

FAREWELL

When I was six-years old I watched my great uncle board a ship from New York City to Africa, where he lived. The only things I knew about Africa was that it has wild animals like lions, elephants, and giraffes and it was very far away. In my imagination Africa was a magical and exotic place—and I was enthralled knowing that a relative of mine lived there.

When I thought of becoming editor of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* I felt something akin to what I had felt five decades earlier. The job captivated my imagination and I was eager to take on the challenge, but I had little knowledge of the world I'd inhabit for the next 5 years. The one thing I did know was that I'd only do the job if Ruth and I became co-editors. She had an exceptional ability to edit and write, had an incredible work ethic, was clinically astute, and knew far more theory than she realized.

Although I knew something about editing CP from having been an executive editor (along with Ruth) and an editorial board member for several years, “editor” didn't begin to describe the range of tasks we would handle. For the first couple of years, while we were still a mom-and-pop operation, Ruth and I did everything: marketing, merchandising, responding to subscription problems and reprint permission requests, understanding financial reports, and attending to myriad other matters. I detested most of these tasks—at times it felt like the editorial equivalent of the Bataan Death March—but I had Ruth (and other recruits) I could gripe to, which enabled me to (barely) maintain my sanity.

Fortunately, I found working closely with authors to craft articles—the mainstay of our job—intellectually stimulating and gratifying. Reading a ton of manuscripts, many about unfamiliar topics, expanded my knowledge of psychoanalysis, made me recognize how damn difficult it is to write well, and, consequently, deepened my appreciation of excellent psychoanalytic writing. Working with authors such as Philip Bromberg, Irene Fast, James Gorney, the late Robert Wallerstein, and Adam Phillips (whose imaginative and iconoclastic article, which embodies Strunk &

White's cardinal advice, "Omit needless words," appears in this issue), were some of the many highlights of these past five years.

As a scholarly journal CP aims to advance psychoanalytic knowledge: to expand our understanding of the mind and find more effective ways to alleviate suffering and help people live better lives. As editors, we try to help writers tell psychologically truthful stories about the way our ideas and approaches make it possible for people to meet life's challenges with resilience, courage, and wisdom. My greatest hope is that Ruth and I have, to some extent, realized these ambitions.

I want to express my gratitude to Ruth and to our smart and dedicated Executive Editors, Book Review Editor, Editorial Board, Associate Editors—and others whose names appear on the masthead (along with David Estrin, the Copy Editor)—for contributing to the preeminence of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*. I'd like to thank the White Society and the Publications Committee for their ongoing support; Jay Kwawer for his anchoring and groundedness; Hal Reiter for his approbation when we (mainly Ruth) finalized our arrangement with Taylor & Francis; and Mark Blechner, Editor Emeritus, who provided crucial guidance in difficult situations. I also want to thank Taylor & Francis staff, especially Amanda Ashworth, whose responsiveness and buoyant spirit eased our transition to an outside publisher and helped us navigate its challenges.

As I say farewell to editing CP, I look forward to focusing on my writing, playing more golf, and taking weekends off.

Don Greif, Ph.D.