

EDITORIAL

Thirty-seven years...hundreds of authors...thousands of articles. It's been a glorious adventure, and I've enjoyed every moment of it, but nothing lasts forever. It's time to give someone else a chance to experience these pleasures. Starting with the Feb 2007 issue, Jeremiah Farrell, an emeritus professor of mathematics at Butler University and a Word Ways author since Aug 1983, will take over the editorship with his wife Karen. I plan to continue writing Word Ways articles.

Word Ways was, in a real sense, founded by Martin Gardner, who in 1967 suggested to Greenwood Publications that they sponsor journals on recreational mathematics and recreational linguistics. Greenwood published Word Ways for two years, but found that they were losing money on it and were planning to terminate it at the time I became editor in 1970.

In the first issue of Word Ways in Feb 1968, Dmitri Borgmann said that the journal "has been created to provide a forum for all people interested in word puzzles and in other recreational aspects of language, a meeting ground for active minds comparable to the many books, magazines, and columns devoted to mathematical recreations...it is the first and only periodical of its kind." When I became editor (palindromically characterized as *Ross, essay assessor*), I sought to explore the limits of the new field of logology, introduced by Borgmann in his landmark book *Language on Vacation* just five years earlier. I have found it to be a surprisingly-diverse field of inquiry, with outer limits still ill-defined, encompassing such novel concepts as eodermndromes, word worms, symmetric single-crash word groups, and self-descriptive number names (using letter-scores based on scrambled alphabets).

The computer has had an immense impact on Word Ways, from preparation of camera-ready copy to logological research. Many investigations that once were impossibly tedious to perform have now become feasible, the most noteworthy example being the construction of ten-squares (although Jeff Grant has demonstrated that a great deal can still be done by hand). Some consider this a trivialization of logology, but in reality it means that researchers can tackle wholly new problems, many of which remain to be discovered and defined.

In editing Word Ways, my goal has been to let each author speak in his own voice; I have exercised few editorial constraints, as long as the subject bore some relevance to logology. I have encouraged a mixture of hard-core logology (sometimes verging on mathematics) and lighter, more frivolous fare. In any event, I owe an immense debt to the many contributors, and especially to Faith, who has kept the business end of Word Ways running smoothly.

Future editorial correspondence, as well as subscriptions and renewals, should be directed to the new editor, Jeremiah Farrell, 9144 Aintree Drive, Indianapolis IN 46250-4424 (e-mail wordways@butler.edu). I am confident that he will carry on the long and rich tradition of Word Ways.