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Acknowledgements

James L. Broun

Now in its fourth issue, the acknowledgements section in *Brief Encounters* is starting to look a tad formulaic. But that is far from a sign of laziness on the part of its editors. Rather, it speaks to the remarkable commitment given to this little journal by so many people over what is now four years since its inception. For this issue, CHASE, of course, has been remarkable in its continued support, financial and otherwise. Its placements officer Steve Colburn has been my point of contact throughout and, with his characteristically cool head, he has offered much sage advice and fielded a great many tricky questions. His colleagues Clare Hunt and Rob Witts have also been helpful from the outset and I am grateful to all three for their support.

On my first day as editor, I sat around a table with the journal's Academic Steering Committee; I shall not pretend that the prospect was not intimidating, but their friendly and frank advice has been useful and I am grateful for their continued commitment to *Brief Encounters*.

This issue would not have been possible without the work put in by my Editorial Board. They all provided valuable advice from the outset and were on-hand to help with our marketing work when we found ourselves without a Communications Editor as we launched our Call for Papers. I do not doubt that the volume of submissions we received had something to do with these efforts. The Submissions Editor, Kasia Kubin, and the three section editors – Natasha Richards (articles), Eleanor Kilroy (Creative Encounters) and Jane Hartshorn (reviews) – worked hard to vet the manuscripts as they arrived, make tough decisions about which to bring forward, and assign peer-reviewers to them. Their editorial judgements and opinions were invaluable in helping me make the difficult final choice about which submissions to include here. Kasia must be given special thanks for managing that process and seeking out new reviewers when previous ones dropped out at the last minute. I am also grateful to Natasha, Eleanor and Jane for giving up some of their time (a weekend no less) to copyedit the submissions. In August, Kamran Qureshi was appointed our Communications Editor and I would like to thank him for helping me recruit the new board, enliven our social media presence and publicise this issue. And, finally, but by no means least importantly, our Layout and Proofread Coordinator Baljit Bains tackled Adobe InDesign to produce what you are reading now. I am immensely grateful to all of my team for their continued commitment, which they have given alongside their studies, teaching work and other responsibilities.

Kasia, Natasha, Eleanor and Jane – in exercising their editorial judgements – helped this issue of *Brief Encounters* to remain academically rigorous. But this would have also been impossible without the many anonymous peer-reviewers who, often unsung, gave up much time to write profound, useful, critical assessments about our submissions. I would like to extend my thanks to them for this commitment.

This issue is something of a landmark in that my board was entirely new. This severing of institutional memory might have proved dangerous, but for the remarkably generous support offered by the Founding Editors Emily Bartlett and Nicole Mennell (both of whom now have their PhDs and jobs). They have offered me much useful advice and have patiently responded to calls for help with all sorts of esoteric things. But, if this were not enough, they also ran and organised *Brief Encounters'* first training weekend in August which was a huge help for me and my team. Special thanks must also go to Emily for organising the launch event in her new role with CHASE; it is most unfortunate that a pandemic struck just in time for it and that it had to be cancelled as a result.

While discussing training and continuity, I also wish to thank Simon Everett, who had been layout editor for the previous two issues and has also since graduated. He has been on hand to help me and Baljit navigate Adobe InDesign's quirks, while providing training, producing our layout templates and crafting our first layout handbook. He has gone above-and-beyond to ensure that this most technical of work has been made both easier and sustainable for future issues.

I shall end on a more personal note. Firstly, my supervisor Dr Hester Barron has been remarkably (though not uncharacteristically) supportive of me throughout this process and I am grateful for that. Editing this journal has been a year-long undertaking; my family and friends have thankfully been supportive during the process. But I would like to end by thanking Georgina Hands above all, for putting up with the weekends away, the evenings spent replying to emails and the odd Sunday devoted to moving commas around, not to mention the rest. All of that, and all of this, would not have been possible without her support.

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Senior Editor, *Brief Encounters*, 2019–2020