

Note from the Editor...

In the last year, we have lost two stalwarts of the study of literary journalism. I would like to dedicate this issue to them.

John Tulloch died in October, and Sam G. Riley in March. Their passing is important to note, I believe, because in their scholarly efforts they were willing to take a gamble on a not much studied field called “literary journalism.” Today, of course, we know it as a very much studied field, as reflected in the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies, this publication, which is the official journal of the association, as well as other publications.

John, of course, was known for his many contributions in the more general field of journalism studies, including the founding of the Arts Journalism MA program at the University of Lincoln, one of the United Kingdom’s top such programs, as well as being a staunch advocate for the study of ethics in journalism. But his was also one of the earliest names I heard associated with the study of literary journalism in the United Kingdom (from Jenny McKay), back when the study was more of a hit-or-miss affair in different countries, with pockets of scholars working diligently to advance the genre’s study, but often unaware of each other. And he was also one of the major advocates for the form’s international study, as reflected in the two volumes he co-edited, *Global Literary Journalism: Exploring the Journalistic Imagination* (2012, and forthcoming 2014). It has been because of the efforts of such pioneers that we can now say that literary journalism is a very much studied field.



John Tulloch

His colleague and friend at the University of Lincoln, Professor Richard Lance Keeble, commented: “John was a polymath and his vast reading shone through all his writings. A conversation with John was an education in itself. His studies of writers such as Charles Dickens, Ian Jack, Geoffrey Moorhouse, and Gordon Burn were original, brilliantly incisive, elegantly composed—and witty. Indeed, while he maintained a constant critique of the ethics of the corporate media, he always loved the tabloids for their cheeky irreverence.”

Sam G. Riley at Virginia Tech similarly long endeared himself as both a scholar and gentleman. He authored ten books on the history of the magazine publishing industry; three books on newspaper columnists and their work; a two-book encyclopedia on African Americans and the US news media; and a book on celebrity culture.

6 *Literary Journalism Studies*

“He was,” recalled David Abrahamson, “a scholar’s scholar and a man of extraordinarily gentlemanly manners—a very rare combination.” As a long-standing advocate of literary journalism, Sam believed strongly in, and was undoubtedly the foremost advocate of, the literary merits of short-form newspaper columns.

And for me he was personally special. Some time back in the mid-1990s I attended one of my first scholarly conferences, which Sam was hosting in Virginia. I was making the transition from working journalist to academic, and was still a bit suspicious of what I saw at the time as a lot of academic folderol. Sam was one of the very first to encourage me in my scholarship. I can’t emphasize enough just how important such an affirmation is for a young aspiring scholar, and how important it was for helping me make that passage from journalist to academic (and to discover that scholarship is not all folderol). Sam and I had been in touch about a month before his death, and we had planned to enjoy a glass of wine in Paris at the annual conference of the IALJS. Alas. . . .

What is important is that both John and Sam had an enthusiasm for the subject and tried to pass it along to younger scholars. Thank you, John and Sam, and now in Paris we will raise a toast to you reposing amid the music of the spheres.

I hope readers will like this issue. It is very eclectic, and in some ways I like those issues the most because they remind us of what a many splendored genre is literary journalism. Please enjoy the richness of offerings. This is, also, my final issue. Bill Reynolds of Ryerson University in Toronto will be stepping up as the new editor, and I could not be more pleased. We had talked in the past (London, over some pints?) about such a possibility, and I’m glad it happened.

Looking back at the last five-plus years as founding editor, I am struck by the changes in the field. When I take the time to come up for air, I realize that there are assumptions I can no longer take for granted, such as that literary journalism is “not much studied,” or that it has been “long neglected.” True, there is still much, much to be done. For one thing, the academy still has not fully embraced literary journalism—or whatever we call it given the many possibilities—as a compelling and even profound discourse in society worthy of serious study alongside Shakespeare and the inverted pyramid. That is part of the genre’s future, and I believe some day it will come. But of course, I am among the converted.

Putting out the journal can be exhausting. But it is always exhilarating. However, *Literary Journalism Studies* has not been a one-man effort. It could not have been done without the help of my fellow editors. And I single them out to thank individually: Nancy Roberts, Roberta Maguire, William Dow, and Lynn Cunningham. Then there are those who go back to the beginning: Jenny McKay, Tom Connery, Miles Maguire, and, of course, Bill Reynolds, my replacement. Finally, there is my publisher, David Abrahamson, who was always generous and gracious with his time,



Sam G. Riley

brought vision to the enterprise, as well as a deep knowledge of academic publishing. I knew I could always draw on him. We didn't always have to agree, but certainly our exchanges deepened the conversation, a conversation that I hope gave rigor to the journal.

Most important, it is because of the efforts of all of these individuals—and still Mothers—that we have now entered our sixth year of publication. But the contributions go beyond just putting out the journal. It is to these individuals I turned to when I had seemingly intractable style questions, or when I needed readers for papers about authors and subjects of which I was less knowledgeable. Moreover, through the efforts of the staff the journal is now listed in the MLA International Bibliography, and we have a growing bibliography on the IALJS site dedicated to scholarship on literary journalism. For such assistance, I can only offer you my heartfelt thanks.

With that, Mr. Toad and I will now wander off in search of new byways.

John C. Hartsock

