

### **A brief note from the editors:**

A recurring difficulty our journal had to cope with during its two decades of existence has been the problem of typesetting. The traditional typesetting methods, used at the time when the journal was launched in the mid-1970s, were time-consuming and expensive. They were also unsatisfactory, as most Canadian printing establishments could not produce characters used in Hungarian (such as the ő, ű, and í — not to speak of their upper-case equivalents) which appear frequently in our endnotes. For years, diacritical marks on these letters were inserted by hand.

With the arrival of the electronic age, we began experimenting with preparing our journal for typesetting on personal computers. The characters with diacritical marks remained a problem as they required elaborate coding and even this way some commercial typesetters had difficulties handling them. An additional problem we had all through these years was the fact that typesetting text containing non-English (or non-French) characters, was quite costly.

At the end of the 1980s we thought we had a solution. The University of Toronto's Centre for Computing in the Humanities established the Humanities Publishing Services (HPS). The HPS' staff typeset journals affiliated with the university, from electronically submitted manuscripts, at lower than commercial prices. Some problems remained, as HPS often had an extensive backlog of work, which meant delays for us in our production schedule.

In 1993 this timely and very useful service seems to have come to an abrupt end. We do not know whether this development is the result of a budget-crunch or staffing difficulties, but we have not been able to reach anyone associated with HPS. We have heard from outside sources that the operation is no longer staffed. As we cannot afford to turn to commercial typesetting services, we had no alternative but to try accomplishing this task ourselves. Fortunately, advances in computer electronics — in particular, in desk-top publishing — have made our task easier. Nevertheless, the switch required that the member of the editorial team in charge of production (Dreiszigler) learn a new word-processing program and purchase a suitable laserjet printer with features such as 600 by 600 pot-per-inch resolution printing.

The introduction of this new technology will result in slight changes in the appearance of our journal. The font and pitch of the text, titles, and subtitles, might not be exactly the same as had been the case in

the past few years, and our endnotes might resemble a little more those recommended by the Chicago Manual of Style.

This transition in our production process took place just as one of our editors was absent on a European sabbatical. This fact made the 1993 volume of the *HSR* even more experimental in nature than would have been the case otherwise.

The switch to desk-top publishing should make our operations less expensive and might sometimes eliminate the kind of delays that have taken place in the journal's production in the past. At the same time it imposes even more work on one of the editors, and it does not solve our other problems: the shrinking of our subscription base, the unpredictable flow of publishable articles, and the lack of help with the translation of good manuscripts from Hungarian into English — or, with the transformation of articles written in unidiomatic English ("Hunglish" as we call it) into acceptable English prose.

N.F. Dreisziger  
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