

Editorial

SIX MONTHS AGO I spoke about *The Dalhousie Review* to a group of some forty people at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. It was a special privilege to do so, because the University of Saskatchewan is my *alma mater*: the place where I earned my first degree many years ago. My remarks were organized around an informal theme, namely: "Why, When, and How to Submit Your Scholarly Work to a Journal like *The Dalhousie Review*." I was speaking mostly to faculty members and graduate students in the university community: that is, to scholars who might for various reasons want to seek publication for their interpretations of texts, events, and problems.

I hope that I was able to give some good advice to the people who attended this workshop. But what I remember is not anything I said, so much as a comment by a member of the audience. It was Anthony John Harding (whom I had met once before) who observed that the distinguishing mark of a journal such as ours is that we aspire to be a *readers'* journal: we're not simply a repository of information, but an opportunity for you, the reader, to spend an hour or two in ways that feed and exercise the mind.

So we offer a variety of textual matters here, partly on the understanding that different readers will gravitate towards different things, but also in the conviction that all readers should be testing and challenging their powers of interpretation from time to time by venturing into unfamiliar territory. So, if you've never spent much time thinking about seventeenth-century attacks on female cosmetics, here's your chance to learn by following the expert guidance of Dosia Reichardt. If you've never wondered what it might be like to be an Indian servant aboard a British ship just a few years before India achieved independence, try reading Anis Shivani's short story. And, even if you have followed the well-worn path from the Rijksmuseum to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, read Jacqueline Karp's poem and you'll find yourself thinking about this experience in new ways.

In the autumn we'll be offering you our special issue on the subject of pleasure. This too will be an aspect of what I've been describing as a readers' journal. Indeed, you might say that, in addressing the question of pleasure, we are identifying and exploring a crucial element of the reader's experience. I can add a few particulars: our autumn issue will include articles by Janine Rogers ("Getting There is Half the Fun: Travel and Female Pleasure in English Erotica"), Eluned Summers-Bremner ("Love's Pleasure, Love's Pain"), and Paul J. Young ("When Pleasure Isn't Enough: *Volupté* in the Libertine Text"). It will include poetry by Michael Carrino ("Pleasure"), Deirdre Dwyer ("Love in a Foreign Country"), and Michael Pacey ("The Final Pages of Another Novel"). And there will be plenty of surprises too.

R.H.