

From the Editor

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"Writing is like driving sheep down a road. If there's any gate to the left or the right, the reader will most certainly go into it." Are you still with me? C.S. Lewis reminds us that good writing must captivate the reader, who has many choices of things to do with his or her precious time. Good editing, I believe, serves essentially the same function. Editing, much more than writing, is invisible when done well; if done poorly, it is much too evident.

The *Journal* Board met in Chicago in March to examine our editing and every other part of what goes into bringing the *Journal* to your desk. It's a very long list. Aside from enjoying each other's company enormously and basking in Chicago's springtime, we *Journal* people accomplished a great deal. Have you already noticed one of the results of that meeting? The new page design makes the *Journal* more readable, more eye-catching. I know all too well how insidiously the reading pile grows on my desk, and how many items fall into the "I'll get to that later" category. (Many thanks to Steve Masielat, whose sample page designs provided some of the ideas for the new format. Robin McClanahan and I sent ourselves to desktop publishing design courses, and took it from there.) Spend a moment looking at the new Call for Submissions at the end of this issue. We've taken great pains to clarify what kind of contributions the *Journal* wants. You'll find many ways to contribute, from forwarding an idea to a columnist, to writing a brief and practical "Lab Notes" article, to reporting on a research study.

Kelly Nelson is leaving the Managing Editor's position. Oh, Kelly, what can I say? Kelly has been such a pleasure to work with: she gets the job done so very well, and she keeps me laughing. What more could I want? Well, I could want someone willing to follow in Kelly's footsteps! (Please contact me with any questions you have about the position.)

Speaking of footsteps, when you receive this issue, I will be trekking along the Way of Saint James in northern Spain,

accompanied by my nearest and dearest. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have walked the route since the Middle Ages, and it is full of history and folklore.

Happy summer! ■