

Foreword

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 was the first day of classes in the fall semester at University of Waterloo. At Conrad Grebel University College, students and professors alike began the day anticipating new encounters and a fresh exchange of ideas. As news unfolded of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, academic agenda was put aside as people gathered around televisions, internet, and also together in discussion and prayer. Little did we know that the exchange of ideas, opinions, and emotions through the school year to come would be shaped by the horrific events in the United States that Tuesday morning.

As this special issue of *The Conrad Grebel Review* goes into production, people around the world are anticipating the first anniversary of 9/11. Undoubtedly, a new wave of analysis, reflection, and commemoration will happen at that point. Most of the writing in this issue was produced in the months immediately following September 11. In our Call for Papers, we offered as a theme “Responding to Terrorism: Does Nonviolence Work?” And so most of the essays in some way reflect on the dilemmas of a pacifist or nonresistant stance in light of the enormity and closeness (to North Americans) of the September 11 terrorist violence as well as in light of the organized state violence in Afghanistan that followed.

The essays in this issue have approaches that are multi-varied — philosophical, historical, autobiographical, biblically-rooted, for instance. We were struck by the fact that the pieces submitted did not easily fall into the regular categories of scholarly article, reflective essay, or creative writing. The table of contents without our regular sections reflects this blurring of the boundaries in genres of writing. The Literary Refractions in poetry and prose are found throughout the issue. The books reviewed are also relevant to the theme.

This issue is my last as editor of *The Conrad Grebel Review*. Beginning with the Fall 2002 issue, a new editorial team will be in place, consisting of Stephen Jones as Managing Editor, and C. Arnold Snyder as Supervising Editor. Arthur Boers will continue as Book Review Editor and Carol Lichti as Circulation Manager.

We hope this issue stimulates your mind and spirit.

Marlene Epp, *Editor*

Cover: Computer artwork by Christopher Tiessen. Chris is a 2002 graduate of Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo.