

Note from the Editor...

In this special issue we turn to the subject of African American literary journalism. The African American presence in literary journalism is one that has not been studied nearly enough. But it is no surprise that the African American community has engaged in its own literary journalism because literary journalism has as its focus those who too often were consigned as the cultural other. In this issue we see how African Americans spoke for their community. Some will be more familiar, such as Richard Wright and Langston Hughes. But Ollie Stewart was known for the most only in the African American community when he wrote for the *Baltimore Afro American*.



Meanwhile, changes are afoot at *LJS*. I will be stepping down as editor after next spring's issue. It will have been five-some years since a group of us started the journal (and eight since its planning began), and it is time for me to move on. But the journal will be in good hands. Bill Reynolds from the School of Journalism at Ryerson University in Toronto, who is the outgoing president of the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies, the parent organization of the journal, will be "stepping up" to the journal as the new editor (I consider it a promotion from being president). Last year, a search committee put out a call for nominations. And I'm pleased to say that Bill was the unanimous choice. He has been a member of the association since our first conference in Nancy, France, in 2006, and his efforts reflect the selfless dedication so many members have contributed to make this organization such a success.



Lynn Cunningham

Finally, I would like to welcome our newest associate editor, Lynn Cunningham, also of Ryerson University. Lynn brings much needed professional skills to the journal as our chief copyeditor. Lynn is an associate professor at Ryerson's School of Journalism. Prior to joining the faculty she spent twenty years as a book and magazine editor. At Ryerson she has been closely associated with the multi-award-winning *Ryerson Review of Journalism*, produced by graduating-year students.

Lynn is now our arbitrator of style, a position I happily cede to her. One cannot express enough just how important this function is. And perhaps I was getting just a little too old fashioned. I have really found it difficult to accept that the abbreviation for the U.S. in Chicago Humanities style is now US. I suppose that was driven by the trend to abbreviate the United Kingdom as UK. But somehow I am uncomfortable with "us" and "uk." That is why I am happy that I won't have to arbitrate over the style issues. Thank you, Lynn, for delivering *us* and *uk* from Babel.

And now to our special issue on African American literary journalism.

John C. Hartsock