

Editorial

Into the Future...

There must be times in the lives of all Editors when dreams of writing the last editorial glow with infinite attraction. But I suspect that, no matter how dearly they have harbored this secret wish, when the time finally comes, their pens seem dry. Mine does.

Over the years, the *McGill Journal of Education* has meant a great deal to me. I had the honor, responsibility, and pleasure of being its Founding Editor and perhaps that makes my last Editorial a little more difficult to write. The *Journal* has been both a personal and a professional involvement for me but it has also reflected the input of a great many of my colleagues. Inevitably, as I retire from the editorship, I think of the thin, almost experimental Vol. I, No. 1 that appeared for Spring 1966 and of the multitude of papers, reviews, letters and other contributions read since then. I think of the authors, some of them novice pedagogues whose careers may have been helped by their being published in the *Journal*, some of them established professors contributing to the on-going educational dialogue, some of them famous thinkers who lent their lustre to these pages. I think with appreciation of my colleagues, the Review Editors and members of the Editorial Board, past and present, whose cooperation and counsel have been of great value and whose help with proof-reading, design and other technical chores has made production on a very slim budget possible. I think especially of the late Martha Tetreault, who took care of the secretarial tasks and circulation with extraordinary devotion for almost a decade, and of Andrea Vabalis, who has helped enormously as Editorial Assistant in the last year. I think of C. Wayne Hall, under whose Deanship the *Journal* was established, and of George Flower who has continued to support it.

I also acknowledge with pleasure the grant recently made by the Government of Quebec and the expression of confidence this implies. And, of course, I think of the readers and subscribers who have supported and encouraged us all throughout the years.

Being Editor has been a marvellous experience. Though the work was constantly detailed and demanding and though there were times when I chafed at being, as it were, an intellectual midwife for other people's thoughts, there were also many opportunities to be creative and to make contact with people and ideas that I might never have known. The task was painful at times, when contributions had to be rejected; irksome when deadlines were not met or when the "dummy" would not work out; but exciting and gratifying every Spring and Fall when the advance copies arrived from the printer and we hardly dared look to see whether or not, after the multiple frustrations and corrections, the *Journal* had come out all right. Thanks to the patience of the printers at Harpell's Press, it usually had.

I am certainly looking forward to seeing the advance copies of this issue. It will be larger than usual with some special features as well as papers that are both scholarly and imaginative projections into the future. We expect this issue to be read for a long time to come. As for the future of the *Journal* itself, there are some interesting prospects in view: there is a good chance that it will become a quarterly publication before very long; work is in progress for the production of a retrospective anthology, "The Best of the *M. J. E.*," and a new format and cover design have been approved for adoption, beginning with the Spring 1978 number. With such a future and with the continued support of the Faculty, I am confident that the new Editor, Dr. John Harley, will find work on the *McGill Journal of Education* well worth the effort.

M. G.