

## *Note from the Editor . . .*



Greetings and welcome to this special issue of *Literary Journalism Studies*, which spotlights current Danish literary journalism, or its more common moniker in that country, Danish cultural journalism. For this occasion, I have the pleasure of handing the editorial reins to Christine Isager of the University of Copenhagen.

The origin of this project dates to pre-pandemic times, specifically the IALJS-14 conference at Stony Brook University, Long Island, United States, in May 2019, where Christine moderated a panel entitled “Transformations of Personas in Literary Journalism and Beyond.”

Three years later, Christine and two other scholars have revised their presentations to produce a fascinating group portrait of cultural journalism as it exists in Denmark now. I’ll leave it to Christine’s introduction to fill you in.

In addition to the fine work of Christine, Nete Nørgaard Kristensen, of the University of Copenhagen, and Steffen Moestrup, of the Danish School of Media and Journalism, in Aarhus, we have also squeezed into this issue a couple of illuminating historical research papers. Pasquale Macaluso, of University of Cape Town, enlightens us with his study of *Rihla bayna al-jibal fi ma’aqil al-th’airin*, an Arabic text that covers the 1936 Palestinian revolt in ways that sound very much like literary journalism. And Raleigh James Darnell of Sul Ross State University expounds on his theory that Alexander von Humboldt, in his landmark work *Personal Narrative* (1799–1804), through his employment of both objective/rational and subjective/romantic models and consistent use of the picturesque, demonstrates all the signs of a proto-literary journalism.

All five essays include ground-breaking scholarship and expand our knowledge of literary journalism studies while also pointing the way to further research. The issue concludes with a Q&A with *New York Times* feature writer Dan Barry.

This encouraging news for the future of our chosen field is contrasted by recent heartbreaking news. During the production of this issue, one of the giants of our field—some say the giant of our field—Norman Sims, died on May 15. Norm, as many know, was one of the igniters of literary journalism

as a field of research and published several influential books, including the seminal text *The Literary Journalists* (1984). This was shocking news because for many of us the last time we had been in touch with him, Norm seemed his normal, fine self.

Our remembrance of Norm and his work will be published next issue, which also happens to be another special issue, this time guest edited by Tobias Eberwein and Henrik Michael and focusing on German literary journalism.

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy this issue.

— *Bill Reynolds*