

## Editorial

Brent Dean Robbins

The inaugural issue of *Janus Head* was published in the summer of 1997. Now, ten years later, we have begun our tenth volume and celebrate our 10th anniversary. Many things have changed since the early days of the journal, but the basic principles that guide the production of the journal remain largely the same. Along the way, *Janus Head* has become a truly international peer-reviewed journal, with contributors and an editorial board that literally spans the globe. We complete our celebration of our 10th anniversary issue, and the completion of the 10th volume of the journal, with a special issue on the Dutch psychiatrist and phenomenologist, J.H. van den Berg, which is being guest edited by Robert D. Romanyshyn, Professor of Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. For now, though, we kick off our anniversary festivities with this current, open issue, which features an array of outstanding essays, creative writing, art, and book reviews.

The first four essays of this issue are on the theme of technology. Don Ihde's essay uses his experimental phenomenological approach to understand the evolution of musical instruments from weapons. And, in "Noise of the World," Michael Filmowicz's engages in reflections on Derrida and John Cage to illuminate the phenomenon of sound. John Pauley's essay explores the role of agency and identity in the technological world, and uses these insights for a critical analysis of American culture in modernity. Finally, picking up on Dr. Pauley's more dystopic perspective on technology, and in contrast to Ihde's essay which celebrates technology, Charles Sabatino's essay returns to the roots of Heidegger's profound concerns about the implications of technology for our immanent future, our destiny as a people in our age. These four essays resonate with one another in fascinating ways that I have only begun to consider, and I invite the reader to enjoy thinking about how each essay poses questions and answers to each of the others.

I am also immensely pleased to offer to our readers excerpts of poetry translated by one of the true masters of poetry translation, John Felstiner,

including translations of both Pablo Neruda and Paul Celan, in addition to other examples of premier creative writing, both in poetry and short fiction formats by international authors including Kalina Maleska-Gegaj, Katia Kapovich, and Pankaj Kurulka, in addition to our regular contributor and poet, Richard Hoffman. But do not forget to savor brand new poetry from our own Robert Gibbons, our wonderful poetry and fiction editor, without whom I would be lost.

Admirers of Sylvia Plath will be pleased to find two essays by scholars of Plath, Ellen Miller and Teresa Calderon, who offer new insights into the nebulous relation between Plath's poetry and life.

Tom Sparrow's essay on Al Lingis pays tribute to one of the truly great American phenomenologists (another one is an author of the leading paper of this issue, Don Ihde). What a pleasure to see Dr. Lingis finally receive the tribute of a truly in-depth, scholarly review of his life's work. I'm so glad we have the fortune of publishing it.

Also, look for several essays in addition to Dr. Sabatino's, which touch on Heideggerian problems, including Kevin Aho's essay on play and Sharin Elkholy's study of friendship, which is informed by Richard Wright's *Native Son* as much as Heidegger. The remaining papers cover diverse ground: Alan Pope demonstrates the illusiveness of the Buddhism and Christianity distinction through the iconic images of each spiritual tradition. Predrag Cicovacki advances scholarship on Dostoevsky's motivation for writing, Kate Teresakis shows the contemporary relevance of Novalis, and Daan Hoekstra explores the ground between Goethean science and art. I hope you enjoy these contributions to the interdisciplinary literature.

Before I sign off, allow me to welcome a new member of the editorial board, who I am very pleased to introduce: Harris Friedman. Dr. Friedman is a Professor in the University of Florida's Psychology Department, and also a faculty member of Walden University's Clinical Doctoral program. Also, he is Professor Emeritus at Saybrook Graduate School. He co-edits the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*, and has served on the editorial board of a variety of other journals. His experience will be of great help to us, as we continue to refine the journal's functioning.

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