
FROM THE EDITOR



AM ACUTELY AWARE that many of you paid dues to the Society in its first year and again in 1980, and that you have paid again in 1981 before getting this tangible return on your investment. I appreciate very much the confidence and patience that I have been assuming this represents, and I have done everything I could to see that the confidence is not misplaced, at least as far as our bulletin, *Cervantes*, is concerned.

It seems to me that the profession does not need just another journal, one in this case restricted to essays on Cervantes. A good article on Cervantes is probably easier to publish than one on almost any other author, because of a presumably wider appeal. There is no dearth of publication possibilities in our field.

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. So, in consultation with the Executive Council of the Society, I have established some priorities for the journal. I solicit particularly studies which will help us to evaluate and assimilate the materials we need in order to work responsibly with Cervantes: the present state of studies on a given work, or the application of an approach or method to Cervantes' works, comparative reviews of editions, syntheses of recent studies, perhaps multiple reviews or retrospectives of seminal works of criticism. I would like to provide space for news and notes on Cervantine activity: conferences, symposia, special lectures, performances, anniversaries, and so forth, and perhaps information on major projects underway among the membership. The Editorial Board will consider all other kinds of articles, but these are the priorities. Communication between those of us who teach *Don Quixote* in translation in the context of English and comparative literature

and those who teach it in Spanish has long been lacking, and I therefore solicit eagerly the contributions of both of these groups to the pages of *Cervantes*.

I hope you will find that the contents of the first issue reflect our special needs and interests. Canavaggio's study, which appeared previously in French and has had limited circulation, involves the intersection of Cervantes' life and his art, and thus seemed particularly appropriate for a journal devoted to both. Percas' and Mancing's contributions represent the kind of varied approach to a single critical issue—in this case the discrimination among the different narrators in *Don Quijote*—that we seek to encourage. The exchange between El Saffar and Bandera exemplifies the critical dialogue that I had hoped our Society and our journal could foster.

Avalle-Arce's comments on a *novela*, Murillo's search for origins, Wardropper's fresh look at an *entremés* embody the variety that I hope will continue to characterize the numbers of *Cervantes*.

I am excited about the possibilities of our journal. We have a distinguished Advisory Council and a most capable group of Associate Editors. Tom Lathrop has produced a handsome first issue. All of these people have been very helpful in getting *Cervantes* started. I must thank also Dr. Charles Sidman, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences of the University of Florida, for his encouragement and financial support during this crucial initial period. But the success of *Cervantes* depends ultimately on the participation of the membership: on your contributions to the contents. Please send me your comments and news, tell your friends and colleagues what we are doing, and send me your manuscripts. I can assure you of an expeditious reading and response.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John D. Allen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.