com](http://www.cervantessociety.com). If you haven't already had a chance to do so, please check them out. Likewise, we hope to begin a process of converting all of the pre-1990 articles currently archived on our website from html format into high-quality pdfs, something that will then make it possible to download the entire *Cervantes* archive into any one of various e-readers like iPad, Kindle, or Nook.

As for this current issue, I am excited by the quality and variety of essays we have to offer. John Jay Allen and James Iffland have written very warm tributes to Anthony Close, who, as most of you probably know, passed away unexpectedly last September. Theirs are fitting reminders, once again, of the impressive scholarly legacy that has been documented over the years in the pages of this journal. Following their pieces, we are pleased to publish eight articles divided into two groups (although, I will note that there are a number of common threads that run both through and across all eight essays). The first four articles are by Georgina Dopico Black, Chad M. Gasta, Ashley Hope Pérez, and Timothy McCallister who explore a wide range of Cervantine issues, including the cultural ramifications of translation, early modern notions of relativity, Girardian triangular desire revisited in "El curioso impertinente," and the theological workings of grace at the end of part one of *Don Quixote*. The last four articles constitute a cluster of essays delivered at last year's various regional US Cervantes symposia; with David Boruchoff representing the Chicago symposium held jointly at the Newberry Library and the Instituto Cervantes de Chicago; Martha García representing the Florida symposium held at Florida International University in Miami; Rogelio Miñana representing the California symposium held at California State University, Fresno; and Amy R. Williamsen representing the Texas symposium held jointly at the University of Texas, Austin and the Wizard Academy. Following these essays, we are also pleased to publish three book reviews written by Gonzalo Martín de Marcos, Shannon M. Polchow, and Rodrigo Cacho Casal, who review books written by Alfonso Martín Jiménez, Jesús G. Maestro, and Francisco Márquez Villanueva.

I thank these scholars for their fine contributions to the Spring 2011 issue of *Cervantes*, and for all their hard work in preparing these pieces for publication. I thank *Cervantes's* Associate Editors for both their expertise and their good will in providing timely peer reviews of submitted manuscripts. I also thank Kelsey Coker and Cassandra Burningham for their much-appreciated help in proofreading these various essays and book reviews. And finally, I thank Esteban Touma, my editorial assistant, not only for his invaluable proofreading skills, but also for the many hours he spent helping me lay out the pages of this issue.

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