

A Letter from the Editors:

Dear Readers,

Greetings from *Digest* co-editors Michael Lange (on-going), Janet Gilmore (in-coming), and Diane Tye (out-going). Janet began transitioning into the new co-editorship in June 2016. She has relished regular exchanges with Diane and Mike since then as she adapted to editorial customs and the ebb and flow of the annual publication round. Diane's first edits for several submissions smoothed the way, and her capable management leaves us almost ready to complete the first 2017 issue. Congratulations, Diane, for half a decade of the new *Digest*, and thank you for leaving it in such wonderful shape that it is a pleasure to assume. Two University of Wisconsin-Madison Folklore Studies graduate students, Chrissy Widmayer and Jared Schmidt, have been helping with proofreading and style sheet updates. Ali Sousa again prepared the issue's website, and University of Wisconsin-Madison Art History graduate student Morgan Lemmer-Webber substantively updated links and content in the respective html, pdf, and InDesign formats. Many thanks to the Samuelson prize judges, and to the Editorial Board for peer reviews, suggestions for themed issues and American Folklore Society annual meeting Foodways Section sessions, and the willingness of some to mentor Samuelson prize contestant submissions into Research Note form. It has been a lot of fun coordinating with all who have submitted work for this and coming issues.

This Late Fall 2016 issue of *Digest* (5:2) brings you the two prize-winning essays from the **2016 Sue Samuelson Best Student Paper on Food and Foodways competition** as well as a Research Note from another competitor in the field of nine. Both first-prize winner Rachel Hopkin's "Way of the Croissant" and Honorable Mention winner Daša Ličen's "The Authentic Blend" focus on legendary continental European food traditions. Both suggest distinctive culinary histories and geographies, one for the French croissant, and one for an intensified selection of Istrian local foods. While Hopkin explores how several historical and contemporary folkloristic theories apply to the food item, Ličen examines how Istrian food experts shape concepts of an Istrian food heritage through contemporary rhetorics of local foods and "the Mediterranean diet."

In our **Research Note** section, Yvonne Lockwood announces the donation of her and William G. Lockwood's culinary collections to the Michigan State University Libraries-Special Collections. Sabine Merta explains the riches food scholars may find in literature from Dresden's spectacularly popular 1911 German Hygiene Exhibition. And Christine Widmayer begins to stage a feminist foodways argument to frame ethnographic documentation of her mother's preparation of hummoth kibbeh, the author's father's specialty Detroit Chaldean food. In the **Amuse Bouche** section, Elizabeth Berton-Reilly continues an American-ethnic foodways theme that lurks in this issue by reporting on an Estonian émigré's Christmas Eve special food and gift-giving re-creations in a displaced persons camp in

Germany after World War II. She quotes particularly from the woman's unpublished cache of written stories and poems.

The issue concludes with **Book Reviews** of five food related titles, including three of Lucy Long's productive 2015 compilations that represent the work of many contributors to *Digest*, the Foodways Section and AFS meeting sessions, and many other Folklore, culinary history, and food studies colleagues. We also get to admire the culinary writings of 20th century women journalists, and contemplate the politics and food/commodity sourcing of "freegans." Thanks to all who took the time to read and report expeditiously on these works for us.

May you all enjoy reading these contributions as much as we did working with them and their authors.

Janet Gilmore and Michael Lange, editors