

Note from the Editor...



Greetings and welcome to this special issue of *Literary Journalism Studies*, which focuses on the work of female literary journalists. For this occasion I have the pleasure of handing over the editorial reins to Leonora Flis of the University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia.

The genesis of this project dates back two years, to the eighth annual conference of the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies, which was held at the University of Tampere, Finland, May 16–18, 2013. I was president of IALJS at the time, and as such was charged with the honorable task of christening one among several worthy sessions the “President’s Panel.” As it turned out, the panel I settled on had been organized and was being moderated by Flis and was entitled, “Women’s Reportage and Public Memory: From the late Nineteenth Century to the 1940s.” The panel featured presentations from five female scholars from Belgium, Slovenia, and the U.S.A. (including Flis).

As I understand it, after the day’s proceedings ended, Flis and Rob Alexander of Brock University, Canada, chair of the IALJS Program Committee, were walking back to the Scandic, our conference hotel. They struck up a conversation about how well the “Women’s Reportage” panel had gone. Flis wondered aloud if something more could not be done to follow up—something more ambitious, something for the journal perhaps. Alexander suggested the possibility of putting together an issue’s worth of articles dedicated to the subject of female literary journalism.

From that point onward, Flis and I toiled, on and off, to organize a special issue proposal. Eventually it was presented to then-editor John C. Hartsock as well as associate editors of the journal for feedback. The proposal was well received, and Flis proceeded from there. In these pages the reader will find the work of female literary journalists from countries such as Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, South Africa, and the United States analyzed, critiqued and, yes, applauded. I will leave it to Flis herself, in her guest editor’s introduction, to say more about the issue and to introduce the individual articles.

I would like to thank all of the contributors, and attentive readers, for their diligence and hard work to make this issue a success. I hope *LJS* readers will appreciate and enjoy the breadth and variety on offer here.

Finally, I reserve my singular praise for last. I want to salute Lea Flis, who now has made so real her dream of an issue dedicated entirely to literary journalism from a female perspective.

Bill Reynolds