

Note from the Editor . . .



These are exciting times for the study of literary journalism and for *Literary Journalism Studies*. For one, the long-awaited volume *Literary Journalism Across the Globe: Journalistic Traditions and Transnational Influences* (University of Massachusetts Press) has just been published. Edited by John Bak, IALJS's founding president, and Bill Reynolds, *LJS*'s associate editor and current IALJS vice president, the volume will undoubtedly make an important contribution to more firmly establishing a place for literary journalism as an international phenomenon. (Full disclosure: Your editor has a contribution in it.)

Also, we are privileged to publish in this issue—among the other fine articles each of which each, I would emphasize, is groundbreaking in its own way—what I believe will prove to be an important interview with Nicholas Lemann, who is not only the dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, but also an accomplished literary historian in his own right. The interview is important not only for who is interviewed, but also for the issues that are raised by Lemann and his interviewer, Norman Sims. Most important to my mind is that they discuss a different kind of “literary history” than what many of us are generally familiar with in the form of a history about literary works, movements, and authors. Instead, what we see here is a different conceptualization of history as literary, in this instance in Lemann's two critically recognized works, *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America*, and *The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy*. Moreover, this topic will be the subject of a promising panel at the upcoming IALJS conference in Brussels.

But now I will take up what for many may be a decidedly dull subject: bibliography. While it may be dull, it is nonetheless critical to the future study of literary journalism and its variations. This is because one of the constraints I detect in the development of the study is readily accessible bibliographical material. And no wonder: It is a complicated problem. To begin with, there has been no one centralized academic home for its study. There are no departments of literary journalism. Rather, its study is spread among different disciplines. Another problem, and perhaps even more challenging, is that there is no one nomenclature for the genre, what with variants such as narrative journalism, literary reportage, literary nonfiction, reportage literature, creative nonfiction, the nonfiction novel, and the New Journalism, to name some of the more widely used in English. Nor are they always quite the same creature, although there can and often is considerable overlap. The result is confusion: What does one look “it” up under when doing bibliographical searches? Clearly, one must be sufficiently broadminded and look it up under every name one can think of for the form. And then differentiate, when necessary. Of course, that's part of the detective work that makes scholarship exciting.

Bearing all of this in mind, I have, for some time, planned as editor to make a start at developing a bibliography of critical and scholarly work related to literary journalism. This is because there is more out there than is perhaps generally appreciated for newcomers to the field. One of the reasons for the lack of an extended bibliography is that courses on the subject of the scholarship are not offered at the graduate level,

6 *Literary Journalism Studies*

at least in so far as I know. Generally, the focus is on teaching either praxis or engaging in discussion of original works in the classroom. These are, of course, important, necessary, and very central to the study of the genre. But one of my goals as an editor and scholar has been to encourage the scholarly study of the form or related forms in order to establish it more firmly as a legitimate field of study in the academy. Moreover, I have been asked from time to time if I were to teach a graduate course in the scholarship, what would I include on a reading list? Thus this editor's note is an attempt to begin that discussion.

There is another reason, too, why such a discussion is necessary, and it bears directly on this journal. I have observed, and readers of submissions have noted too, that at times there tend to be efforts at reinventing the wheel. If the scholarship is to mature, it will have to do so by using as a point of departure what has preceded, whether to engage in an elaboration and evolution, or to challenge and contend. In other words, it is what back in graduate school we described as a "literature review."

To that end I am providing a list of scholarly and critical works on literary journalism that I have accumulated over the course of more than twenty years of research on the subject (I've been studying the subject since 1989). The result is a list pushing 300, surely enough for a graduate reading list and perhaps even comprehensive exams on the subject (I hear some groans of sorrow and gnashing of teeth at the mention of this last). I have no illusion that the bibliography is complete or thorough. But while it may be incomplete, I see the matter as urgent if knowledge of the scholarship is to grow. And grow I have no doubt it will. Because to this end, Miles and Roberta Maguire of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh have kindly agreed to take on the role of associate editors for this all-too-important bibliographical exercise. Readers of the journal will know their names well. Both are established scholars who, moreover, have contributed to the journal. Indeed, in this issue Miles has made another contribution. I'm excited about the participation of the Professors Maguire (doesn't that sound like the title to one of those delightful, light, domestic comedies from the 1940s—"The Professors Maguire"—perhaps starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn?) because both have very strong credentials in two separate but nonetheless compatible areas, literature and journalism. It will be for them to decide how to construct the bibliography as it grows. They may decide, for example, to organize bibliographical materials by author, pedagogy, history, and theory. Or they may come up with other models, models that of necessity will likely evolve and change. And, just as I send out submissions to readers, they will consult with other scholars on the suitability of works for the bibliography. Or they may wish to establish a committee. It's their call.

I would also add that my bibliographical work very much builds on the work of others, and they deserve due credit. I say this, because as I was scratching my head trying to remember if I had left out anything of all-too-obvious importance, I went back to some of my old sources and was delighted to rediscover earlier efforts in bibliographical development. In particular, there is Thomas B. Connery's Selected Bibliography in his groundbreaking 1992 *A Sourcebook of American Literary Journalism: Representative Writers in an Emerging Genre*. Readers will find the *Sourcebook* referenced in the bibliography here. For me it was like returning to find an old friend, and I realized where many of my own early bibliographical discoveries originated. I have not included all of his in the list published here in the interests of time and resources, so scholars should bear in mind that this is still one more promising bibliography to

which one can turn (among other strengths, it has references to some of the very early critical responses to the New Journalism of the 1960s and early 1970s). Undoubtedly a time will come when they will be added. Then there are still others, such as Norman Sims's bibliographies in his *True Stories: A Century of Literary Journalism*. There are rich pickings here. And John Bak and Bill Reynolds's newly published *Literary Journalism Across the Globe: Journalistic Traditions and Transnational Influences* should offer a very rich trove of bibliographical resources with an international focus. All of which is a way of saying that bibliographies are communal efforts because scholars have an enthusiasm for sharing their research.

I make no comprehensive efforts here with this very initial list. But I observe the following: First, in a not very inspired move, I list the various works by the scholarly author, not by the name of the literary journalist. But this is appropriate, because it's an acknowledgment of the many years of hard work, often in obscurity, by these scholars to contribute to the development of the study of this field. They deserve the recognition. Second, I include either works focused directly on literary journalism and the other terms by which it is known or those works that I believe substantially explore literary journalism in a sustained manner. For example, among the latter I include Lars Ole Sauerberg's *Fact into Fiction: Documentary Realism in the Contemporary Novel* because in my view it does engage in a sustained and substantial discussion of the literary journalism of the authors he examines. On the other hand, I do not include Alfred Kazin's highly influential *On Native Grounds*, even though his is one of the few literary histories (ah!—the other “literary history”) to deal with the reportage literature movement of the 1930s. But I do not find his to be a sustained or substantial examination of the phenomenon. My sole purpose for the moment is to keep the focus on those works dealing directly with the genre or that contain sustained and substantial examinations.

Third, I divide the works by nationality. Perhaps not surprisingly the American for the moment is the most developed, reflecting undoubtedly the scholarly consequences of studying the New Journalism phenomenon of the 1960s and 1970s, as well as my own bias because the American experience is what I was most familiar with in my research until I began in the earlier part of the last decade to explore the genre as an international phenomenon. But, as it turns out, dividing such material by nationality is not as easy as it sounds when we see, for example, British writers writing about the Spanish Civil War. In such instances I list the work under both the United Kingdom and Spain. The result is some redundancy, but that is inevitable in bibliographies.

Fourth, I avoid for now bibliographic commentary or annotation on the nature of each of the works, again given restraints of time and resources. There is one exception, however, and that deals with collections of critical articles by different scholars and critics. In some instances I've been able to provide the complete listing of articles, but in others, not. In any event, I identify such works as: “A collection of articles by different scholars and critics.” This should tip off the scholar to still other avenues of research. And there are many. Undoubtedly, those individual articles not listed now will eventually be added to the bibliography under the able guidance of Miles and Roberta Maguire. I would further note that scholarship from *Literary Journalism Studies* has also been included.

Again, the bibliography is based on more than twenty years of collection, and, I emphasize, recollection, given the frailties of memory. Readers are invited to submit their recommendations to Miles at maguirem@uwosh.edu, or Roberta at maguire@uwosh.edu.

uwosh.edu for consideration for inclusion in the bibliography. They will be gratefully acknowledged. The only guideline we provide at the moment is that such works deal directly with the subject, or substantially so. In terms of bibliographical style, listings should be submitted according to the requirements of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Also, any errors in this initial list must be attributed to me, and for them I apologize. But we would be grateful if we could be informed so that corrections can be made. This is, like all bibliographies, a work in progress.

Finally, an international category is included for those works that intentionally reach across more than two international boundaries. Although such works make for a slender list, nonetheless it is important for encouraging the comparative study of the genre, which is one of the goals of the IALJS.

Undoubtedly, the bibliography will grow organically, and so new needs will arise. And perhaps we will see the addition of ancillary works that deal more tangentially on the subject, such as Kazin's work, and, for that matter, Larzar Ziff's nod to the form in his equally influential *The American 1890s: Life and Times of a Lost Generation*, or Alexander Grigorevich Tseitlin's *Stanovlenie Realizma v Russkoi Literature: Ruskii Fizjologicheski Oчерk* (translated as "The formation of realism in Russian literature: The Russian physiological sketch"), and Martina Lauster's *Sketches of the Nineteenth Century: European Journalism and its Physiologies, 1830-50*. They all have some bearing, whether noting the genre in passing or exploring antecedents and similar forms (such as the nineteenth century "physiology," which can be either fictional or nonfictional, which is why I have not included Tseitlin or Lauster in this list). For now, in taking this preliminary step, we need in my view to clearly identify those works that, at the least, engage in a sustained examination of literary journalism.

Also, I make no judgments here about the quality of scholarship. That of course is the responsibility of the scholar, to assess the value of the work. One can all too easily see that some older works have become quaintly outdated (but in doing so they reflect the critical and cultural perspective of their eras), while others are as relevant today as they were when first published. In the end, scholars must make their own evaluations in this regard, and be responsible for them.

In the future, we will post the bibliography on the journal's website (www.literaryjournalismstudies.org) so that it can assist scholars as they seek resources when they consider submitting articles. It will also be a way of saying, gently, have you conducted an adequate research review?

Again, in providing such a list I have no illusion that it is anywhere near complete, if in fact it can ever be complete. I am reminded of what Alberto Manguel said of libraries: "Every library is a library of preferences; and every chosen category implies an exclusion." The same can be said of bibliographies, because, after all, they too are libraries.

The selected bibliography begins on page 123.

— *John C. Hartsock*