

Foreword

We inaugurate CGR's thirtieth anniversary year with an issue offering at least one "first" in the journal's history as well as traditional elements. The more obvious first is the public lecture by the Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar. This lecture makes its initial appearance in this issue of CGR, as poet and educator Julia Spicher Kasdorf explores that classic of Mennonite cultural memory, *Martyrs Mirror*. The other first—so far as we can determine from surveying past issues—is a "review article" by David Driedger, a personal essay engaging at length with a recently published book, something more extensive than a standard brief review.

We are equally pleased to honor one of CGR's longstanding traditions by presenting the 2012 Bechtel Lectures, "Blest Be the Ties That Bind: In Search of the Global Anabaptist Church," by John D. Roth, historian and editor of *Mennonite Quarterly Review*. These annual lectures have appeared in the journal since their inception at Conrad Grebel University College.

Rounding out this issue are reviews of a wide range of recent publications. We thank our book reviewers and our peer-reviewers for their invaluable assistance. We also extend a welcome to CGR's new consulting editors, and we thank those who have now completed their term of service.

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The Spring 2013 issue will uphold another of CGR's traditions, that of presenting essays and reflections on "Mennonite/s Writing." This special issue, assembled by Hildi Froese Tiessen, CGR's former Literary Editor, will give voice to an array of scholars and practitioners, and will include a discussion of "theopoetics."

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As CGR enters its fourth decade, we seek to extend and enhance the journal's reputation as a forum for the sustained discussion of spirituality, ethics, theology and culture from a broadly-based Mennonite perspective.

Jeremy M. Bergen
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