

## Editorial: A Fond Farewell

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In 1975, the first issue of *CCL* was produced by the four founding editors — John Robert Sorfleet, Elizabeth Waterston, Glenys Stow, and Mary Rubio — all members of the Department of English at the University of Guelph. In 2005, after 30 years at Guelph, *CCL* is moving to a new home at the University of Winnipeg. We began the journal with enormous enthusiasm, and it gave us great pleasure to work with other like-minded colleagues over the years. The *CCL* office has played host to a parade of people interested in research and criticism of children's literature here and elsewhere. As the last of the co-founders to continue editing the journal up to the present, I would like to pay special tribute to the people who have taken major responsibility for the journal in its first 30 years and cite other people who contributed to it.

The first tribute should of course go to John Robert Sorfleet, *CCL*'s first Editor. As a young professor of Canadian literature at Guelph, he had energy, imagination, and know-how. Having had earlier experience in helping launch *Journal of Canadian Fiction*, he recognized a need for a comparable serious journal devoted to criticism of Canadian children's literature. In 1980, after the first sixteen issues, Bob Sorfleet moved on to Concordia University, and the three of us continued editing the journal in Guelph.

Glenys Stow, another of the co-founders, was instrumental in setting up Guelph's first children's literature course. In 1975, the year of *CCL*'s inauguration, Glenys and I published *Kanata*, an anthology of Canadian children's literature. Our work for that book alerted us to the lack of resources for anyone researching the field of children's literature in Canada. When Glenys moved away in 1984, and eventually to the Owen Sound area in 1989, we lost a valued editorial colleague.

The next tribute is to Elizabeth Waterston, Chair of our department in 1975 when she helped found *CCL*. Her contacts with other chairs and scholars across Canada provided the solid foundation for the journal's continuation and growth. In 1987, Elizabeth retired and became University Professor Emeritus, but she continued as a senior editor of *CCL* until 1993. The books she has published since retirement include *Children's Literature in Canada* and *Kindling Spirit: L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables*. She and I co-edited *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volumes 1-5* and co-authored *Writing a Life*, a short biography of Montgomery. Our work on Montgomery, often reflected indirectly in *CCL*'s pages, has helped to recuperate an influential female writer who wrote for a worldwide adult popular audience, not just for girls, and yet might be called the "mother" of

Canadian children's literature.

François Paré joined our senior editorial team in 1983. A member of Guelph's French-language division, he kept an eagle eye on the young journal to make sure it was genuinely and usefully bilingual. His precision, efficiency, and insights later won him a Governor General's award for *Les Littératures de l'exiguïté*. Regrettably, he also moved away from Guelph.

François was succeeded in 1992 by Daniel Chouinard, also a specialist in French language and literature, whose administrative skills serve him well in his second term as Director of the six-division School of Languages and Literatures at Guelph. As a senior editor at CCL, his sense of humour, diplomacy, and collegiality kept us all in good spirits when we became over-extended as, I suspect, all journal editors do when they get no release time for editing.

I would like to give an especial tribute to senior editor Marie Davis, who added another very congenial presence to the CCL team in 1990. A gifted university lecturer, Marie brought a background in eighteenth-century literature, women's studies, literary theory, children's literature, and art to her editing. As our co-editor, she redesigned the journal, forged many new connections, and brought the best writing out of people through expert editorial guidance. She also contributed exceptional creative editorial direction to the journal through her fourteen years of editing, up to CCL's final issue. CCL benefitted greatly from Marie's unique combination of artistic creativity, judgement, focus, and superb communication skills.

CCL would not have survived and maintained its SSHRC funding, however, without the support of two remarkable women who served as Administrators, providing continuity over a very long period of time. For nearly ten years, Barbara Conolly brought so much good cheer to the office that we barely noticed when she handed us piles of work and then called us to account if a deadline was nearing. When Barbara moved on to become Managing Production Editor at Broadview Press in Peterborough, she chose as her successor Gay Christofides, whose love of children's literature and critical insights again made the office a warm, stimulating place. In the 1990s, Gay completely computerized our operation by taking over all typesetting functions, by setting up our first website, and by managing with astonishing skill our always precarious finances. She had very able help from Jill Leslie for the last part of her tenure. In 2001, after seven years, Gay moved away, too — all the way to Cyprus for ten months of each year.

In 2002, Benjamin Lefebvre stepped in as interim Administrator, doubling as an exceptionally exacting typesetter and energetic Assistant Editor, and we thank him for his various contributions.

Another person who has helped bring CCL into the technology of the twenty-first century is Linda Day of the University of Guelph's McLaughlin Library. For our website, she has created, mounted, and maintained a searchable index to all of CCL's issues since #1 in 1975.

Finally, it is appropriate to mention another supportive person, Jacqueline Murray, Dean of Arts, who saw the importance of the public service provided by *CCL*. Like earlier Deans, she gave us office space and moral support — and she added needed financial assistance.

We are very sad to see *CCL* leave Guelph, but at the same time we are delighted to pass the journal along to Perry Nodelman, Mavis Reimer, and Anne Rusnak at the University of Winnipeg, where a sizeable group of scholars interested in both Canadian and international children's literature will bring fresh enthusiasm and new scholarship to Canada's journal of Canadian children's literature.

*Mary Henley Rubio*