

Introduction

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Not long after assuming the editorship of *Mosaic*, I was given some advice from one of North America's most established journal editors as to how, in today's highly competitive publishing world, I might best promote this particular journal. "Attract the best," he said. "Publish them in your pages." Good advice, and in attempting along the way to follow it, I have learned much more than I knew at the outset about a journal editor's job description.

Mosaic publishes peer-reviewed critical essays, and the editor's involvement with these essays—through their submission, review, editing, selection for particular issues, and production—remains central to my task. Shaping of issues, particularly special issues, belongs to this process. *Mosaic* now publishes at least one special issue each year, disseminating Calls for these about two years in advance, and basing each Call on research, reflection, projection, and a good measure of tire-kicking. Over the years, these special issues have proven significant in "attracting the best people" to publish in, and read, *Mosaic*. In 2001, the journal introduced its "Crossings" interview series, another initiative that has brought leading artists and scholars into the journal's pages, "the best" to be sure: Linda and Michael Hutcheon, Mary Ann Caws, Bill Spanos, John P. Leavey Jr., Sander Gilman, Helen Tiffin, Alvaro Siza, Aritha van Herk, Erin Mouré, David Farrell Krell, John Sallis, Rodolphe Gasché, and Peggy Kamuf. The March 2011 issue will feature an interview with the distinguished actor, voice teacher, and dramatist Kristin Linklater, and not long after that we will publish an interview with the philosopher-poet-critic Alphonso Lingis.

Through such endeavours as these, *Mosaic* is a publishing business success story: the journal distributes to some 37 countries, to almost every province and state in North America, and to over 500 university and college libraries. But our real business is education. For example, the journal's peer-review process, essential to its integrity, funding, and commitment to publishing "the best," involves a global pool of over

11,000 assessors, a network of educators working anonymously and collegially with writers who submit essays to *Mosaic*. Over the past several years, the journal has also developed a student intern program, hiring up to five students a year for training in all aspects of academic journal publishing. The program offers an outstanding educational opportunity to selected students, and at the same time, our student interns perform tasks—research, database entry, reviewer searches, proof reading, and so on—that are essential to the *Mosaic* operation.

Which brings me to my main point: I am writing this introduction on the eve of the *Freud After Derrida* conference, a major international, interdisciplinary event to be held at the University of Manitoba from 6 to 9 October 2010. Perhaps my most unexpected role as journal editor has been that of organizer and host of international conferences, the present one being the third *Mosaic* international conference. (*The Photograph* took place in 2004; *Following Derrida: Legacies* in 2006.) Each of these undertakings has been two years in the making, and for each, I have relied on the enthusiasm, professionalism, research, and organizational skills of *Mosaic* student interns. I like to think that the students' interchange with local and international students and scholars across the disciplines has provided them, in turn, with a unique educational experience. And as interns often tell me—echoing “the best” writers who publish in the journal—they benefit greatly from working with, and enjoying the expertise of, the *Mosaic* team: the journal's business manager, its production manager, its subscriptions advisor, and its IT architect.

The *Freud After Derrida* conference program, available on-line through the *Mosaic* website, features five keynote speakers and presentations from students and scholars representing seventeen different countries. Those *Mosaic* readers unable to attend the event can look forward to a special proceedings issue of the journal.