

## Note from the Editor...



This issue of *Literary Journalism Studies* marks a changing of the guard. John C. Hartsock, former editor of this journal, and author of the scholarly work *A History of American Literary Journalism*, has, after five-plus years of extraordinary service to our beloved field of study, moved on.

I have been entrusted with building on his venerable service. These are rather large shoes to fill, and I can only strive to continue his excellent work. The issue you are now holding in your hands (or reading online) will, I hope, be seen as a continuation of that excellent work.

We have some fascinating essays in this issue, ones that challenge and maybe widen the scope of literary journalism. Martha Nandorfy's essay on Charles Bowden was written, reviewed, revised, and readied for publication before the news broke of Bowden's shocking death on August 30 of this year. Bowden had become something of a growing study among literary journalism scholars in the IALJS. His method—which metamorphosed from telling horrific stories of American hubris in plain style to telling horrific stories in metaphorical realism, graduating in its final incarnation to an imagined meeting of the New Journalism and Magic Realism—is explored here.

We are also delighted to be able to publish Amy Wilentz's keynote address to the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies annual congress in May of this year. Wilentz's deep consideration of what it means to be a literary journalist in an era whose pace is altogether too fast for literary journalism is both sobering and valuable. Mileta Roe's interview with the great *New Yorker* writer Alma Guillermoprieto only reinforces this trepidation. We are also pleased to publish an excerpt from Wilentz's National Book Critics Circle Award-winning *Farewell, Fred Voodoo*.

We are also honored to have the opportunity to publish Christopher P. Wilson's essay on the ever-elusive Emma Larkin, his rumination on literary journalism, George Orwell, *Nineteen Eight-four*, and Burma all rolled into one. Wilson's article, by the way, was awarded best research paper at IALJS-9 in Paris.

A research piece that has been a long time in the works and now finished is Doug Cumming's assessment of the New Journalist Marshall Frady. Cumming's is a targeted work, focusing on Frady's elongated literary pursuit of the evangelist Billy Graham. Cumming ponders Frady's relation to his subject as he recounts Frady's elusive quest for a true version of the famous man's reality, and the consequences of getting (perhaps too) close to one's subject.

Finally, for those of you in the literary journalism universe who are inclined toward theory, I hope you find much to digest, and perhaps even argue with, in William Roberts and Fiona Giles's essay on classification in literary journalism. What Norman Sims has often called taxonomy is still very much at issue in some quarters, and Roberts and Giles, in their ingenious update of David Eason's early literary journalism work from the 1980s, will I'm sure spur a new round of debate over classification.

As mentioned above, Mileta Rose graciously interviewed Alma Guillermoprieto for *LJS* in what I hope will be a continuing series of scholar-practitioner interviews.

Happy reading.

*Bill Reynolds*