

From the Editor

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It is strange to think that this is already the fourth issue of *The Workshop* (Proceedings of the Indiana Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies). The years and conversations have flown by and while some of the old, familiar voices are no longer heard so often, we welcome the chance to keep the discussion going in this now established format. In this issue, we are delighted to publish ten substantial paper summaries and four abstracts, as well as six commentaries. Special thanks go to the many Workshop participants who revised their initial papers or comments in light of our shared conversation.

As always, it is the transcribed discussions that make this publication truly distinctive. As I wrote last year, we hope with them “to make face-to-face, real-time conversations available to those who—for whatever reason!—could not be there to participate.” They highlight “everything that happens when scholars have time and space to engage each others’ work: thoughts coming into existence; ideas being rejected; arguments taking shape; questions being posed; and myriad references, aperçus, and witticisms being offered.” None of this would be possible in the absence of colleagues’ immense generosity with their thoughts and their time. Our publication is digital—as any twenty-first-century publication in search of an audience needs be—but it can only exist in its current form because of conversations that happen “in real life.”

On a personal note, I am especially glad to have this volume because cares of a familial nature made me a particularly distracted participant in this Workshop. It has been very strange to edit the transcriptions and note my own engagement with the conversation—it is a participation of which I have almost no active memory. Preoccupied as I was at the time by caring for an aged parent, all of these enormously relevant conversations would have been lost to me completely, were it not for my part as editor. It has been oddly satisfying to re-visit the discussions a year later.

The Center’s continued existence and the publication of this journal of course depend on the help and support of many people. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University-Bloomington, Larry Singell, has been extremely generous in his support of the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies, as were his two predecessors, Bennett Bertenthal and Kumble Subbaswamy. The Center’s first two Directors, Professors Dror Wahrman and Mary Favret, worked very hard to make it the institution it has become. Neither the Workshop nor the Kenshur Prize Symposium could have happened without the daily assistance of the Center’s Administrator, Dr. Barbara Truesdell. And without the exceptional dedication of our two transcribers, Tracey Hutchings-Goetz and Robert Wells, those events might have happened but—like nearly every other conversation—they would have left no lasting trace. Our sincere thanks to all of them.