

Maguire, Roberta Maguire, and Marcia R. Prior-Miller, as well as book review editors Thomas B. Connery and his successor, Nancy Roberts, and designer Anthony DeRado, have all played important parts. It might be worth noting that the editorial staff is comprised of volunteers, so it can be argued that the journal benefits all the more in light of the fact that their wonderful efforts are labors of love. All of which sets up the question: What am I, with the title of “publisher,” doing in this illustrious company?

Ah, there might be a story there, and I suppose that, now on the tenth anniversary of *LJS*, I am the one to tell it. It all began with a search for a university press or a commercial academic press that might be interested in printing, marketing, and distributing our publication. Drawn out negotiations—conversations, really—with almost a dozen possible partners all proved to be dead ends. The issue, of course, was money—money the association did not have for services we largely did not need. A great deal, it seemed, would go to pay for the prospective partners’ overhead. In retrospect, we probably should have known.

But fortune smiled again, and a casual conversation with the owner of a local digital printing firm with a large course-packet business, near my university, revealed that he was interested in getting into the journal printing business. Not only that, he could handle the domestic and international mailing services needed to distribute our publication. And wonder of wonders, he offered his services to us at a fraction of the cost of the others’ estimates. We could not have been more pleased, and a simple handshake sealed the deal. An aside: Due to both the quality of printing stock and binding, as well as our domestic and international mailing costs, your \$50 annual dues largely go to pay for the manufacturing and distribution of our two semi-annual issues.

Since I was the interlocutor in that conversation with the printer, my colleagues graciously decided to honor me with the publisher’s title. My role is perhaps best described as counsel to, or sounding board for, to the editor. In the words of Walter Bagehot, an early editor of the *Economist*, as publisher I have always considered that I have the right “to be consulted, . . . to encourage, . . . to warn.”¹

And there is another factor which, in truth, may take precedence over all the above. In all candor, I have long suspected that the bestowing of the lovely title of publisher may be less about me and more about my employer, the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. I am told the school has a certain standing in global journalism education circles. In response to a request shortly after the journal’s founding and with my administration’s kind permission, the journal’s masthead page and back cover state that my school—nestled in the leafy groves of Evanston, Illinois, the first suburb north of Chicago—is the site of publication. But please do not misunderstand me. In the interest of a modicum

of transparency, I have to confess that I greatly enjoy being a figurehead. Honest.

So, what, as publisher, do I really do? When I can be of counsel to the editor in matters of content, presentation, scholarly worthiness, or whatever, I am more than happy to be called on—but the final word is always his. I have suggested possible volumes to the book review editor, but similarly the final decision is always hers. Moreover, when business issues of the journal arise, as they episodically do, related to matters such as printing, mailing, or print-run orders, I am happy to invoke my illustrious title and attempt to contribute to finding a solution. To date, it has rarely involved heavy lifting.

In its ten years of life, the journal has published many worthy articles that I have clearly advanced and added new knowledge to the discipline. In addition, there is a tradition of publishing keynote speeches presented at the IALJS annual conference, which have been unusually insightful essays of analysis and interpretation. However, perhaps the ultimate validation of the journal’s standing took place only a few years ago. As a result of the efforts of associate editors Miles Maguire and Roberta S. Maguire, *Literary Journalism Studies* is indexed in the Thomson Reuters Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of the Web of Science Core Collection. As I am sure you know, Thomson Reuters suite of indices are generally regarded as the gold standard of citation indices. Most importantly, acceptance in ESCI is a step toward inclusion in Thomson Reuters flagship indices, the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) and the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). These are the two indices that accept only the most rigorous, esteemed, and intellectually valid of the academy’s peer-reviewed journals. And we are not shy about our aspiration to one day be included.

And, with your permission, one last closing observation. In terms of lifespan, a decade is a long time in the existence of a periodical publication. Every year more than a thousand are founded, but only the smallest fraction are still around three years later. Scholarly journals, particularly those that are both peer-reviewed and available in print, lead an even more precarious existence. Despite good intentions and the best of motives, a large number come and go, leaving barely a trace. That *Literary Journalism Studies* is not only here to celebrate its tenth anniversary but continues to serve as a robust forum of scholarship is a truly remarkable achievement. To the journal’s staff, to all its contributors and to you, dear reader, please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Notes

¹ Bagehot, *The English Constitution*, 208.